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Pork CRC supported Animal Science Honours student Danica Evans received First Class Honours for her work and topped her year. She is now doing the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine course, also at Murdoch University. Danica knows this means plenty of 'dog days' ahead with the likes of blue heeler Boodja.

Pork CRC students making a mark

CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork supported Animal Science Honours student Danica Evans, who recently received First Class Honours for her work and topped her year, is now doing the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine course, also at Murdoch University.

Her Pork CRC Honours thesis was titled 'Comparison of acetylated high amylose maize starch and zinc oxide for amelioration of post-weaning diarrhoea in weaned pigs'.

Danica's supervisor Prof John Pluske and Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell agreed her results confirmed the efficacy of zinc oxide for ameliorating diarrhoea in newly weaned pigs, but the mechanism was yet to be definitively established.

After reviewing Danica's final report, Dr Campbell declared the positive effects of the maize starch product, a form of resistant starch, on feed efficiency in the third week and overall were interesting and implicated a possible role for lower ileal/hindgut activity in performance.

"This is possibly linked to the gut bacteria/fermentation of



favourable products from the resistant starch," Dr Campbell said.

He added that the potential implications for grower/finisher pigs was exciting, but the issue, as always, would be cost, given the product was geared to the human market.

Congratulations Danica, Dr Campbell said coming first in her Honours year was a fantastic achievement.

"We are proud of our Pork CRC supported students as they contribute to the pork indus-

try while studying, often with significant findings from their under and postgraduate studies," Dr Campbell said.

"Many then, of course, go on and take up professional positions in industry where their good work continues."

Ingunn Stensland, another former Pork CRC supported Murdoch University Honours student supervised by Prof Pluske, recently commenced employment as R&D officer with Western Australia's Craig Mostyn Group, best known for its Linley Valley Pork.

Dr Campbell said the uptake of Pork CRC supported students by industry had been exceptional and a clear indicator of the student and supervisor quality in Pork CRC's education program.

Of 23 postgraduates and 12 Industry Placement Program people who started with Pork CRC, 14 postgraduates (including seven of nine yet to complete their higher degrees) and 11 IPPs are now employed.

The total is 23 as two postgrads are also IPPs.

www.porkcrc.com.au

Good strategy and making pigs fly again

WHILE the biggest issue in our industry at the moment is clearly our low prices, we recognise that at least at a consumer level, our industry is doing very well.

We at Australian Pork Limited are very focused on doing whatever we can – in the short term – to improve the present price crisis.

But in doing so, we cannot understate the importance of the things we do every day of the week to make sure we have a strong platform to work from.

With a longer-term view, the APL Board started to review our strategic position back in February 2016.

The board reviews our strategy every year at this time, but this review was a bit different because the industry had already reached some of the key performance indicators in 2015 or 2016 that in our Strategic Plan were targeted for 2020.

For example, the Strategic Plan suggests that our target for domestic fresh pork consumption per capita by 2020 is 9.6kg per annum.

Presently, our domestic fresh pork consumption is about 10.5kg per capita, per annum, so this KPI has already been exceeded.

In reviewing the strategy, the Board came up with five key issues that will need addressing with strong emphasis over the next few years.

They are listed below.

Demand creation

With the relatively high pig prices of 2015 and 2016, quite a lot of investment was stimulated in our industry, which has and will further result in higher volumes of pork being produced in this country.

Our aim has always been to keep demand one step ahead of supply, which helps to keep prices at a sustainable level.

This is clearly going to be a major challenge in future because despite the present pig prices, pig volumes continue



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



to increase at a rate faster than Australian population growth.

So the area of demand creation will remain front and centre and an area of very high investment for APL.

Production cost

There are a number of reasons why Australia is not the cheapest pork producer in the world.

Our carcass sizes, inability to import world's best genetics and our grain market systems all mean we are starting from a tougher position than many of our competitors.

But there are things we can do and we need to get creative about cheaper ways of producing pigs, even looking at more disruptive technologies for a quantum leap change.

Biosecurity and herd health

Biosecurity and keeping our pigs safe from emergency diseases is always front and centre in what APL is trying to achieve.

This doesn't change in our new strategy but is re-emphasised to make sure everyone understands the priority of this task.

High-welfare pigs

At its very heart, the Australian pork industry is about looking after pigs well.

We need to continue to secure those tools and practices that enable us to have very high levels of animal welfare on our farms.

Our present strategy of initiating a standards and

guidelines review for pigs is very much a part of this strategy.

International trade

Asia is developing very quickly and with that, a taste for more meat in the diet.

Pork is the meat of choice in many parts of Asia and higher incomes are leading to higher quality demands for the pork on their plates.

Part of the task of finding consumers for the increased volumes of pork we are producing is to find new markets in Asia looking for our high-quality product.

China is very much a part of this picture and is a focus area for developing protocols we can leverage for future trade.

These five key focus areas are not contradictory to our original Strategic Plan 2015-2020, but the review has given us the opportunity to re-emphasise what is important right now.

A strong base platform of increased demand, higher competitiveness and risk mitigation is the right thing for the industry – in good times and bad.

For our Queensland and northern NSW readers, a pig producer meeting is being organised in Kingaroy on Saturday, July 22 to discuss issues particularly around the present pig prices.

More information will be forthcoming with the relevant details through the normal APL communication channels. 🐷



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**Pig Industry
Calendar of Events**

2017

JUL 21 - 25 – AVMA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, US www.avma.org

AUG 7 - 10 – International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), Aarhus, Denmark www.conferences.au.dk/isae2017

AUG 21 - 24 –SAFEPORK 2017, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil www.safepork2017.com.br

AUG 29 - 31 – SIAVS - International Poultry and Pork Show, São Paulo, Brazil www.siavs.org.br/?lang=en

SEP 5 - 8 – International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level, Wageningen, The Netherlands www.waf2017.com

SEP 12 - 15 – SPACE, Parc-Expo de Rennes, France uk.space.fr/en/welcome.aspx

SEP 19 - 22 – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, Saint Paul, Minnesota US www.ccevents.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference

SEP 20 - 22 – Animal Genetics and Disease 2017, Cambridge, UK <https://coursesandconferences.wellcomegenomecampus.org/register/conferences/form1.aspx?e=635>

SEP 25 - 27 – PackExpo Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada, US www.packexpolasvegas.com

OCT 22 - 24 – Leman China Swine Conference, Nanjing, China www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference

NOV 7 - 9 – Pig Welfare Symposium, Des Moines, Iowa US www.pork.org/pig-welfare-symposium

NOV 19 - 22 – Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc) conference, Melbourne, Victoria www.apsa.asn.au

NOV 20 - 22 – International Tropical Agriculture Conference, Brisbane, Queensland www.tropagconference.org

2018

MAR 3 - 6 – Annual Meeting of the American Association of Swine, San Diego, California, US www.aasv.org/anmtg

MAR 21 – World Butchers' Challenge, Belfast, Ireland www.facebook.com/events/1038188022980633

JUN 18 - 20 – IPVS, Chongqing, China

JUN 20 - 22 – VIV Europe 2018, Utrecht, The Netherlands www.viveurope.nl/en/Bezoeker.aspx

OCT 17 - 19 – Vietstock Expo & Forum, Saigon, Vietnam www.vietstock.org

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, fax: 07 3821 2637, email: ben@porknews.com.au

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Rural R&D for Profit program update – delivering real outcomes for Australian pork producers

WITH the start of the new financial year comes the announcements from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources of successful proposals to be funded as part of round three of the Rural R&D for Profit program.

Commencing in 2017/18 and running over four years, Australian Pork Limited is involved in a couple of these projects.

The first of these is 'Forewarned is forearmed: equipping farmers and agricultural value chains to proactively manage the impacts of extreme climate events' that will be led by Meat & Livestock Australia.

This large project, worth \$14.7 million including \$6.2 million cash from DAWR, also involves cash contributions from Dairy Australia, Wine Australia, Grains Research and Development Corporation, the Bureau of Meteorology, Suncorp, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland, the University of Melbourne and the University of Southern Queensland.

Our investment will enable APL to be involved in the project steering committee.

The Bureau of Meteorology will conduct research to deliver forecasts of the likelihood of climate extremes on multi-week and seasonal timescales – beyond the traditional seven-day weather forecast.

It will provide farmers with the first-ever long-range forecasts of extreme climate events as well as options for a wide range of farm level and agricultural industry operational



by **HEATHER CHANNON**
Acting Research and Innovation
General Manager



and investment decisions to potentially decrease the impacts of extreme climate events on farm.

The project will develop new strategies to integrate these forecasts with agricultural decisions and enable risk management that allow farmers to proactively prepare for these events.

APL will also be involved in 'Wastes to profits: Technologies and business models for the management of wastes in the animal industries', which will also be led by MLA.

This exciting project will involve the development of new advanced anaerobic digestion technologies and business models to capture a market opportunity in excess of \$100 million per annum by converting wastes from the red meat, dairy, pork and municipal industries into valuable products, including bioplastics, resins and fertilisers.

The project has a budget of \$13.9 million over four years and involves a large number of organisations including MLA, Australian Meat Processor Corporation, Dairy Australia, MLA Donor Company, four universities and seven industry partners.

We look forward to getting these projects under way and updating you on outcomes as they come to hand.

Waste to Revenue

The APL-led project 'Waste to revenue: novel fertilisers and feeds', a round one Rural R&D4P project supported by DAWR, Dairy Australia, Sugar Research Australia, MLA and RIRDC Chicken Meat is delivering promising outcomes to industry.

Results from the University of Queensland have shown it is technically feasible to treat wastewater from primary industries to produce a high-protein product for future feed applications.

Analysis of purple phototrophic bacteria extracted from domestic wastewater showed it had a high crude protein content (58 percent).

The use and suitability of this pelletised product as a potential fish feed substitute is now being explored in feeding trials for farmed fish such as barramundi and salmon.

The nutritive, agronomic and economic benefits of amending soils with high-quality composts compared to standard manures is being investigated at the University of West-

ern Australia.

It has been shown that applying compost to dairy pastures in WA offers the potential to reduce carbon and nitrogen mineralisation.

Retaining higher levels of carbon and nitrogen in soils leads to better soil function, structure and stability.

A trial assessing microalgae biomass produced from piggery waste as a fertiliser found shoot production of wheat increased by 85 percent when compared to synthetic fertiliser.

It was suggested that the microalgae could be acting as a bio-stimulant – but how microalgae may be improving plant growth and development is still being explored.

'Health for Wealth' post-mortem feedback reporting

Activities as part of the APL-led 'Health for Wealth' RuralR&D4P project, funded in round two, are now under way.

This project aims to develop a nationally standardised approach to data collection for a range of disease-related carcass and offal condemnations for feedback to beef, goat, pork and sheep producers.

It is envisaged that such a system will allow producers to monitor disease prevalence in their livestock and make informed decisions to maximise yield outcomes.

A business case has now been completed and is available on the project's website (australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/research/health4wealth).

This work has built on learnings gained from

previous APL research to estimate costs associated with partial carcass condemnations.

The next steps for pork will be to develop a uniform abattoir data feedback language for consistent recording of a common core group of conditions/diseases and their severity/prevalence.

A small focus group will be established, comprising producers, processors, pig veterinarians and regulators, to assist with this.

We have also been using an online system to gain feedback from a variety of producers, processors and veterinarians on a number of key issues to inform the future direction of project activities.

If you have received an invite and would still like to participate, please feel free to log on and contribute your ideas.

I'd also like to thank all those who have provided feedback on using the system to date.

APL call for tender

Proposals submitted in response to the 2017/18 call for tender have now been reviewed.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all research providers for their proposals and the reviewers for their time in providing feedback to APL on these submissions.

We are anticipating the successful applicants will be notified within the next week.

For further information on any of the topics discussed in this article, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0423 056 045 or at heather.channon@australianpork.com.au

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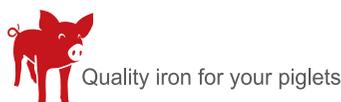


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Pork CRC confronting hot issues with cool science

LAST month I suggested the next battles on the provenance front will likely need to confront antimicrobial use and resistance and environmental enrichment, first of pregnant sows and then all classes of pigs.

Pregnant sows

Our researchers lead the world in animal welfare and Pork CRC has several well-advanced and creative projects on enriching the environment of gestating sows.

These include comparing the Ridley sow enrichment block with other strategies, such as straw and hay in racks and a new and novel project on human enrichment.

Remember too that we've previously reported on the work of Emma Greenwood, who demonstrated during her Pork CRC supported PhD that play behaviour in group-housed sows to objects hung from ropes above their pens was seemingly the most effective or interesting.

Of greatest interest and commercially applicable was that Emma demonstrated play behaviour actually increased with time.

This and the enrichment block I think offer some potentially simple, cost-effective enrichment strategies, perhaps along with others that are being investigated.

We are also exploring the enrichment block, or a version of it, for grower-finisher pigs.

Farrowing sows

The farrowing-lactating sow is a different matter and remains challenging.

We have investigated most of the freedom-type farrowing pens, modifications of these to reduce piglet mortality in summer and systems where sows and piglets are moved to groups after different periods of confinement.

None has worked.

They inevitably result in increased piglet mortality and even increased sow aggression.

In a recent study where sows and litters were grouped at seven and 14 days after birth, the seven-day treatment had to be abandoned because of unacceptably high piglet mortality and in both treatments sow welfare was compromised by aggression, which increased with time after grouping.

We have seen similar results with step-out type systems.

We are therefore now concentrating our efforts on defining and enhancing the welfare of sows and their litters in conventional systems.

I will reveal the outcomes of these projects as they become available, but we certainly have the world's best researchers



Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL
CEO



working on it.

Antibiotic challenge

You are all aware that the issue of antibiotic use and resistance has global implications and is currently being driven by regulators and retailers overseas.

Implementation is being led by the poultry industry.

While no antibiotics ever is certainly easier to implement with broilers than weaner-finisher pigs, the more judicious use of antibiotics and monitoring antimicrobial resistance is occurring in pork industries worldwide and being led by the countries that export pork to Australia.

We therefore must ensure we don't fall too far behind.

To understand what is affecting our pigs and how disease might be better managed, Pork CRC researchers have developed a range of new diagnostic tests for the common enteric and respiratory pathogens affecting our herds.

They even discovered new strains of swine dysentery and a new actinobacillus species, suggesting a continual need for surveillance, as in both cases herds thought to be clean or free from the respective diseases were far from it.

At the University of Sydney, Prof Michael Ward and Pork CRC PhD student Lechelle van Breda have just completed one of the most comprehensive studies on E. coli across the Australian industry.

They established resistance to veterinarian and human antimicrobials, with resistance to antimicrobials of human importance being generally low.

They also provided excellent information on how surveillance programs might need to be adjusted to better detect antimicrobial resistance.

Other researchers and Pork CRC participants have developed alternative strategies for reducing the impact of pathogens such as E. coli on animal health and one or two as genuine replacements for antibiotics.

Others are exploring novel techniques for combating ileitis using a quantitative PCR developed by Dr Alison Collins at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW to monitor the in-

cidence of the bug and treatment effects.

Others are working on vaccines for APP, swine dysentery and strep suis and cost-effective strategies for reducing pathogen loads in sheds, all of which, if successful, will

reduce antibiotic use.

Gut microbiome

Arguably, the more interesting outcomes have been the effects of antibiotics on antibiotic resistance and the gut microbiome.

I mentioned in my June Pork CRC Initiatives column that the latter is gaining interest in human medicine, with claims that faecal transplants have altered the phenotype of the recipient – not always favourably.

In the pig, Prof John Pluske and his team at Murdoch University have demonstrated nutritionally induced changes in

continued P4



Dr Emma Greenwood (left) did groundbreaking work on the behaviour of group housed sows as part of her Pork CRC supported PhD. At APSA 2015 in Melbourne she caught up with Dr Alice Weaver who was supported by Pork CRC during her studies at the University of Adelaide.

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Pork CRC confronting hot issues with cool science

from P3

the gut microbiome associated with improved growth performance in E. coli-challenged pigs and more recently, Dr Alison Collins has reported effects of antibiotics and zinc oxide on antimicrobial resistance and the gut microbiome.

E. coli challenge

Alison investigated the effects of the antibiotic neomycin sulphate and ZnO on the health and antimicrobial resistance of pigs naturally challenged with E. coli.

I am not an expert in the field, but think the outcomes are fascinating.

The pigs were weaned at 21 days, moved to separate rooms at EMAI and offered a common diet for six days, with the treatments starting on day seven.

Neomycin sulphate was added to the experimental diet at 8mg/kg and ZnO at 2500ppm.

The control diet contained no antibiotic or ZnO.

The treatments lasted two weeks, after which pigs were offered the same basal diet without

antibiotics or ZnO for a further three weeks.

Control pigs exhibited more diarrhoea than those on all other treatments during the two-week test period and 25 percent of pigs on the antibiotic and ZnO treatments exhibited diarrhoea when the materials were withdrawn.

Dr Collins measured the percentage of E. coli resistant to a range of antibiotics on day six (the start), during the treatment period and three weeks after treatment.

She also assessed the gut microbiome at the same times.

The effects of treatment on the percentage of E. coli isolates resistant to seven commonly used antibiotics was consistent across antibiotics.

In general, neomycin increased antibiotic resistance during treatment but this fell back to very low levels following withdrawal.

ZnO, however, tended to reduce the level of antibiotic resistance during treatment but elicited increased resistance three weeks after withdrawal, and the increase was significant for tetracycline.

Using Linco-Spectin as an example – resistance at day six was about 14 percent (range 12-17 percent).

Over the two-week treatment period, resistance increased from 15-20 percent on the neomycin treatment, stayed relatively constant for the control and fell to zero for the ZnO treatment.

Three weeks after treatment, resistance on the previous neomycin treatment fell to near zero and the control was at 5 percent.

For the previous ZnO treatment, resistance had increased from zero to 12.5 percent.

The implications of the apparent increase in antimicrobial resistance following the use of ZnO is being further investigated, particularly to see if the resistance was phenotypic or genetic.

The quite large decline in resistance following withdrawal of the neomycin is interesting and raises questions of how the change in resistance is driven, its persistence and the relevance of when it is measured.

Results for changes in the gut microbiome followed a similar pattern to antimicrobial resistance.

Neomycin and ZnO markedly disrupted the gut microbiome during treatment but at a gross level this returned to that of the control levels three

weeks after withdrawal of the antibiotic and ZnO.

The researchers are now looking at changes in the gut bacterial populations in more detail.

As I said, it's an intriguing study with maybe more questions than answers – but a sign of where things are heading in the area.

The outcomes also reflect the excellent work being done by researchers across Pork CRC Program 2 'Herd Health Management'.

There is much more to come, and we are lucky to have so many good scientists in the area – I think we will need them.

Price points

I have summarised the latest global prices in Table 1.

The US and Canada are enjoying the normal summer increase in demand and prices.

The EU has seen prices increase in the past few months.

In China, price fell again in June and is getting closer to COP.

I'm not sure where we're at in Australia because there is now a marked difference in prices 'reported' by buyers and sellers.

Prices given are the average of the two.

All seem to have fallen slightly since last month.

To put things in context, COP in the US is now about \$A1.72/kg carcass weight, with feed at \$A276/tonne.

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Country	Price	Comment
Australia*		
45-60 kg	3.12	
60.1-75 kg	2.90	
75.1-85 kg	2.86	
85 and above	2.73	
US	2.46	Up 40c
Canada	2.32	Up 40c
Brazil	1.76	Down 20c
China	3.46	Down 43c
Spain	2.85	Up 19c
EU	2.70	Up 16c

Table 1: Latest global pig prices (\$A/kg carcass weight) and changes from one month ago. *Eastern seaboard only.

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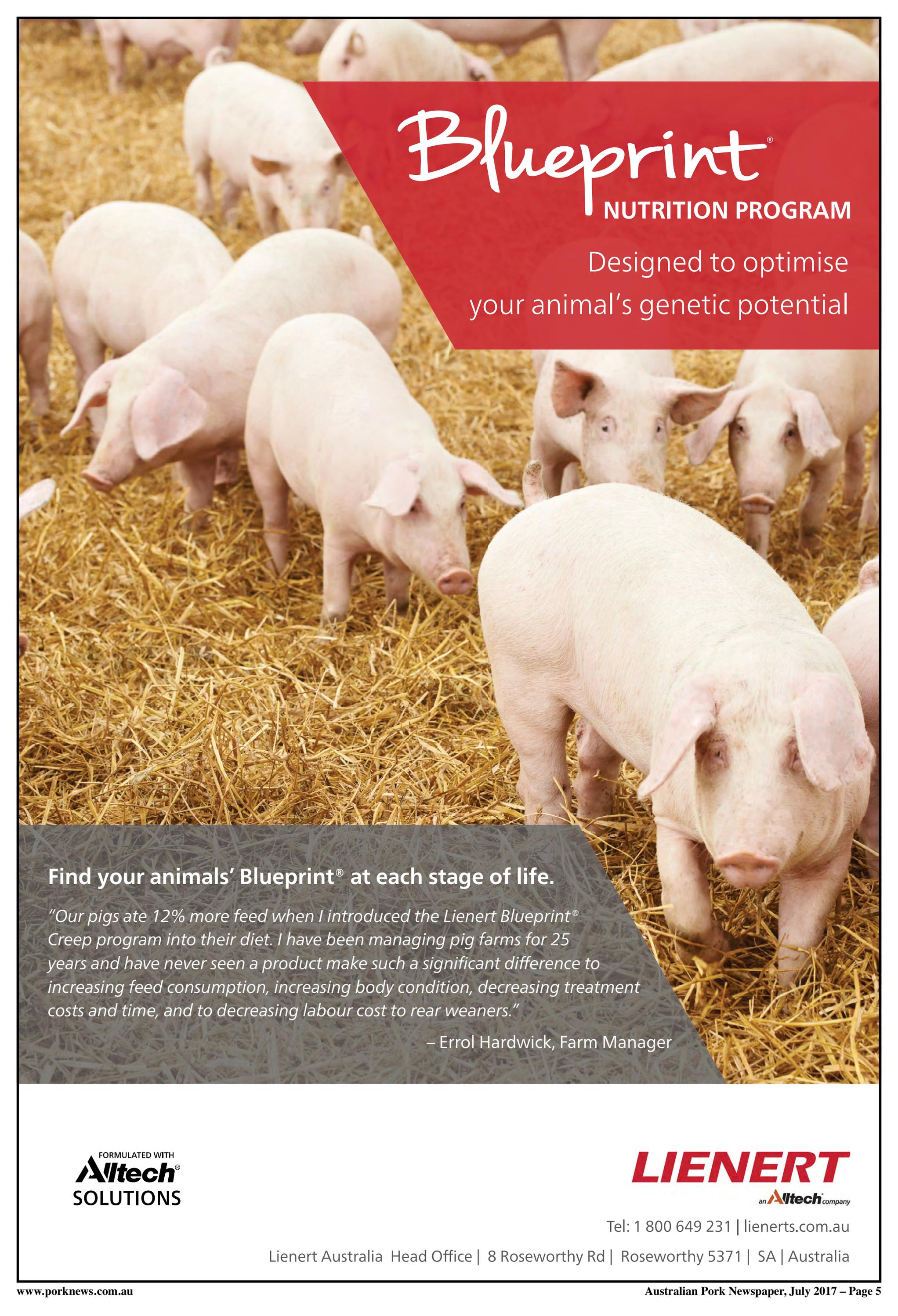
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Dr Alison Collins (in red) of Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW, has developed, with Pork CRC support, a quantitative PCR to combat ileitis by monitoring its incidence and treatment effects.



Pork CRC candidate at the University of Sydney, Lechelle van Breda (left) has just completed a very comprehensive study on E. coli. She is pictured at Pork CRC's 2016 stakeholders' meeting in Melbourne with Pork CRC Chairman Dennis Mutton, Dr Alice Weaver of Myora Farm, Mt Gambier, SA and Tanya Nowland of SARDI.



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Zoetis launches new bivalent vaccine



Zoetis Fosterera PCV MH.

ON June 28 and 29 at the PARKROYAL Melbourne Airport, Zoetis held the Australian technical launch of Fosterera PCV MH, a new from the ground up vaccine designed to provide pigs with protection against both porcine circovirus type 2 and mycoplasma hyopneumoniae.

Fosterera PCV MH is uniquely developed to balance antigen levels and target the animal's immune response, with one bottle containing the ready-to-use vaccine with flexible dosing options.

These dosing options are to either inject 2ml intramuscularly into pigs three weeks of age or older, or inject two 1ml doses at a two-week interval from three weeks of age or older.

Fosterera PCV MH is a true combined bivalent vaccine, not a mix of two existing products, with aspects of human vaccine technology applied to the manufacturing process that sees science combined with innovation to create an effective formulation against two diseases.

The manufacturing process also helps remove extraneous proteins that can affect efficacy and safety, with the PCV2 antigen concentrated and diafiltered and the M. hyo antigen filtered and treated with protein A to help reduce anti-PCV2 and other antibodies, resulting in better compatibility with the PCV2 antigen.

Additionally, the Zoetis MetaStim adjuvant helps induce an effective immune response within the pig.

Through extensive safety and efficacy trials, it was found that Fosterera PCV MH, whether administered using the two-dose or single-dose options, aids in the control of PCVAD, while the presence of M. hyo in the formulation does not interfere with PCV2 efficacy.

Both dosing regimens aided in the control of enzootic pneumonia caused by M. hyo, with the presence of PCV2 in the formulation not interfering with M. hyo efficacy.

Furthermore, both dosing options were deemed safe to administer from weaning age, and through testing only a low inci-

dence of mild, quick-resolving injection site reactions were observed.

During comparative testing of one and two-dose PCV2 and M. hyo vaccine combinations (mixed monovalent and bivalent) following dual challenge with PCV2 and M. hyo, Fosterera PCV MH (one and two-dose) demonstrated efficacy against the PCV2 challenge as demonstrated by viraemia, shedding, histopathology and colonisation.

Both dosing options of Fosterera PCV MH also demonstrated efficacy against the M. hyo challenge as demonstrated by LS mean lung lesions.

Overall, Fosterera PCV MH saw a 91.3 percent reduction in viraemic pigs, a 70 percent reduction in faecal shedding, a 91-100 percent reduction in PCV2 lymphoid lesions, 77.4 percent less PCV2 antigen in lymphoid tissues and a 76.3 percent reduction in M. hyo lung lesions compared to controls.

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sizes of 100ml and 500ml to suit pig farms large and small, the additional convenience afforded by a single-dose vaccine to combat two diseases makes Fosterera PCV MH the logical choice in today's busy farming operations.

Offering at least the same protection against PCV2 and M. hyo as you would expect from

monovalent vaccines, the ready-to-use Fosterera PCV MH vaccine is safe, efficacious and convenient.

Zoetis Fosterera PCV MH is expected to land in Australia in early August.

For more information, contact your veterinarian or local Zoetis representative.

You can call Zoetis on 1800 963 847 or visit zoetis.com.au/fosterera



US veterinarian Brian Payne of Pipestone Veterinary Services flew in to give an insight into transmission of disease in the sow herd.



The Zoetis pig team.



The Q&A session provided a great opportunity for those in attendance to quiz the Zoetis team.

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Algae work to reduce piggery greenhouse gas emissions

PORK CRC Program 4 'Carbon conscious nutrient inputs and outputs' conducts research to improve the sustainability of the pork industry, specifically to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to about 1kg CO2 equivalent/kg pork produced.

An outcome of the program has been the increasing adoption of covered anaerobic lagoons by Australian pork producers to manage greenhouse gas emissions and recover the methane from biogas for energy production.

The biogas also contains CO2.

Algal biomass produced in high-rate algal ponds treating piggery wastewater can remove CO2 from the slurry and potentially from the biogas, contributing to GHG mitigation.

The biomass is also an additional source of energy, which could be released via anaerobic digestion or co-digestion with pig slurry.

While other wastes such as industrial organic wastes, fruit, vegetables and olive wastes are commonly co-digested,

there have been limited studies on the digestion of algal biomass as a sole substrate or co-digested with other wastes such as pig slurry.

Flinders University research higher degree student Ryan Cheng's Pork CRC supported PhD thesis 'Exploitation of wastewater grown microalgae for the production of biogas' investigated the effect of CO2 addition on algal growth and methane production from the digestion of algae and their co-digestion with other liquid wastes including pig slurry.

Dr Cheng, who has a Bachelor of Medical Science with majors in microbiology, neuroscience and physiology and a Bachelor of Science (Honours), both from South Australia's Flinders University, was recently awarded his doctorate.

According to his PhD supervisor Prof Howard Fallowfield, his results question if adding CO2 enhances algal production in all types of wastewater.

In Dr Cheng's PhD re-

search, a laboratory approach was used to examine the effect of the addition of CO2 on the growth of microalgae in wastewaters of three different strengths determined by their biochemical oxygen demand.

"Results demonstrated that adding CO2 did not increase biomass production in wastewaters rich in organic carbon, since the CO2 produced by bacterial mineralisation adequately supported optimal biomass production," Dr Cheng said.

Co-digestion of pig slurry with algal biomass resulted in a slightly higher methane yield.

"My research ultimately provided a better understanding of how to achieve integration of algae and wastewater treatment by determining if it is necessary to supply external CO2 and evaluating the outcome of anaerobic co-digestion of algal biomass with pig slurry or waste-activated sludge," Dr Cheng said.

www.porkcrc.com.au



Dr Ryan Cheng



LVP's Dean Romaniello in the boning room with Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon students.

Agricultural students peruse pork processing the Wooroloo way

AVID readers of this column (hello, is anyone out there?) will recall back in April that I commented on how delighted I was to see secondary school students at the West Australian Pork Producers Association's 2017 Pig Day Out at Technology Park.

I went on to write that despite some agenda topics being a little bland for mid-teens, the Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon students looked engaged.

Credit goes to former WAPPA president Steve Martin's daughter Stacey Carter, who now teaches at Bindoon, and Brett Nelson, one of the college's three Aboriginal teacher's assistants, who accompanied the students, some indigenous, from Bindoon for the day.

Anyway, a few months on and Stacey has since taken some Bindoon kids to visit Craig Mostyn Group's Linley Valley Pork processing works at Wooroloo.

Apparently they arrived on a cold morning and with a degree of apprehension, as one does when visiting an abattoir.

However, the apprehension quickly turned to laughter as they dressed into the required protective biosecurity clothing, including hairnets, booties and coats.

First up was the boning room, where they saw sides of meat, lots of different cuts for different markets, offal (including hearts with valves destined for medical use) and lots of evidence of the traceability the industry demands.



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

As they worked their way backwards through the process, they saw more evidence of technology.

According to feedback from Stacey, some of the students felt it was quite a confronting excursion, but all were impressed with the advanced technology and how the system flowed.

Importantly, they could take home an understand-

ing of the efforts producers and processors go to so that safe, tasty and consistent quality pork can make its way from gate to plate.

I understand LVP currently processes about 14,000 pigs per week on one shift, which today includes a significant number of free range pigs (about 25 percent of pigs in WA are free range).

LVP has always emphasised animal welfare, hence there is no prodding on site, no receipt of pigs during very hot weather (must arrive early morning or at night) and they must have access to water at all times.

LVP bones about 1800 pigs a day over two shifts and this includes service boning for supermarkets.

A Marel boning system ensures traceability from paddock to plate and positive OH&S outcomes.

I understand about two-thirds of pigs destined for LVP come from Craig Mostyn farms.

One of those, a 5000-sow free range breeder farm near Albany on WA's south coast, is believed to be the largest of its kind in Australia.



LVP's Dean Romaniello outlined the Linley Valley Pork process to Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon students.



Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon students Teki Hart, Harvey Wilkins, Hope Patterson and Jess King enjoyed their Linley Valley visit.

How to avoid losing piglets to the elements



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- ✓ Quick and easy to assemble

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Tin Pig Farrowing Hut



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- ✓ Cheap

Disadvantages

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- ✗ Rust
- ✗ Difficult to move / relocate
- ✗ Hard to keep clean
- ✗ Safety issues after some years of use
- ✗ Disease control
- ✗ Limited lifespan

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- ✓ Insulated
- ✓ Cheap

Disadvantages

- ✗ Labor and time to construct
- ✗ Rust when outer surfaces are made from tin
- ✗ Difficult to move / relocate
- ✗ Hard to clean
- ✗ Disease control
- ✗ Limited lifespan



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INCREASING PIGLET SURVIVAL RATES ALL OVER THE WORLD

Producer assistance options during crisis

WITH current pig prices nearing, or below, the cost of production, many producers are suffering financial hardship.

The Australian Government has a number of assistance measures available to help.

These are summarised below and largely fall into household or business support.

Farm Household Allowance

The Farm Household Allowance helps eligible farmers and their partners who are experiencing financial hardship to improve their long-term financial situation.

The Farm Household Allowance provides financial assistance to address individual hardship irrespective of the cause.

Drought is one cause of these hardships, but it is not the only one.

Recognising farm families can experience difficulty in different ways and at different times, the payment is available at all times.

The allowance is delivered by the Department of Human Services and is paid fortnightly at a rate equivalent to the Newstart Allowance.

A Health Care Card is provided to recipients.

Support is also provided through a dedicated case manager to help recipients assess their situation and develop a plan for the future.

Eligible farmers and their partners are able to access up to three years of payments.

This is designed to give farm families time to get back on their feet and the opportunity to take steps to improve their circumstances.

For more information, refer to the questions and answers section or Farm Household Allowance Guidelines on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website (agriculture.gov.au).

For eligibility criteria, including income and assets tests, along with application forms, visit the Department of Human Services website (human.services.gov.au) or call 132 316.

Rural financial counsellors

Rural financial counsellors are part of the nation-wide Rural Financial Counselling Service.

These counsellors provide free, impartial and confidential financial counselling to help farmers, fishers and agriculture-dependent small businesses who are experiencing financial hardship and have no alternative sources of impartial support.

Rural financial counsellors can:

- Help clients identify financial and business options;
- Help clients negotiate with their lenders;
- Help clients develop an action plan;
- Help clients meet their mutual obligations under the Transitional Farm Family Payment;
- Provide clients information about government and

www.porknews.com.au

other assistance schemes;

- Refer clients to accountants, agricultural advisors and educational services; and
- Refer clients to the Department of Human Services and other professionals for succession planning, family mediation and personal, emotional and social counselling.

Visit the Rural Financial Counselling Service website for more information (agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service) or call 1800 686 175.

The website contains a map of the counsellors and state contact details.

Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme

The Australian Government has made \$250 million available under the Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme until June 30, 2018 for Drought Assistance Concessional Loans and Business Improvement Concessional Loans.

The Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme will continue to be available through state and Northern Territory delivery agencies until the Regional Investment Corporation is open for business in 2018.

At this stage, it is unlikely any pig producers will be eligible for either the Business Improvement or Drought Assistance concessional loans.

This is because Business Improvement Concessional Loans are available to assist eligible farmers who have exhausted their 1095-day entitlement to the Farm Household Allowance.

To be eligible for Drought Concessional Loans you need to be experiencing financial difficulty due to the effects of drought.

If you believe your circumstances warrant investigation for either of these loan facilities, please read the loan guidelines for full details on eligibility and how the loan will be assessed.

Do not self-assess.

Seek the advice of a suitably qualified professional such as your accountant or speak to your state government delivery agency:

- NSW Rural Assistance Authority; phone 1800 678 593; raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/concessional-loans/drought-assistance

- Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority; phone 1800 623 946; qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/drought-concessional-loans-scheme

- Rural Finance Victoria; phone 1300 796 101; ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/farm-business-concessional-loans-scheme?utm_source=homepage&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=farm-loan-scheme

- Primary Industries & Regions SA; phone 1800 182 235; pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/industry_support/drought_assistance_concessional_loans
- Department of State Growth Tasmania;

phone 1800 030 688; stategrowth.tas.gov.au/home/grants_and_funding/loans/drought_assistance_concessional_loans

- Department of Food and Agriculture, WA; phone 1800 198 231; agric.wa.gov.au/grains/farm-finance-concessional-loans-scheme-wa-2014-15

Only NSW and Queensland have completed their contractual negotiations with the Australian Government for the 2017-18 financial year.

However, the remaining states are expected to complete this process in the next few weeks.

That said, the agencies should be in a position to provide information. 📧

Deb Kerr
APL General Manager
Policy

MSD Animal Health announces Swine Technical Advisor Australia and New Zealand

IT is with great pleasure that MSD Animal Health would like to announce the appointment of Dr Chris Brennan to the role of Technical Advisor – Swine Australia and New Zealand.

Chris will join the MSD team with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the swine industry as a producer, a veterinarian and in a number of swine industry roles.

Chris has been a part owner in a 1200 farrow to finish production system, was a partner in Portec Australia Vet Consultancy, WA and has had a variety of roles as a swine vet consultant and production manager in small to large farms

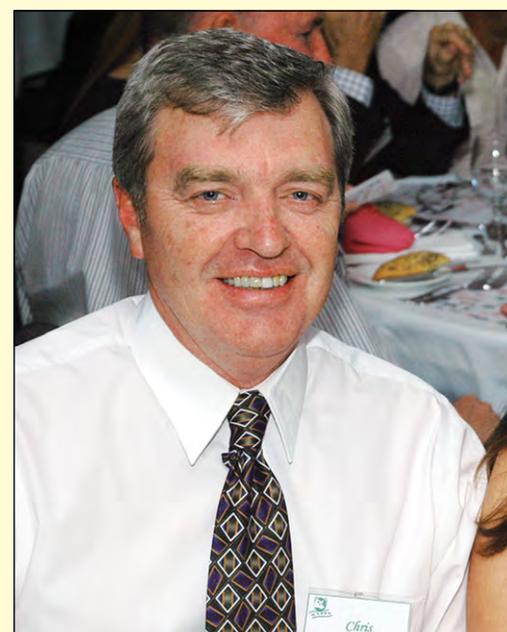
around Australia.

Chris has a passion for swine production as well as a depth of experience and practical knowledge and will be a valuable asset to the MSD team.

He will be based in Victoria and be the MSD Swine Business Unit technical support for both Australia and New Zealand, working with Amanda Vardanega, National Key Account Manager – Swine ANZ.

Chris commenced this role with MSD Animal Health on Monday, July 3.

Amanda and Chris look forward to catching up with customers in the pig industry in Australia and New Zealand over the coming months. 📧

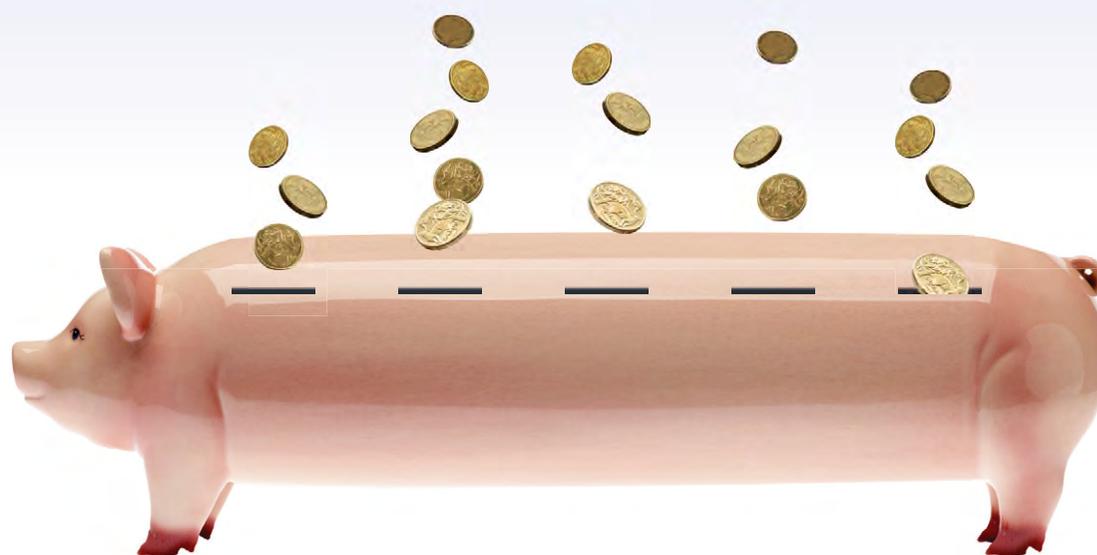


Dr Chris Brennan. Photo: Brendon Cant



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Amanda Vardanega 0427 011 579

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Judges Simon Bestley, Horst Schurger and Paul McDonald.



Overall winners Leonie and Richard Odell of Griffith Butchery with APL CEO Andrew Spencer.

Everyone does it their way, but Aussie bacon is best



Alex and Franz Knoll of Barossa Fine Foods won the best shortcut category.

EVERYONE has their favourite way to enjoy the magical meat, from savoury to sweet, breakfast to dessert, and recently, Aussie bacon was in the spotlight.

Australian Bacon Week ran from June 25 to July 1, celebrating 100 percent Australian bacon but also drawing attention to the competition local bacon faces from imported products.

Bacon enthusiast and Australian Pork Limited Marketing manager Mitch Edwards said the week was a chance to combine fun, a much-loved meat and some serious messages.

"Aussie bacon is a regular feature of my breakfasts and even pops up to add a highlight and flavour boost in the occasional lunch or dinner," he said.

"Everyone loves bacon and everyone has their own way to enjoy it.

"This year we encouraged people to get involved and show us Aussie bacon their way.

"For chef Colin Fassnidge, it's an Aussie bacon and leftover suckling pig jaffle with pate and basil leaves; for the team members at N2 Extreme Gelato, they give it a sweet twist in their Beauty and the Bacon creation.

"Personally, I can't say no to perfect eggs, some crunchy toast and high-quality, tasty Aussie bacon to kick start my day."

People were encouraged to share their favourite Aussie bacon creations using #aussiebacon and #baconweek.

The Australian PorkMark Bacon Awards are a highlight of the week, finding and celebrating the very best Australian bacon.

"This year more than 125 bacons were put to the test by a specialist judging panel," Mr Edwards said.

"Fleischmeister Horst Schurger and chefs Simon Bestley and Paul McDonald assessed the appearance, aroma and taste of

the products, noting that processors had again improved their products.

"The ACT's Griffith Butchery took out top honours, winning the overall award as well as first in full rasher, while Barossa Fine Foods, South Australia, won the best shortcut bacon category.

"Congratulations to this year's winners, but also to the entrants who received such positive feedback from the judges."

The judges described the winning bacon from Griffith Butchery as being beautifully presented with a nice shape, mild aroma, lasting flavour and very

good texture.

Barossa Fine Foods' winning shortcut bacon was a prosciutto-style, with a nice colour and aroma, great flavour and true to style.

"It still shocks people to learn that more than 70 percent of bacon sold in Australia is made from imported pork," Mr Edwards said.

"Australian Bacon Week is about celebrating our best bacon but also reminding people that they need to look for our pink PorkMark logo or the words 'Product of Australia'."

www.pork.com.au

Overall winner		
Griffith Butchery, Griffith, ACT		
National winners		
Full rasher		
1	Griffith Butchery	Griffith, ACT
2	Kanmantoo Bacon and Quality Meats	Kanmantoo, SA
3	Meatways Kambah	Kambah, ACT
Shortcut		
1	Barossa Fine Foods	Edinburgh North, SA
2	Rob's British Butcher	Dandenong, Vic
3	German Butchery	Mona Vale, NSW

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Sharpest Aussies ready for World Butchers' Challenge

THE Australian Steelers just made mincemeat of the Kiwis in the Trans-Tasman test and now Australia's sharpest have been selected for the 2018 World Butchers' Challenge in Ireland.

The prestigious butchers' competition pitches teams of six butchers against each other in a three-hour test of skills, innovation and presentation.

The Australian Steelers will be:

- Adam Stratton, Tender Gourmet Butchery, NSW;
- Paul Brady, Tender Gourmet Butchery, NSW;
- Tom Bouchier, Peter Bouchier Butchers of Distinction, Victoria;

- Colin Garrett, Colin's Butchery, NSW;
- Nick Dagg, Gourmet Market Meats, Queensland;
- Luke Leyson, Goodwood Quality Meats, SA; and
- Reserve: Gareth Hunt, Fat Cow Butchery, Queensland.

Sydney's Adam Stratton will continue to captain the team.

"It's a real honour to not only have retained my position in the team, but also to continue on as captain of the Steelers," he said.

"I'm confident that this team has the range of skills we require for the competition, from breakdown to value-add.

"Our recent win over

the Kiwis was a massive achievement and I'm really looking forward to the next challenge in March, in Ireland."

Australian Pork Limited, Meat & Livestock Australia, Flavour Makers, Murray Valley Meat Wholesalers, Neild and Co, Vadals and Thompson Meat Machinery are the current sponsors, but the team is seeking further sponsorship to help get them to Ireland.

The World Butchers' Challenge will be held in Belfast, Ireland on March 21, 2018.

Confirmed teams are Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Great Britain and the US.

APSA 2017 to reveal the pig science of tomorrow, today

THOUGH much has changed in the science behind pig production in the past 30 years, many of the topics researched and analysed remain much the same, including seasonal pig infertility and welfare.

First held in 1987 in Albury, NSW, the biennial Australasian Pig Science Association Conference, this year to be held at the Grand Hyatt, Melbourne from November 19-22, will hear the latest science behind seasonal fertility courtesy of Dr Ray King, while Prof Alan Tilbrook will review advances in animal welfare.

Interestingly, at the inaugural APSA Conference, Dr David Hennessy reviewed seasonal infertility and Dr John Barnett reviewed welfare.

APSA president Dr Pat Mitchell of Australian Pork Limited said the 16th APSA Conference would present cutting-edge science, with speakers at the forefront of the global race to back pig production with meaningful science that not only raises questions but also answers them.

"All stakeholders invested in the business of producing pigs and pork, including scientists, producers, suppliers, regulators and associates, will be motivated, inspired and encouraged by what they will take home from APSA 2017," Dr Mitchell said.

"Of course, the best take-home messages will be enjoyed by those who register, attend and network with colleagues, but for those who can't, there is the opportunity to access the delivered science by buying the proceedings: 'Manipulating Pig Production XVI'.

"By reflecting on what science has done, looking at what it's now doing and, importantly, where it's now heading, APSA effectively holds up a mirror to the future of pig science."

New Zealanders Dr Lucy Waldron and Dr Shay Hill will edit the 2017 proceedings, which will later be published in full as a special issue of 'Animal Production Science'.

After student and industry workshops on the first day of APSA 2017, Dr Ray King will deliver the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture on seasonal infertility, providing collated information from international and Australian projects, including those commissioned by the Pig Research and Development Corporation, APL and Co-operative Research Centre for High Integrity Australian Pork.

He will highlight the projects and their outcomes that have been presented at APSA to assist industry to alleviate the problem of seasonal infertility and he will then identify potential knowledge gaps and make recommendations for future research.

"Australia's pig industry has spent considerable resources addressing the issues affecting pig production during summer, yet seasonal infertility remains a significant issue here and in many overseas countries," Dr King said.

"Seasonal infertility was

one of the first major production syndromes that had research outcomes presented at APSA and it is a perfect example of how even with the best intentions and substantial robust research, some issues continue to cause production losses."

With Australia's pork industry now recognised as a world leader in transitioning to higher welfare and the industry's commitment to cease using sow stalls from this year, the timing of Prof Alan Tilbrook's review of animal welfare underlines APSA's commitment to providing a platform to promoting the science impacting contemporary challenges.

According to the University of Queensland's Prof Tilbrook, while great strides have been made in animal welfare assessment and attitudes towards facilitating positive affective states, advanced assessment methods are being developed to meet these changing demands.

His review will be a 'where to from here' reference piece, focusing on advanced assessment concepts and methods as the industry strives for objective assessment of animal welfare.

Other reviews at APSA 2017 include:

- Prof John O'Doherty, Professor of Monogastric Nutrition, University College Dublin and 2016 British Society of Animal Science Hammond award winner: 'Current and novel feed additives – how they influence pig production';

- Prof Darren Trott, Professor of Veterinary Microbiology at the University of Adelaide: 'The use of antimicrobials in agriculture – is agriculture really to blame for antimicrobial resistance?'; and

- Heather Channon, Acting Research and Innovation General Manager, Australian Pork Limited: 'Eating quality assurance for the pork industry. What has been achieved in 16 years?'

A symposium on consumer wants will feature University of Adelaide Senior Research Associate Dr Heather Bray, SunPork Solutions CEO Dr Darryl D'Souza and Pork CRC PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne Evan Bittner.

Another symposium, on genetic improvement in a closed herd, will be addressed by Dr Kim Bunter of the University of New England, NSW, Prof Do-

rian Garrick, Chief Scientific Officer, Institute of Veterinary, Animal & Biomedical Sciences, Massey University, New Zealand and Dr Matt Culbertson, Global Director for Product Development and Technical Services, PIC, US.

According to Dr Mitchell, the fact that APSA 2017 has attracted world-leading scientists in hot button issues such as pig genetics, genomics, nutrition, antimicrobial resistance, pork eating quality, consumer attitudes to pork and animal welfare reflects the high profile APSA has in the global

pig science community.

For detailed speaker biographies, visit apsa.asn.au/Conference2017/Speakers.aspx

Early bird registrations for APSA 2017 are open until September 1 and feature savings of up to \$300. To register, visit yrd.currinda.com/register/event/1085

All queries regarding APSA should be directed to APSA secretary Dr Cameron Ralph (08 8313 7781; Cameron.Ralph@sa.gov.au)

Principal sponsors of APSA 2017 are APL and Pork CRC.

www.apsa.asn.au



Dr Cherie Collins of Rivalea Australia opened APSA 2015. APSA 2017, again to be held at Grand Hyatt, Melbourne, will this year be opened by APSA president Dr Pat Mitchell of APL, who has promised that the 16th APSA Biennial Conference will present cutting-edge pig science and a look into the future.



After student and industry workshops on the first day of APSA 2017, Dr Ray King will deliver the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture on seasonal infertility. Pictured are students who participated in the 2015 APSA/APL/Pork CRC workshop.

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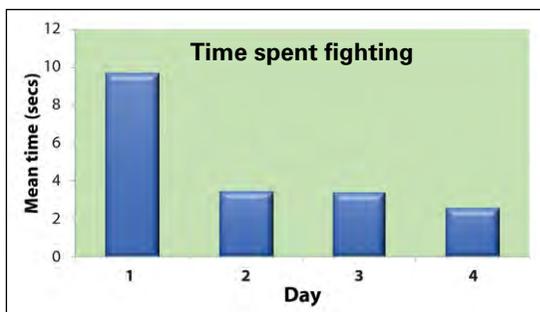


Figure 2: Mean time (seconds) individual sows spent engaged in a fight 60 minutes after feeding; measured over four days from the day of mixing (Pork CRC funded Project 1C-115).

Sow activity	Treatment		
	Control group	Ridley Enrich Sow Block group	High feed group (4kg/day)
Chase	0.29	0.08	0.11
Foraging	28.5	25.7	25.2
Standing	50.6	45.9	45.3
Agonistic behaviour	1.01	0.81	0.73
Lying	9.1	13.3	13.7

Table 1: Mean time (minutes) sows spent engaged in behaviour and posture one hour after feeding over the four days of observation, for sows in the control group and receiving 2.3kg/day, sows receiving a high-feeding level (4kg/day) or sows receiving a Ridley Enrich Sow Block in addition to 2.3kg feed/day (Pork CRC funded Commercialisation project).

Take care of your sows and they'll take care of you

ON a pig farm, nobody works harder than the sows.

Taking good care of them isn't just best practice – it's good business, and it's not simple.

Beyond health, sanitation and nutrition, there are a range of behavioural concerns that farmers need to address, particu-

larly since the transition away from gestation stalls.

Environmental enrichment is becoming the new global standard for managing these problem behaviours and increasing productivity, and it's fast gaining traction.

So, what is environmental enrichment and why is it on the rise?

Simply put, environmental enrichment is a specific set of measures that add complexity and interest to the farming environment for the wellbeing of the pigs.

Substrates for nesting, certain types of housing (such as free range) and objects for play are all forms of environmental enrichment.

Studies show that when a group housing environment is enriched, sows adjust to new social groups

faster and with less aggression.

They show more diverse, more natural behaviours and spend more time at rest.

Enrichment isn't just about productivity, either.

Ethical and welfare issues are also driving consumer behaviour, and supermarkets are taking notice.

Some of the biggest supermarkets in the UK (such as Waitrose) and across Europe are already stocking their fridges exclusively with pig products from farms with enrichment programs.

But it's not easy keeping an intelligent animal interested in an old tyre.

The difficulty of finding a lasting, cost-effective enrichment solution makes it impractical for a lot of Australian farmers.

That's why Ridley is looking ahead with the Ridley Enrich Sow Block.

Sow Block is a consumable 20kg block specially designed for pigs, in line with the best global enrichment standards.

As a long-term, economical way to reduce harmful behaviours in the mix, it's simple and effective. Like other forms of enrichment, it encourages natural behaviours and reduces stress.

It's also made from a molasses base, so it has a pleasant taste that never loses its appeal – initial results show that pigs engage with Sow Block

continuously, consuming consistent quantities over time.

Most importantly, Sow Block works.

By supporting the natural foraging tendencies of pregnant sows, it has proven to reduce stress-related harmful behaviours.

As trial results show, you can expect to see fewer scratches, more time spent resting and less time spent chasing with a Sow Block in the mix.

To find out more about Sow Block and other enrichment options for your pigs, contact your local Ridley representative on 1300 666 657.

IMPROVE SOW BEHAVIOUR. ADD A BLOCK TO THE MIX.

Minimise harmful behaviour

Adding a SOWBLOCK to the pen gives sows an opportunity to forage and explore. This results in less biting and scratching, particularly while sows are establishing their social hierarchy.

*"With SOWBLOCK, injuries have been reduced by up to 44%."*¹

1. Mean number of fresh scratch injuries scored on Day 3 after mixing control sows and sows treated with SOWBLOCK (Pork CRC funded Commercialisation Project).



*"In test pens, sows spent 46% more time laying down and 72% less time chasing."*²

2. Effect of higher feed levels or addition of SOWBLOCK to group housed gestational sows behaviour in the first four days post mixing (Pork CRC Project 1C-115).

For more information or to add a BLOCK to your mix please contact your local Ridley representative on 1300 666 657.



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Naturally ahead



PorkStar's Mitch Edwards addressed the chefs.

Brisbane's OTTO treats top chefs to Italian pork feast

BRISBANE'S top chefs were treated to a pork feast inspired by Italy's south when OTTO hosted PorkStar.

Australian Pork Limited's PorkStar program is in its second decade of encouraging and celebrating chefs' pork usage.

PorkStar's Mitch Edwards said chef Will Cowper had delivered a menu that heroed pork while also being true to the restaurant's delicious Italian style.

"OTTO Brisbane celebrated its first-year anniversary in June and we're so pleased we've been able to bring together the city's best chefs for this special dinner," Mr Edwards said.

"Chef Will has done a wonderful job of showcasing great Australian pork in a creative and innovative way, but also sticking to the restaurant's iconic Italian style."

Will Cowper joined OTTO Brisbane after be-

ing sous chef at OTTO Sydney.

"The menu included pork, smoked tuna mayonnaise, caperberries and black pudding, a charcuterie platter, pig's head ravioli, pork fillet carpaccio and suckling pig," Mr Edwards said.

"Pork fillet carpaccio is pretty special and this featured truffle dressing, parmesan, capers, rocket and WA truffles.

"This is the kind of dish we love to see, one that features quality ingredients in new and interesting ways.

"Will even included a bacon and apple pie with spiced gelato, which was a great way for guests to celebrate Australian Bacon Week, which got under way in late June."

Wines for the evening were from Holly's Garden, sourced by Domaine Wine Shippers, with water from AquaBotanical.

www.pork.com.au



Roasted pumpkin, parmesan, sage, muscatels, pine nuts, burnt butter and black pudding.

www.porknews.com.au

'Why is APL not reacting to imported ribs?'

THERE is some frustration amongst producers regarding why Australian Pork Limited appears to have not reacted to the imported ribs phenomenon.

In reality, imported ribs are being curtailed by reduced pricing for Australian ribs, which is an unpleasant holding position.

However, APL is not doing nothing, but we are clear on just how hard a nut this is to crack.

Imported ribs are not materially worse than Australian – they are cheap, convenient and have enabled cafes and pubs to make money out of them where previously ribs were relatively unprofitable for the outlet.

We could have gone and executed a 'don't buy imports' activity.

This would have made everybody feel better in the short term, but we have two decades of evidence with ham and bacon that this changes many consumers' perceptions and has very little effect on their behaviour.

There is a line written by Rudyard Kipling that says: "If you can keep your head whilst all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you..." and we return to this line often inside APL.

We ask ourselves "what would producers say today and what would they say when they look back at 2017 in 2019?"

Today, producers are saying "do something now", but in two years' time we want them to say "we got through it and APL helped and didn't waste our money doing the same as they did for ham and bacon".

In short, we are trying to make sure we respond, rather than react.

The difference is not timing but focus.

We have long-standing



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



evidence that the industry's approach to fresh pork marketing – slowly and steadily – is contributing to the growth of total pork consumption (including ham and bacon), which surpassed beef consumption per capita in 2015.

So, when confronted with plummeting prices, the first activity was to accelerate base business growth, rather than divert attention to the new threat and let base business dwindle (that's a rookie error).

The second thing to do is make ribs and bellies advertisements in the versatility campaign.

These target both continuing base business growth while highlighting these cuts and will be on air throughout July and August.

The ads are available to view at: youtu.be/FBDtxo0E7iQ (ribs 15 seconds); youtu.be/4i8y4ldmtb8 (belly 15 seconds); and youtu.be/Lq9SuMU8cow (belly 30 seconds).

The evidence suggests that it is not the advertising but the trade activity (distribution and price promotion) that advertising encourages, which drives volume.

In addition, chains such as Hog's Breath Cafe are advertising specials on pork ribs in July.

Here is the ad Hog's Breath is running at present: youtube.com/

This is the first step, not the whole plan.

The third thing is to work out what the positive points of difference for Australian ribs and bellies are and celebrate those.

This is primarily a trade marketing job, leveraging Australian supporters in mainstream cafes and restaurants that either are pro-Australian or anti the imports due to product quality.

It appears that ultra-heat-treated ribs are more 'fall off the bone' than 'bite off the bone'.

The latter is probably considered the authentic ribs experience.

The fourth thing to do is understand what we would have needed to un-

derstand to anticipate the price falls.

Given there are multiple causes and many elements, some we are working on include:

- More timely supply data. This will be more useful to commercial players than APL, as we don't control wholesale or retail pricing or distribution, which are the drivers of short-term volume.

- Work on different methods for forecasting supply monthly or weekly volumes. The fact that our forecasts eight to 12 months out are good did not stop the price fall.

- The same is true of demand forecasting. We need to work on four-weekly forecasts (because

that's the sales data we get to understand how good our forecasts are).

- Get more detailed information on imports. We don't know if this is available or obtainable, but we are working on it.

- We need to understand the wholesale channels with greater clarity. This might be hard and we may have historically not been able to do this, but when needs must, the devil drives!

Finally, we need in parallel to work on structural cost reduction.

Had our prices not been what they were at farm gate, \$20-plus per ribs would not have been necessary at wholesale and there would have been no

commercial opportunity for imported ribs.

While this may be unpopular, and reduced cost of production might not increase producer profitability, it would probably make profitability more certain.

So, we are responding to both increased total demand and to the new threats in a number of ways.

We need to remain clear that justifying a premium without a quality differentiator or rarity tends to create fashions or fads, which are helpful but don't last.

In the end, almost everybody buys almost everything on value for money.

watch?v=K6S2Xs22emE

The reason this is important, is it signals an attitude shift versus the industry's reaction to ham and bacon imports.

That is, we do have to do something more mainstream than just public relations.

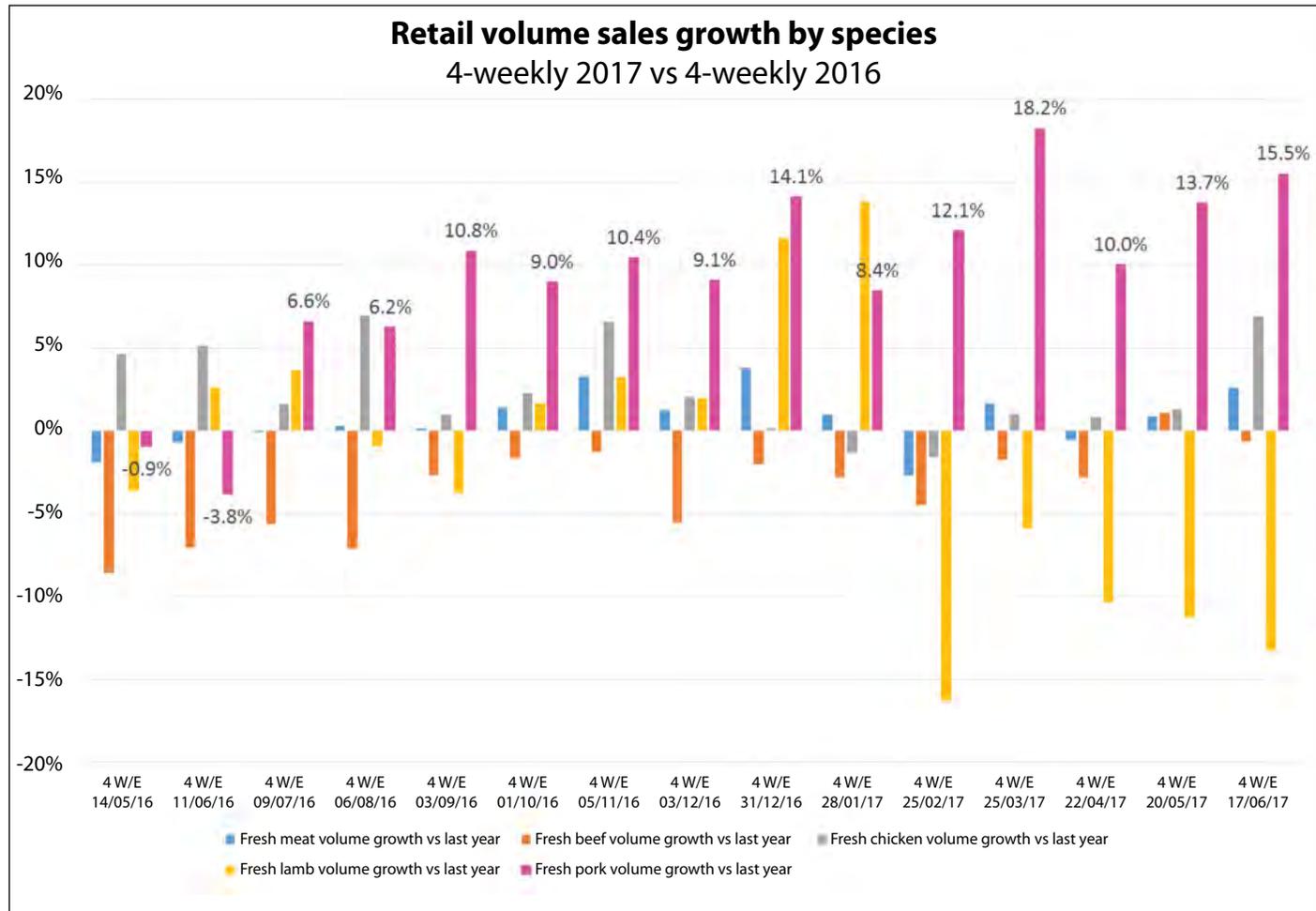


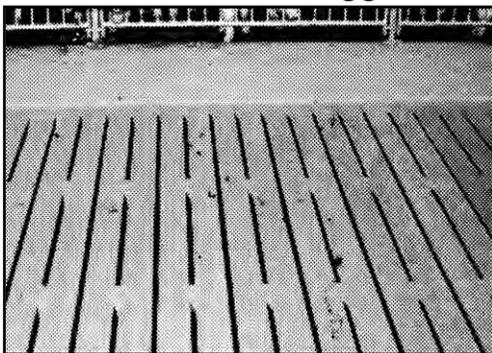
Figure 1

Anti-slip Self Supporting Triangle Hot Dipped Galvanised Flooring

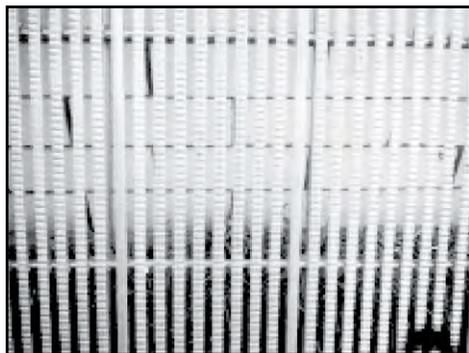


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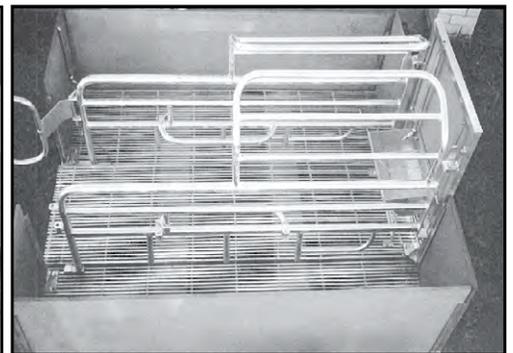
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Restaurateurs and caterers connect with US pork at Foodservice Australia

WORKING to distinguish US pork from competitors' products and create interest among potential new customers in the Oceania region, the U.S. Meat Export Federation offered tastings of various pork dishes at Foodservice Australia, an annual food and hospitality event that alternates between Sydney and Melbourne.

"Although it is a smaller-scale show compared to the annual Fine Food Australia, this event focuses more specifically on buyers from the restaurant, bar, catering and bakery sectors, and this is where we see continued growth."

USMEF's booth featured a chiller filled with a wide range of cooked US pork products imported by Colby International, one of the region's top red

meat importers. Among the US items presented were pre-cooked bacon, pulled pork with barbecue sauce, braised pork belly, pork rib patties and pork meatballs with various sauces. Show attendees, many of them foodservice managers and buyers, tasted pre-cooked products and learnt about US pork.

"We received many favourable comments at the

sampling sessions as operators from a diverse field of restaurants throughout Australia discussed their preferences for pork products," Ms Yin said.

"We were able to identify US pork cuts and pre-cooked products that fit their needs, and in many cases we were able to offer them a sample of these US pork products."

Ms Yin said Colby International will follow up

with visitors to the USMEF booth and that arrangements were made to send additional US pork samples to foodservice operators and chefs – either directly or through their distributors – following the show.

Ms Yin also noted that USMEF plans to reconnect with some of these potential new customers at Fine Food Australia in Sydney in September.

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Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture Market Access Program and the Pork Checkoff, USMEF also distributed informational brochures on US pork, along with pre-cooked bacon pamphlets and foodservice guide fact sheets.

This year's show in Melbourne attracted nearly 9000 visitors, a 69 percent increase compared to last year.

USMEF-ASEAN director Sabrina Yin said, "USMEF participated in the 2016 show and found it to be an event where we can gain good insight into the foodservice sector in Australia and learn where the market is headed."



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Many parts of Queensland still affected by drought

NEW drought declaration details highlight that farming families in more than two-thirds of Queensland are still battling the devastating impact of drought while primary producers in the northwest are now entering the recovery phase.

The State Government recently announced that Queensland is 69.75 percent drought declared, down from a record 87.47 percent in March, with several areas in the north of the state and the shire of Southern Downs coming off the drought-declared list.

AgForce general president Grant Maudsley said the changes announced were based on the recommendations of Local Drought Committees taking into consideration their local conditions.

"The prolonged and severe drought has taken an enormous financial, environmental and emotional toll on farming families right throughout Queensland," he said.

"Many regions in west-

ern Queensland were first officially drought declared in early to mid-2013, so producers in those areas have effectively had five years with rainfall deficits.

"Drought declarations have now been revoked in the northwest after one of their best wet seasons in years, but primary producers up there will still need support as they move into the recovery phase after years of drought."

"This announcement also highlights the fact that while cyclone Debbie delivered welcome rain in some areas, it followed another very hot and dry summer and there still hasn't been enough rain to break the drought in the majority of the state."

Drought-declared primary producers can access fodder and water freight subsidies and emergency water infrastructure rebates, as well as relief from electricity charges, land rent rebates and water licence waivers if they are eligible.

Primary producers in ar-

reas where drought declarations have been revoked can apply for an individual droughted property declaration if they still require assistance.

Mr Maudsley said AgForce had developed a new approach to drought policy based on the agricultural business cycle that aimed to put producers in the driver's seat in managing climate risks, and to deliver better outcomes for producers and governments.

"AgForce stands ready to work with the government to ensure drought policy works to improve resilience and preparedness while also delivering effective assistance during extended, severe events like the one currently being experienced in more than two-thirds of the state," Mr Maudsley said.

Primary producers seeking more information about drought declarations and assistance measures available can visit daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.



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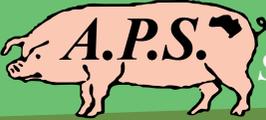
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Aussie Pumps product

manager Bob Massiah said Tsurumi's breakthrough grinder design enables effluent to be transferred through cost-effective 1.5" and 2" pipes, and at high pressures.

"This means the pumps deliver higher heads for moving wastewater greater distances," he said.

"Chopping the solids into smaller pieces also means the waste breaks down faster and more efficiently."

The grinder mechanism on the MG series uses a sintered tungsten carbide alloy tip that is brazed on the impeller vane.

This rotates against the serrated edge of the chromium iron suction cover, cutting fibrous matter, which can

then flow through the pump with ease.

"Tsurumi opted to use chromium iron and tungsten carbide for the grinder mechanism over stainless steel for their hardness properties," Massiah said.

"Our customers tell us these pumps simply outlast conventional long-column pumps yet cost less."

The three-phase and single-phase cast iron pumps are available with 32mm and 50mm discharge ports.

The 50mm pump has a maximum head of 35m (50psi) and a capacity of up to 320l/pm.

Tsurumi MG series pumps can be mounted on guide rails.

These make it simple to

remove the pumps for maintenance and service without draining the pit.

Like all Tsurumi submersible pumps, the MG series includes features that extend the life and enhance reliability of the pump.

Significant design details make a big difference.

These include an anti-wicking cable entry that prevents water from entering the motor if the power lead is damaged or the end of the cable is accidentally submerged.

A dual double silicon carbide seal is standard on all models.

All seal surfaces are submerged in an oil chamber, away from the pumped liquid.

This ensures lubrication and protects against ingress of foreign materials.

The oil bath features a patented 'Oil Lifter' that increases mechanical seal longevity.

The lifter ensures both the upper and lower seals are lubricated and cooled, even if the oil level in the chamber is low.

"Tsurumi is the only company we know of that will offer a three-year warranty on submersible sewage pumps," Massiah said.

Further information on the complete range of Tsurumi submersible pumps is available on aussiepumps.com.au or you can call 02 8865 3500.



Tsurumi's grinder pumps offer high head performance with clog-free pumping.

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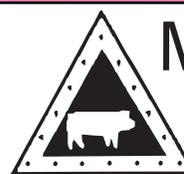
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Alltech opens new premises at Bendigo

ALLTECH recently relocated its Victorian operations base to a new site in Bendigo after outgrowing the old location.

The new 'strategic hub' is almost three times the size of the previous operation, at 2700sq m.

As well as housing tonnes of feed ingredients, the new warehouse also plays host to a number of KEENAN mixer wagons and a variety of equipment after KEENAN was acquired by Alltech in 2016.

The Bendigo base will be a great resource for both farmer and group training sessions and will be a hive of activity moving forwards.

About Alltech

Founded in 1980 by Irish entrepreneur and scientist Dr Pearse Lyons, Alltech discovers and delivers solutions for the sustainable nutrition of plants, animals and people.

With more than 100 manufacturing sites globally, Alltech is a leading producer and processor of

yeast and organic trace minerals, and the company's flagship algae production facility in Kentucky is one of only two of its kind in the world.

Alltech's guiding ACE principle seeks to develop solutions that are safe for the animal, consumer and the environment.

More than 5000 Alltech team members worldwide put this knowledge to work every day for customers.

Alltech is a family owned company, which allows it to adapt quickly to emerging customer needs and stay focused on advanced innovation.

Headquartered just outside Lexington, Kentucky, US, Alltech has a strong presence in all regions of the world.

For further information, visit www.alltech.com/news

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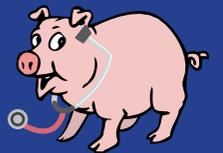
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Pig Farm Perspective

by Bruce the brainy pig



OF late, the European and US pig industries have been focused on improving air quality within weaner spaces.

After all, ventilation and air quality for weaners plays a vital role in the health and growth of pigs.

Recently, a number of dust-reduction units, known as electrostatic particle ionisation systems, have been utilised in an attempt to reduce the dust and pathogen concentration in the air of weaner spaces.

The EPI consists of a charged line that releases trillions of negative ions per second.

These ions collide with particles (dust, pathogens and so on) in the air, which causes the particles to act like magnets.

The particles then stick to each other and the shed surfaces, reducing the airborne dust

and pathogen concentration.

Both vets and researchers have found there is both an animal health and production improvement and an improvement in the air quality for staff on farms that have utilised EPIs.

The immediate method of reducing the concentration of airborne diseases (such as mycoplasma and influenza) is through decreasing the dust levels within a shed.

This can be achieved via a number of methods including controlled ventilation, use of pelleted feeds over mash, and use of water or oil to dampen surfaces.

An EPI is another tool we can use to reduce dust and pathogen concentration in the air.

Previous research on commercial US farms has found the use of EPIs can increase average daily gain by 2.2

percent and can decrease mortality by 1.2 percent in pigs from weaning to finishing.

A further follow-up study by the University of Minnesota assessed the reduction in certain pathogens (such as PRRS, influenza and PED).

This study found that 99.36 percent of PRRS particles were removed from the air with the use of an EPI, followed by influenza (82.18 percent) and PED (72.5 percent).

In addition, between 76 and 80 percent of dust particles were also removed from the air, further improving air quality.

In an era of increased focus on antibiotic usage, an EPI can be a further tool to reduce sickness and mortality, decrease antibiotic usage and increase growth of pigs through improved air quality from wean to finish.

Pork imports hurting Aussie pig farmers

AUSTRALIAN pork farmers have seen prices slide as imported pork products flood the market.

The Australian pork industry has been competing with imported processed pork such as bacon and ham for more than a decade, but now cuts such as bellies are being imported and sold cooked to cafes and restaurants.

In addition, ribs are also entering the country in a cooked format.

Australian Pork Limited CEO Andrew Spencer said the cheap, pre-cooked products were mostly destined for the hospitality industry.

"Our farmers have been competing with cheap

pork imports for years, but until now it had been mostly in the ham, bacon and smallgoods space," Mr Spencer said.

"What we're seeing now is a sudden influx of pre-cooked imported pork being sold into restaurants, takeaway outlets and hotels."

This includes ribs from North America and Europe that have been cooked and packaged.

"We are seeing processed ribs that are able to just sit on a shelf for 12-24 months with no refrigeration," Mr Spencer said.

"They've basically been sterilised in the pack and consumers have no idea.

"All fresh pork sold in Australia is from our

Australian pig farmers, but there is no labelling requirement on meat served in restaurants and across the hospitality industry.

"That leaves consumers in the dark about the quality and origin of the pork they are eating."

As food service outlets opt for the cheaper ribs, Australian pork farmers are feeling the pinch.

"Pork's popularity is growing in Australia, but these imports are a significant challenge for our farmers," Mr Spencer said.

affects overall pig prices. "We are forecasting this could equate to up to \$80 million lost at the farm gate in just a year.

"Australian Pork Limited is working with retailers, processors and wholesalers to try to en-

sure the market can accommodate our pigs.

"We need consumers to get more pork on their forks and for diners to ask if the ribs and bellies on their restaurant or pub menu are fresh, quality Australian pork."



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New English requirement announcement

ON July 1, 2017, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection changed the regulations requiring all 457 visa holders applying for permanent residence through the Temporary Residence Transition stream to prove they have competent English (a score of 6.0 in each band of the IELTS test).

However, the department decided to retain the current policy to allow current 457 visa holders applying for permanent residence through the Temporary Residence Transition stream to be able to claim English language exemption if they have completed at least five years of full-time study in a secondary and/or higher education institution where the whole curriculum was taught in English.

This announcement comes as a great relief to both workers and producers.

We realise that those who are now scheduled to sit the IELTS test

may decide to forego this step, however, we strongly advise piggery workers who are currently enrolled in IELTS review classes to continue in case the rules change before their applications are lodged.

Age requirement

Another announcement, made on April 18, 2017, stated applicants who are between 45 and 49 can no longer lodge their application for permanent residence.

On July 1, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection indicated the age limit for the Temporary Residence Transition stream would not change until March 2018.

Applicants in this age bracket are urged to lodge their applications without delay as changes could potentially come into effect sooner than indicated by the department.

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