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# Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

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**Tracy Anderson**  
Australian Pork Limited

**Australian Rural Leadership Foundation**  
ARLP

**Course 28, 2021-22**

Tracy Anderson from Hivesville in Queensland, sponsored by Australian Pork Limited, has been included in the prestigious Australian Rural Leadership Program 28th cohort.

## Building leadership for rural, regional and remote Australia

TWENTY-NINE people have been announced as part of the 28th cohort of the prestigious Australian Rural Leadership Program, including Tracy Anderson from Hivesville in Queensland, sponsored by Australian Pork Limited.

The ARLP is Australia's longest and most in-depth experiential leadership program designed to build leadership capability in people in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Participants attend 50 days of experiential learning and mentoring across four sessions over a 15-month period.

The program gives participants valuable opportunities to enhance their capacity and create a network of like-minded leaders to positively influence their organisations, industries and communities.

Australian Rural Leadership Foundation chief executive Matt Linnegar congratulates the 29 participants from across Australia on their success in being selected for the ARLP.

"We are thrilled to announce the ARLP Course 28, 2021-22 cohort at a time when courageous and influential leadership has never been more important to support recovery from drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19, and build resilience to face future opportunities and challenges in rural, regional and remote Australia," Mr Linnegar said.

"This program would not be possible without the support of our scholarship partners – organisations who understand the value of investing in people assets and share in our mission to exercise leadership for positive impact in rural, regional and remote Australia."

The ARLP Course 28 will commence in July 2021.

Applications for ARLP Course 29 will open on July 4 and close on August 29, with expressions of interest being accepted via the ARLP website, [rural-leaders.org.au/expressions-of-interest-arlp-course-29/](http://rural-leaders.org.au/expressions-of-interest-arlp-course-29/)

## Putting Australian pork industry people first

AUSTRALIAN farmers are on track for a record-breaking year in 2020-2021, recording gross value of over \$66 billion, according to the latest government forecast by the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics.

But with forecasts expressing concerns about trade uncertainty in the same breath, industries are preparing their production systems to absorb the volatility that agriculture brings.

Stable production systems are built not just from the land, but by the people who manage it.

This makes securing and retaining skilled people a fundamental necessity in the pork industry.

But seeds must be sown to make it happen.

Which was why it was exciting to share new and extended initiatives in education and training, graduate research and placement and industry leadership at last month's virtual delegates' forum.

### Education and training

It seems obvious that greater industry visibility is vital to attracting more skilled workers to regional areas.

But achieving this safely on a large scale is not so straightforward when 90 percent of production is housed indoors.

With schools and universities ramping up for career days, industry will showcase the diversity of job opportunities not only on farm, but also as service providers and throughout the broader supply chain.

As part of this, a new careers resource will



### Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



be developed for classrooms, profiling a wide range of people, skills and experiences needed to make the industry operate.

The resources celebrate our industry's people, how they got to where they are and what they like about what they do, to help students identify with real career profiles.

But the new – not-so-secret – weapon in the classroom will be Australian Pork Limited's virtual tour of the pork industry, releasing this month.

From farm sheds and paddocks, to the abattoir and into retail, the public and students alike will be able to explore the ins and outs of our supply chain.

Since its ideation in 2019, the virtual tour resource has been hotly anticipated.

As threats of African swine fever heighten biosecurity measures and COVID-19 restricts our movements, the resource will work both as an educational tool and a tangible transparency piece of the sustainability framework.

Another success story well and truly underway is APL's new learning management system, or LMS.

The free online courses

have been co-designed by APL and industry to provide better access to training for staff, service providers and government.

Since the launch in March 2021, 209 new users have enrolled in modules from working with pigs to ASF preparedness and ProHand review.

### Industry graduate recruitment

As part of a commitment to delivering more innovation onto farm, APL is continuing collaboration with the Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd.

A new co-funded industry initiative will target the support and training of post graduate students.

Over the next five years, APL and APRIL have a target of awarding 15 postgraduate and 10 Honours scholarships to high calibre students with an interest in pig production.

Additionally, utilising base funding facility providers for research projects involving post-graduate students ensures research is conducted in commercial production systems.

This helps students understand industry, foster skills and relationships with industry, and most importantly understand

how their research can apply in commercial settings.

On top of this, APL plans to explore industry placement programs for tertiary qualified students who are not completing post graduate studies.

A new two to three-year cadetship managed and coordinated by APL could provide certified training programs for graduates as they move through different areas of production and attend industry leadership events.

### Industry leadership

But it is not only graduates who benefit from industry leadership training.

The pork industry has strong stories to tell, which need people from all walks of life to tell them.

This is why the Australian Pork young leaders program based in Toowoomba will be replaced with the ethos of a new Australian Pork emerging leaders program and its success replicated elsewhere in Australia.

The program focusses on career succession by building 'soft skills' in people of all ages working across industry, developing networks

and augmenting skills in areas such as business, communication and technical industry knowledge.

From this, a new leadership program based on the internationally focussed Danish program will be established to help industry leaders build presentation, media spokesperson and conflict resolution skills.

But with international travel off the cards in the immediate future, this new program will give participants the opportunity to explore the Australian pork supply chain, as well as learn from other domestic industries.

On a personal note, it is an exciting time to be part of an industry that lifts up its people to shape its future direction.

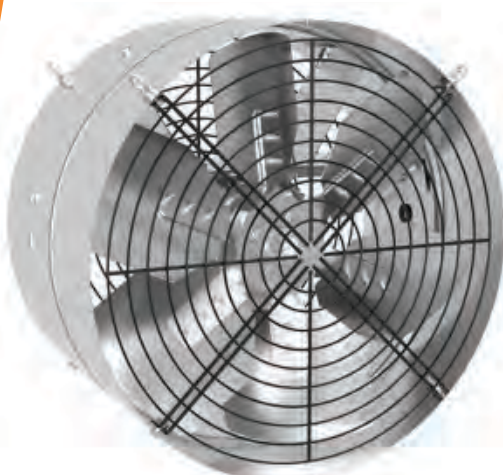
A big thank you to all delegates who attended last month's forum and consistently put in the work with members and industry.

Virtual events of this kind are challenging for everyone, and we know that nothing compares to face-to-face interaction.

The level of engagement and feedback received helps sharpen direction for the year ahead.



The pork industry has strong stories to tell, which need people from all walks of life to tell them. Photo: Diego San



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## Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2021

**JUL 11-14** – National Pork Industry Conference (NPIC) [www.porkconference.com](http://www.porkconference.com)

**AUG 3-6** – LIV AMVEC 2021 (Online) [www.amvec.com](http://www.amvec.com)

**SEP 7-10** – International Animal Production Show [www.feriazaragoza.com/figan-2021](http://www.feriazaragoza.com/figan-2021)

**SEP 18-21** – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference (Online) [www.lemanconference.umn.edu](http://www.lemanconference.umn.edu)

**OCT 11-14** – 14th SafePork Conference 2021 [www.safepork-conference.com](http://www.safepork-conference.com)

**NOV 15-18** – Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) Conference [www.apsa.asn.au](http://www.apsa.asn.au)

**NOV 21-23** – AVAMS21, Gold Coast [www.avams2020.com.au](http://www.avams2020.com.au)

**How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 07 3286 1833 or email: [ben@collins.media](mailto:ben@collins.media)**

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A snapshot from the June delegates virtual forum hosted by APL.

## APL delegates debate pork industry future

LAST month over two days Australia Pork Limited staff, 30 delegates and a group of expert speakers convened to unpack how the industry will achieve its vision – to become Australia's preferred choice of protein, sustainably adding \$1 billion to farm gate production by 2025.

There is significant interplay between the themes vital to achieving this vision – from animal welfare and biosecurity, to sustainability and the development of skills and leadership of our people.

These were discussed and debated, mirroring foundation pillars set out in the pork industry's sustainability framework, namely:

- People
- Prosperity
- Planet
- Pigs

**People** People and capacity garnered the most critical focus.

APL outlined strategies to rectify labour and skills shortages on farms exacerbated by COVID-19 through investments in education, graduate recruitment and expanded leadership programs.

APL's stronger relationships with the Department of Home Affairs assists in our producers' Pork In-

dustry Labour Agreement applications for overseas workers.

Over the past year, the PILA has provided urgent access to skilled migrant workers.

Any producers struggling with staff or PILA applications are urged to reach out to APL for assistance.

But industry capacity is about more than labour.

We need to attract new workers and develop professional pathways, cultivating rewarding, dynamic careers right across the supply chain.

APL presented its new learning management system to delegates and announced strengthened relationships with the Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd.

This collaboration will promote greater innovation and progression



**AUSTRALIAN  
Pork**

Communications

by ELYSE DENMAN

within the industry, fueling best practice.

APL general manager research and innovation Dr Rob Smits and APRIL's Professor John Pluske outlined how the organisations were working together to deliver an impact greater than the sum of its parts.

Joint projects with emerging tertiary trained staff and technicians will build capability and capacity, and leverage science and research to progress innovation.

A further 15 postgraduate and 10 Honours scholarships will hit the ground by 2025.

### Prosperity

As a research and development corporation, adoption of research by industry is always a fundamental priority.

This means translating our research projects

into everyday practices on farm, reducing costs, driving productivity and extracting stronger margins for producers.

APL manager of extension and capacity building Rachael Bryant presented the annual adoption snapshot, showing how APL's adoption surveys – and the strong uptake from levy payers – informs research and development, and puts theory into practice.

Clear goals have been set with tangible adoption benchmarks.

More is needed to drive awareness and uptake, but once producers are aware of research, 70 percent will apply it.

This demonstrates the quality of research, which is only a matter of getting to the right people at the right time.

### Planet

One of the most engaging agenda items for delegates were the sustainability presentations.

Industry ambitions were laid out on the table, namely 'livestock leaders with low greenhouse gas emissions' and an 'adopter of closed loop systems for carbon and water'.

This means using 60 percent less carbon, 80 percent less water and achieving zero waste by 2025.

Australian National University's Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions' Professor Mark Howden reiterated the importance of climate friendly farming.

A stark reminder of why a proactive approach to climate change is needed.

Industry has set the bar high, committed to improving environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Adoption of innovation and technology, biodiversity and natural resource stewardship will get us there.

### Pigs

High standards for our pigs will always be a vital part of industry consultation.

Biosecurity, welfare, nutrition and genetic improvements remain mandatory core priorities moving forward.

This comes down to implementing global best practices in animal care, as well as producing world class pork.

Thank you to all the delegates for attending the forum and providing valuable feedback that sharpens our focus to the areas that matter.

Recordings of the delegates forum will be available to members via the APL member portal in the coming weeks. 🐷

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Marvin's happy hogs at his Peculiar Pig Farm.



Farmer Marvin Ross feeds his hogs.

# Peculiar Pig Farm

READING Australian Pork Limited's June 11 Weekly Update and learning that the 30 delegates who participated in its online delegates' forum that week represented 91 percent of Australian pork production, I pondered how small pork producers have now gone offline.

Put another way, the small-scale operators have pressed the industry delete button... defeated.

Those who remain have clearly declined to the point where now they may have little or no significant clout when it comes to decisions made by the bodies that repre-

## Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT



sent them nationally and at state level.

When it comes to industry decisions, the actual value of memberships is measured by the number of pigs owned and ultimately slaughtered, so it has become a game for big players.

For every \$1 of levy paid, producer members of APL are entitled to one vote for their nominated APL delegate.

SunPork and Rivalea – possibly soon to be branded JBS, subject to ACCC approval of its \$175 million acquisition bid – the big two vertically integrated national pork producers, collectively are now approaching almost half of Australia's production.

While some industry observers believe this is way too much, it also indicates that many of the 'tail' have been forced out as the number of pigs produced each year hasn't gone up that much.

Anyway, while pondering the fate of small producers Downunder and their position on the pork playing field, I was heartened simultaneously to read this delightful story in *Modern Farmer*, a US farming e-publication I subscribe to.

At the age of seven Marvin Ross was given his first pig.

His grandfather, a farmer, helped him feed and care for it and along the way, he taught Ross valuable lessons he would someday need to run a farm of his own.

"I raised that pig and we took it to the market," he said.

"That's where it all started for me."

In addition to working a full-time job, Ross' grandfather Thomas Henry Ross farmed more than 100 acres of land in Dorchester, South Carolina.

With 11 children to help, Thomas and his wife grew row crops such as corn, soybean and cotton, in addition to vegetables such as cucumber, tomato and bell pepper.

Ross remembers visiting his grandparents' farm after school and on weekends, where he gravitated to the livestock – cows, goats, chickens, guinea hens and a horse named Sadie.

But it was the hogs to which Ross was most drawn, enamoured by their squeals, large ears and flat snouts.

"Out of all the animals,

the pigs were my favourite," Ross said, who remembers how the drove of pigs would move in the most peculiar of ways, congregating like members of a church.

When he left for college Ross considered studying forestry but decided on business management instead.

A couple of years into his studies, his grandfather died.

After graduating Ross returned to the old land, which had gone untended for years.

In 2009, Ross founded 'Peculiar Pig Farm', named for the way he remembers watching his grandfather's hogs shuffle around.

He started taking pigs to the market, following the path his grandfather had shown him, and has gradually grown his practices from there.

As a southern Black farmer, farming the same land that his grandfather once did is a way for Martin Ross to honour and continue his heritage.

But it doesn't come without challenges.

Today, he farms 12 acres of land – a fraction of what his grandfather once had.

Ross raises Yorkshire, Hampshire and red Duroc hogs, which he rotates through the woodlots and pastures before spreading seeds, as well as chickens and ducks.

Later this year, he plans to add geese to the pack and then he hopes to introduce row crops, working his way up to running an operation similar to the one his grandfather had.

"My goal is to do eve-

rything he was doing," Ross said.

"If you integrate everything together, you have a sustainable model.

"It cuts down on your fertiliser, it cuts down on everything you have to add to your crops because the animals are doing a majority of the work."

The model Ross is following might be called regenerative agriculture by some but for him it's simply farming.

That's the way his grandfather and generations of Black and Indigenous farmers always operated.

"They didn't have the money and the resources to do it differently," Ross said.

"This term regenerative agriculture has recently come about, but my grandfather had been doing this in the 1950s.

"A lot of things are being brought to the forefront now that people weren't getting credit for at the time."

Ross wants to one day farm at least 60 acres.

Though it's not as much land as his family once tended, it'll be one step closer to reclaiming and honouring his grandfather's legacy.

"I'm definitely following his ways," he said.

In a somewhat peculiar way, I'd like to see a regeneration of the Marvin Ross school of pig farming here in Australia.

I believe the public is ready for it, as evidenced by how they've taken to spending their hard earned on free range pork and more recently pasture raised pork. 🐷

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# Feral pig management

## ■ It's all about the people

DEALING with feral pigs and their impacts is a frustrating, time consuming and costly challenge for land managers.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics estimates the average annual cost to private agricultural landholders amounts to \$47.7 million a year.

In its first meeting, the national feral pig action plan implementation committee recognised that trust, strong partnerships, coordination and collaboration between land managers are essential to combat feral pig populations and their impacts in the landscape.

Immediate focus has been building on-ground presence and strengthening land manager awareness of the plan.

Collaboration with government, natural resource management agencies, indigenous organisations and primary producers will be integral.

We are also looking to work with a number of existing community-led programs around Australia and extend these into demonstration sites to:

- Strengthen land manager participation and involvement in coordi-



nated groups

- Improve adoption of best practice feral pig management methods and integration and

- Provide land managers with technologies, resources and training to plan, conduct, monitor and evaluate their activities.

The learnings and outcomes from these demonstration sites will inform activities of other community groups and raise public awareness of feral pig impacts.

Attracting funding to support the plan's implementation is also very high on the agenda, in particular how to access funds allocated to established pest and weed control in the 2021 budget.

The scientific advisory panel – set up to provide independent scientific advice to the implementation committee – has also met for the first time.

It will be working on:

- Identifying research, development and extension gaps and priorities

to support the plan's implementation

- Developing the RD&E feral pig strategy

- Determining appropriate performance metrics to measure impacts of feral pigs on targeted assets

- Providing technical advice on the collection, analysis and reporting of aggregated data to inform management strategies.

A national indigenous engagement advisory panel is being established to progress opportunities for the indigenous land and sea management ranger.

This includes networking and support through on-ground feral pig management programs.

The sub-committee will be chaired by Mr Murradoo Yanner from the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation who will also join the implementation committee.

To keep up to date with the implementation of the plan, subscribe to the monthly newsletter by emailing [contact@feralpigs.com.au](mailto:contact@feralpigs.com.au)

To discuss any items in this article, contact the national feral pig management coordinator Dr Heather Channon on 0423 056 045 or [heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au](mailto:heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au)

## APRIL announces mid-year education awards

IN keeping with its commitment to enhance the overall human capacity base for science, innovation and training in the Australasian pork industry, and to build upon current research, education and training investments, APRIL is currently seeking applications to support its education program.

APRIL offers a number of different opportunities for current and prospective undergraduate, post-graduate and potential students, as follows:

- Scholarship awards for Honours students

- 'Top-ups' for post-graduate research students – PhD, MS/MSc/MPhil – in an APRIL-funded research project or related

- Support for DVM/undergraduate veterinary science projects



- Support for MS/MSc/MPhil students, where a research project is an incorporated component of the program of study, in an APRIL-funded research project or related

- Part-support for PhD students.

**Eligibility**

Eligibility varies according to the different scheme being applied for.

Make sure the guidelines associated with each opportunity are read thoroughly before starting or submitting an application.

**To apply**

Information con-

cerning the different education opportunities from APRIL, including guidelines and application forms, can be found at [april.com.au/education-and-training-opportunities/](http://april.com.au/education-and-training-opportunities/)

Completed applications should reach APRIL by the closing date, and outcomes will be announced after the closing date.

The APRIL education advisory committee will assess all applications against APRIL-related criteria including the academic record and curriculum vitae of the applicant, the

applicant's research potential including the research proposal, alignment with APRIL research priorities, evidence of industry endorsement or relevance, a personal statement from the applicant, the supervisor track record, and a communication and delivery plan – if appropriate.

APRIL will determine the number and amount of any grant awarded.

Applications should be lodged electronically to Dr Charles Rikard-Bell at [c.rikardbell@april.org.au](mailto:c.rikardbell@april.org.au)

Questions related to any of the awards should be directed to Dr John Pluske at [j.pluske@april.org.au](mailto:j.pluske@april.org.au) or 0410 436 871.

**Important dates**

Applications open June 28, 2021.

Applications close July 30, 2021.

## New abattoir biosecurity standards

NEW abattoir biosecurity standards have been drafted in a joint effort between industry stakeholders.

Lead by Australian Pork Limited and Pork SA, the first abattoir biosecurity workshop was hosted in Adelaide on May 28.

Processing representatives, DAWE veterinary staff, Biosecurity SA, APL staff and its African swine fever technical panel attended the discussions.

The standards will act as a guideline for govern-

ment issuing permits to abattoirs in the event of an ASF outbreak.

Feedback generated from discussions will also inform research into truck washing, lead by David Hamilton.

Many thanks to all who participated.

**The global situation**

In Europe, ASF continues to break out in wild pig populations in Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Slovakia.

Infected domestic herds

have been reported in Poland, Romania, Russia and Ukraine.

In Poland, the suspected route of disease transmission was in contaminated maize fodder fed to pigs.

The UK is introducing stricter controls of passenger entry to stop bringing in meat products from European countries via trucks, trains, ships and planes.

New ASF outbreaks have been reported in China, North Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia,

Bhutan and India.

Of our neighbours, Timor-Leste has recorded 28 percent of deaths due to ASF and classical swine fever out of the pre-outbreak herd number of 453,500 pigs.

Despite external claims of ASF in live export pigs from Thailand, no cases have been reported.

Thai officials have responded to the claims from Vietnam with widespread testing and have reportedly demonstrated no traces of ASF.



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# Right farrowing strategy pays off

ARGUABLY one of the most expensive stages of the slaughter pigs' life for the producer is the grower phase – where often there are a significant amounts of feed wastage and inefficient feed conversion, affecting the bottom line.

There will always be a loss of feed efficiency due to stress at the point of weaning, of course.

However, if the piglet is set up properly from the farrowing unit, this can be minimised.

The nutrition focus for young piglets should be on providing them with a highly digestible diet, that allows them to both develop resilient gut microbiota and grow their intestines so that they are able to develop a maximum nutrient absorption surface.

As many have quoted before, a healthy gut is

## Nordic News

by ASHLEY NORVAL



the key to a healthy pig.

By the end of the piglet's time in the farrowing unit, the length of both the small and large intestine have tripled, and this early growth and development process will determine the piglet's capacity and efficiency to digest nutrients for the rest of their life.

If you limit the early growth of the intestine, it gives a lifelong negative effect to the pig and they will never catch up or

have a good feed conversion ratio.

Piglets need to eat around 0.5kg of dry feed – pre starter diet – before weaning, and those that have not eaten this amount will have a more significant weaning weight drop.

These piglets often also get diarrhoea as they refrain from eating in the few days post weaning and then overeat later on.

In Denmark, phase feeding is recommended for piglets to meet the requirement of the small intestine growth and enzyme activity.

Phase 1 is fed between 1-9kg and is a pre-starter feed, beginning as creep feed in the farrowing unit and ending 14 days post weaning.

In this phase, the ingredients must be highly digestible, with very low antinutritional factors to allow for the maximum development of the piglets' digestive system.

Phase 2 is fed between 9-15kg and is the transition feed from the pre-starter to the last diet, providing the right nutrients for both rapid growth and increased enzyme production.

The final piglet phase is fed between 15-30kg and is a standard grain and soy diet, allowing for a low-cost diet without any high-quality ingredients.

This is an important factor to remember when considering efficiency,

as the third phase accounts for 60 percent of the young piglet's feed costs.

Each diet change should be incorporated over a few days, so that no sudden changes are made to the piglets' diet which may put them off their food.

Several management routines can be implemented to encourage maximum feed intake in the weaner unit.

As mentioned, this begins in the farrowing unit by training piglets to eat creep feed, as the more solid feed piglets eat before weaning, the faster they will eat after weaning.

Make sure creep feed is provided in small amounts regularly in clean and easily accessible feeders.

In the first 2-3 days after weaning, stimulate the piglets to eat and drink by offering them a gruel mix via a long feeding trough or floor feeding, where all piglets are able to eat together.

Limit the number of litters mixed in the one pen to reduce cross infections and have a separate pen for the smallest piglets, so that they can receive extra attention and care to their growth.

Enabling a gradual and gentle nutritional change from a milk-based diet to a non-milk based diet will ensure piglets meet their growth potential in an sustainable and economic way, and this will help to reduce the weight loss at weaning.

The returns will appear in the grower finisher period, when piglets are able to effectively digest and utilise nutrients provided to them.

For further information or a copy of the specific nutrient strategies, contact me at asno@danbred.com



JBS Australia chief executive officer Brent Eastwood.

## JBS Australia to acquire Rivalea

JBS Australia Group announced an agreement to acquire 100 percent of Rivalea Holdings Pty Ltd and 100 percent of Oxdale Dairy Enterprise Pty Ltd – together Rivalea – from Singapore-listed food company QAF Limited.

Rivalea Holdings owns two subsidiaries incorporated in Australia namely, Rivalea (Australia) Pty Ltd, and is a majority shareholder in Diamond Valley Pork Pty Ltd.

Rivalea is a leading vertically integrated pork producer and processor with operations in both NSW and Victoria, supporting high quality pork production for the Australian domestic and international export markets.

JBS Australia chief executive officer Brent Eastwood said JBS plans to invest significantly in the Rivalea business to expand opportunities for both fresh and value-added Australian pork products in domestic and international markets.

"Rivalea is a leader in the Australian pork sector with a strong

team and track record of sustainable pork production," Mr Eastwood said.

"JBS Australia is committed to building on these strong foundations and growing the business through new opportunities for Australian grown pork."

"Our acquisition of Rivalea will enable us to expand into the breeding, growing, fattening and finishing of pigs – an area where JBS Australia does not currently operate."

"We intend to grow the use of domestic pork in JBS Australia's operations, particularly within our Primo business, through further value-adding and processing, while unlocking new opportunities for Australian pork in interna-

tional export markets.

"JBS has a long and proud history of supporting and growing its Australian businesses – investing heavily in its local operations and domestic brands, while at the same time providing employment opportunities and supporting the regional economies in which we operate."

JBS Australia looks forward to working closely with Rivalea's management and workforce, existing customers, suppliers and contractors once the transaction is approved.

The acquisition is subject to relevant regulatory approvals including the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Foreign Investment Review Board.



Rivalea is a leading pork producer and processor with operations in both NSW and Victoria.



A healthy gut is the key to a healthy pig. Photo: Dan Renco

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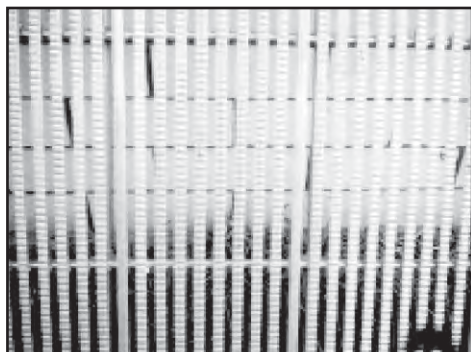
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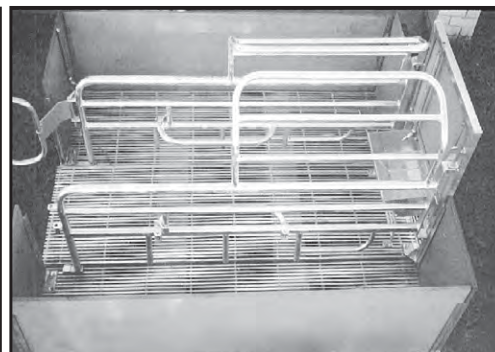
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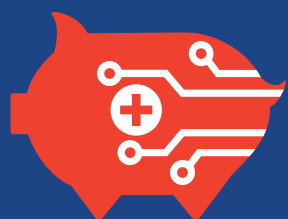
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# Recap on June - grower and finisher performance

GROWERS and finishers consume a significant amount of a piggery's feed.

This makes the right nutrition and management vital to optimising growth, feed efficiency, and carcass quality to maximise profit for the producer.

During June, we shared opportunities to improve the performance of your grower and finisher pigs.

## Dietary lysine for finisher pigs

Finisher pigs have an increased requirement for amino acids to allow for lean growth.

Feeding below the recommended levels of amino acids – especially lysine – can result in reduced growth.

However, feeding above required levels can affect the cost of feed.

Research has suggested



Producer Relations

by RACHAEL BRYANT



that received the second vaccination six weeks before slaughter, while still effectively controlling boar taint.

Note, Improvac is a veterinary prescription product and should only be used in the way described with veterinary approval, because it does go against the manufacturer's instructions.

## Feeding female grower pigs betaine to reduce backfat

Betaine is used as a supplement in pig diets and is demonstrated to reduce the impact of heat stress when included in summer lactation diets.

However, recent research has found a benefit to including betaine in the diets of female grower pigs.

Adding betaine to the female grower diets at 0.1 percent from 10-16 weeks of age is an economical strategy to reduce backfat thickness and so reduce penalties at processing.

For technical information on any of these topics, contact Dr Rebecca Athorn at [rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au](mailto:rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au)

For a copy of the final reports or factsheets associated with any of these, contact Rowena Davis at [rowena.davis@australianpork.com.au](mailto:rowena.davis@australianpork.com.au)

Next month's theme will be reducing energy costs.



that lysine requirements differ for male and female finishers, and also differ for different weights of pigs.

The growth performance of both females and immunocastrated male pigs from 60-90kg does not appear to be enhanced when lysine concentrations are higher than 0.64g of available lysine/MJ of digestible energy.

Other factors that affect

amino acid requirements should also be considered, including genetics and feed intake.

## Decreasing gain in P2 backfat with the second Improvac vaccination timing

The Improvac vaccine is an effective way to manage boar taint in pigs, thereby improving pork eating quality.

It also reduces the incidence of injuries, improving animal welfare and reducing the level of trimming needed at market.

But while the second vaccination has been shown to increase feed intake and weight gain, it also causes an increase in P2 backfat depth.

Adjusting the timing of this second vaccine however, can reduce a gain in P2 backfat.

Giving the Improvac vaccine two weeks before slaughter results in an average P2 fat depth of 2.5mm lower than pigs



Growers and finishers consume a significant amount of a piggery's feed.

# Jail time and stronger fines for biosecurity breaches

THE Australian Government is sending a clear message to those who put Australia's biosecurity at risk, with legislation passing Parliament recently, giving courts access to higher penalties that reflect the true seriousness of non-compliance.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said the proposed Biosecurity Amendment (Strengthening Penalties) Act 2021 will increase the penalties for 28 civil and criminal provisions under the Biosecurity Act 2015.

"The Australian Government is committed to a strong biosecurity system that protects Australian agriculture and jobs, grows our exports and, importantly, maintains our environment and lifestyle from devastating pests and diseases, which we can insure against with the correct system in place," Minister Littleproud said.

"The new legislation sends a clear message to individuals and companies who put at risk Australia's \$66 billion agriculture industry and over \$1 trillion in environmental assets by contravening the Biosecurity Act 2015.

"Upscaling penalties brings urgently needed reform to ensure the punishment fits the crime for those who intentionally put Australia's environment, animal, plant and human health at risk.

"If you intentionally contravene Australia's biosecurity laws, you could now cop significant jail time and a bigger fine of up to \$1.11 million.

"These penalties are on top of those that came into effect in January and we have also sent 14 travellers packing at their own expense."

Pests such as brown marmorated stink bug have the potential to decimate crops and do untold damage to Australia's natural environment and pose a continual threat.

"Highly contagious animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease would be devastating for Aussie farmers, agricultural industries, our trade, environment and economy if there were an outbreak," Minister Littleproud said.

"The increased maximum penalties reflect the seriousness impact contraventions may inflict on our biosecurity status, market access and economy.

"In some cases, they are up to eight times the current penalty.

"They are no longer merely a cost of doing business.

"The amendments focus on individuals and businesses, such as commercial importers and biosecurity industry participants, that have a particular responsibility to know and understand their obligations under the Act and take necessary steps to comply with the law.

"The message is clear – comply with Australia's biosecurity requirements or feel the full force of the law."

The new penalties build on the response to recommendations in the Inspector-General of Biosecurity's 2017 review into the effectiveness of biosecurity controls for the import of uncooked prawn and prawn products.

Find out more about Biosecurity Amendment (Strengthening Penalties) Act 2021 at [aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bId=r6671](http://aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r6671)

Before importing into Australia, check what you need to do by visiting [agriculture.gov.au/import](http://agriculture.gov.au/import)

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



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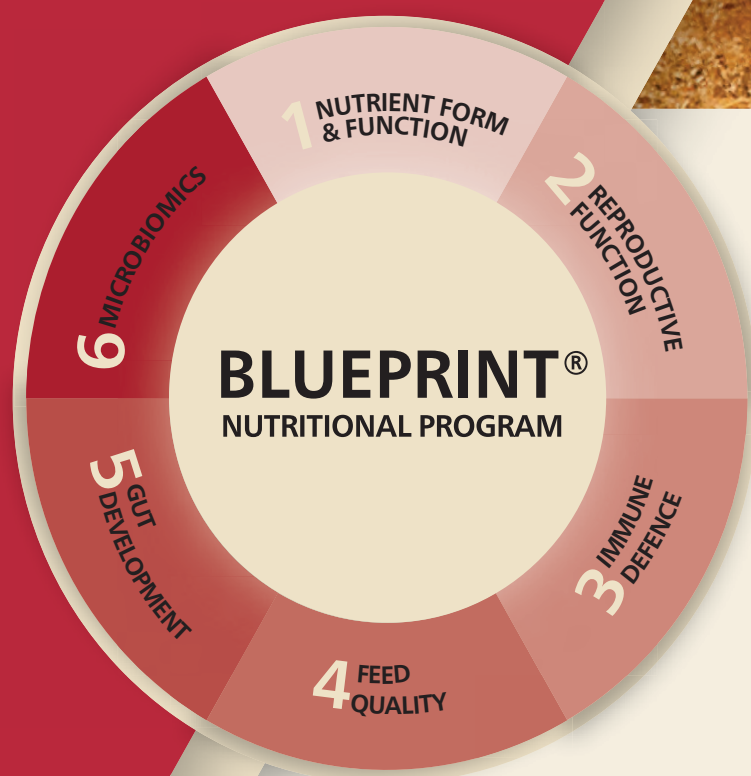
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# Meat packing giant JBS bids for Australia's Rivalea and global dominance

WHEN the world's biggest meat processing giant, Brazil's JBS, pipped a large family-owned Australian business in a bidding war for one of the country's largest pork producers, it blindsided the industry and became a lightning rod for food supply issues.

The June 8 purchase of Rivalea for \$175 million – subject to regulatory approval from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Foreign Invest-

ment Review Board – will make JBS the biggest pork producer in the country.

Its dominance created disquiet in the industry and left rival Rivalea bidder BE Campbell "disappointed."

BE Campbell chief executive officer and co-founder Ted Campbell told the Australian Financial Review he shared industry concerns about the impact JBS' purchase would have on the Australian pork industry, particularly in relation to competition.

"We've always been a strong supporter of the independent family-owned farms in our industry and I think they should be very concerned about what the next five to 10 years could look like with a multinational entering our industry, which is an intensive farming space," Mr Campbell said.

Singapore's QAF appointed Rabobank to lead the sale process more than a year ago.

Campbell wouldn't be drawn on the bidding process, but his company's

bid is believed to have been highly competitive and BE Campbell was surprised by the outcome.

In the past 15 years, JBS has been expanding its footprint in Australia to become the biggest meat and food producing operator in the country and a major supplier to supermarkets.

Its Australian empire includes a vast network of processing, export and feedlot operations, as well as the largest small-goods manufacturer Primo Foods, Andrews Meat Industries, Tasman Group, Rockdale Beef and Australian Meat Holdings.

It will be interesting to see how FIRB handles JBS' Rivalea acquisition after an overhaul of Australia's foreign investment rules earlier this year, which was heralded by the government as the most significant in almost 50 years.

The changes followed a dismal track record where FIRB became little more than a rubber stamp for foreign purchases, some with disastrous consequences.

For instance, in 2017-18 FIRB made decisions on more than 11,000 proposals worth \$163 billion, with \$16.6 billion manufacturing, electricity and gas assets.

Of all the submissions, only five were rejected.

Its biggest clanger was approval of the sale of the country's biggest dairy farm Van Dairy to Chinese owners that were recently outed over animal welfare abuse claims and serious regulatory breaches due to overstocking of cattle that caused effluent systems to fail, damaging nearby waterways.

FIRB has the power to investigate whether the Rivalea tender process was conducted openly and transparently as part of its evaluation of the transaction.

Under FIRB guidelines, approval will not be given if "Australian investors were not offered an equal opportunity to invest in that land-entity through an open and transparent sale process."

The Rivalea deal is also subject to ACCC approval.

The competition watchdog waved through previous acquisitions by JBS without a hitch.

The most high-profile was JBS' purchase of Primo for \$1.45 billion, which attracted a series of submissions from industry participants including farmers and customers concerned it

would lessen competition.

The ACCC approved the deal on the basis it was unlikely to raise significant competition concerns, but chairman Rod Sims said the commission was "wary of the potential impact of further consolidation of abattoirs" and would "continue to monitor this industry, and any future acquisitions will face additional scrutiny."

There will undoubtedly be a lobbying on both sides, particularly as industry concentration has become a hot political issue globally.

The recent global cyber-attack on JBS amplified the dangers of too much industry concentration when it was forced to shut down sites, albeit for a few days.

**Adele Ferguson**  
First appeared in the Australian Financial Review.

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## NFF welcomes new UK/Australia FTA

AUSTRALIA'S National Farmers Federation has hailed the UK/Australia trade agreement as a new beginning.

The proposed deal is the first trade agreement reached by the UK following its separation from the European Union last year and will guarantee tariff-free quota-free access to the UK market for all agricultural products, after phase-in periods of up to 15 years.

NFF president Fiona Simson said this was a

significant leap forward in Australia's market access and should be a new beginning in a relationship between two countries with a long history.

"Australian and UK farmers share a commitment to meeting the highest standards when it comes to caring for their land and their livestock, and that commitment shows in the quality of our produce," Ms Simson said.

"UK customers will benefit from the increased availability of high-

quality Australian products on their supermarket shelves, alongside their homegrown options.

"The UK deal will create new opportunities for Australian farmers as we work towards growing industry output to \$100 billion by 2030."

However, the NFF has cautioned that action on a dedicated agriculture visa can no longer be delayed.

"We are encouraged by the commitments to development of an agribusiness visa and a specific ag

worker visa," Ms Simson said.

"This is an issue we have championed for several years and while there have been tweaks and amendments to the visa regime, we simply must have a visa that is designed for the agriculture sector rather than the retro-fitted schemes we currently have."

The ag visa must not only make up for the shortfall in backpacker farm labour but address the growing shortage of farm workers.

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# AJ Bush upgrades for safer improved operating efficiencies and reduced odours

AJ Bush & Sons (Manufactures) are one of Australia's largest east coast protein recovery provider operating rendering and manufacturing plants in NSW and Queensland.

The plants specialise in processing animal by-products for the meat butchery industry.

The NSW Riverstone plant's collection area, in addition to Sydney metro, ranges from Nowra in the south to Canberra, Dubbo and Bathurst inland, and up to Newcastle and Tamworth in the north.

The material collected is recycled into products used for livestock, pet food, aquaculture, fertiliser and biofuels.

AJ Bush's Riverstone plant has undergone numerous upgrades over the years, aligning with company goals of minimising waste, reducing the risk of pollution and odour, and continuous improvement in providing a safe work environment for employees.

As part of this program, plant engineer Nick Lawrence contacted Hydro Innovations for advice and assistance in replacing aging surface-floating aerators on their wastewater treatment system.

Nick wanted an aeration system that could be monitored and maintained from the lagoon banks – providing a safe environment that operators can attend to maintenance from – and keep the aeration system at peak operational efficiency.

Hydro Innovations proposed a Venturi Aeration

system as an alternative to traditional surface-floating aerators, which have always been considered difficult and potentially hazardous to service or maintain.

These surface aerators are usually connected to lagoon bank by cables and generally require operators to 'paddle out' in a small boat to carry out any work.

It was emphasised that by using Venturi Aerators, asset owners could minimise workplace health and safety risks and reduce maintenance and operating costs when compared with surface-floating aerators.

Venturi Aerators can produce the desired level of mixing and dissolved oxygen with all the equipment located on the banks of lagoons – not in or on them.

The rendering plant had been operating five floating units and when one of these failed it was decided to install a Venturi Aeration system to trial the effectiveness and operation of the system.

After only a month of operation, significant results were achieved, especially in reducing surface scum, maintaining required dissolved oxygen levels, improving operating efficiencies and contributing to lower odour levels.

The other obvious benefit of the newly installed 'bank-mounted' Venturi Aeration system is the ability to quickly, safely and easily inspect the system or make any adjustments to the operation of the equipment if required, ensuring a completely safe working environment for operators.

Nick was pleased with the results and is considering replacing the balance of the old system to bank-mounted Venturi Aerators.

**What is a Venturi Aerator?**

A Venturi Aerator is a device used to mix and aerate tanks, ponds and lagoons.

It uses Bernoulli's principle, whereby a low-pressure area is created by an accelerated fluid.

The Venturi Aerator is used in conjunction with a self-priming pump.

The pump draws water from the source and pumps it into the Venturi Aerator.

Within the Venturi Aerator, there is an 'acceleration zone' where the pumped fluid is accelerated, creating a low-pressure area in the 'aspirating zone'.

Here it draws in atmospheric air at the rate of 2.2 times the rate of the fluid being pumped.

The air and water then passes into the 'mixing

and oxidation zone' where the wastewater and air are mixed under pressure.

The turbulent mixing facilitates the removal of substances with weak Henry's law solubility constants, such as carbon dioxide and volatile organic compounds.

It also oxidises sulphur containing molecules such as hydrogen sulphide and mercaptans for effective odour and corrosion control, as well as reducing the size of organic molecules.

The fluid – saturated with dissolved oxygen – is then pumped back into the source.

Because of the nature of the system – using a self-priming pump – mixing and destratification is controlled by the positioning of the suction and discharge of the pump.

Water can therefore be drawn from anywhere and at any depth of the tank or lagoon and can be discharged anywhere at any depth.

For more information, visit [hydroinnovations.com.au](http://hydroinnovations.com.au) or call 02 9898 1800.

# JBS paid \$14.2 million in ransomware attack

JBS, the world's largest meat producer, paid a \$14.2 million ransom following a five-day cyberattack that disrupted its North American and Australian operations.

Sites in the US and Canada were forced to shut down as were 47 locations in Australia.

The company paid the money to mitigate any unforeseen issues related to the attack and to ensure no data was covertly extracted.

The subsidiary of Brazilian firm JBS SA halted slaughtering at all of its US plants for a day in response to the cyberattack, which threatened to disrupt food supply chains and further inflate already high food prices.

The cyberattack followed a hack last month on Colonial Pipeline, the largest fuel pipeline in the US.

It disrupted fuel delivery for several days in the southeast of the US.

Ransom software works by encrypting victims' data.

Typically, hackers will offer the victim a key in return for cryptocurrency payments that can run into hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars.

The FBI reported it was investigating about 100 different types of ransomware.

JBS meat plants recovered faster than meat buyers and analysts expected.

JBS USA chief executive officer Andre Nogueira said, "This was a very difficult decision to make for our company and for me personally."

"However, we felt this decision had to be made to prevent any potential risk for our customers."

The Brazilian meat packer's arm in the US and Pilgrim's Pride Corp – a US chicken company mostly owned by JBS – lost less than one day's

worth of food production.

Third parties are carrying out forensic investigations and no final determinations have been made.

Preliminary probe results show no company, customer or employee data was compromised in the attack.

Apparently a Russia-linked hacking group, one of the most specialised and sophisticated cybercriminal groups in the world, is behind the cyberattack against JBS.

The Russia-linked cyber gang goes by the name REvil and Sodinokibi.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that the JBS ransom payment was made in bitcoin.

On Monday June 7 \$2.3 million in cryptocurrency ransom paid by Colonial Pipeline was recovered by the Justice Department, cracking down on hackers who launched the attack.

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### Assistant Manager

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The successful applicant will need to have sound pig experience as they will be responsible for the general welfare of the boars.

Previous experience with management of staff would be preferred.

The role will be very hands-on and will include some rostered Sundays. The position will also require you to organise staff and liaise with customers, suppliers and other management.

To be eligible for the role you must hold a current drivers' licence and be an Australian resident.

An attractive salary package will be negotiated dependent on experience.

Any enquiries about the position please contact Graham on 0427 842 628 or email the above address.



Apiam's Data Pig works on farm, hand in hand with producers backed up by their veterinarians. Producers own and control their own data and access to where it is securely stored in the cloud.

## Apiam Data Pig first responder in biosecurity battle

DATA Pig, a novel electronic recording system developed by Apiam Animal Health, will be at the forefront of protecting Australia's \$5 billion pork industry from potential decimation caused by dreaded incursions of exotic diseases such as African swine fever and foot and mouth disease.

Apiam's team of swine veterinarians have spent four years and more than \$1 million developing the technology and user-friendly delivery platform, which is being rolled out nationally.

Managing director and veterinarian Chris Richards said Data Pig will enhance the Australian pig industry's disease surveillance capabilities by allowing real time monitoring of clinical signs of disease, treatment events and mortalities.

"The success of eradicating diseases such as African swine fever, foot and mouth disease and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, if they were to land here, is intimately linked to the time lag from incursion to detection and then to identification," Dr Richards said.

"A proven and tested resource such as Data Pig, which works on farm, hand in hand with producers backed up by their veterinarians, will initially be the canary in the coalmine and then first responder."

A member of Australian Pork Limited's biosecurity review panel and African swine fever advisory panel, Dr Richards has spent 20 years as a veterinary leader in the pig industry.

Today, Apiam Animal Health is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and is Australia's

largest regional and rural veterinary network, incorporating 38 veterinary clinics and 56 locations across the pig, dairy, feedlot, sheep, poultry, equine and companion animal sectors and employing more than 200 industry leading veterinarians.

Data Pig's nationwide rollout will assist pork producers in partnership with their veterinarians to upscale record keeping, enhance antimicrobial stewardship, better monitor pig health and treatments in real-time and improve quality assurance and compliance.

According to Apiam swine business manager Tom Harrison, Data Pig will accomplish this by more accurately recording medication administration, using PowerBI reports for real time monitoring, integrating veterinary approved medication lists and generating Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program compliant digital records.

The pen-side application synchronises with veterinary prescribed medication lists and provides accurate medical treatments and dosage instructions based on animal class, numbers and clinical signs of disease.

Dr Harrison said Apiam Animal Health, as a leading national veterinary service provider with extensive swine experience, focussed on shaping the best possible future for Australia's pig industry, which included delivering best practice animal health and welfare outcomes.

"To help achieve this, Data Pig comes with a suite of customisable reports to analyse health and production events, monitor trends and enhance biosecurity and

surveillance systems," Dr Harrison said.

Apiam project manager for the system, Sam Weekes – who has been involved with the on-farm trials for the past year – said that Data Pig's user-friendly technology, including real-time visibility of treatment data, had already generated positive responses and early adoption by producers and piggery workers.

"While sometimes onerous manual recording and frequent personal interaction with veterinarians has been the traditional pathway to satisfying regulatory and veterinary requirements, Data Pig offers a refresh as a streamlined, remotely accessible electronic data recording system," Dr Weekes said.

"Adopting Data Pig solves the dilemma posed by distance and isolation, while effectively bringing pork producers and their veterinarians closer together to work in a more controlled, precise virtual workplace to ensure compliance and improve health, productivity and profitability of pig herds."

Data Pig is available on a range of iOS and android devices, with seamless on-line and offline operation.

The Data Pig platform synchronises with the individual herd health plans producers have established with their veterinarians.

Each producer owns and controls their own data and access to where it is securely stored in the cloud.

For further information about Data Pig, producers can contact Dr Tom Harrison at Apiam Animal Health on 03 5445 5999, 0428 668 266 or email [tom.harrison@apiam.com.au](mailto:tom.harrison@apiam.com.au)

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# Popular pork snack could help develop safe food preservative

RESEARCHERS have identified a bacteria-killing compound in Nem Chua, a traditional Vietnamese snack, that could help address both food waste and food-borne illnesses.

Food waste is a global issue that costs around \$A900 billion annually in industrialised countries, consumes nearly a quarter of the water used in agriculture and produces 8 percent of global greenhouse emissions.

Food-borne diseases such as listeria or salmonella affect millions each year and can be life threatening for pregnant women, older people and those who are immunocompromised.

But researchers at RMIT University in Melbourne have identified a bacteria-killing compound in Nem Chua that could help address these issues.

The fermented pork snack Nem Chua is eaten raw but does not cause food poisoning when prepared correctly.

This is because friendly bacteria that thrive in the fermented meat make a special compound that destroys more dangerous bacteria.

Now researchers have shown how this natural bacteria-killing compound could be used to keep food fresh for longer.

Associate dean of biosciences and food technology at RMIT Professor Oliver Jones said changes in consumer habits have led to a greater demand for natural alternatives to artificial food preservatives.

"Scientists have known about these bacteria-killing compounds for many years, but the challenge is to produce them in large enough quantities to be used by the food industry," Prof Jones said.

"The Nem Chua compound is colourless, odourless, tasteless and very resilient.

"Through this new research, we've identified the right growth conditions that would enable us to make it in large amounts, potentially at industrial scales.

"With further development, we hope this could be an effective, safe and all-natural solution for both food waste and food-borne disease."

## Bacteria-killing weapon

A team of RMIT researchers was inspired to investigate Nem Chua for its potential antibacterial properties after travelling to Vietnam and observing people eating the raw meat snack without getting sick, despite the hot and humid climate.

The team, led by Professor Andrew Smith – now at Griffith University – and Dr Bee May, discovered a new type of bacteria-killing compound in Nem Chua.

Plantacyclin B21AG is one of a group of compounds known as bacteriocins, which are produced by bacteria to destroy rival bacterial strains.

Bacteriocins form holes in the membranes of target bacteria.

This causes the contents of the cell to leak out – effectively killing the bacteria.

The problem is most bacteriocins only work against one or two types of bacteria and they are not very stable in different environmental conditions.

Only one – Nisin, which came to market in the 1960s – is currently licensed for use as a food preservative, in a market estimated to be worth more than \$A680 million in 2020, but this compound is temperature and pH sensitive limiting its use.

The Nem Chua-derived compound is more robust than Nisin and is effective against a wide range of bacteria even after exposure to a range of environments typical in food processing.

It can survive being heated to 90C for 20 minutes and remains stable across high and low pH levels.

The compound can also destroy a range of disease-causing organisms commonly found in food including potentially life-threatening listeria, which can survive refrigeration and even freezing.

Co-lead researcher Dr Elvina Parlindungan, who completed the new study as part of her PhD research at RMIT, is now a postdoctoral fellow at APC Microbiome, part of University College Cork in Ireland.

"Using bacteriocins as

food preservatives effectively means we are turning bacteria's own toxic weapons against them – harnessing nature's smart solutions to tackle our big challenges," Dr Parlindungan said.

"In the future, these compounds might also be useful as an antibiotic in human medicine."

Researchers at RMIT's school of science have begun experimenting with methods to further purify the compound and are planning to incorporate it into test food products.



Professor Oliver Jones at RMIT University in Melbourne said changes in consumer habits have led to a greater demand for natural alternatives to artificial food preservatives.

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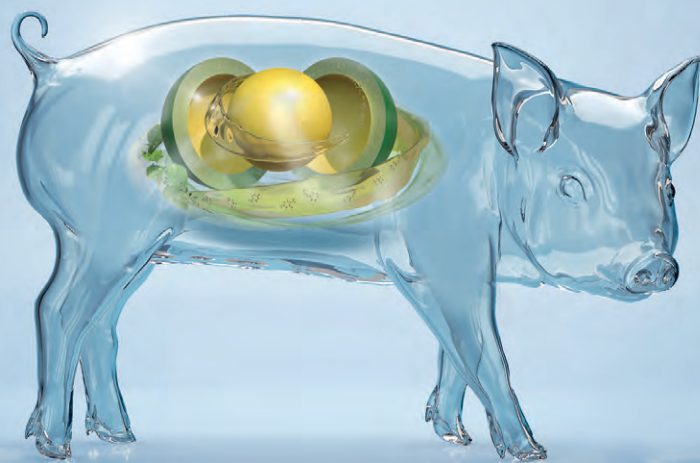
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**CID LINES**



# Slurry pump service made easy

PIGGERIES, dairies, even saleyards and feedlots all face a continuous problem of moving effluent efficiently and safely.

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A specialist in electric motor-driven heavy duty self-priming centrifugal pumps, Aussie Pumps has developed designs that are both innovative and have real benefits in terms of reducing maintenance costs.

A classic example is Aussie's big 6" and 8" trash pumps.

These machines – featuring huge unique-design non-clog style impellers – will easily handle solids of up to 50mm in the 6" and 70mm in the 8" configuration.

The big heavy duty cast-iron pumps are also designed to be more efficient, allowing major savings to operators in terms of power consumption.

## Preventive maintenance a must

Even big trash pumps can clog, which is why Aussie incorporates a

front opening port, located below the suction inlet flange.

The easily accessible clean-out port enables the operator to promptly clean the inside of the pump bowl in the event of a clog or to carry out inspections of the internals without dismantling the pump.

Aussie Pumps' chief engineer John Hales said, "Our experience with abattoirs, piggery operators and other livestock waste applications is that preventative maintenance and inspections are essential."

Simple checks should be carried out on a weekly

basis or when the pump is operating continuously on a 24-hour cycle.

Aussie's big trash handling pumps are claimed to represent first-class value for money.

As an example, the 8" pump has the capacity to handle 7500L per minute flow and sells for well under \$30,000.

"That's a lot of money but represents top value for a world quality product of its calibre," Mr Hales said.

Taking the trouble to check regularly for leaks at the seal end of the pump and doing a visual inspection – including the traditional vibration check of putting your hand on the pump to feel for any excessive movements and to listen for any unusual noises coming from the unit – can prevent major catastrophic failures, if pumps are allowed to "run themselves to death," Mr Hales said.

Aussie's new 6" and 8" big pumps come on a heavy duty base plate with a long-coupled electric motor driving through a pedestal-mounted double-bearing arrangement.

The pumps are four pole with pumps and motors

running at 1450rpm.

Motors are IP55 and feature integrated demisters.

"When it comes to priming, it's simple," Mr Hales said.

"All the operator needs to do is to fill the pump bowl with water through the priming plug, making sure the suction line is air tight and suitably submerged.

"Then start the motor and, having purged the bowl of liquid on start-up, the vacuum created will draw liquid up through the suction line into the pump bowl.

"It's so simple and avoids the use of submersibles that can be a major headache when they have to be hauled out of the pit for service."

A brand-new Aussie GMP selection guide is now available for piggery operators.

It is on the website but also free of charge in hard-copy format, providing piggeries with a handy selection guide.

For more information, contact Aussie Pumps on 02 8865 3500, aussiepumps.com.au or an authorised distributor located around Australia.



Aussie's big pumps are world quality at a value packed price.

## New medicines and poisons regulations for Queensland

**pork**  
QUEENSLAND INC.

President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



QUEENSLAND agricultural industries will need to comply with a new set of regulations around the use of medicines and poisons from September this year.

This follows the establishment of the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 and the underpinning regulations governing their use.

Pork Queensland Inc – in collaboration with SunPork, the Riverbend Pork Group and the Stockfeed Manufacturers Council of Australia – has facilitated an intensive animal industry technical working group to review the draft regula-

tions, and provide feedback and recommendations to Queensland Health, who have introduced the legislation.

The proposed regulations will have impacts across feed production, transport and storage where medicines are included.

This will include stockfeed suppliers and home millers.

The use, storage and prescribing of medicines for farm animals will also be addressed in the new regulations.

PQI together with Queensland Farmers' Federation and associated intensive animal industries have engaged extensively with Queensland Health to ensure compliance issues are addressed in terms as practical as possible.

The Queensland pork industry was well represented by Dr Kirsty Richards and Dr Andrew Morris – industry veterinarians – and supported by Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia executive officer Duncan Rowland and myself from PQI.

Representatives from feedlots, dairy and chicken meat, and egg industries were also consulted to identify any specific concerns.

While there are a number of issues being debated with the regulators still – including the development of regulation guidelines to assist the introduction of the new legislation – it is expected that current good manufacturing practices for stock feed and the existing approved use of veterinary medicines will not be significantly impacted.

Both government agencies and industry will provide further advice on the requirements of the regulations to ensure a smooth introduction and adoption of any new requirements.

PQI will assist in the circulation of information and explanation of requirements.

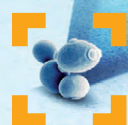
A final thanks to the members of the technical working group for the considerable time provided over the past month on the detail of impacts and practical solutions to new regulatory requirements.

Call me on 0407 622 166 for more detail on the impacts of these new regulations on your business.

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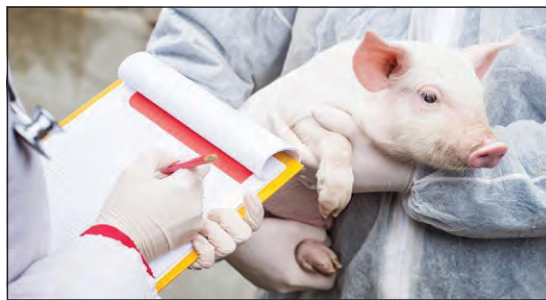
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Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility.

## Biosecurity and animal health risks

BIOSECURITY is everyone's responsibility.

This was the message delivered to the members of Animal Health Australia last month on Australia's biosecurity futures.

In his address, CSIRO senior principal research scientist Dr Andy Sheppard stated that for Australia to maintain its enviable global reputation as the most bio-secure trading nation, transformative change was needed.

But to get there, it would take a partnership approach between community, government and industry.

Since 2019, African swine fever preparedness and response has been a key focus for Australian Pork Limited and the pork industry.

This spans contingency planning, task groups and involvement in a series of Ausvetplan manuals and PigPass procedures.

The extent of this collaboration has strengthened the pork industry's resolve against ASF, but the biosecurity environment shifts constantly.

Over the past three years, the emergence and spread of exotic animal disease within our region has seen an escalation of biosecurity threats at Australia's doorstep.

In a recent presentation,



Policy Perspective

by CHARLEY-ROSE FORD



the Australian chief veterinary officer Dr Mark Schipp reported on a rapid structured expert judgement session, facilitated by the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis.

This exercise estimated a 42 percent probability of an outbreak of African swine fever, lumpy skin disease, African horse sickness or foot and mouth disease in Australia within the next five years.

The probability of an ASF or FMD incursion was estimated at 21 percent and 9 percent respectively.

However, an outbreak of any of these diseases, regardless of the species affected would impact the pork industry directly or indirectly.

The implications of an outbreak of this magnitude would affect Australia's biosecurity reputation, tarnish trade relationships and

damage public perception of welfare and social license issues.

To ensure strong preparedness and response to any emergency animal disease, APL is taking a collaborative approach as directed by the APL evidence of absence annual work plan and broadening the scope beyond ASF.

As we face many threats on multiple fronts, a shared approach to biosecurity has never been more important.

The EAD operating environment has many stakeholders ranging from industry both pork and other livestock species, government and non-government agencies such as AHA.

APL aims to maintain and build these relationships to support a coordinated approach to EAD preparedness and in doing so create tools and resources to support industry.

## Introducing the newest APL team member

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited is pleased to welcome Rowena Davis to the producer relations team.

Rowena's role as the new extension officer was created to specifically translate research into practical commercialisation opportunities on farm.

Rowena holds a Bachelor of Animal Science from Charles Sturt University and comes to APL with strong technical and practical knowledge of pig production, gained during her studies and former employment at Rivalea Australia.

Her industry experience spans a variety of roles as stockperson, graduate, quality assurance officer for farming and most recently production supervisor.

Rowena's roles to date have allowed her to learn of the everyday challenges that producers face, take part in project work, be involved in the implementation of new on-farm practices, and manage the care and welfare of livestock while achieving production targets.

Her tertiary qualifications coupled with her experience communicating to a range of audiences will be an asset to our producers and the APL team.

As an extension officer, Rowena will be involved with the projects generated by the research and innovation team and other industry initiatives from the outset, ensuring the outcome for producers is beneficial.

From there Rowena and the producer relations team will be supporting producers to implement new initiatives and gain the benefits.

The methods of support for producers will include training resources, working with small groups of interested producers and on-farm consultation.

Rowena is genuinely excited by the opportunity of getting started in her new role with APL and contributing to the future of the Australian pork industry.

Rowena can be contacted on Rowena.Davis@australianpork.com.au or 0447 099 397.

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The Australasian Pig Science Association is pleased to announce that the 2021 APSA Biennial Conference will be held at the Sofitel Brisbane, QLD, Australia

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## CID LINES



## Debt repayment waiver boost

THE Australian Government continues to back farmers in hardship by passing legislation today that waives the majority of Farm Household Allowance debts caused when incorrectly estimating business income.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said this waiver draws a line under a complicated process and will help farmers get back on their feet and grow their businesses.

"Business income reconciliation debts result from asking farmers to make difficult predictions about their income for the year ahead," Minister Littleproud said.

"Acting in good faith, some farmers underestimated their income

and incurred a debt.

"With many farm household allowance recipients impacted by droughts, floods and bushfires in the last few years, these debts are the last thing they need."

Removing business income reconciliation was one of the recommendations the government adopted from the farmer-led review of the farm household allowance.

Since July 1, 2020, farmers and their partners no longer need to complete this process.

"This waiver will help Services Australia to expedite and resolve outstanding reconciliations and provide certainty to the farming community," Minister Littleproud said.

Farm household allowance recipients will have

until June 30, 2023 to provide documentation for processing.

This will determine whether they are eligible for a waiver, a refund or a top-up of their payments.

Former and current farm household allowance recipients who received payments between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020 should make sure all their taxation documentation is compiled and ready to give to Services Australia as soon as they ask for it.

Requests for this information are anticipated to be sent from early 2022.

More information about the farm household allowance can be found at [agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/farm-household-allowance](http://agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/farm-household-allowance)



Many farmers had fattened their pigs in anticipation of a recovery in pork prices.

## Obese pigs fuel slump in pork prices

OBESE pigs in China are being blamed for worsening a sudden slide in the country's pork prices.

In the hope the animals will generate higher returns should prices re-

bound, farmers have been fattening hogs since late last year to almost double their normal weight, with some reaching the size of a female polar bear.

Many of the swine pig

trader Cao Tao is buying weigh more than 200kg, compared with their usual size of around 125kg.

"Some farmers are holding onto their larger pigs on hopes of a price rebound," he said.

However, Chinese wholesale pork prices have dropped more than 40 percent since mid-January amid sluggish demand, increased imports and panic selling by farmers after fresh outbreaks of African swine fever.

The country's biggest pig breeder Muyuan Foods is expecting a continued drop in domestic hog prices, with the slump not bottoming out until next year or even 2023.

Bric Agriculture Group senior analyst Lin Guofa said many farmers had fattened their pigs in anticipation of a recovery in pork prices, but the sell-off of these large animals may be delaying a rebound in prices.

"When these farms sell together, the sell-off causes an explosive price slump," Mr Lin said.

According to him, farms in the southwest and south are still holding a large number of "cow-sized" pigs, which could be sold as the weather warms and

push down prices for a while yet.

China's hog herd was devastated by African swine fever in 2018 and, while numbers have recovered since then, a recent resurgence has driven up pork imports.

Though the number of hogs available for slaughter may take another four months to get back to normal, the agriculture ministry said the country's pig herd may recover to usual levels by July.

The impact of the obese hogs on pork prices is also being complicated by new rules that prohibit the transport of live pigs across the boundaries of five areas.

The regulations – aimed at combating the spread of African swine fever – are reshaping the market and leading to regional price differences.

A farmer in the northern city of Tianjin said her family wouldn't be breeding larger pigs after the price slump and had sold all of their animals that weighed more than 150kg.

The falling pork prices and high corn prices give poor returns on larger hogs as they eat more.

## ASF outbreaks continue to roil Indian pork sector

AFRICAN swine fever outbreaks are causing major disruptions in the Indian state of Mizoram, killing over 4600 pigs in two months.

Indian animal health authorities have logged 4650 ASF mortalities in pigs and piglets in two months in the state of Mizoram.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science Department joint director livestock health Dr Lalmingthanga said that the

outbreak had caused farm losses of over \$A3.31 million.

The first case of African swine fever was reported on March 21 in Lungsen, a village in South Mizoram near the border with Bangladesh.

Since this first case, the deadly pig disease has spread to nine districts across the state.

As of May 29, the official death toll from ASF stood at 4650 pigs.



African swine fever continued to wreak havoc in Mizoram, killing 4650 pigs and piglets in a little over two months.

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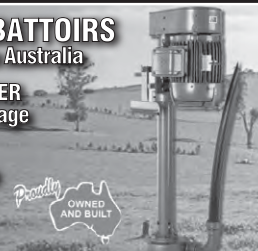
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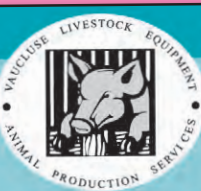


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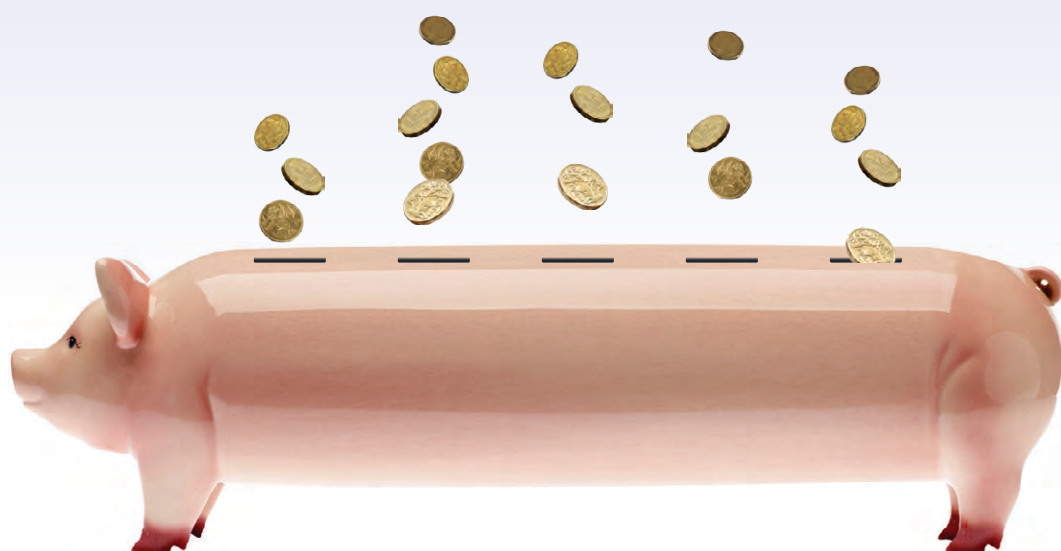
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