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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER

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## Pork producers help raise record amount for FightMND

RECORD-breaking fundraising efforts by Aussie pork producers and Coles supermarkets may mean a cure for motor neurone disease is one step closer.

During May and June, the FightMND Foundation received 10 cents from the sale of each pack of Coles Brand fresh Australian pork, as well as an additional donation from pork producers who supply the retailer.

FightMND announced a record-breaking \$11.9 million was raised during the campaign, including

\$5.2 million raised by Coles through the sales of pork and Big Freeze beanies.

The amount raised was more than double the 2019 figure and will be used to help find new treatments and, ultimately, a cure for MND.

To find out more about MND, visit [fightmnd.org.au](http://fightmnd.org.au) or see Australian Pork Limited's release about the campaign at [australianpork.com.au/media-releases/join-aussie-pig-farmers-to-fight-mnd](http://australianpork.com.au/media-releases/join-aussie-pig-farmers-to-fight-mnd)

matly, a cure for MND. To find out more about MND, visit [fightmnd.org.au](http://fightmnd.org.au) or see Australian Pork Limited's release about the campaign at [australianpork.com.au/media-releases/join-aussie-pig-farmers-to-fight-mnd](http://australianpork.com.au/media-releases/join-aussie-pig-farmers-to-fight-mnd)



## APL prioritising Aussie smallgoods growth

AUSTRALIAN pork producers are uniquely placed to leverage renewed consumer support for 'Australian Made' products.

Australian Pork Limited is working to ensure that Australian pork, which unlike many other agricultural sectors competes with large volumes of imported product, promotes the home-grown message and, in turn, helps generate regional business activity to help revive the national economy.

Typically, \$17 million worth of imported pork, about 4000 tonnes, arrives in Australia each week to be heat-treated, processed and sold in competition with smallgoods made with Australian pork.

The availability of surplus Australian pig meat due to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions has provided the opportunity for local smallgoods producers to access more Australian pork for their ham, bacon and other products.

APL is prioritising this growth opportunity while there is critical market alignment across the supply chain.

Building a greater foothold in smallgoods categories is something that enjoys significant support from supermarkets and other retailers and the foodservice industry, because they know their customers prefer bacon, ham and other cured products made from Australian pork.

The wider uptake of country-of-origin labelling and greater product transparency for consumers are goals our producers share with the



### Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



rest of Australian agriculture and the Federal Government.

We welcome Agriculture Minister David Littleproud's leadership in this respect and commend his work in encouraging major fast-food franchises to embrace country-of-origin labelling.

Recent confirmation that McDonald's will introduce country-of-origin labelling is a crucial breakthrough and we will continue to encourage other franchises to follow suit.

Effective labelling empowers consumers

and will help add momentum to our efforts to increase the use of Australian pork in smallgoods.

This, in turn, will give supply chain businesses the chance to demonstrate to customers genuine support for quality Australian pork producers – something which is an increasingly compelling marketing edge.

Encouraging results arose from the trial APL launched in Adelaide in February to raise consumer awareness about the fact the majority of ham and bacon in Aus-

tralia is made from imported pork.

Based on this, and as new opportunities arise to tap into changing consumer sentiment in a post-COVID-19 market, we plan to resume the campaign in 2021.

As we emerge from COVID-19 shutdowns and set about rebuilding the national economy, support for Australian produce and agricultural supply chains will be critical.

The post-farmgate roles that help add value to our produce, such as regional processing jobs, can be supported at the checkout by buying local.

It's important all consumers – and that includes farmers – be mindful of selecting Australian produce when they are grocery shopping.

Yes, look for ham and bacon made using Australian pork, but keep in mind the need to support other Australian food industries like seafood and horticulture that also face stiff competition from imports.



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## Pork Industry Calendar of Events

### 2020

**AUG 11-15 – ONLINE & DOMESTIC** Global Animal Nutrition Summit, Guelph, Ontario, Canada [globalanimalnutrition2020.uoguelph.ca/welcome](http://globalanimalnutrition2020.uoguelph.ca/welcome)

**SEP 19-22 – ONLINE** The Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, Saint Paul, Minnesota, US [ccaps.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference](http://ccaps.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference)

**SEP 24-26 – Animal Health Innovation** Asia, Toyko, Japan [animalhealthasia.com/events](http://animalhealthasia.com/events)

### 2021

**MAY 25-26 – RESCHEDULED** British Pig and Poultry Fair Warwickshire, UK [www.pigandpoultry.org.uk](http://www.pigandpoultry.org.uk)

**JUN 9-10 – RESCHEDULED** Alberta Pork Congress, Alberta, Canada [albertaporkcongress.com](http://albertaporkcongress.com)

**JUN 9-11 – World Pork Expo**, Iowa, US [www.worldpork.org](http://www.worldpork.org)

*How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, call 07 3286 1833 fax: 07 3821 2637, email: [ben@porknews.com.au](mailto:ben@porknews.com.au)*

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# Fresh face for Research & Innovation team

THIS month, we're pleased to introduce Gemma Wyburn, who has joined Australian Pork Limited's Research and Innovation team as the new Climate Friendly Farming Program Leader.

Gemma has a Bachelor of Natural Science majoring in Animal Science, and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology.

Before joining APL, Gemma spent four-and-a-half years at Australian Eggs in various roles, and in her time there developed a love of working with farmers to develop meaningful research projects to address on-farm needs while also being proactive and forward looking to respond to future challenges.

Gemma started with us in early May, and has spent the weeks since wrapping her head around the diverse environmental portfolio, which includes some of the following projects:

#### Small-scale biogas case studies

This project was recently completed, with findings to be released soon.

Larger piggeries (1000-plus sows) have set up and used biogas very success-

fully to reduce their electricity costs.

This project used a real farm for a case study that determined the cost and viability of biogas at a smaller piggery (535 sows), and also used that information to run a series of different biogas use-case scenarios, including exploring biogas as an alternative revenue stream for producers.

#### Bubble column evaporator

This project is exploring a prototype technology able to convert effluent waste into both clean drinking water and sterilised water for cleaning.

Work is ongoing to get this prototype functioning at the scale of a commercial piggery, and researchers are also exploring use of solar and/or biogas to power BCE use

by **PETER HAYDON**  
Research and Innovation  
General Manager



and keep it low cost.

#### Black soldier fly

This project is exploring the use of piggery effluent as a feed source for black soldier flies.

The black soldier fly

residue casings (frass) will be trialled as a fertiliser product, while the fly larvae will be tested as an alternative feed protein source.

As you can see, there is a strong theme in the environmental portfolio around sustainability and exploring ways to convert piggery waste into useful resources such as water and electricity.

Gemma looks forward to using her experience and passion for intensive industries to help tell these good news stories about pork, and position it as the climate-friendly

meat of choice.

Looking ahead: in response to feedback from our new producer relations team, we will be bringing the focus of next month's article back to African swine fever.

Specifically, we'll be covering some of the progress APL has made in that space over the past few months, and also some of the new projects we're working to get up and running, the findings of which will help progress our industry in its ASF prevention and preparedness planning. 🐷

## 'Tis the other season to be jolly

THE temperature has dropped, the restrictions are lifting, so now's the perfect time to prepare for Christmas in July.

This has been a difficult year for many, so it's time to find the joy, gather your loved ones or housemates and serve up a crackling-crusted roast pork.

Australian Pork Limited CEO Margo Andrae said any time is a good time to get some pork on your fork, but faux festivities could bring much-needed light relief this year.

"While we don't always celebrate the arrival of winter in Australia, this year we need to find the silver linings and ways to make the everyday more interesting," she said.

"So, we're encouraging you to mark that very auspicious occasion of Christmas in July.

"Of course, be COVID-19 safe and follow your state restrictions but why not spread some season's greetings.

"Pick up a pork roast, prep some veggies, find some old decorations and serve up a festive feast."

While roast dinners

may look fancy, Ms Andrae said the real secret to success was just a little preparation.

"A pork roast with a crackling crown will impress your diners, but the truth is achieving perfect crackle is really very simple," she said.

"To get crispy crackling, you need four things: a dry rind, salt, oil and heat.

"Once it's in the oven and your sides are prepped, you can sit back and enjoy your faux Christmas."

A wide range of pork cuts can deliver beautiful crackling, with cuts like pork loin and pork belly easy enough for a beginner cook.

"This year has been a difficult one for all of us, but our producers and the 35,000 people working in the Australian pork industry hope a roast pork cen-

trepiece for Christmas in July might bring some much-needed joy," Ms Andrae said.

"And if you're not up to doing a roast at home – or need a night off cooking – never fear, some restaurants, clubs and cafes are also jumping on board and serving up celebratory dishes for dine-in or takeaway."

The Australian pork industry has been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, particularly as around 25 percent of pork is sold through foodservice.

This, along with temporary disruptions to the export market, weakened farmgate prices, but these are starting to stabilise.

For recipe inspiration, tips for a perfect roast and full cooking instructions, visit [pork.com.au](http://pork.com.au) 🐷



Gemma Wyburn



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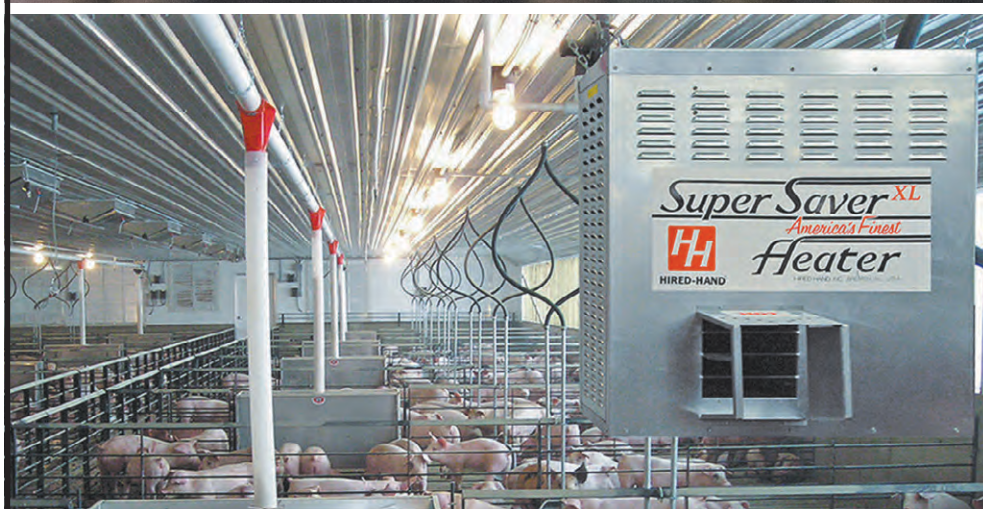


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One feral pig down back in the early 1980s. Skinning and gutting – hot work in summer.

# First shots fired in ferocious feral fight

GOOD to see Heather Channon recently release a snapshot of insights from the March 30 inaugural roundtable e-gathering of key stakeholders of the National Feral Pig Co-ordinator Program.

Heather has a lot on her plate with such a big role, so it's also good to see the recent appointment of respected agribusiness leader John Maher as Chair of the Steering Group that'll lead the development of a National Feral Pig Action Plan.

According to an APL media release, Maher will play an active role working with program co-ordinator, Dr Heather Channon and a wide range of stakeholders to deliver a preliminary National Feral Pig Action Plan to the Federal Department of Agriculture by January 2021.

## Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT



The National Feral Pig Co-ordinator Program is supported through \$1.4 million grant funding from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment over three and a half years and is managed by APL, hence Heather remains part of the APL 'family'. Its lofty goal, according to Heather, is to demonstrably reduce the economic, social and environmental impacts and risks from feral pigs in Australia.

"Strong, cohesive, collaborative and co-ordinated partnerships between stakeholders implementing best management practice control programs will be required," she said.

Key insights she has shared in a round-up of the roundtable she set include:

Strengthened emphasis required on impact reduction as a result of control programs undertaken

Need to increase knowledge of population distribution and densities of feral pigs to inform planning and monitor outcomes from control programs

Improve the communication of outcomes of community-led feral pig management programs to key stakeholders to gain awareness of work being conducted and issues being experienced

Continue efforts to encourage landholders to work collaboratively in

coordinated programs to control feral pigs in their area, rather than individually

Need for sustained funding and resources to support long term reduction of Australia's feral pig population and the economic, environmental and social risks that feral pigs present

Undertake training of landholders on the different best management techniques that are available to ensure that they are successfully, strategically and cost-effectively applied

Need to undertake economic analyses to provide current data on the agricultural, environmental and social impacts caused by feral pigs

Need to work with indigenous communities to build capacity in best practice and sustainable feral pig control programs

Standardise methodologies used for collating and reporting of population density and distribution data across jurisdictions

Need for a co-ordinated and agreed system (sup-

ported by robust governance rules) to centrally capture data from management activities and research programs to form a national database to use for monitoring and inform future investments

Explore export opportunities and build new markets for Australian wild boar to offset the decline in demand in existing markets

Strategies required to address illegal feral pig hunting activities and their impact on planned control activities by land managers.

I wish Heather the best of luck for what is a big, tough gig in a big, tough country seemingly now at war with some big, tough gangs of feral pigs.



The author and his dog Tiger occasionally made a small impact on the feral pig population in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. Looks like skinning and gutting was a 'three stabbie job' back in the day.

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## National antimicrobial resistance surveillance study – we need your help

VETERINARIANS use antimicrobials "as little as possible, as much as necessary" to ensure the health and welfare of the pig is not compromised throughout its life.

In 2015, we showed Australia's favourable low antimicrobial resistance status is advantageous for increasing consumer confidence.

One way the industry can continue to demonstrate our good animal management practices is by providing hard, science-based evidence.

APL is completing an antimicrobial resistance surveillance study (australianpork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RnD4P-WebsiteSummary-August2019.pdf) funded with support from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program.

This study aims to verify our low antimicrobial resistance levels to antibiotics used to treat Australian pigs and those critically important antibiotics used

in human health.

The findings will also be used to support our international obligations.

The survey involves the collection of faecal samples from healthy pigs at slaughter.

A high level of producer participation in this research would be beneficial for the industry.

All data will be confidentially managed and producers will be provided with outcomes from their farms.

If you do not wish for your pigs to be sampled as part of this research project, please email me at lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au by Friday, July 17 and provide your PIC and Tattoo number to opt out.

If you have any other inquiries, please give me a call on 0447 099 397.

Lechelle van Breda



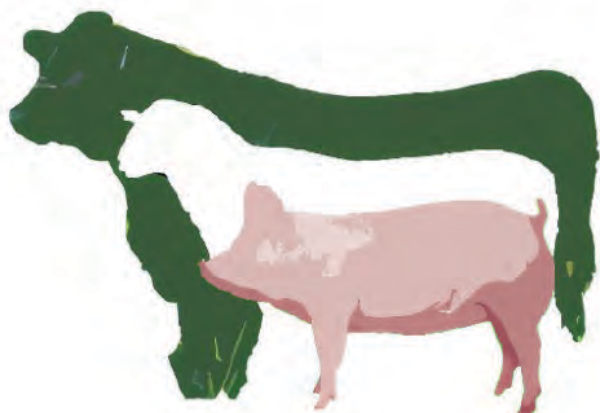
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- Z-71 Microbe Shield is a broad-spectrum antimicrobial sanitiser demonstrated to be effective against bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens.
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Z-71 Microbe Shield is non-corrosive, non-leaching, clear, hypoallergenic and approved for food uses in many countries.

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## AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED ADVANCE NOTICE OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting of Australian Pork Limited** (ABN 83 092 783 278) (APL) will be held on **Thursday 19 November 2020** commencing at **12.30pm** (Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time) at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, Melbourne, Victoria, 3006.

The business of the Annual General Meeting will include:

- receiving and considering the financial statements of the company, together with the reports of the Directors and Auditor in respect of year ended 30 June 2020
- appointing the company Auditor for 2020–2021 and setting their remuneration
- voting to amend the APL Constitution to allow the removal of an APL Delegate under reasonable circumstances
- electing two producer Directors
- ratifying the appointment of three specialist Directors
- considering resolutions proposed to the company by Members and Delegates prior to the annual return date (7 September 2020).

The APL Annual Report will be made available on the APL website and relevant meeting papers will be circulated to Members, Associate Members, Delegates, Directors and the Auditor no less than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

For the purposes of determining a Member's voting rights, if the annual Pig Slaughter Levy Amount paid by a Member has changed since last reported to APL, or if a Member wishes to revoke the standing consent associated with their PigPass Declaration, the Member may provide a new statutory declaration to APL prior to the return date.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact APL's Corporate Services Executive, Nikki Watson, on 02 6270 8814 or [nikki.watson@australianpork.com.au](mailto:nikki.watson@australianpork.com.au)



## Feeding gilts for a lifetime of reproductive performance

IN last month's article, I wrote about a trend of gilts entering the mating unit with too little back fat coverage, despite being the right weight.

This is occurring due to excess protein requirements in their diet, and it affects their reproductive capability in the mating unit and beyond.

The current DanBred recommendations are that gilts should be between 12-15mm and 130-150kg at their first mating.

This should be when they are 230-250 days old and at their second or third heat.

It is important gilts have enough fat coverage at their first mating because it gets harder for them to put it on during their lifetime, and it will affect their reproductive capability.

For example, a gilt that has too little back fat at first mating is more likely to be culled after her first litter.

As there is little opportunity for her to gain back fat – rather than just recover body condition following her first farrowing – there is even further risk of her being culled following her second or third parity.

The only way to accurately know and monitor the back fat depth is to regularly scan the gilts.

In a recent SEGES study, it was found the best-performing Danish herds were only culling 5 percent of their parity one sows after their first litter.

The lesser-performing herds in the study were culling up to 30 percent of their parity one sows after their first litter – which clearly affects the economics of the herd.

SEGES recommends aiming for a first parity cull rate of 5-10 percent for any reason to cull a

first parity sow – that is, not just their body condition score at exit of the farrowing unit.

Feeding a high-protein diet to gilts in the late rearing period from 19 weeks not only risks producing an animal with a low back fat depth but increases the risk of leg injury and joint disease due to the high growth rate.

This also contributes to the first parity cull rate and is another reason to avoid a high-protein diet in the late rearing period.

Previous studies of sow reproductive performance have shown a correlation between back fat depth at mating and the number of total born and total live born.

A Danish study by Bruun et al 2020, which examined the effect of feeding strategy on back fat depth and subsequent reproductive performance, has confirmed this in gilts.

They found a significant increase of 0.7 in total born per litter and 0.6 total live born per litter when replacement gilts had a higher back fat depth at mating due to the feeding strategy of low protein combined with a high energy intake.

This increase in piglets per litter can be further improved when the gilts are flushed 5-7 days prior to mating – a potential increase of 0.4 live born

piglets per litter.

SEGES nutritionist Thomas Sønderby Bruun investigated feed strategies to increase back fat depth in lean replacement gilts in Danish herds, and recently presented his research at the 2020 SEGES Feeding Seminar.

He introduced a method termed 'lynfødning', meaning rapid fattening, which can be used to increase back fat depth before mating, where lean gilts are fed a diet of low protein – maximum of 90g of digestible crude protein per feed unit and maximum 4g of digestible lysine per feed unit – and a high daily feed intake of 3.2-3.5 feed units per day to encourage fat deposition.

Following the mating period, it is important to remember to not feed too much protein in the gestation unit because this has the same effect on the gilt – it will result in muscle and not fat deposition.

The correct feeding strategy for gilts, from the late rearing period, will not only contribute to their longevity in the herd, but can also improve their reproductive performance by increasing the number of piglets born per litter.

For further information on any studies mentioned in this article, please feel free to contact me at [asno@danbred.com](mailto:asno@danbred.com)



### Nordic News

by ASHLEY NORVAL

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# Successful research grant to further reduce antimicrobial use in pork production

THE University of Queensland, the University of Melbourne, the SunPork Group and DSM, together with support from the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited, have secured an Australian Research Council Linkage Program grant exploring the topic, 'How to make antimicrobials in pig feed redundant, naturally'.

The project will address a major concern in pork production, which relates to the use of in-feed antimicrobials and the association with the development of antimicrobial resistant pathogens in pigs.

The overall aim of the project is to develop nutritional strategies aimed at reducing antimicrobial use in piglet feeds.

The project will consist of developing a novel nutritional strategy of naturally – through maternal conditioning – boosting

the natural appetite and the capacity to digest nutrients in piglets early in life.

The anticipated outcome is that the new perinatal program will result in minimal bacterial proliferation and diarrhoea, minimising the need for in-feed antimicrobials in piglets.

Chief investigators on the project are Prof Eugeni Roura, Prof Mike Gidley and Associate Prof Pat Blackall from the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, University of Queensland, and Prof Frank Dunshea from the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, University of Melbourne.

The in-kind contributions of the SunPork Group will include expertise in pig feed formulation and pig husbandry practices, including advice on responsible antimicrobial use and advice

concerning the selection of grains and pulses for in vitro work.

The involvement of DSM, a global animal nutrition and health solutions company, will be key to novel developments in the use of exogenous enzymes and feed additives – gut environment modifiers.

The project will count on the expertise of DSM's technical team lead by Dr Aaron Cowieson, Dr Anna-Maria Klunter, Dr Maria Walsh and Geoff Handley.

Prof Roura and Prof Dunshea commented that the project would adopt a holistic approach by examining novel and prac-

tical ways to rear young pigs with less reliance on antimicrobials, with expected benefits for their productivity, welfare and health.

A unique point of difference between this project and many conducted previously is that the studies are based on the principle of enhancing the inherent physiological potential of the pig, that will naturally prevent the onset of certain diseases that would otherwise require antimicrobial treatment.

APRIL CEO and Chief Scientist Prof John Pluske said the ARC Linkage grant was noteworthy and timely, with both

antimicrobial resistance and reducing reliance on antimicrobials key issues for the Australasian pork industry.

Prof Pluske also commented that the application directly addressed a key transformational project objective in APRIL's strategic plan, namely that of enhanced antimicrobial stewardship in the Australian pork industry through targeted reduction of in-feed medications without adverse health consequences.

In this context, this successful grant is another example of APRIL partnering with its members to successfully leverage

external funding for a major research project of critical industry-wide importance.

Total cash funding for the four-year project was \$2,027,819, with the Australian Research Council contributing \$852,000 and partners contributing an additional \$1,175,519, of which \$359,223 derives from APRIL.

The total value of the

project – cash plus in-kind contributions – is \$3,835,847.

For further information as to how APRIL can function to support industry-led research and development for the Australasian pork industry, please contact APRIL Chief Scientist and CEO Prof Pluske on 0410 436 871 or j.pluske@april.org.au



**Australasian  
Pork Research  
Institute Ltd**  
**APRIL**

## Improving COVID safety at regional workplaces

THE NSW Government is helping businesses return to normal trade through the launch of a new suite of resources to guide businesses as they manage the risk of COVID-19.

Deputy Premier and Member for Monaro John Barilaro and Minister for Better Regulation Kevin Anderson launched the resources at a farm in Hoskinstown and said the resources go a long way to supporting regional businesses in NSW.

"Now that COVID restrictions are easing, it's time to get NSW's regional economy back up and running," Mr Barilaro said.

"I encourage every business to jump online and download these simple yet powerful tools to map out a safe way back to business that makes life easier for customers and workers as we make our way into recovery."

Mr Anderson said these new materials have been specifically created for non-customer facing businesses to ensure everyone across the state has access to industry-specific, practical guidance to prevent the spread of the virus.

"76,957 businesses have already downloaded the NSW Government's COVID Safety Plans, and we've now created additional resources for regional busi-

nesses such as farms and agricultural businesses, hotels, offices, construction sites and warehouses," Mr Anderson said.

"The materials available include practical, inexpensive guidance to keep your workers safe during this time."

"Common misconceptions for agricultural workers are you can't ride in a car with others or that you can't hire seasonal workers anymore."

"That's simply not true so long as you have the right measures in place."

Some of the measures agricultural businesses and farms can take include:

- Avoiding close contact in vehicles and lowering windows for ventilation;
- Checking that workers are not displaying COVID symptoms;
- Ensuring drivers assisting with loading stock minimise contact with surfaces;
- Communication over phone or radio rather than in person where possible; and
- Contactless delivery through electronic paperwork rather than signature on delivery.

The new campaign materials including social media tiles, downloadable posters and checklists for all NSW agricultural businesses are available at [nsw.gov.au/covid-19/industry-guidelines/agriculture](http://nsw.gov.au/covid-19/industry-guidelines/agriculture)

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# Investing in marketing, not gambling

THIS year has brought levels of uncertainty many of us have not seen for a long time, if ever.

As a weekly business, the marketing team has been focused on steadily increasing sales continuously over the long term.

Throughout that time, the "Get Some Pork on Your Fork" campaign has been running consistently.

Particularly at present, with production forecast to grow in the July to October 2020 period, we must choose carefully how to invest for demand growth.

If we say investing is spending money with a



**Marketing Matters**

by **PETER HAYDON**



reasonable chance of a good return, and gambling is pot luck, then we believe we have been investing for a while.

If we add the extra sales in 2011/12 to the sales in 2012/13 and so on until 2018/19 (the last year those sales figures are available), pork sales increased by \$1461 million, whereas beef and lamb combined have added \$917 million.

We know Australian Pork Limited marketing only creates 18 percent of the increase in sales (product, pricing and distribution via producers

and value chains do the rest).

According to the plans from each year, pork spent just over a quarter of the beef and lamb spend.

That is why we have stayed consistent in our advertising messaging.

So, while Australian pork supply may increase in coming months, some factors support good pork demand.

These include:

- Australian pork retail prices versus beef and particularly versus lamb are attractive to consumers and anticipated to

remain attractive.

• There is strong international demand for pork. Hong Kong in particular is increasingly buying Australia pork at attractive prices, largely due to ASF.

• APL increased investment in advertising from March when other advertisers have decreased spending, which has increased our share of meat advertising. There is evidence that increasing the share of advertising in your category accelerates your share of sales growth. APL's share of advertising is double pork's share of fresh meat for 2020 to the end of April.

There are reports pork is moving more freely now than it was when COVID-19 caused our lockdowns in March.

We have planned to continue with investment levels designed to encourage sales growth from now until Christmas.

This investment will

focus on in-home consumption via supermarkets and butchers.

These are benefitting from the closure, and in many cases demise, of foodservice outlets.

We are tracking foodservice by state and venue type.

The rate at which restrictions are eased by state and the portion of those businesses that will eventually reopen makes investing heavily, across the board, in foodservice currently a gamble.

We do not do that.

Our foodservice experts, Kylie Roberts and Esther Volpe, will continue to target activities to individuals and companies in foodservice that have supported producers and continue to succeed by being agile.

We hope Kylie and Esther's support for hospitality workers continues to be appreciated while the rest of the team will focus on returns on in-home investment. 🐷

## Maher takes up national feral pig fight

EXPERIENCED agribusiness leader John Maher has been confirmed as Chair of the Steering Group leading the development of the National Feral Pig Action Plan.

As Chair, Mr Maher will play an active role working with program coordinator Dr Heather Channon and a wide range of stakeholders to deliver a preliminary National Feral Pig Action Plan to the federal Department of Agriculture



by January 2021.

The \$1.4 million federal government initiative, overseen by Australian Pork Ltd, is developing a national framework for feral pig management.

APL CEO Margo Andrae said Mr Maher's involvement was a coup for the program.

"John is highly regarded for his significant leadership and governance skills, built over more than 25 years in high-level executive roles across Australian agribusiness," Ms Andrae said.

"John's experience with major rural agencies, and recently as Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation Group CEO, reflects the scope of National Feral Pig Action Plan.

"Farmers, traditional owners, environmental managers and regional communities are united in the fight against feral pigs.

"Feral pigs cost Australian agriculture more than \$100 million a year and wild populations in Asia and Europe have spread African swine fever across national borders, killing millions of domestic pigs.

"A large-scale outbreak of ASF in Australia could cost nearly \$2 billion over five years."

Mr Maher served as ILSC Group CEO from June 2016 to September 2019, leading a major company transformation while overseeing the management of 2.5

million hectares of land, mainly for agricultural and tourism purposes.

He gained a high profile in Australian agribusiness during his nine-year tenure as managing director and CEO of Ruralco Holdings, which was preceded by senior roles at Wesfarmers and AWB where he led the Landmark business, now Nutrien.

Dr Channon said she was looking forward to drawing on Mr Maher's experience working with landholders, especially in remote parts of northern Australia where feral pigs are most prevalent.

"Modelling indicates there could be up to 24 million feral pigs in Australia, covering 45 percent of the national landmass," she said.

"The National Feral Pig Action Plan is bringing together industry, governments, researchers, local communities and other

stakeholders to deliver a national approach to feral pig management, so John's strategic leadership skills and regional awareness will be extremely valuable."

Mr Maher, who currently serves as a director on several agribusiness boards, said he identified strongly with the objectives of the project.

"I'm passionate about the people, industries and environmental future of rural and regional Australia," Mr Maher said.

"I'm excited to play this leadership role to better manage feral pigs through coordinated and consolidated national planning.

"Feral pig populations have wreaked horrific damage across the country at a high cost to industries like red meat and cropping for too long."

To find out more, visit [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au)



John Maher

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# AGCO's successful Taiwan bid

AGCO Grain and Protein Australia is proud to announce it has been successful in its proposal to rebuild and modernise a massive pig farm project in Taiwan, worth \$A280 million for Taiwan Sugar Co.

This project will be a joint effort between reputable Taiwanese construction companies including Forest Water Environmental Engineering Co Ltd, Topco Scientific Co Ltd, Hwa Fong Construction Co Ltd and Chen Wei Development Co Ltd.

The project, one of the largest in the region, will consist of six sites spread over Taiwan.

The entire project is expected to take two years to complete, with AGCO supplying most of the equipment from the ground up, valued at over \$50 million and showcasing AGCO Grain and Protein iconic brands including C-Lines buildings and Automated Production equipment.

AGCO Australia Ltd will collaboratively utilise its collective design

and project management resources in the region to help execute delivery of the large project.

With a renewed sense of biosecurity importance, AGCO Grain and Protein will provide Taiwan Sugar Co with a best-in-business, high-tech biosecure, highly productive and efficient swine farm.

It will also cater to environmental needs and fully comply with international animal welfare standards.

The project will set a new benchmark for swine producers in Taiwan as well as the rest of the world, featuring 'under one roof' design concepts.

The AGCO Grain and Protein project will integrate both American and European technological solutions and help Taiwan Sugar Co achieve international standards of swine production.



## Strong record of antimicrobials use in Australian pork

LEVELS of resistance to antimicrobials of critical importance to human use is low in Australian pork.

Producers, through research funded by Australian Pork Limited, can be proud of this record.

A recent study of antimicrobial resistance, published by the Department of Health, reviewed the available AMR literature and data for Australian pork, beef and chicken.

This was assessed and designated as 'substantial'.

In these Australian food sectors, AMR prevalence data for animal pathogen, sentinel indicator and zoonotic foodborne bacteria are available, due in no small part to the industry's commitment to researching these important public health fields.

By comparison, at the other end of the scale, the performance of eggs, horticulture and seafood were considered 'limited'.

Right up front, the report noted that antimicrobial resistance is a natural phenomenon.

The single most powerful contributor to resistance is the global unrestrained use of antibiotics.

The World Health Organization has described AMR as one of the key global health issues facing our generation.

The global nature of the problem means that no one country can act in isolation.

Increased international travel, medical tourism and global trade provide opportunities for resistance to spread across all borders.

Both the Australian and New Zealand governments have recognised and responded to the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance through several initiatives for assessment and improved antimicrobial use.

In the landmark document, recognition of the efforts of pork producers was heartening.

While pork industry antimicrobial usage has been submerged beneath the extensive livestock sector – millions of sheep

and cattle – where relatively few animals are inspected let alone treated, the way the industry uses antimicrobials was documented.

The method producers use alternatives to prevent disease – vaccines, optimal housing, batch systems – was also reported.

Recommendations for use provided by the Australian Veterinary Association have been widely followed.

The study confirmed industry reliance on antimicrobial agents, with a low importance rating – tetracyclines, penicillins and sulphonamides – for human use.

No virginiamycin use was reported on any farm.

It was noted, from a 2009 research paper, that ceftiofur was used off-label on 25 percent of farms.

Understandably, producers and their veterinarians responded.

In the period since, ceftiofur usage on farms has been significantly reduced.

Large farming businesses have taken a clear decision not to use this drug at all.

It need not be part of farm health care.

The Department of Health report noted the medications checklist in APIQ.

In addition, the industry has supported the development of the Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Pigs to guide the prescribing practices of vets working with pork producers.

The Australian pork industry was one of the first of the animal industries to initiate projects focused specifically on understanding AMR risks.

In support of this one of the main aims of the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork and the new research entity Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd – APRIL – is finding credible alternatives to antimicrobial agents for common pig diseases.

Always more to do ... it never ends, but job well done so far.

Ross Cutler

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# New plan to make pork Australia's preferred protein

AUSSIERS are increasingly getting more pork on their forks, but the industry has a plan to make it our preferred protein.

The Australian Pork Limited Strategic Plan 2020-25 is in its final stages, and sets that as its ambitious goal.

CEO Margo Andrae said the plan set a vision for a progressive organisation to support a thriving industry.

"We want to build a strong and ambitious future for the industry," she said.

"Australia's pig producers work hard to produce delicious Australian pork for people across the country and APL supports them with effective marketing, proactive policy and impactful research.

"We worked with our

stakeholders to develop this plan and it has a focus on creating new opportunities, improving industry stability and helping people get more pork on their forks."

There are five key priorities, or strategic pillars for the plan: (1) Market and product differentiation; (2) Manage volatility for viable farms; (3) Drive consumer demand; (4) Leading community social licence; and (5) Building industry shared vision.

"We've set a range of objectives to support these pillars and much of the plan builds on the work already under way by the industry and APL," Ms Andrae said.

"We're now working to realign our activities and teams to be more producer-focused and proac-

tive to better serve our producers and industry.

"We will continue our effective marketing; we will continue to have proactive policy and we will deliver impactful research that helps build revenue and reduce costs and risks.

"Increased use of technology, improved communications and knowledge transfer, plus constant realignment of our projects with industry will also support this plan."

While the five-year plan has some ambitious goals, priorities for the first year have also been identified.

"Biosecurity and an African swine fever readiness plan are clear priorities for this year," Ms Andrae said.

"We'll also be focused on improving producer engagement, working on

our industry's social licence and improving pork's eating quality.

"Alongside that, we'll be exploring new markets and other ways we can diversify to strengthen the industry and reduce volatility.

"From a research and development perspective, we'll be investing in both short-term projects offering industry solutions and longer-term transformative projects, with processing and production, environment and animal welfare remaining areas of focus."

Behind the scenes, Ms Andrae said APL would be developing data and analytical capability, including knowledge management.

"From here, we'll be working with producers, industry and other stake-

holders as we support them and work together to build a thriving pork industry and get some more pork on Aussie forks," she said.

"We'll share the full plan shortly and continue to share more detail in coming months."

To find out more about the APL Strategic Plan 2020-25, join the virtual roadshow at [australianpork.com.au/activities/apl-strategic-plan-virtual-roadshow](http://australianpork.com.au/activities/apl-strategic-plan-virtual-roadshow)

## APL strategic plan key pillars

Market and product differentiation: Price realisation.

We add value and increase the price premium customers are prepared to pay versus other similar products or markets, domestically and internationally.

• Diversity of markets and products.

• Quality consumer eating experiences.

• Valuable provenance of Australian pork.

Manage volatility for viable farms: Better anticipate market fluctuations and flatten the peaks and troughs, making the industry more stable.

• Timely relevant through-the-chain information (data utilisation).

• Reduce cost of production and processing (feed, power, labour).

• Diversified pig business extension opportunities.

Drive consumer demand: Increased volume demanded, getting more Australian pork on forks, be they at home, eating out or overseas.

• Maintain domestic fresh demand.

• Grow domestic demand.

• Grow targeted international demand.

Leading community social licence: Blazing a trail for Australian agriculture to be sustainably celebrated and making our Australian investors proud of what they do.

• Biosecurity leadership.

• Climate-friendly farming.

• Leaders in animal care.

• Leaders in human nutrition.

• Industry visibility.

Building industry shared vision: Building relationships and a narrative of being a progressive, informed, informative and unified industry.

• Producer relations (shared values).

• Technology adoption.

• Organisational effectiveness.

## Pork industry's role in preventing ASF

FUNDING for the national feral pig action plan was announced in November 2019 when former agriculture minister Bridget McKenzie announced Australian Pork Limited would lead the development of a strategy.

The federal government pledged \$1.4 million to build the national plan.

With African swine fever in New Guinea — only a boat trip away from Cape York — timing is critical.

Cape York is known as the feral pig capital of the country and is therefore highly susceptible to ASF transmission.

APL CEO Margo Andrae said improving protections in the north of Australia was critical to preventing the spread of African swine fever.

A recent study of pork products confiscated at borders during September 2019 found 48 percent contained fragments of the ASF virus.

"We really have a weak spot in northern Australia through the borders, whether that's

through cultural trade or people travelling from those countries to Australia," Ms Andrae said.

"We were really shocked at how much product does come through the borders."

After \$66 million was provided for strengthening border biosecurity last year, the industry experienced another reprieve as international visitation plummeted during COVID-19.

Ms Andrae said awareness of food supply chain security raised during the pandemic could help reduce the amount of imported meat.

"We'd got relaxed on our biosecurity and people weren't really understanding where their food was coming from either," she said.

"Eighty percent of your ham and bacon on the shelf is actually imported.

"What we're trying to do is encourage people to support Australian product."

First published on [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)



Nearly half of the illegally imported pork seized by authorities in 2019 tested positive to traces of African swine fever. Photo: Australian Border Force

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# Apiam embraces new era of remote consultancy

THE COVID-19 pandemic has radically changed the way we work and communicate.

Remote connectivity platforms have become an essential part of maintaining business as usual and it is likely these technologies will form the new normal for communication.

Apiam Animal Health has recently deployed a new high-resolution, live streaming headwear technology that enables veterinarians and technicians to provide remote consultancy.

The device is hands-free and houses in-built microphones and headphones as well as a digital viewing screen.

The technology allows a person on farm to wear the headset and live stream what they are seeing to a remote consultant such as a veterinarian.

Via this process, the producer is then able to achieve timely, accurate and in-depth discussion regarding their concerns.

Imagine, if you will, having instant veterinary oversight at the flick of a switch?

Example scenarios where this technology might be of use are real-time sick pig identification, welfare assessments (fit to load) and post-mortem examination.

The device also boasts the potential of being a tool useful for on-farm training and auditing.

Breeding technicians would have a hands-free tool to demonstrate and record their heat detection and mating techniques.

Producers would be able to live stream troubleshooting water medicators or pen walkthroughs.

The hands-free and voice-activated functionality allows the user to safely perform tasks with their hands while still being able to stream live footage, capture still pictures and record important information.

While the device requires internet connectivity for live streaming, it has been designed to operate on low bandwidth and still provide high-quality video footage.

Footage, pictures and data recording can also be performed in offline mode and uploaded at a later point when internet becomes available.

Benefits of the headset device reach well beyond remote consultancy.

The device can integrate with programs and applications to transform into an instructional and data-recording device.

Opportunities exist to access and view farm checklists and flow charts while performing daily

duties and to record data through voice recognition technology – eliminating the need of paper records and double handling of data.

Apiam's feedlot sector has successfully used this device to provide instructional information to pen riders on identification and classification of sick animals.

The veterinary team has also utilised the device to record detailed, voice command records of health examinations at abattoir visits.

If you would like to explore this technology, please reach out to your local Apiam Animal Health veterinarian or technician or call 03 5445 5999.



## Australia's food security continues to be among world's best

FOLLOWING a re-emergence of panic buying behaviour, Agriculture Minister David Littleproud has moved to reaffirm that Australia's food security is among the best in the world.

"People should not be panicking," Minister Littleproud said.

"Our agricultural sector is ensuring an abundant supply of excellent-quality, fresh food from all parts of the country.

"Australian farmers have continued to calmly go about producing the best food in the world, and Australians can be assured there is no threat to their food security.

"Australia's food supply is safe and how we, our farmers and our supply chains have managed the pandemic through the crisis is the envy of countries all over the world.

"I want to stress to

all Australians that our food supply is safe.

"We are a country of 25 million, and we produce enough food for 75 million."

Australia has reliable, secure supply chains from the paddock to the kitchen.

"We continue to engage with state and territory governments to ensure supply lines remain open," Minister Littleproud said.

He said panic buying behaviour was completely unnecessary.

"To those bulk buying, I have a simple message: stop it.

"Take a leaf out of our farmers' handbook.

"Stay calm and we will get through this together.

"We have been through worse in the past three months and agriculture came through for Australians with flying colours."

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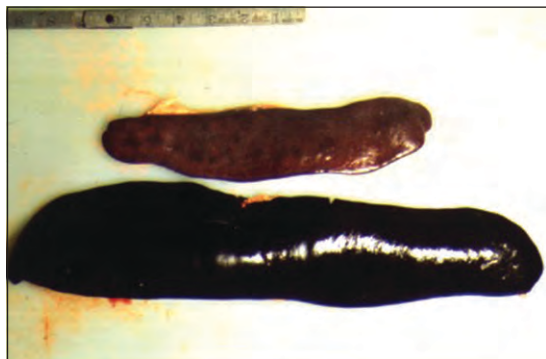
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Spleens from pigs with African swine fever and classical swine fever. Photo: CA Mebus



Skin lesion showing cyanosis of ears. Photo: PJ Wilkinson

# Biosecurity and what it means to Australia

AUSTRALIA is free of the world's worst animal diseases such as African swine fever, foot and mouth disease and avian influenza H5N1.

Animal pests and diseases are a major threat to Australia's livestock and poultry industries and an outbreak could impact on our access to export markets and undermine livelihoods.

There is an ongoing need to practice good biosecurity and report the first signs of disease.

Biosecurity means protecting the economy, environment and the community from the negative impacts of pests, disease, weeds and contaminants.

Biosecurity practices include disinfecting, signage, maintaining boundary fences, checking for strays, restricting visitor and vehicle movements, ensuring all machinery brought onto the property is cleaned, good husbandry, ensuring purchases are from reliable sources, inspecting the flock or herd regularly and quarantining new stock.

## African swine fever

African swine fever is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and

wild pigs

that may result in high or low case mortality rates, fever, hyperaemia of the skin and a variety of other clinical signs, including incoordination, diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Due to its high economic burden and the lack of a commercially available vaccine, it is considered one of the most important diseases of pigs worldwide and is listed by the World Organisation for Animal Health Terrestrial Animal Health Code as a notifiable disease.

ASF has never been reported in Australia and an outbreak of ASF would have significant impacts on productivity and international market access.

The disease would also likely be difficult and costly to eradicate.

The pork industry is an important contributor to Australian livestock production and the national economy, and existing import controls – applied since 2004 in most cases – include measures to manage the risk from ASF in pig meat and porcine products.

These are supported by internal controls, such as the national swill feeding ban, over the use of prod-

ucts within Australia that contain imported porcine-derived ingredients.

These internal controls manage the risk of susceptible livestock being exposed to exotic livestock diseases.

ASF was limited to sub-Saharan Africa until 1957 when the disease occurred in Portugal.

The disease was then reported from the 1960s to 1990s in Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, Haiti, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

The disease has since been eradicated from most of these countries but remains endemic in feral pigs in Sardinia, an island of Italy.

Outbreaks have occurred since June 2007 in many countries – most notably the Ukraine, western Russia, and the EU member states in central and eastern Europe – where the disease had not previously been reported.

Control efforts in these countries have not to date effectively prevented the spread of this disease.

Belgium confirmed two cases of ASF in their wild boar population on September 13, 2018, the first known occurrence of the

disease in Western Europe since the virus landed in Georgia and Armenia in 2007.

ASF was also reported for the first time in China in August 2018 and, given the experience with ASF in other countries, eradication in China will likely require significant resourcing and control measures.

With African swine fever confirmed in Papua New Guinea in March 2020, exotic disease planning and training on-farm is essential.

When planning for an ASF outbreak, producers should consider which aspects of everyday operations may need to be strengthened further.

This may include cleaning and disinfection procedures, staff education sessions, equipment checklists and vector/pest control management.

Producers need to consider on-farm biosecurity improvements to make a property 'ASF proof' and how pigs might be managed and housed on-farm for a week with no off-site movements.

## Aetiology

The causative agent of ASF is African swine fever virus, an enveloped

DNA virus of the genus Asfivirus, family Asfarviridae.

The virus is very resistant to inactivation in the environment and virus isolates vary greatly in their virulence.

In Australia, both domestic and feral pigs are susceptible hosts for ASF.

Wild pigs have been recognised as sources of infection in a number of outbreaks in endemic countries and, should ASF enter Australia, the feral pig population may act as a reservoir of the virus.

## Epidemiology

ASFV spreads rapidly via both direct and indirect pathways and the incubation period is usually between four and 19 days.

Pigs with acute disease shed virus in high concentrations in all secretions and excretions, particularly those that contain blood.

Infection by the oral and respiratory routes can also occur between pigs in close contact.

Pigs that survive natural infection may develop antibodies against ASFV from 7-10 days post-infection and these antibodies can persist for long periods of time.

Movement of infected pigs is the most important method of spread between piggeries.

Virus is transmitted principally by direct contact with infected pigs, while indirect transmission occurs via contact with fomites, such as equipment and personnel, or following ingestion of infected pig meat or products.

The feeding of food scraps or food waste that contains or has come into contact with meat or meat products, known as swill feeding, is illegal in Australia to prevent a range of diseases.

The carcasses of infected pigs have also been linked to the spread of ASF.

This may be an important pathway for the spread of ASF between feral pig populations.

ASFV replicates in Ornithodoros ticks and is transmitted to swine through the bite of the tick, which plays an important role in transmission in Africa.

The potential role of Ornithodoros and other ticks in Australia is not known.

## Clinical disease

Disease severity varies greatly and is influenced by host age, herd immunity and the strain and virulence of ASFV encountered.

Pigs infected with ASFV may develop acute, chronic, or subclinical disease, and the clinical signs and case mortality rates are extremely variable.

In general, young naive animals are more severely affected, but the emergence of less virulent ASFV strains and milder clinical disease reinforces the need for vigilant testing and reporting of all suspect cases.

Clinical signs of acute ASF may include but are not limited to pyrexia between 39.5–42°C, inappet-

continued P13

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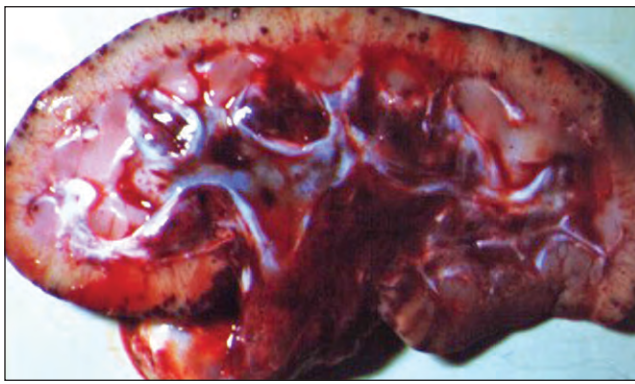
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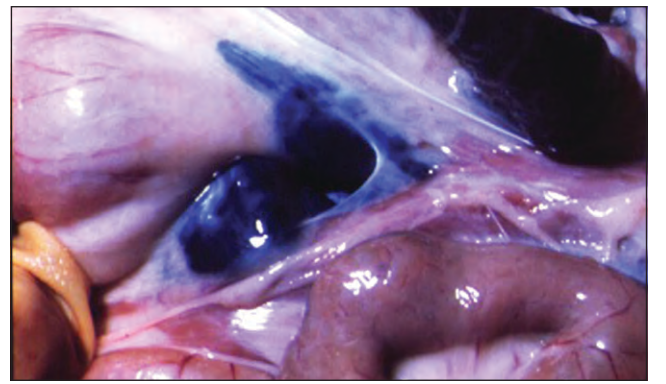




Skin lesions. Photo: PJ Wilkinson



Petechial haemorrhages in the renal cortex and peripelvic haemorrhage. Photo: CA Mebus



Haemorrhagic gastrohepatic lymph node. Photo: CA Mebus

# Biosecurity and what it means to Australia

from P12

tence, gastrointestinal and neurological abnormalities, abortion or foetal deformities, conjunctivitis, nasal discharge, and skin haemorrhages and cyanosis – particularly on extremities such as the ears and snout.

Case fatality rates can reach 100 percent following acute highly virulent disease.

However, animals with chronic ASF may present with milder clinical signs, including general ill-thrift, fluctuating pyrexia, pneumonia, alopecia and dermatitis.

In the subclinical form of the disease, animals may become chronic carriers without overt clinical signs.

## Pathology

The most common post-mortem findings in ASF-positive pigs are signs of haemorrhage, such as petechiae on the kidneys, bladder and lymph nodes, splenic enlargement, gastric ulceration, and pneumonia, pleuritis or bron-

chitis.

The acute form may present with more profound haemorrhaging across all organs, fluid in the body cavities and lungs, and pyramidal infarcts along the margin of the spleen.

Gross pathology of chronic ASF varies and is generally indicative of a more prolonged illness.

Lesions may include fibrinous pericarditis, pleurisy, button ulcers of the large intestine at the ileocaecal valve, lobular lung consolidation, and thymic atrophy.

## Diagnosis

As clinical signs and post-mortem lesions are not unique to ASF, suspicion of the disease must be confirmed by laboratory diagnosis.

Several pigs – at least five if possible – should be submitted for post-mortem examination, as there may be great variability in lesions presented in individual animals.

A composite picture of all lesions seen should be recorded.

Samples should be taken from affected, especially pyrexia, pigs killed immediately before a post-mortem examination, and from pigs that have recently died including still-born piglets and aborted foetuses.

Collect:

- Serum – at least 30 samples from suspected chronically infected animals
- EDTA blood, 7-10ml/animal, from live, clinically affected animals
- fresh tissue from the spleen, lymph nodes – gastro-hepatic, mesenteric and sub-mandibular – tonsils, lung, kidney and ileum – 2g of each tissue
- bone marrow may also be useful from dead wild animals that have been dead for some time, as it is likely to be relatively well preserved
- fixed tissue – a full range of tissues including the brain in neutral-buffered formalin.

Chill blood samples and unpreserved tissue samples either at 4C, or with

frozen gel packs.

Do not freeze samples at -20C as it reduces the sensitivity when used for virus isolation and molecular diagnostic tests.

## Protecting Australia from ASF

In the event of an ASF outbreak, Australia's policy is to control and eradicate the disease in the shortest possible time using a combination of strategies, including stamping out and movement controls.

The Government and Livestock Industry Cost Sharing Deed in Respect of Emergency Animal Disease Responses outlines the government and industry cost-sharing arrangements to fund such a response.

Actions taken by Australia in response to an ASF incursion would vary depending on host and agent factors and the extent, location and stage of the outbreak.

The Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) Dis-

ease Strategy for African swine fever provides comprehensive control, eradication and post-outbreak surveillance guidelines.

## Keeping Australia ASF free

Australia maintains an ASF-free status and greatly reduces the risk of incursion through the enforcement of strict biosecurity policies.

Australia's focus is on ensuring that the level of risk in products that arrive at its borders are already managed to levels that are acceptable.

Stringent, scientifically informed import regulations exist for pork and pork products.

In addition, swill feeding is illegal under legislation in Australia.

At the federal level, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment applies rigorous inspection protocols at Australia's national borders and conducts offshore disease surveillance and risk mitigation activities in Australia's close

neighbours, including Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.

## The risk of introduction

Illegal importation of ASFV-infected pig products or genetic material remains the most likely source for entry of ASF into Australia.

Although swill feeding is prohibited, unlawful or inadvertent feeding of imported infected products to domestic or feral pigs presents the greatest risk, and is believed to be the cause of the first ASF outbreak outside of Africa.

Contaminated products may arrive from endemic countries via commercial aircrafts or ships, the international postal service, and waste from fishing vessels.

Provided Australia's modern intensive pig-geries continue to practice a high level of biosecurity, the most likely sites of entry for ASF would be smaller commercial or backyard establishments or scavenging feral pigs.

## How Australian veteri-

## narians can help

1. Ensure that you and your pig-owning clients are aware of and comply with swill feeding legislation – visit [farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au)

2. Know the clinical signs of African swine fever and other emergency animal diseases.

3. Remember that early detection and laboratory confirmation is critical for a rapid and effective response.

4. Report unusual cases of disease where emergency animal diseases are suspected, to state or territory government veterinarians directly or through the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline.

If you suspect an exotic disease, please contact the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 for advice and assistance.

For more information, visit [farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au) and [agriculture.com.au](http://agriculture.com.au)

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1. Australian Veterinary Journal Volume 97 No 7, July 2019



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## DSM to add world-leading animal nutrition and health specialty businesses with acquisition of Erber Group

ROYAL DSM, a global science-based company in nutrition, health and sustainable living, has announced it has reached an agreement to acquire Erber Group for an enterprise value of \$A1.6 billion.

The value of the transaction represents an EV/EBITDA multiple of about 14 times the 2020 EBITDA (fiscal year ending September 2020).

The transaction – which excludes two smaller units in the Erber Group – is expected to be earnings enhancing in the first year upon completion.

Erber Group's specialty animal nutrition and health businesses, Biomin and Romer Labs, specialise primarily in mycotoxin risk management, gut health performance management and food and feed safety diagnostic solutions, expanding DSM's range of higher value-add specialty solutions.

Romer Labs also complements DSM's human nutrition and health offering to food industry customers.

Sanphar and EFB, representing 7 percent of Erber Group's total sales, are not included in this transaction.

The acquired businesses have combined sales of \$A540 million and an adjusted EBITDA margin above 20 percent for the 12 months to the end of March 2020, with a high single-digit organic sales growth rate over the past five years.

The acquisition will be debt financed, with com-

mitted bridge financing in place.

DSM continues to benefit from a strong balance sheet and remains committed to maintaining a strong investment grade credit profile.

With state-of-the-art research and manufacturing facilities and about 1200 employees around the world, the acquisition of Erber Group is a unique strategic opportunity that provides revenue-enhancing synergies from the combined offering, global customer base and complementary geographic strengths.

Austrian-based Erber Group offers DSM the opportunity to enter the mycotoxin risk management market as the world leader and extends the company's position as one of the top suppliers in the rapidly growing animal gut performance management market.

Mycotoxins occur because of natural fungus contaminants in animal feed and threaten the health of both animals and humans.

In addition to increasing the risk of illness, mycotoxins also reduce the nutritional value of feed.

Biomin's patented and proprietary technology provides the most scientifically advanced mycotoxin protection available.

Biomin is also a major producer of phytogenic and probiotic feed alternatives to antibiotics, which complements and strengthens DSM's position in the rapidly growing global eubiotics market

for improving animal gut health.

Romer Labs is at the forefront of diagnostic technology, with innovative testing solutions for the analysis of mycotoxins in feed and food, food allergens and pathogens as well as veterinary drug residues, with accredited full-service labs in Austria, the UK, US and Singapore.

DSM's extensive global network of food and beverage customers as well as feed customers stand to benefit from Romer Labs' expertise and the combined group's data-based quality assurance offering.

The acquisition of Erber Group further strengthens DSM's expertise and reputation as a leading provider of animal health and nutrition solutions for farm productivity and sustainability, with an em-

phasis on emissions reduction, feed consumption efficiency and better use of water and land.

DSM co-CEOs Geraldine Matchett and Dimitri de Vreeze said, "These are great businesses with strong and sustained track records of profitable growth and attractive margins."

"Biomin and Romer Labs will help strengthen and accelerate the growth of our specialty animal nutrition and health offering, including our big data and diagnostic capabilities, and it is exciting to be entrusted to take these family founded businesses forward."

"It was immediately clear to us that the people at Erber Group share our purpose-led mission and will make a wonderful addition to DSM."

Erber Group founder and president Dr Erich Erber

said, "In DSM, I recognise the mutual values of sustainable stewardship that are so important to us."

"The world must reduce farming's environmental impact at the same time as increasing protein production to feed 10 billion people by 2050."

"To do that, we have to make sure protein is produced sustainably, using renewable ingredients as much as possible while protecting the wellbeing of animals."

"DSM is the perfect home for our businesses, as Biomin and Romer Labs will be able to use their new scale to intensify our joint contribution to a more sustainable world's food supply."

The transaction, which remains subject to customary conditions, is expected to close in Q4 2020.

## Elanco Announces European Commission Approval of Pending Acquisition of Bayer Animal Health

ELANCO Animal Health Incorporated recently announced the European Commission has granted approval of Elanco's pending acquisition of Bayer AG's animal health business.

The company continues to progress towards a mid-year closing, anticipated August 3, 2020.

Elanco president and CEO Jeff Simmons said, "Approval from the European Commission is an important milestone towards the completion of our acquisition of Bayer Animal Health."

"As the transaction edges closer to fruition, we look forward to turning our full attention to delivering innovation and an expanded portfolio of solutions for farmers, veterinarians and pet owners across the globe."

"Recent months have only underscored the critical work our farmers do in delivering meat, milk, fish and eggs, and the importance of providing pet owners and veterinarians with a variety of solutions in multiple channels from telemedicine and e-commerce to direct home delivery. "Combining Bayer Animal Health's leadership in these areas better positions Elanco to deliver on these needs."

The complementary nature of this transaction, combining

Elanco's long-standing focus on the veterinarian with Bayer's direct-to-consumer expertise, will strengthen and accelerate the company's innovation, portfolio and productivity strategy.

The transaction advances Elanco's portfolio transformation, creating a balance between the farm animal and pet businesses.

It will also expand Elanco's omnichannel approach, substantially diversifying its pet health business into the retail and e-commerce channels as Elanco continues to determine the best methods for reaching pet owners and veterinarians.

Elanco previously announced divestiture agreements in the range of \$A175 million to \$A204 million of revenue to help advance

the needed regulatory reviews.

The EC's approval is conditional on several proposed divestitures.

In addition to EC approval, Elanco has received antitrust clearance for the transaction in China, Colombia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam and provisional clearance in Brazil.

Elanco continues to co-operate with agencies in other jurisdictions.

Further, Elanco fully secured financing early in the first quarter of 2020 to complete the transaction through its completed equity issuance and pricing of its Term Loan B, which will fund at deal close.

The transaction remains subject to additional regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions.



Elanco president and CEO Jeff Simmons.



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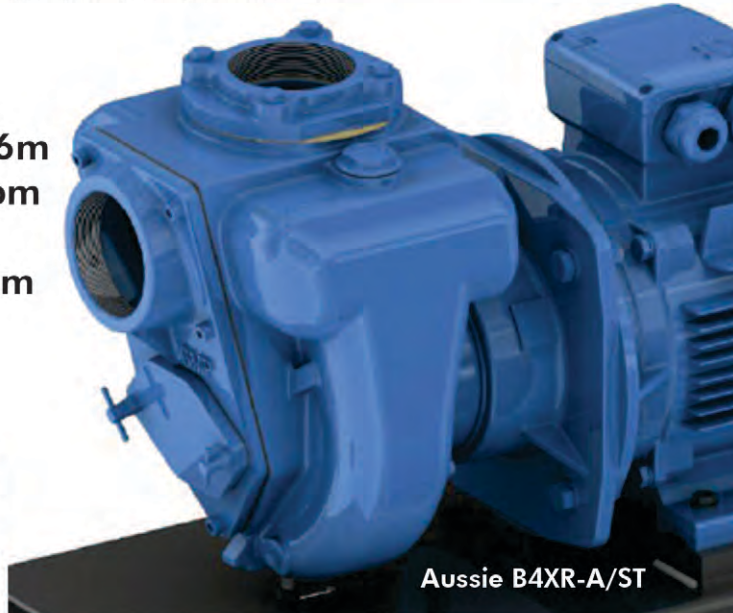
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# Stop the frustration of struggling with inferior pump equipment

A SOUTH Australian potato and carrot grower ended one of their processing frustrations recently by switching from a poor quality, unreliable centrifugal pump to a more robust and reliable Gorman-Rupp pump.

The producers are using the Gorman-Rupp U3B60S-B pump to successfully and easily wash

dirt from the vegetables and are planning more end-uses for this versatile piece of equipment.

The pump has been chosen in this size to enable future expansion of their plant and will also be used for irrigation and transfer from the overflow dam to the irrigation dam.

The growers are very happy that the new pump

is saving time and frustration and is performing above their expectations.

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The Gorman-Rupp U3B60S-B pump.



Producers use the Gorman-Rupp U3B60S-B pump to successfully and easily wash dirt from vegetables.

## Further improvements to Singapore market access

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has been advised that the Singapore Food Agency has determined that the use of Improvac as a form of immunocastration has no food safety risks, and is removing its restriction on the use of Improvac for imports of chilled pork.

Removal of the restriction has been requested by producers and is a longstanding APL market access goal.

Australian Pork Limited is working with the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment to release a market access advice, with up-

dated requirements for chilled pork products for Singapore.

This development follows similar moves by SFA to liberalise Singapore's meat import requirements.

These have included the adoption of codex maximum residue limits for ractopamine and the relaxation of time-from-slaughter export eligibility rules.

These measures reflect Singapore's efforts to ensure adequate supplies of imported pork amidst the uncertainties of African swine fever and COVID-19.

Australian exporters will be happy to assist.

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## Aeration the Aussie way

EVERY piggery has a wastewater treatment pond designed to reduce BOD.

Turning that effluent-laden wastewater into usable fertiliser produces both a valuable asset and turns waste into profit.

Using a simple, high-performance, engine-drive self-priming pump is the easiest way of aerating ponds.

More complex systems, including the addition of venturi aerator units, or even pontoon-mounted pumps can enhance performance, allowing the pumps to suck liquids from the bottom of the pond, thus achieving a high oxygen transfer.

Aussie Pumps, Australia's leading manufacturer of self-priming centrifugal engine-drive pumps for livestock waste treatment, has been experimenting using a 4" heavy-duty pump.

With flows of up to 1800l/pm and the ability to draught liquids from depths of 7.6m, the pumps can aerate fast without complex pipe-work.

One model, the

QP40T, is a heavy-duty 4" self-priming pump that can be either petrol or diesel engine drive.

The pumps feature big non-clog-style open impellers manufactured from high-SG cast iron.

The pumps in the petrol drive option come powered by Honda GX390E electric-start 13hp engines.

Honda engines were chosen because of their reliability and ease of starting, first time, every time.

The pumps self prime with a very simple system.

The big Aussie QP40T is fitted with a high-mounted suction port.

That port feeds directly into the pump body.

Inside the inlet is an automatic self-priming check valve.

When the pump is filled with water and the engine started, the process begins.

As the water is expelled from the pump casing, a vacuum is formed within the body, causing the check valve to open and the liquid to rise up through the suction hose.

It's a simple system

that only requires the operator to fill the pump body with water and then start the engine.

Aussie Pumps is focused on the livestock industry.

Apart from the complete range of electric motor driven trash pumps, with a range up to 8" ports, the company also makes heavy-duty stainless steel frame electric and engine drive pressure cleaners designed for the tough conditions of a piggery.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "Some of the biggest piggeries in South-East Asia standardise on our high-pressure water blasters."

"Our experiences working with Australian piggeries have helped us to understand and investigate ways of helping in the fast and efficient treatment of liquid waste.

"We believe that simple is best."

Aussie Pumps staff members do not claim to be aerobic sewage engineers, but believe their simple, heavy-duty trash pumps can play a vital role in simple oxidation of sludge.

"Similar applications in some of Australia's biggest abattoirs use our big 4" portable trash pumps," Hales said.

The company is working on suction and discharge variations, which will provide a higher rate of aeration at lower costs.

Further information on Aussie Pumps' unique range of cast iron, electric motor drive trash pumps is readily available from authorised distributors around Australia and [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au)



Aussie Pumps' 4" trash pump offers 7.6m vertical suction, which is ideal for pond aeration.

## Industry welcomes the return of vendors to livestock saleyards

AUSTRALIA'S livestock industry was pleased to welcome vendors back to saleyards and selling centres across Australia from late June.

The relaxed restrictions still require anyone attending saleyards to carry out social distancing and good hygiene practices.

Many facilities have put in place measures to assist with social distancing.

Vendors were previously prohibited from attending livestock sales as part of a suite of restrictions recommended in the COVID-19

National Saleyards Protocols.

The changes were necessary to ensure the safety of essential saleyard workers as well as the continuity of selling and the wider food supply chain, and were agreed to by saleyard operators, agents, buyers, processors and producers in consultation with the federal government.

Australian Livestock Markets Association president Ken Timms said, "The industry was and remains acutely aware of the immense challenge of the

COVID-19 pandemic and the need to reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of the virus."

"However, we're excited now to be in a position to invite vendors back to our facilities to take part in the action and vibrancy of sale day – albeit with new precautions in place."

Mr Timms said it was of the utmost importance that competitive bidding in saleyards was able to continue.

"Prospective buyers have never been denied the ability to purchase

livestock from saleyards and can continue to compete through an accredited buyer, free of charge through their preferred agent or directly themselves either at the facility or via an online arrangement concurrent with live auctions," he said.

Meat and Livestock Australia's reporting agents have also been permitted to return.

Vendors and buyers should check with their local selling centres to determine the exact requirements of access.

## \$36 million for our agricultural communities – the shows will go on

THE Australian Government is spending \$36 million to support agricultural show societies in recovering from the effects of COVID-19, ensuring they can continue after the pandemic.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt agricultural shows, with most expected to be cancelled for 2020 in the interest of public health and social distancing measures.

"Agricultural shows are part of the fabric of regional Australia, showcasing everything positive about our communities and local industries," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

"These shows are estimated to contribute \$1 billion to the economy each year and attract six million patrons annually, supported by 50,000 volunteers.

"They create social bonds and improve mental health in parts of regional

Australia where distance, drought, bushfires and now COVID-19 have caused significant hardship and distress."

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said the Supporting Agricultural Shows program will provide a one-off reimbursement to agricultural show societies to deal with cash flow pressures caused by COVID-19-related cancellations of agricultural shows.

"This funding supports not only the big Royal Shows in each capital but right down to the small country shows because we acknowledge the role shows play in connecting agriculture and regional Australia to metropolitan Australians," he said.

"There is a real risk if we don't help that not only could Royal Shows cease to function the way they are now but also those small shows.

"In addition, \$100,000 will go towards supporting the Agricultural Shows Australia rural ambassador program, which

will enable the vital community work the ambassadors perform in regional Australia to continue.

"I encourage my state and territory counterparts to also make a contribution to help agricultural shows survive the impact of COVID-19 because of the positive impact they have on their economies."

This funding complements the Australian Government's existing \$20 million Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program and will be provided under the \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund, which is supporting regions, communities and industry sectors that have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus crisis.

The \$36 million Supporting Agricultural Shows program comprises three components:

- \$10 million in operational support for local show societies. Shows will be able to claim up to \$10,000 if their attendance last year was less than 2000, up to \$15,000 if their attendance was

between 2000 and 4999 and up to \$70,000 if their attendance was over 5000.

- \$26 million in operational support for Royal Agricultural Show societies, which can additionally be used to claim for unrecoverable costs associated with preparing for the cancelled show.

- \$100,000 in operational support for Agricultural Shows Australia's Rural ambassador program.

All agricultural shows that have cancelled their show in 2020 because of COVID-19 will be eligible and they will not have to compete for assistance.

Eligible reimbursement costs are expected to include: bank fees, utilities, rates, insurance, fire alarms and equipment, cleaning supplies, telecommunications, IT system licensing costs, website costs, state/national show body affiliation fees and rent.

For more information on the fund, visit [regional.gov.au/regional/programs/covid-19-relief-and-recovery-fund.aspx](http://regional.gov.au/regional/programs/covid-19-relief-and-recovery-fund.aspx)

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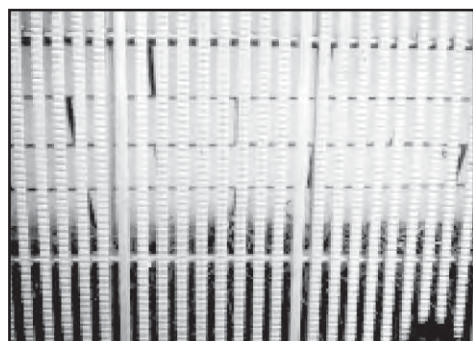
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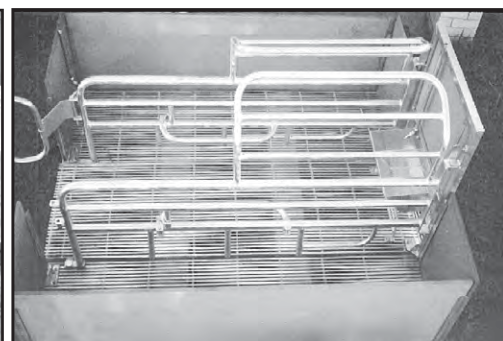
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Fax: 02 8875 8715  
susan.schryver@boehringer-ingelheim.com

Timothy Dale  
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Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Pty Limited  
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Mobile: 0408 233 227  
Tel: 1800 808 691  
Fax: 02 8875 8715  
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Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Pty Limited  
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Mobile: 0408 459 356  
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Fax: 02 8875 8715  
gabe.crane@boehringer-ingelheim.com

Dr. Andres Ardila  
Technical Services Veterinarian



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Peter Lutterschmidt  
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Meg Donahoo  
Senior Account Manager



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meg.donahoo@boehringer-ingelheim.com

Kitty Wong  
Marketing Manager



Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Pty Limited  
78 Waterloo Road  
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Fax: 02 8875 8715  
kitty.wong@boehringer-ingelheim.com



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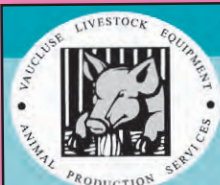
Doug Pearson  
P +61 408 735 185  
E doug.pearson@feedworks.com.au

Stuart Wilkinson  
P +61 414 487 882  
E stuart.wilkinson@feedworks.com.au

Office  
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www.feedworks.com.au



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David Reu

MOBILE: 0427 791 734

EMAIL: davidreu@vaocluse-aps.com.au

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Dr Rachel O'Higgins  
BVMS MRCVS  
Technical Services Veterinarian



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135 Brooke Street, Smythesdale  
Victoria 3351  
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Office: 61 (0)7 5422 9201  
fax: 61 (0)7 5422 9201  
dguenther@zinpro.com

**Amanda Vardanega**  
National Key Account Manager  
Swine

Intervet Australia Pty Ltd  
Level 1 - Building A, 26 Talavera Road  
Macquarie Park, NSW, 2113  
North Ryde Post Business Centre,  
Locked Bag 2234  
North Ryde, NSW, 1670  
Australia  
T 1800 033 461  
M 0427 011 579  
F 1800 817 414  
amanda.vardanega@merck.com

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**Anke Woeckel**  
Veterinarian  
Technical Advisor Swine

Intervet Australia Pty Ltd  
Level 1 - Building A, 26 Talavera Road  
Macquarie Park, NSW, 2113  
North Ryde Post Business Centre,  
Locked Bag 2234  
North Ryde, NSW, 1670  
Australia  
T 1800 226 511  
M 0437 010 683  
F 1800 810 511  
anke.woeckel@merck.com

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Animal Health  
The Science of Healthier Animals

**AusPac**  
INGREDIENTS

**MICHAEL GUTIERREZ**  
Key Account Manager

AusPac Ingredients Pty.Ltd.  
Unit 1, 84-92 Barnes Street  
Tamworth NSW 2340  
Mobile +61 (0) 419 911 365  
Tel +61 2 6762 7708  
Fax +61 2 6762 7709  
Email michael.gutierrez@auspacingredients.com.au

**AusPac**  
INGREDIENTS

**NATHAN DWYER**  
Key Account Manager

AusPac Ingredients Pty.Ltd.  
Unit 1, 84-92 Barnes Street  
Tamworth NSW 2340  
Mobile +61 (0) 429 127 599  
Tel +61 2 6762 7708  
Fax +61 2 6762 7709  
Email nathan@auspacingredients.com.au

**PIC** **PIC Australia**

**Clark Forbes**, Business Manager  
M: 0427 909 361 E: cforbes@picaustralia.com.au

**Mal Auld**, Technical Services Manager, WA  
M: 0427 086 931 E: mauld@picaustralia.com.au

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**Craig McCann**  
NATIONAL KEY  
RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

**BEC**

M +61 488 025 555  
E c.mccann@becfeed.com.au  
W becfeedsolutions.com.au

FIAAA ISO 9001 HACCP

**Dr. David Isaac**  
DVM MRCVS  
ANIMAL HEALTH, INNOVATION  
& RESEARCH MANAGER

**BEC**

M +61 400 603 483  
P +61 7 3723 9844  
E d.isaac@becfeed.com.au  
W becfeedsolutions.com.au

FIAAA ISO 9001 HACCP

**Natalie Schwerin**  
M.ScAg AARNe  
TECHNICAL MANAGER

**BEC**

M +61 439 862 788  
P +61 7 3723 9810  
E n.schwerin@becfeed.com.au  
W becfeedsolutions.com.au

FIAAA ISO 9001 HACCP

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**BC@PR**

**Brendon Cant**  
Managing Director

T +61 8 9430 9463  
M +61 417 930 536  
E brendon@inet.net.au

BCAPR Pty Ltd (ACN 159 299 966)  
PO Box 749 South Fremantle  
Western Australia 6162

**CCD**  
animal health

**Alison Leary**  
0487 777 089  
**Fiona Selleck**  
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**MYORA**  
PO BOX 550, MOUNT GAMBIER, SA 5290  
P 08 8725 0411 M 0431 679 053  
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## Farmers herald official launch of trade negotiations with United Kingdom

NATIONAL Farmers' Federation president Fiona Simson has praised the Federal Government's focus on the interests of farmers as official negotiations towards a free trade agreement between the United Kingdom and Australia begin.

Trade Minister Simon Birmingham said securing benefits for Australian agriculture would be a top priority when negotiations between the two countries officially got under way on June 29.

As a collective, Australian farmers export about two-thirds of what they produce and Ms Simson said expanded export markets were key to agriculture's continued growth.

"The UK-Australia FTA represents an opportunity to build on what are already strong trade ties in the region," Ms Simson said. "Until the formation of the European Union in 1973, the UK was a primary export market for our agricultural exports."

"And, afterwards as members of the European Union, UK consumers have enjoyed

access to high-quality Australian food, beverages and fibre.

"We look forward to our two governments arriving at an agreement that will allow UK consumers to continue enjoying the Australian produce they have come to know and love."

Of critical importance to Australian farmers is the removal wherever possible, of tariffs, quotas and non-tariff barriers.

The removal of these barriers is necessary to ensure Australian farmers can engage in fair and healthy competition with their UK counterparts.

Ms Simson said the shared history of the two nations meant the values held within the respective communities were also shared.

"We know that what's important to Australians in terms of how our food and fibre is produced, is also important to the people of the UK," she said.

"Our standards in relation to animal welfare, food safety, labour and the environment are exemplary, and are tailor made to suit the unique circumstances of Australian agriculture."

"Australia's regulatory systems are world-class."

"We are firmly committed to ensuring these standards are not compromised."

Ms Simson said continuing to expand and diversify Australia's trading profile was crucial to agriculture's pursuit to supercharge the nation's COVID-19 economic recovery.

"The farm sector and regional Australia are well placed to accelerate a return to the economic prosperity Australians have become accustomed to," she said.

"The NFF has a goal for agriculture to be a \$100 billion industry by 2030, up from about \$60 billion today."

"Exploring new markets and reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers is at the heart of agriculture reaching its potential."

Ms Simson said the NFF was optimistic that negotiations could be concluded promptly so the benefits for both countries could be realised in these universally tough economic times.

"We look forward to working with Minister Birmingham and the Federal Government over coming months to assist to ensure the priorities of Australian agriculture are front and centre in the negotiations."

"We also look forward to engaging with the UK's agricultural sector with whom we already have a strong friendship."



## Letters to the Editor

It is the responsibility of those making submissions to ensure the correctness of their claims and statements. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher.

MY reason for writing this letter is to try to get Australian Pork Limited to represent and work for all producers, not just listen to a select few.

Our CEO is talking a lot about her willingness to communicate with more producers.

My experience is she listens to a few in her inner circle and does not want to hear from the rest.

The facts are: She cancelled the publications 'Pork it up' and 'Pig Updated' and did not consult producers, delegates or even Board members.

She has not even advised anyone this has been done.

Does not consult with producers or delegates regarding research projects.

Many projects are irrelevant to most producers.

Results of research are poorly publicised, if at all, with no cost-benefit analysis done.

The recent round of APL Strategic Planning meetings for 2020-2025 were poorly attended, yet the CEO described them as a "great success".

Facts are, 10 of the 26 planned meetings were cancelled due to lack of interest.

The meetings held were mostly very poorly attended.

The CEO refuses to disclose actual number of producers who did attend - why?

All the people I have spoken to have said these meetings were "a waste of time", "poorly run" and "not relevant to producers".

There was considerable cost in running the meetings as consultants were employed.

Again the CEO refuses to disclose the cost of holding these meetings.

If the CEO is genuine in wanting more producers involved in decision-making, she should delay the Strategic Planning process and seek further input from producers via emails.

The CEO does not consult with producers or delegates regarding research projects.

A select few decide on what research is done and results are poorly presented (if at all) to producers.

I believe APL should seek input from all interested producers for research projects and be open with the selection process.

Despite my paying \$500,000 in levies each year, the CEO refuses to acknowledge receipt of emails (a five-second task) and it can take four weeks to receive a reply.

I think the CEO writes a lot in her communications but says very little worth reading, often saying how proud she is of what APL is doing.

The Board has a lot to answer to as well.

They allowed Andrew

Spencer to lose focus and become complacent and need replacing.

They then replaced him with someone who has no knowledge of the pig industry and may have been attracted to the position by the high salary.

The industry needs a progressive leader who has a full understanding of the pig industry and who can make tangible improvements to producer profitability.

Compounding this, a lot of good people have left APL in recent years and joined private enterprises in the pig industry.

With beef, lamb and goat selling for between \$8 and \$11 per kilogram and pork at about \$3.10, it proves the pig industry is the most vulnerable and suffers more price crises than others, and APL has no strategy to cope with any adverse situation.

Many situations can have a big impact on pig prices.

As just one example, with new technology, we may see more pre-cooked pork imported.

Oversupply is the obvious threat to prices.

Sustainability in the pig industry should be APL's highest priority and reducing our cost of production is an important part of this.

A producer selling 400 pigs a week will pay APL over \$71,000 a year in levies.

I believe this is too

big a burden on profits, and APL does not produce an equivalent increase in income.

APL should be putting more effort and money into improving producers' profitability rather than worrying about being on the Anti-Dumping Commission, and should leave the culling of feral pigs to other bodies.

Foot and mouth disease would be equally or more disastrous to other livestock industries than the pork industry.

The pig industry has a small budget and its revenue needs to be wisely spent in the most beneficial areas.

APL spends a significant amount of money unwisely, including on staff taking first-class trips overseas, many of which could be considered a waste of money.

I don't think the CEO or Board acknowledge that all producers big and small own and fund APL and all producers should benefit.

If producers are not happy with what APL is doing and would like to see changes, then they need to express their concerns.

Equally, if producers are happy with how APL is being run, I need to hear this and I will stop complaining.

I welcome comments positive and negative on this email: andrew.reilly95@yahoo.com

Andrew Reilly

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