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Remaining vigilant and continuing to implement best-practice biosecurity standards is our best defence against emergency animal disease outbreaks.

Emergency animal disease update

RECENT months have seen the Australian pork industry heavily occupied with the outbreak of Japanese encephalitis virus across four of the eastern states – ongoing global emergency animal disease outbreaks are a timely reminder to remain vigilant, even in times of adversity.

Some neighbouring countries have been battling a combination of EAD outbreaks over the past couple of years, including African swine fever, African horse sickness and, most recently, foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease.

To date, ASF continues to impact pig populations around the world.

The World Organisation for Animal Health acknowledges that the events reported over the past year confirm the global threat of ASF.

ASF continues to spread in several regions, reaching new territories, with serious impacts on pig production

systems, animal health and welfare, as well as on livelihoods, food security and international trade.

Since January 2020, African swine fever has been reported globally in five regions, in 39 countries, affecting more than 1.115 million pigs and more than 35,000 wild boars, with more than 1.845 million animal losses.

Ongoing ASF disease events – for which there were no new outbreaks – continue to occur in the Republic of Korea and four European countries – Hungary, Italy, Latvia and Romania.

This year has seen the detection of ASF in wild boar on the mainland of Italy, the first occurrence of the disease in Baden-Württemberg Germany near the border to France, the first occurrence in Nepal, and the recurrence of ASF in Russia.

Detections of African swine fever in new territories pose the risk of

spreading to neighbouring countries.

Remaining vigilant and continuing to implement best-practice biosecurity standards is our best defence.

There is no cure for the disease.

However, the commercialisation of the first-ever vaccine against ASF in Vietnam sparks both interest and optimism in the global pig industry.

The Australian pork sector continues to monitor the roll-out of the ASF vaccine in Vietnam and maintains discussions with the Australian government regarding the importation of such emergency animal disease vaccines into Australia.

EAD resources available to producers

Biosecurity remains our strongest defence against emergency animal diseases such as ASF.

Resources available to producers can be accessed through australianpork.com.au/biosecurity

australianpork.com.au/biosecurity

A timely reminder for all producers – including Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program certified producers – to review their biosecurity management plans and operational contingencies.

Key resources to get producers started include:

- National Biosecurity Manual for Pork Production – farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Pork-Biosecurity-Manual-Update.pdf

- Biosecurity Management Plan template – australianpork.com.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-management-plan-and-resources#templates

- Operational Contingencies – australianpork.com.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-management-plan-and-resources#contingency_plans

Dr Jess van de Weyer
APL Emergency Animal Disease Policy Analyst

Annual operating plan 22-23

ANY strategic planning or creation of a directional document is accompanied with a renewed sense of purpose and focus.

And that's what I want to share with you this month, as we set Australian Pork Limited's 2022-23 annual operating plan.

It's been a common theme in recent times, however there has been no resolve in the number of obstacles and challenges facing our industry over the past 12 months.

As an industry, not only have we continued to navigate COVID-19 uncertainty, but we've also faced floods, extreme heat and a new threat in the form of an emergency animal disease – Japanese encephalitis virus.

Though, we have worked hard to maintain a strong position for our industry, and it's this sentiment that underpins the current operating environment and sets the scene for the basis of our AOP.

While our five-year strategic plan centres on 16 areas of focus categorised into five themes, the 2022-23 year sees us concentrating on three key priorities – EAD and biosecurity, driving innovation, and valuable provenance.

Focussing on EAD and biosecurity, our approach now needs to be and is much broader than solely African swine fever.

We've taken multiple learnings from JEV, of which our response was robust based on the foundations we had laid in the face of ASF.

This will only continue to strengthen, and our team has created an impactful aligned industry voice to advocate in the



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



space of biosecurity.

We're also working seriously towards further international collaborations and networking to bolster these responses.

Furthermore, we're extending our biosecurity work into peri-urban environments.

With the new government in place, we'll be building on our existing relationships to secure ongoing support.

Innovation is a firm and significant area of focus and links to the above by delivering a new approach to biosecurity management.

This includes the development of the transport app Pig Pass 2.0 and a focus on the health and well-being of our pigs.

Additionally, we're heavily focussed on providing data to support producers and decision making.

Over recent months, I've shared with you the work we're doing around 'telling our story', whether that be via industry advocates or showcasing our sustainability credentials.

With valuable provenance being a key area of priority, we'll be implementing activity that shares the story of our sector and product to give consumers reasons to celebrate Australian pork.

I'm excited to address multiple opportunities to progress the industry's

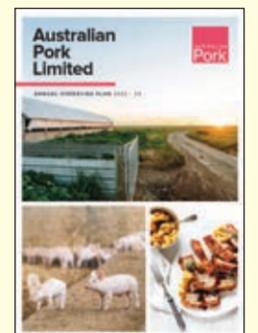
visibility through the 'story of pork' communications campaign in the year ahead.

Ultimately, this plan has been designed with APL's bold ambition of becoming Australia's preferred choice of protein and sustainably adding \$1 billion to farmgate value by 2025.

Operationally, we plan to ensure we continue to listen to industry and respond while ensuring we keep an eye on planning for the future.

Our AOP is available now at australianpork.com.au, alongside our strategic plan and sustainability framework.

And as always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact us at any time. 🐷



The 2022-23 year sees APL concentrating on three key priorities – emergency animal disease and biosecurity, driving innovation, and valuable provenance.



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**Pork Industry
Calendar of Events**

2022

JUL 10-13 – National Pork Industry Conference – Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI US <https://porkconference.com/>

AUG 3-5 – Qld Agworkforce Summit <https://www.qff.org.au/events/queensland-agworkforce-summit-2022/>

AUG 7 – Pig Day Out - Loki's Lodge - Memo Music Hall <https://www.memomusichall.com.au/memo-gig/pig-day-out/>

AUG 19-21 – Kingaroy Baconfest 2022 www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au

SEP 8-9 – Australian Pig Veterinarians Conference 2022 - Geelong, Victoria. <https://www.ava.com.au/education-events/sponsor-exhibit/about/?eid=EV001309>

2023

JAN 10-12 – Banff Pork Seminar - Banff, Canada. <https://www.banffpork.ca/>

JUN 4-7 – International Symposium on Emerging and Re-emerging Pig Diseases – IMPACT Forum - Bangkok, Thailand. <https://iserpd2023bangkok.com/>

JUN 7-9 – World Pork Expo - Iowa State Fairgrounds, US. <https://worldpork.org/>

NOV 13-16 – Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) Conference www.apsa.asn.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

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European Union bans zinc oxide

THE time is now upon us for the European Union ban on medicinal use of zinc oxide in pig production.

Meaning we need to have a new strategy for weaning piglets with minimal antibiotic consumption while maintaining animal welfare, minimum environmental impact and high productivity.

Last week, I attended the Zero Zinc summit – the second of its kind to be significantly delayed due to COVID-19.

Though many feed additives and other such products were presented, it is clear that there is no 'silver bullet' to substitute zinc oxide completely.

However, there are ways to manage this issue successfully, and with more experience throughout Europe and beyond, this will hopefully only improve.

Over two articles, I will summarise practical management that can be applied at farm level – which has proven successful in Denmark and the wider EU – separated into the perspectives of a veterinarian for this month and a production advisor in next month's issue.

Dr Claus Heisel and Jes Callesen presented a production concept for weaner pigs 6-30kg, which was developed in Denmark between veterinary company LVK and processor Danish Crown.

They stressed the influence of correct management on this issue, that in their opinion is critical regardless of diet composition.

While the importance of diet composition is indisputable, the cost of feed is only increasing around the world and, in comparison, management is not.

Dr Heisel stated that in his experience, since weaning without zinc oxide, there is more variation between batches, more breakdowns with diarrhoea – both feed and e coli related – and highlighted the absolute need to revisit management strategies and develop strict standard operating procedures.

Nordic News
by **ASHLEY NORVAL**



The challenges have been increased costs in labour and feed, reduced productivity levels and issues with the availability and quality of labour, with management routines, disease diagnosis, and control and weaning age or pig flow as barriers to the solution.

The five key solution areas to focus on are as follows:

Teamwork

Producers must set up their own team, which should include veterinarian support, a feed company and other consultants.

All must be onboard with the management plan and work together with all farm staff to achieve this.

Initially, a critical review needs to be conducted into the weaning strategy of the piglets and a plan developed between all parties to keep the focus and make systematic changes.

Diagnostics and disease control

An accurate program for disease prevention and quick control needs to be implemented.

It has been noted that there will be more clinical signs in the first week following weaning, rather than the two to three weeks when using medicinal zinc oxide.

Therefore, quick and accurate diagnosis can help to alleviate the problem.

Vaccination and control strategies should be implemented where possible and relevant, most commonly in Denmark being against e coli, ETEC F4/F18, shiga toxin-producing e coli edema disease, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, influenza, porcine circovirus 2, lawsonia, salmo-

nella, and rotavirus.

Management routines

Weaning starts in the farrowing crates and it is critical that the piglets are taught how to eat solid food themselves as early as possible for gut maturation.

Easy access to food and water is essential and the strategy in the farrowing house needs to include the following:

- Provide fresh solid and liquid feed for piglets, beginning at day four to six and increase to five to six times per day before weaning

- Add electrolytes to the water, also in creepers or troughs – while it doesn't have to be of high concentration, the sweetness attracts the piglets and it is more hygienic to maintain than milk products

- Incorporating floor

feeding can help with avoiding 'non-eaters' – piglets that will not investigate a trough or feeder at first – this way they can develop taste

- Acids should be included in the water or feed
- Water quality – ensure pressure is correct and check system regularly for biofilm.

Pigs should be weaned in pens that have been washed, disinfected and are at the correct temperature.

It is recommended to sort the pigs at weaning and again one to three weeks after weaning.

Dietary ingredients

Though the diet composition should reflect both the weight and age of the piglet, weight is the only accurate reference – as the exact age in days of the piglet is often not known.

First, crude protein should be reduced to 17-17.5 percent.

Weight gain may be compromised but with correct management, the pigs can make up for this later.

Once the 'safe' start-up levels have been applied, the protein can then be raised.

The use of highly digestible protein sources such

as plasma, milk and fish protein is important for small and young piglets that are less than 5-6kg and 21-23 days.

Though these ingredients are expensive, they are seen as the most efficient.

Weaning age and pig flow

Increasing the weaning age from 23 to 27 days can have a hugely positive impact on weaner performance, though the target for piglets should be 6kg at weaning – minimum 5kg – with smaller piglets at a much higher risk of compromised health.

In order to accommodate the change to the pig flow, a progestin – such as Altrenogest – can be used for gilts.

And adjust subsequent farrowings and weaned pigs per week, noting that it may be necessary to reduce the number of sows until the flow has been adjusted to the new strategy.

Extending out the weaning age takes considerable management but when applied has a very positive effect.

For more details on any of the information in this article, feel free to contact me at asno@danbred.com



A new strategy is needed for weaning piglets with minimal antibiotic consumption while maintaining animal welfare, minimum environmental impact and high productivity. Photo: Stefanie Poepken

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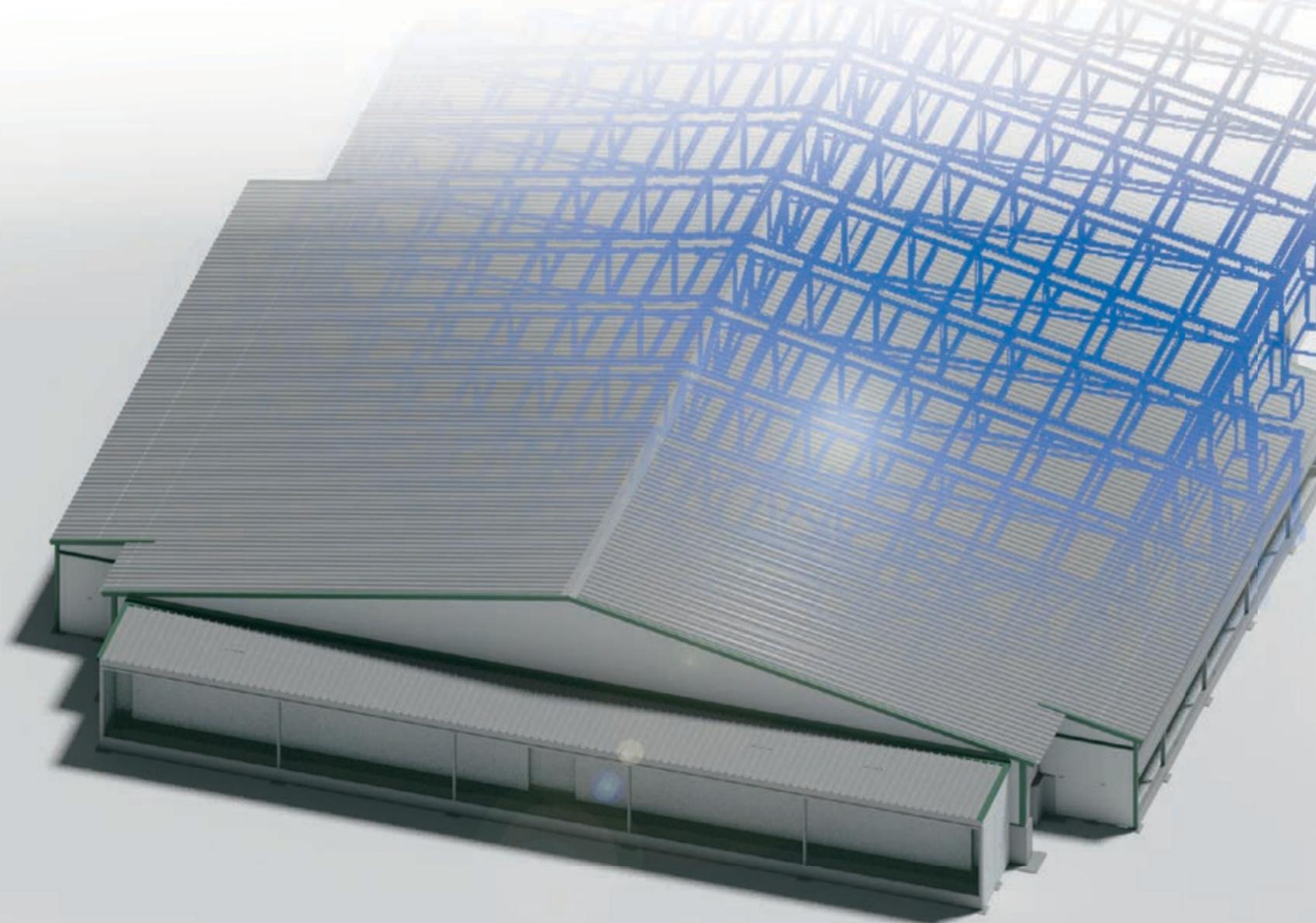


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Pork leg boneless from Aldi.



Boneless roast pork shoulder from Woolworths.



Pork fillet from Farmer Jack's. For all of these products, Australian pork labels generally give little or no detail of production systems.



Pork loin chops from Woolworths.

Truth in labelling with no porkies

GERMANY is considering labelling of all pork products with details differentiating five recognised rearing methods.

It won't matter if the pork is sold online, in farmers' markets or in supermarkets – all packaging will need to clearly nominate if the pigs were reared in what the Germans refer to as barn pens, barn pens with extra space, open-air barn pens, run and open land or organic.

The federal government's draft bill for new regulations covering animals includes four core elements – a mandatory label that specifies under what conditions animals were held, the renovation of stables and funding for such, adjustments in the building and licensing laws, and better regulations in the animal welfare law.

While Germany already has labels for fresh meat products in four similar categories, this is the first time such labelling would be legally binding.

Not surprisingly, the draft bill has copped criticism from farming bodies and consumer groups.

Some consumers don't believe the labels will make any difference, describing them as another label in the label jungle.

Agricultural expert at the German consumer organisation Foodwatch, Annemarie Botzki told Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle that it was basically a marketing measure to give consumers a good conscience and keep their consumption going.

And she labelled it deceptive, saying that consumers believed a higher method of rearing meant the animal was healthier.



Cant Comment
by BRENDON CANT

"And that is often not the case."

"Just because an animal has a bit of a larger stable doesn't mean it's healthier."

"They are still forced to perform on an extremely high level that often makes them sick," Ms Botzki said.

"A large fraction of animals, especially pigs, that are brought to slaughterhouses are in fact massively sick, with diseases ranging from pneumonia to inflamed organs, and these occur in any rearing method."

"They are standing in their own excrement in the stables and constantly breathing this in."

"They then develop ulcers and we also see many behavioural problems, such as biting ears and tails."

"All of that won't be changed by the labels."

Annually, approximately 13.6 million pigs in Germany die before they are slaughtered.

That's equivalent to one in five animals.

A University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover study showed that 13.2 percent of hogs and 11.6 percent of breeding pigs were expected to have experienced severe pain for a considerable time before they died.

Foodwatch is asking for regular health checks on farms because the only thing currently being checked is whether the meat is edible in the end.

"The health of the animals isn't a concern at all," Ms Botzki said.

"Even when a farmer consistently brings pigs to a slaughterhouse that are sick, have bitten themselves bloody, have abscesses and pneumonia, it has zero consequences for the farmer."

In future, Foodwatch wants farmers who consistently deliver sick animals to be sanctioned and those who deliver healthy animals to be rewarded.

On top of that, Ms Botzki is demanding that the three lowest rearing methods shouldn't be allowed on supermarket shelves.

My downunder 'Cant Comment' is that such packaging labelling would be a good start and should be the bare minimum.

Further, we would also need agreed definitions, and this is where the debate might fire up.

Essentially, all pig rearing systems need to be appropriately and regularly monitored, and need to meet fair and reasonable standards of animal welfare.

While I lean towards pasture-raised systems

because they at least offer pigs the best possible opportunity to display natural behaviours and instincts, I recognise there can still be inherent systemic welfare issues.

It all gets down to balance, as for most things in life.

But I do believe that industrial-scale intensive indoor pig farming tips the balance well and truly in favour of the almighty dollar at the expense of reasonable animal welfare.

Dare I conclude by repeating my final paragraph in last month's column... that is, "If you find this view unpalatable, take a moment to honestly check in with consumers and ask them what they'd prefer to spend their hard earned on, once you've given them the true facts about exactly what barren deprived lives pigs in industrial intensive systems really endure."

Footnote, Foodwatch is an independent non-profit organisation that exposes food-industry practices that are not in the interests of consumers.

Foodwatch fights for the right of consumers to know exactly what they are buying and to enjoy good food that is healthy and uncontaminated.

Foodwatch was founded in 2002 in Germany by former Greenpeace director Thilo Bode and has offices in Berlin, Amsterdam and Paris.

Its mission is to build a strong European campaign organisation that is represented in all major European Union member states and that provides consumer-focussed input into European legislative processes, advocating for more consumer rights.

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World Food Safety Day highlights food standards for better health

WORLD Food Safety Day was a chance to highlight Australia's role in producing clean safe nutritious food for consumption here and abroad.

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment deputy secretary David Hazlehurst said strong food safety standards are a key component of strong human health.

"Food safety saves lives," Mr Hazlehurst said.

"While there are lots of ways to ensure food

safety, a key part is having sound food regulation and international food standards that facilitate safe food trade.

"The department plays a significant role in ensuring food is safe for consumers, not just here in Australia but across the world."

"Given that Australia exports around 70 percent of its produce, it is important that we contribute strongly to the development of international food safety standards."

"That is why Australia

is part of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, or Codex – the international food standards setting body."

Codex Australia works with stakeholders both here and internationally to contribute to consumer food safety by ensuring international food standards are based on sound scientific principles and support the export of our safe produce to the world.

Australia's food safety standards are some of the highest in the world.

"We will continue to

do our part in creating strong food safety systems and ensuring safe food both in Australia and around the world," Mr Hazlehurst said.



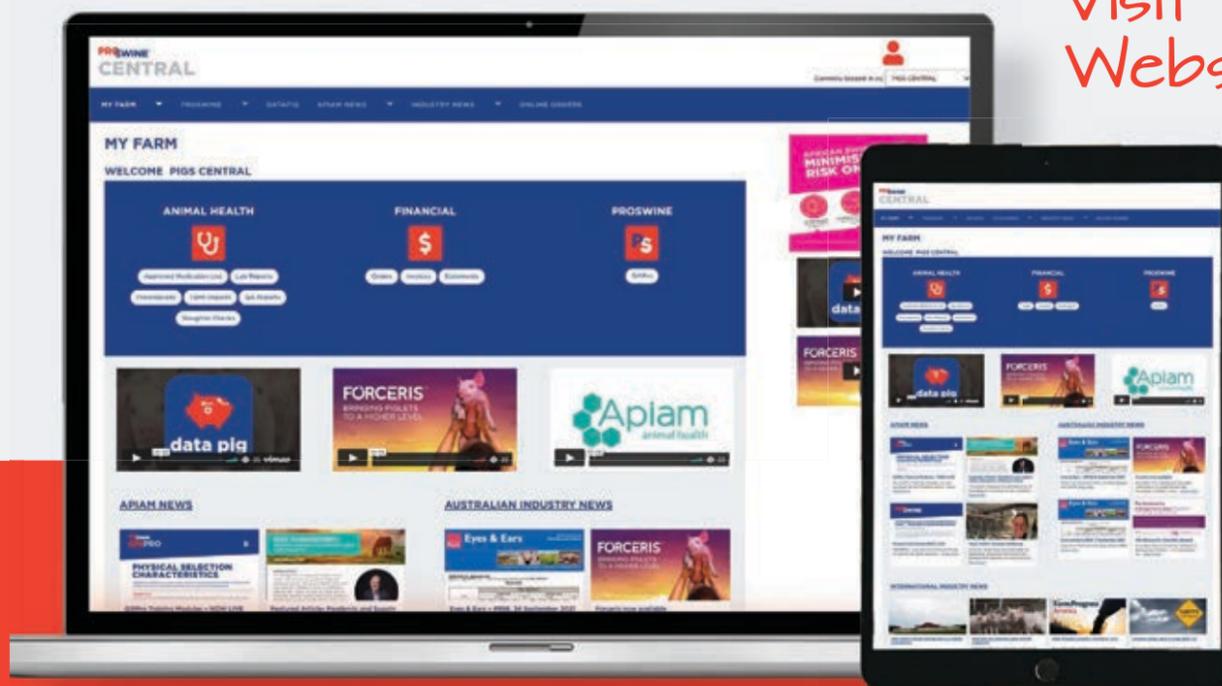
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Thick forest vegetation – a perfect hiding place for feral pigs. Photos: Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

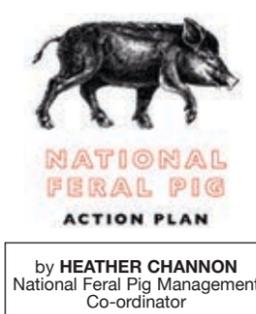
Surveillance and monitoring of feral pigs

EARLIER this month, the National Feral Pig Action Plan team held a virtual stakeholder forum that addressed the theme ‘Surveillance and monitoring informing biosecurity and feral pig management actions’.

Pleasingly, this attracted an audience of 96 people.

All of the presentations made at the forum are available from the resources page on the NFPAP website – feral-pigs.com.au/stakeholder-forum/#ForumJune22

The confirmation of foot and mouth disease in May 2022 and its spread in Indonesia, the incursion of Japanese encephalitis virus in eastern Australia and ongoing threats of African swine fever emphasise the importance of



by HEATHER CHANNON
National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator



ongoing population monitoring and control of feral pigs – to reduce potential biosecurity risks as well as the many other impacts they cause.

Northern Territory Government Biosecurity and Animal Welfare epidemiologist Dr Hayley Pearson and Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy tech-

nical manager animal health Dr Skye Fruean discussed ‘Feral pigs: JEV, ASF and FMD – current response and surveillance in northern Australia to address biosecurity risks’.

The Australian Government health and agriculture departments have been working together to respond to the JEV outbreak, first detected in mainland Australia in February 2022.

Since this time, our knowledge of JEV has rapidly expanded.

An understanding of how it got to mainland Australia is still being sought, with wind-blown infected mosquitos or migrating birds being potential mechanisms.

In the Northern Territory, a total of 44 feral pigs have so far been detected with active JEV infection across five local government areas.

A small number of feral pigs detected with JEV in western Cape York Peninsula in Queensland has also been reported.

Surveillance activities for JEV have largely been conducted by NAQS across northern Australia, involving sampling of feral pigs.

As there is no commercial pork industry in the Northern Territory, the state government has also conducted JEV surveillance in domestic pigs in that state.

Owners are being identified through the Property Identification Code database and people need to voluntarily allow samples to be taken from their pigs.

Many of these pigs may only be one or two generations different from feral pigs, with some collected

as piglets from the wild.

Due to very low sample numbers from domestic pigs, there is strong reliance on sampling of feral pigs to understand how far JEV has spread in the Northern Territory.

Sentinel cattle and chickens spread across that state are also being tested for JEV.

The Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy was established in 1989 to provide an early warning system for exotic pest, weed and disease detections across northern Australia and to help address unique biosecurity risks and challenges facing the region.

These include Australia’s proximity in the north to countries that have pests and diseases not present in Australia and our sparsely populated huge coastlines.

The majority of staff in the NAQS animal technical team are located in Broome, Cairns and Katherine and work closely with state jurisdictions.

One of their key activities is feral animal surveillance, which involves undertaking low altitude observations from a helicopter along the northern coastline for different feral animal species, including feral pigs.

Post-mortems are conducted and samples are collected for exotic disease surveillance.

The role of feral pigs in the transmission of FMD was briefly covered.

It’s important to note that the potential of feral pigs to spread FMD in Australia will be dependent on factors including contact rates, habitat suitability, capacity of the virus to survive outside the host for extended periods, the density and size of feral pig populations, as well as climatic factors.

However, feral pigs still pose potential risks that can’t be dismissed.

With growing populations in response to good seasonal conditions, sustained management actions by both private and public land managers working together on a landscape-scale are key

to managing such biosecurity risks.

This is what is being advocated by the National Feral Pig Action Plan.

Factsheets on both JEV – feral-pigs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JEV-Factsheet-27-June-2022.pdf – and FMD – feral-pigs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FMD-17-June-2022.pdf – in relation to feral pigs are now available on the NFPAP website in the diseases section.

The factsheet for FMD includes a link to a US resource that shows clinical signs of FMD in feral pigs.

These resources are regularly updated as new information is formally released.

The use of thermal imaging to optimise feral pig management programs were the focus of the presentations made by Primary Industries and Regions South Australia Kangaroo Island feral pig management coordinator Matthew Korcz and NSW Riverina Local Land Services senior biosecurity officer Suzanne Holbery.

These two projects – conducted on Kangaroo Island in South Australia and Hay in the western Riverina in NSW – are demonstration sites for the NFPAP.

To reiterate, the key elements for successful feral pig control are:

- Apply a good plan and aim for 100 percent removal
- Coordinate feral pig control over large areas by working together with others
- Apply an integrated best-practice management approach to humanely remove as many pigs as possible
- Utilise seasonal conditions – timing is critical
- Monitor before and after control efforts are undertaken, and act early.

Hiding in plain sight
Matt Korcz explained that the feral pig management program on Kangaroo Island is focussed on eradication.

This project is funded by Commonwealth and South Australian Govern-

continued P7

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Surveillance and monitoring of feral pigs

from P6

ment bushfire funding arrangements.

Many different stakeholders on the island are involved.

A number of innovative control and monitoring techniques are being used to achieve this objective.

Thermal assisted aerial culling is being strategically applied, targeting inaccessible areas on the island – such as deep creek lines and in thick recovering vegetation.

Operations are being conducted primarily in the colder months of the year, at dawn and dusk.

Resources required, including the helicopter, thermal imaging equipment, firearms and personnel, were outlined.

Notably, the thermal camera operator is also a qualified pilot, which enables clear communications with the helicopter pilot.

A key difference between conventional aerial shooting and TAAC is that the helicopter is flown at a higher altitude.

Animals therefore do not run and scatter.

The thermal camera provides the ability for the marksman to follow and engage each animal one by one to enable a humane kill.

Sodium nitrite baits – marketed as Hoggone – and trapping and ground shooting are being used as part of the on-ground management program to remove small populations of feral pigs as they are identified.

A camera trap network has been installed and environmental DNA methodology is also available to test water samples for feral pig presence.

Thermal aerial surveys – essential for success

Suzie Holbery stated that thermal aerial surveys have been used by the Western Riverina Pest Project since 2016 for the monitoring of feral pig populations.

While monitoring could be done using a camera trap network, this is not practical in the project area due to fluctuations in water heights in the wetlands.

Compared with conventional aerial surveying,

thermal cameras enable feral pigs to be more easily and reliably detected in the landscape, reducing the incidence of ‘unknowns’.

Automated software or trained observers can be used for processing of footage collected.

It was recommended that expert advice be sought to carefully plan your aerial survey design.

NSW Riverina Local Land Services are working with Dr Andrew Bengsen from NSW Department of Primary Industries on this.

Repeatability in how this is conducted is key to obtaining meaningful data.

Factors to consider when designing aerial surveys include the environment and landscape type, timing, location and direction of transects flown, altitude, camera angle, speed of the helicopter and method used to analyse data collected.

Affordability with its implementation is also a major consideration.

Significant value from conducting aerial surveys

has been gained by the WRPP.

The ability to monitor changes in population density over time as an outcome of management actions has attracted additional funding for the project.

Outcomes are also used to encourage landholders to participate in the project as well as identify those landholders who are not meeting their general biosecurity duty.

Details of each demonstration site and outcomes being achieved can be found on their dedicated webpages on the NFPAP website – feralpigs.com.au

The innovative management, monitoring and engagement approaches being applied in these programs continue to be featured as part of NFPAP stakeholder engagement activities.

Feel free to contact me on heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au or call 0423 056 045 to discuss your feral pig management issues or any information presented in this article.



A small group of feral pigs in bushland detected by a thermal camera.



Judging commences July 11 for the AMIC Charcuterie Excellence Awards.

Awards celebrate pork

SINCE the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Australian Pork Limited has unfortunately not been able to run the PorkMark Ham and Bacon Awards.

This year, we are excited to announce that instead, APL has partnered with the Australian Meat Industry Council to launch a bigger and better awards program – the Australian Charcuterie Excellence Awards.

The competition will be a celebration of Australian smallgoods made with Australian pork.

These awards will be the premier competition for the Australian smallgoods industry, highlighting and recognising products that are made with quality and excellence.

The competition is open to all manufacturers of Australian smallgoods products – AMIC members and non-members – across five categories of bacon, ham, fermented salami, dry or cured and general smallgoods.



Pork Provenance

by PAM SANTIAGO



All entries will be judged by an impressive line-up of judges, consisting of fleischermeisters, award-winning and celebrity chefs, artisan smallgoods makers and industry legends.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be up for grabs in line with set judging criteria, which will be points based.

The highest point scorer in each category will be awarded the Australian category champion.

All winners will be able to use the award medal and the Australian PorkMark logo for their product packaging and marketing materials.

Judging commences

July 11-15, 2022 at the Willian Angliss Institute in Melbourne and the awards dinner will be August 31, 2022.

For more details about the competition, search AMIC Charcuterie Excellence Awards on your internet browser.

Australian Pork Limited is excited for this partnership to drive awareness of the quality of products made with Australian pork as part of the valuable provenance marketing program.

Together with ongoing licencing of the Australian Pork PorkMark logo, APL will continue to promote and celebrate products made with Australian pork.

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Haylee will be based in Bendigo, working with Apiam's commercial manager Amanda Vardanega and northern key account manager Forbes Corby.

Staff highlights for Apiam

APIAM Animal Health is expanding their key account management team and is excited to announce the appointment of Haylee Clifford as the southern key account manager.

Haylee comes from a rural farming background in South Australia and joins Apiam from AgCommunicators, where she was working as an agricultural communications and marketing consultant.

In this role she developed and implemented communications and marketing strategies and outputs for agricultural advocacy groups, researchers and businesses.

Prior to this, Haylee was with Alltech Lienert Australia as an animal nutritionist.

During her time at Alltech Lienert, she was involved in the Pork CRC Industry Placement Program.

As part of the program, she completed a pig production intensive course through the University of Adelaide.

Haylee also received funding to travel in 2019 to Albert Canada to attend the Banff Pork Seminar and spent time with the Hutterite colonies, learning more about their approach to pig production and management.

She presented her learnings throughout the Industry Placement Program at the 2019 Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited stakeholders' forum.

Haylee graduated from the University of Adelaide in 2015 with a Bachelor of Animal Science, and first class honours in sheep nutrition.

She also has experience in veterinary pathology from her time as a technical officer at Gribbles Veterinary Pathology.

With a deep understanding of agriculture and farming communities, Haylee has the passion and

ability to communicate complex technical information in a simple and easy to understand format to help implement on farms.

Haylee will be based in Bendigo, working with Apiam's northern key account manager Forbes Corby and commercial manager Amanda Vardanega.

Haylee will be providing key account management to pig producers and support to the Apiam veterinary team to deliver on-farm vet services – including digital veterinary herd health programs – to maximise production outcomes for intensive animal operations.

Forbes has been working with Apiam for 12 months, predominantly working in the feedlot sector.

However, throughout his first year at Apiam, he has attended several pork events, including Apiam Pub and Pork events in Victoria and PIX AMC 2022 held on the Gold Coast in May.

Forbes is enjoying his role and continues to expand his client network and knowledge of the industry.

Forbes grew up in rural NSW and joined Apiam with a commercial background from Kilcoy Global Foods where he managed sales for the Middle East and North African regions.

Additionally, his role with KGF included domestic key account management for clients such as McDonalds and Hungry Jacks.

Forbes has a Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Business, major International Business, from the University of New England.

Forbes also completed an internship with Austrade in Myanmar, focussing on the development of agricultural practices and trade.

He is passionate about all facets of agriculture and was awarded the University of New England's 2019-20 School of Environmental

and Rural Science prize for his significant contributions, such as chair of UNE's Farming Futures Executive and Young Farming Champion ambassador.

Both Forbes and Haylee are Australian Pork emerging leaders, which provides opportunities to create and develop networks throughout the supply chain and supports development of technical, leadership, management and communication skills.

They have also been involved in the Meat and Livestock Australia's Ambassadors for the Red Meat Industry program.

As trained ambassadors, their role is to ensure the wider Australian population outside of agriculture recognises the vital role our industry plays in food production and trusts us to deliver high value, high quality products and to feel good about eating red meat.

Forbes and Haylee look forward to working with the Apiam client base and more broadly, the Australian intensive animal industry.

Feel free to reach out to Haylee on 0456 498 120 or Forbes on 0457 508 867.



Apiam Animal Health welcomes Haylee Clifford as its southern key account manager.



APL Membership:

Leveraging your pig levy

- If you're an Australian pig producer and you've paid the Pig Slaughter Levy in the 2021-22 financial year, then you're eligible to apply for or renew your APL Membership.
 - As a Member you gain access to a range of benefits - including voting for your representative in the upcoming Delegate Elections
 - Learn more about membership and download the forms at www.australianpork.com.au/members
- Being a pig producer or having a PigPass account does not automatically make you a Producer Member. You must complete an application.
 - **Why?** APL has an obligation to confirm its Members' details and eligibility for membership every three years.

How to become a Member

- 1 Determine how much pig slaughter levy you paid from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.**
Example: *Pig Slaughter Levy: Number of pigs slaughtered x Levy amount \$3.25 = \$ Levy paid.
- 2 Complete the APL Member application. Confirm or update your organisation information and eligibility for membership and either:**

 - i. give a standing consent for APL to calculate levy paid via accessing PigPass records (NVDs), or
 - ii. provide a statutory declaration to APL stating that you are an Australian pig producer and the amount of PigSlaughter Levy you have paid in the relevant financial year.
- 3 Return the completed form to APL by Monday 6 September by either:**

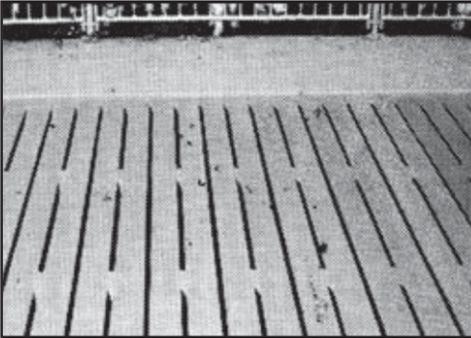
 - scan and send it by email to members@australianpork.com.au
 - fax it to 02 6285 2288, or
 - post it to PO Box 4746 Kingston ACT 2604.

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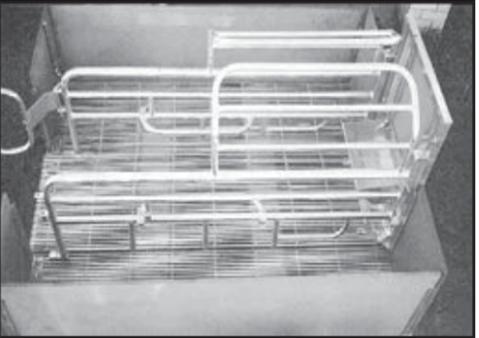
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ASF vaccine

PORK industries and governments around the world have been following intently the progress made to develop a commercially viable African swine fever vaccine since Vietnam partnered with the Agricultural Research Institute of the US Department of Agriculture.

The Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that the vaccine meets technical requirements and ensures sterility, safety and potency with an immunity length of six months.

The trade name of the published vaccine is NAVET-ASFVAC, a product of National Veterinary Joint Stock Company.

Navetco finished the pilot program on 72 pigs in normal conditions with a 100 percent success ratio.

The vaccine was developed from a genetically modified prior strain of the virus by deleting a previously uncharacterized gene, I177L.

The vaccine research

and production results – after being thoroughly evaluated by independent scientists – have been accepted and published.

The Agricultural Research Institute sent an official letter to the Department of Animal Health of Vietnam on May 17, 2022 confirming the NAVET-ASFVAC vaccine ensures safety and effectiveness.

Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Phung Duc Tien did not provide a timeframe for when the vaccine could be exported or estimate of the country's production capacity.

The Australian pork industry will continue to follow the roll-out of the vaccine in Vietnam with great interest and maintain discussions with the Australian Government around emergency animal disease vaccine options for the Australian pork industry.

Jess van de Weyer
APL Emergency
Animal Disease Policy
Analyst

APL federal election summary

AFTER winning the May 21 federal election, the Albanese Labor Government is now in full swing governing the nation.

While the change has resulted in a raft of new ministers, portfolios and policies to get across, it also presents an opportunity to share the great story of Australian pork with a host of new decision-makers and influencers.

So, what does a Labor Government mean for pork producers?

The new Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt has identified his key priorities as addressing biosecurity threats, the workforce shortage crisis and rising input costs.

With these headline priorities relevant to the pork industry, Australian Pork Limited has reached out to Minister Watt to introduce the Australian pork industry and obtain further detail on the government's approach to tackling critical issues.

APL notes the Minister's acknowledgment



Politics

by ANGELA BRADBURN



of the critical role that biosecurity plays in securing Australian agriculture's future, particularly the increasing risks associated with emergency animal diseases in neighbouring countries, including African swine fever, foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease, along with the recent outbreak of Japanese encephalitis virus in Australia.

The Minister was quick to call out the need for long-term sustainable biosecurity funding. On workforce solutions, while Labor has confirmed it will not deliver the Coalition's ag visa, it has committed to adjusting the existing Pacific Australia Labour

Mobility Scheme to improve supply and mobilise 50,000 pre-screened workers overseas.

Labor will enable visa holders to bring family, provide pathways for permanency and subsidise travel costs for the seasonal stream.

Minister Watt has more recently acknowledged that solutions need to focus beyond Pacific programs.

Of critical importance is fast-tracking skilled visa processing.

The new Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Andrew Giles has directed his department to urgently address visa processing backlogs and delays to rectify skill

shortages – a commitment echoed at the first sitting of the National Cabinet.

Labor will focus on upskilling Australians, creating 465,000 new fee-free TAFE positions and up to 20,000 extra university places in areas with labour shortages.

Other workplace policies are likely to be clarified as part of Labor's jobs summit to be held by September.

Agricultural businesses will be wanting to see input costs addressed and government policy not add to existing pressures, uncertainty or red tape.

Among priority commitments agreed in June, the National Cabinet agreed to focus on energy market issues under the charge of new Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen, as well as measures to boost productivity.

APL is keen to see the Labor Government focus on building sovereign manufacturing and capability, providing opportunities for businesses.

A portion of the National Reconstruction

Fund will be dedicated to agriculture – supporting investment in value-adding and strengthening supply chain resilience.

Positive commitments for regional Australia also include \$250 million funding for local roads and community infrastructure, a connectivity fund similar to the Coalition's regional telecommunications program, as well as a fund for affordable housing.

Regional investments are the responsibility of multiple new ministers, in particular Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King and previous Shadow Agriculture now Minister for Housing Julie Collins.

The new Minister for Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek is responsible for delivering environmental commitments, including an emissions reduction target of 43 percent by 2030 and targets to boost renewables to 82 percent by 2030.

Also, \$60 million will be made available through a Recycling Modernisation Fund.

APL has placed 'truth in labelling' on the government's agenda also, and the need to implement recommendations of the Evaluation of Country of Origin Labelling reforms report.

Working closely with government on animal welfare and ensuring the Australian pork industry's best practice animal care is recognised will continue to be a top priority.

Among the Labor Government's animal welfare priorities is a plan to establish the office of the independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare, and increase accountability and transparency for reporting of animal welfare breaches.

APL will continue to closely follow and engage proactively with the federal government on relevant policies and present a strong industry voice.

Pre and post-election, APL reached out to politicians and new ministers to highlight the industry's value and ensure key issues are firmly on their radar.

Continuing engagement with the opposition – including Shadow Minister for Agriculture and the leader of the National Party David Littleproud – and crossbench on industry issues will also be crucial.

As important as ever are APL's alliances with peak industry bodies including the National Farmers Federation and Australian Meat Industry Council in presenting a common voice, and producer and state farming organisation engagement and support at a time when the industry continues to face multiple challenges.

More detail on Labor Government policies can be found at alp.org.au

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Pump moves effluent fast

AUSSIE Pumps report excellent results from the new 6" Aussie GMP 11kW semi-trash pump.

Manufactured from close-grain cast iron, the pump delivers a whopping 4000LPM of flow!

The big open non-clog impeller will handle spherical compressible solids in suspension of up to 50mm diameter.

That design makes it ideal for transferring effluent and even abattoir waste.

The big 6" pump design also incorporates a front cleanout port that enables the impeller chamber to be cleared without dismantling pipework.

Aussie Pumps' Mood Ellahi said, "That's a big advantage."

"The pump's design is well thought out, with the four-pole heavy duty motor close coupled to the pump.

The whole unit, mounted on a sturdy steel base plate, lends itself to

easy installation.

"What users like about this pump isn't only the huge flow," Mood said.

"It's the robust construction and the high performance in terms of flow – from a self-priming pump that operates at only 1450rpm, it has the ability to draft water through a vertical lift of 6m."

Because of the close-coupled design, it's easy to access the coupling between motor and pump in the event of any replacement requirements.

The pump features huge cast-iron 'shoulders' that provide more than adequate capacity for the priming liquid.

"Once the pump is filled with water and the suction delivery hose properly attached to the flanged fittings, all the user has to do is switch the motor on and everything starts to work," Mood said.

Mood points out that the big integrated tank cast into the body is what pro-

vides the fast and positive priming.

"Nobody enjoys wrestling with a 6" hose on a big end suction pump," he said.

He also points out that in many cases, Aussie GMP self-priming pumps – particularly in flood prone areas – have been replacing end-suction pumps.

The substantially little extra cost for the convenience of self-priming features is a real gift.

The big pump also features a silicon carbide mechanical seal with nitrile rubber elastomers as standard throughout.

For abrasive applications, Aussie Pumps offers tungsten carbide seals as an alternative.

Aussie Pumps sees the big 6" and soon to be released 8" self-priming Aussie GMP pump as being a major step forward in providing cost-effective pump solutions for piggeries throughout Australia.

"We put this big 6" pump on the market with the benefits of modern design and production, backed with a three-year warranty, and do that all for well under \$20,000," Mood said.

"With a 100 percent depreciation allowance, you can see these pumps represent great value for money."

Further information including full technical data packs are available from Mood Ellahi at Aussie Pumps, aussiepumps.com.au



The new 6" Aussie GMP 11kW semi-trash pump, a cost-effective pump solution for piggeries throughout Australia.

Kuhn Euromix delivers

MIXED feeding in livestock operations can offer many benefits.

For pork producers, mixed rations can be specialised to the specific needs of the herd.

These needs can change depending on the health, breed, age and weight of your pigs.

Mixed feeding ensures positive animal growth and reproductive performance, increasing the productivity of your pork operation.

Kuhn's Euromix CL DL machines ensure a consistent feed mix and offers maximum efficiency for pork producers.

The wagon is available in multiple sizes to suit farmers with diverse production needs, with the ability to feed herds of up to 360 head per load.

Each mixer wagon is

equipped with a pressed hopper, ensuring the machine is resistant to strain and is ready for intense daily work.

The pressed hopper circulates the product in a figure of eight while also moving it from the bottom to the top of the tub, consistently and accurately mixing feed each time, so you can be sure your pigs don't miss out on any key ingredients.

Improved efficiency for on-farm feeding systems

To improve efficiency, the Euromix CL DL tubs are designed with hydraulic counter knives, positioned diagonally to auger.

This positioning reduces the space between the counter knife and the auger, increasing the contact surface with dry fodder and in turn in-

creasing the fodder chopping speed.

The asymmetric shape of the knives also acts as a self-cleaning mechanism within the machine, minimising fodder left in the tub and reducing overall waste.

Stainless-steel augers are standard on every Euromix machine, making longevity of the machine a priority.

Each machine gives the customer a higher sale-back price on the trade-in because the augers will not need replacing.

The Euromix machines provide versatility in feed distribution, with doors on the right and left sides and the rear of the machine.

The cross conveyor also has two positions at the front or rear of the machine, driven by a hydraulic motor at each end – so regardless of the

rotation direction, perfect operation is guaranteed.

Each wagon is also equipped with features for ease of use – an electric control box allowing the use of up to three doors, six load cells positioned between the tub and the chassis for accurate weighing and an 8" secondary display tablet that transmits data to the main weigh box.

Incorporating a Euromix Auger Mixer CL DL into your on-farm feed delivery system not only allows you to achieve maximum benefits in your pork production but the machine can also improve reduce waste and improve efficiency.

To learn more about Kuhn's Euromix CL DL range, visit kuhn.com.au or contact your local dealer.



The Euromix twin auger. Asymmetric-shaped knives act as a self-cleaning mechanism within the machine.



Kuhn's Euromix CL DL machines ensure a consistent feed mix and offers maximum efficiency for pork producers. The Euromix triple auger pictured.

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Even the most resilient people need help and support

■ Zoetis and Beyond Blue support the mental health of Australia's local communities

CONSIDERING the vastness of Australia and the number of people who live in regional and rural areas, it's a concerning fact that remoteness is a major risk factor contributing to mental health issues and suicide, with the suicide rates being 60 percent higher than rates in major cities.

In addition, people in outer regional, remote and extremely remote areas of Australia face more barriers accessing health care than people living in major cities, making it harder for them to maintain good mental health.

In a continued effort to raise awareness of mental health in rural and regional Australia, leading animal health business Zoetis has partnered with

Beyond Blue to support mental health initiatives and reduce the stigma around mental health.

Over the past six years, Zoetis has raised \$600,000 for the Beyond Blue Support Service by donating \$5 from each sale of the company's livestock, pig and poultry vaccines and drenches.

In 2022, Zoetis aims to again reach its \$100,000 fundraising target by the end of the year.

Zoetis senior vice president and cluster lead Australia and New Zealand Lance Williams said, "Zoetis works closely with rural Australia through interactions with the country's farming community, agricultural stores, veterinarians and their families."

"We are proud to be supporting Beyond Blue and the important work they do.

"The money raised goes directly to the Beyond Blue Support Service to continue helping people living in remote areas.

"To date, thanks to Zoetis' donation, over 12,000 people have been able to get the support they need through the service.

"Together we have made strong progress in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of those who live in rural Australia, and we are passionate about helping again this year."

Derek Schoen, a farmer for more than 36 years, is a beef, grain and hay producer in Corowa, NSW.

Mr Schoen is a member and former president of

the NSW Farmers Association, a former deputy mayor of Corowa Shire Council, NSW Rural Assistance Authority Board director, chair of Murray Local Land Services and is on Beyond Blue's Board of Directors, providing a wealth of experience on rural life.

"The farming community has endured many challenges over the years," Mr Schoen said.

"Through droughts, floods, bushfires and on-going COVID-19 related issues, rural Australia and country people are stoic and display considerable courage, however the impact on mental health has been significant for many."

With many farmers, small business owners, workers and parents

feeling the pressure, it is vital that people receive mental health support as early as possible to prevent their issues leading to more serious mental health conditions.

Financial hardship, isolation and stigma can take a toll on those in distress, placing their mental health at risk.

It is important to remember that depression and anxiety are common conditions, not weaknesses, and with the right treatment, most people can recover.

"The good news is that most of us will be able to cope very well with challenges as they arise – we will use our normal resources, our strengths, networks and the support that we have around us from

family, friends and loved ones," Mr Schoen said.

"People in rural Australia are known for their resilience in times of crisis, but even the most resilient among us need extra support at times.

"We want everyone to know that support is available and encourage people to seek advice.

"Asking for support is a sign of strength, not weakness."

Beyond Blue chief community officer Patrice O'Brien said the journey to better mental health can start with small actions.

"It's important to make looking after ourselves a priority and set goals for sleep, exercise and 'me' time," Ms O'Brien said.

"Maintaining social connections, keeping in touch with friends and family, and being part of a community provides a supportive network.

"Also, understanding which tools and strategies work well for you in tough times and reaching out for that extra support when you need it are really important."

Feeling connected with others can reduce stress and build resilience.

The main thing for everyone to know is that, "You are not alone, and you don't have to work things out by yourself," Ms O'Brien said.

"Whatever the reason, Beyond Blue wants people to know that no problem is too big or small to reach out.

"Sometimes, just talking to someone can make a difference."

Case study Eddie Sloan

Eddie Sloan is a former farmer who worked in the agricultural industry at management level after having to leave the family farm in Western Australia in the early 1990s.

A change of direction in his career saw Eddie follow a path into the disability sector, working with and supporting people with disabilities into meaningful and lasting jobs in Kingaroy Queensland.

Eddie grew up as a third-generation farmer in Western Australia and after losing his father in his late teens, he suddenly

found himself with a lot more responsibility, managing the farm on his own.

With the added pressure, he first started experiencing issues with his mental health in his twenties but became good at masking how he felt and used alcohol as a coping mechanism.

It was following several hospitalisations after attempting to take his own life and receiving support and treatment that, at the age of 45, Eddie accepted he had an illness and realised it could be managed.

Eddie says resilience is an important part of his mental health journey that keeps him putting one foot in front of another.

"At one stage where I was struggling to get up each day and get out of the house, I would tap into my own self-reliance and inner strength to keep going in small ways," Eddie said.

"Being resilient meant taking those small steps, keeping going, connecting with family and knowing things would get easier.

"I want people to know there is always hope, and that early detection and management is an important step towards recovery, and in doing so we find our resilience within."

The Beyond Blue Support Service offers free and immediate counselling, advice and referrals via phone, webchat or email.

In addition to the support service, Beyond Blue has resources and information online at beyondblue.org.au, including online forums that offer peer support in a safe, moderated setting.

People can support the Zoetis initiative from July 18 to October 31, 2022.

For every animal health product sold by Zoetis, the company will donate \$5, up to \$100,000, to Beyond Blue.

For more information on how you can help Zoetis to raise vital funds to support mental health in rural communities through its partnership with Beyond Blue, visit zoetis.com.au

For more information about depression and anxiety, visit beyondblue.org.au.



HELP US RAISE \$100,000

TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH IN RURAL AUSTRALIA

Zoetis has donated \$600,000 to Beyond Blue over the last 6 years. Help us raise another \$100,000.

For every Zoetis cattle, sheep, pig, poultry or goat vaccine or parasiticide sold by Zoetis between 15 July and 31 October 2022, Zoetis will donate \$5, up to \$100,000 to Beyond Blue.

"\$100,000 will assist 2,083 people in Australia"

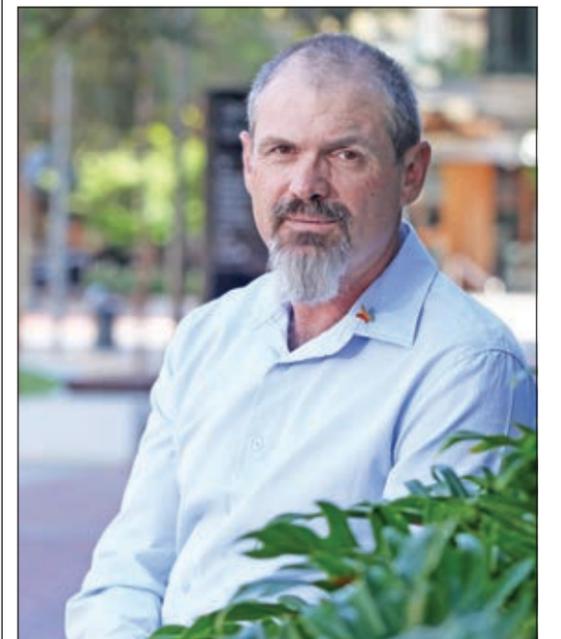
Georgie Harman - CEO Beyond Blue

*Assistance through the Beyond Blue Support Service



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Eddie Sloan is a former farmer who worked in the agricultural industry at management level after having to leave the family farm in Western Australia. Read his case study in this article.

Leveraging your APL membership

IF you've paid the pig slaughter levy in the 2021-22 financial year, you're eligible to apply for or confirm your APL membership, and gain access to a range of membership benefits, including voting for your representative in the upcoming delegate elections.

While pig producers can become APL members at any time, APL has an obligation to confirm its members' details and eligibility for membership every three years.

For current members, this means that you'll need to complete a membership renewal form by September 6, 2022 to be eligible to vote in the 2022 delegate elections.

Likewise, new members will need to submit their membership application forms by September 6, 2022 if they wish to vote in the delegate elections.

There are three membership categories:

- **Producer Member** – levy paying producers who can vote for a delegate provided they submit their membership application to APL before the return date September 6, 2022 as set out by the Board

- **Associate Producer Member** – producers who have not paid the levy in the relevant financial year, they are required to be sponsored by a current APL member and are not eligible to vote

- **Associate Corporate Member** – an industry-related company or manufacturer with clear benefits and connections to the pig industry.

As an APL Producer Member, you will receive:

- The rights to nominate and vote for a delegate – for every \$1 of levy paid, Producer Members are entitled to one vote for their nominated delegate
- Access to exclusive members only content
- Weekly APL Update newsletter
- Weekly estimate slaughter trends
- Regular contact from APL producer relations team
- Eligibility for APL leadership programs
- Member only events, both online and face to face throughout the year.

APL membership is free – however APL has a responsibility to verify your eligibility as a member and other details as required.

Previously, producers had to complete a statutory declaration every three years stating the pig slaughter levy paid by the member in the previous financial year.

Since the 2019 membership year, producers who have been using the online PigPass movement reporting system have had the option to instead consent to APL

accessing their PigPass records to verify the levy paid, reducing the burden of having a statutory declaration witnessed.

If a producer prefers that APL does not access their records in this way, the statutory declaration option is still available.

As per the APL constitution, if a current member does not provide APL with the information required by September 6, 2022, they will cease to be a member.

For more details or to renew or apply for membership, visit australianpork.com.au/members

Note, intermediaries paying the pig slaughter levy on behalf of others are not eligible for APL producer membership, but producers who have paid their levy via an intermediary are eligible.

All new memberships are subject to approval from the APL Board.

APL therefore encourages you to submit your renewal application as soon as possible after June 30, 2022.

Delegate nominations and elections

Delegates are appointed for three-year terms by APL members to represent their interests at general meetings and to, among other things, vote on the election of APL elected directors.

Delegates are an important communication link between APL and its members.

They form a vital conduit for exchange of information between APL and the industry.

It is the expectation of APL members that a delegate is active in performing this role.

This includes participation at two delegate forum meetings a year – usually May and November – and when requested, assisting at regional producer meetings.

The delegate levy amount for 2022 is \$445,872.

If you are interested in standing as an APL delegate, complete and return the 'Consent to Act as an APL Delegate' form no later than July 22, 2022 to ensure new and renewing members have sufficient opportunity to consider you as their delegate.

To vote for your nominated delegate, simply complete and return the 'APL Delegate Nomination' form by September 6, 2022.

Current delegates can nominate themselves.

If you have any questions about this process or need any assistance, contact the APL membership team at members@australianpork.com.au

Bjorn Ludvigsen
APL Acting Producer Relations Director

Blockage fixed

CENTRAL Agri Group is one of Australia's leading fully integrated beef farming, backgrounding, feed lotting and meat processing companies.

Established in 1991, it has loyal domestic customers, supplies to over 50 exports markets and has invested heavily in state-of-the-art meat processing facilities.

The issue

Central Agri Group's Trafalgar plant did however have some issues with its wastewater pump.

It was running copies of the Gorman-Rupp self-priming pump on its green waste and attending these daily to fix issues with blockages in the pump.

On occasion, these problems would cause the well to overflow and require the need for outside contractors to be called in to help deal with the inflow to the well.

Another processor, running genuine Gorman-Rupp pumps, recommended Central Agri Group's Trafalgar plant contact Hydro Innovations.

Solution

Hydro Innovations recommended the existing pump be replaced with a Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B 'Super T Series' trash pump fitted with an 'Eradicator' solids management system, with hardened internal parts to deal with the grit and stringy materials that flow to the well.

The well has a high loading of grass and so the pump was set up to deal with the grass.

Benefits of the installation

Almost two months since the installation, plant maintenance supervisor Josh could not be happier.

"The Gorman-Rupp pump is a great pump, far better than what we had before!" Josh said.

He has not had to attend the pump at all – compared to the once or twice per day the previous pump required.

The savings are quickly

adding up and Josh now has time to work on other projects at the plant that he couldn't get to before.

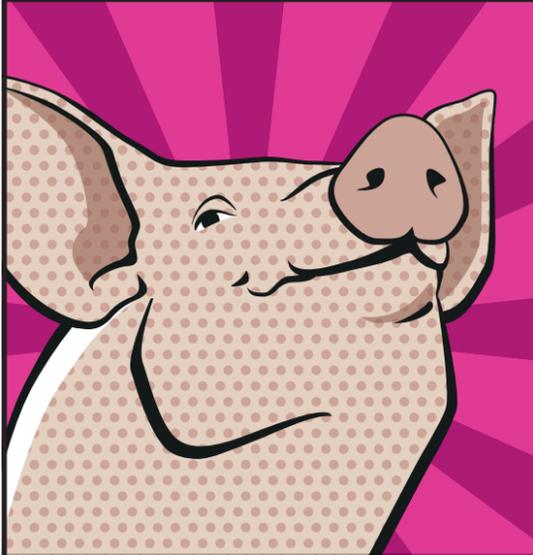
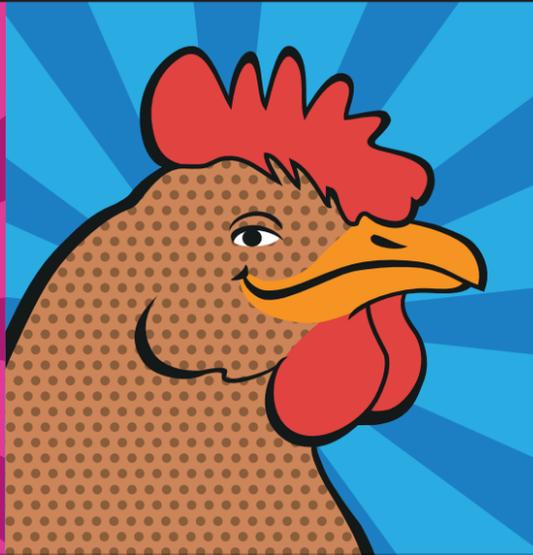
Gorman-Rupp self-priming trash pumps are available in sizes from 2" through to 10", with flows to 200LPS and pressures to 90m.

They have been extremely popular for difficult wastewater pumping applications in animal process plants across Australia.

More information on these pumps may be obtained from info@HydroInnovations.com.au



The existing pump was replaced with a Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B 'Super T Series' trash pump fitted with an 'Eradicator' solids management system.

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BEC Feed Solutions' Mark Fitzgerald retires

MARK Fitzgerald officially retired from his position as BEC Feed Solutions' general manager of premix and feed additives for Australia and New Zealand on June 30.

"After seven exciting and challenging years as GM of premix and feed additives at BEC Feed Solutions, it is now time for me to retire and move on to the next stage of my life," Mr Fitzgerald said.

Mr Fitzgerald enjoyed a long, distinguished and eventful career in the animal feed and poultry industries.

He has held senior management roles with businesses including Tegel/NRM in New Zealand, Niugini Ta-

blebirds in Papua New Guinea, Sunnybrand Chickens, Darwalla, Ridley and BEC Feed Solutions in Australia.

During his many years of leadership, Mr Fitzgerald was involved in significant changes to these industries, particularly in the businesses he was a part of.

BEC Feed Solutions managing director Brett Antonio shared his sincere gratitude for the contribution and dedication Mr Fitzgerald had for the BEC business throughout his tenure.

"BEC's Board and shareholders and staff thank Mark for his commitment to the development of the business," Mr Antonio said.

"He's been a driving

force behind many key projects for us, including the new premix plant that was opened last year.

"I am personally very grateful that we had him as part of the BEC team for the past seven years."

Mr Fitzgerald officially handed over to his successor at the end of June but will remain in a transitional role to assist the business on major projects until September 30.

Dr Mark Connors, who has been with the BEC Group business since 2016, will commence in the general manager position for BEC's Australian and New Zealand business from July 1.

"I have been very for-

tunate to work closely with Mark Fitzgerald over the past four years, and this time has been incredibly valuable in learning the finer details of the premix and feed business," Dr Connors said.

"I wish Mark the very best for his retirement.

"He has left BEC in a fantastic position for the future."

Dr Connors originally established the BEC Biotech business venture and is still responsible for its operations and the success of the Lactipro product in the Australian market.

"Mark Connors has been our national sales and technical manager for the past four years and so the transition into the general

manager position will be quite seamless," Mr Fitzgerald said.

"It is particularly pleasing that succession at this level can occur internally and I believe this reflects the culture of the BEC business and the quality of our staff.

"I'd like to personally thank all customers, suppliers and other business stakeholders for your support over the past seven years.

"I recognise that without your understanding, loyalty and support, BEC would not be in the position that I leave it in."

He intends to enjoy his retirement by travelling with his wife and relishing his time with his grandchildren.



The new Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt.

New ag minister's first farm visits

THE new Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt undertook his first farm visit as Minister in early June, to hear first-hand from farmers and other industry representatives about the challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

Minister Watt spent the day in the Emerald region in Central Queensland, visiting cattle saleyards, a cotton farm, cotton gin and leading ag tech developer SwarmFarm Robotics.

"I've spent a lot of time in Central Queensland – one of the country's most productive agricultural regions – and I wanted to return there to kickstart my term as Agriculture Minister," Minister Watt said.

The visit coincided with the release of new figures showing agricultural exports will hit a record \$65 billion in value in 2022-23 as the new Albanese Government prepares to tackle labour shortages and biosecurity threats and help farmers derive more value from their produce.

Minister Watt told local farmers and industry representatives that the Albanese Government was focussed on helping them overcome mounting input and supply chain challenges, while also positioning the sector to seize the massive opportunities arising from increased efforts to tackle climate change.

"I'm pleased to report that the latest agricultural commodities report by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences predicts record exports worth \$65 billion in 2022-23 and a second consecutive year of more than \$80 billion in production," Minister Watt said.

"We are expecting our forestry and fishing sectors also to perform well, with the total value of the four industries forecast to be \$86.2 billion, just below the record result for 2021-22.

"But rising costs and access to farm labour and imported machinery will continue to challenge many Australian farm businesses.

"We understand this and that's why I've identified these issues as key priorities for me, as the

new minister. "The government will strengthen the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme to help overcome labour shortages, but there is also much more we can do to attract Australian workers to regional areas and retain them.

"I'll be working closely with my Cabinet colleagues to ensure that regions benefit from the new government's increased emphasis on training up local workers."

Tackling biosecurity threats and ensuring farmers derive more value from their renowned produce are also priorities for Minister Watt.

"I've been briefed by Australia's chief veterinary officer Dr Mark Schipp upon his return from Indonesia, where there are worrying outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease in cattle right now," Minister Watt said.

"I'm working closely with experts and stakeholders to ensure that we have the right protections in place and continue to make the right biosecurity investments – at home and offshore.

"As well as protecting the industry, we want to help farmers derive more value from their produce through value adding and innovation.

"We want Australia to not only grow the wheat but also make the flour, biscuits and cakes and process and package meat for domestic and international markets.

"That's why we will invest \$500 million through our National Reconstruction Fund to encourage farmers to create more food products in Australia, in addition to selling raw commodities overseas.

"Australian agriculture is on track for another record-breaking year, and the new government will be doing everything we can to support it with continued innovation, value adding and increased decarbonisation efforts."

Minister Watt was accompanied by National Farmers' Federation president Fiona Simpson and chief executive officer Tony Mahar, Agforce general president Georgie Somerset and Cotton Australia chief executive officer Adam Kay.

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Producers benefit from Health4Wealth program

A RURAL Research and Development for Profit program Health4Wealth was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Pork Limited, Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Meat Processor Corporation.

This program aimed to develop a standardised approach to data collection and providing producers with feedback for visible disease-related carcass and offal condemnations for sheep, cattle, pigs and goats.

Recently, Frontier Economics undertook a cost benefit analysis of the H4W program.

As part of the pork pilot trials, data were collected for 17 different perimortem conditions.

Not all conditions were considered in the cost benefit analysis – when deciding what to include, consideration was given to:

- Whether the disease was detectable at perimortem inspection
- Whether there was reliable information about the costs and prevalence of disease
- Whether the disease has a significant impact on industry
- Whether it is cost effective for producers to manage the disease.

The benefits of this



Pork Integrity

by DR VAIBHAV GOLE



program for producers are decreased treatment costs and reduced production losses by lowering disease prevalence.

For processors, this means an increase in meat inspector productivity and reduced offal condemnation.

Cost benefit analysis considered the costs associated with disease prevention, management and program administration costs for producers.

On the other hand, in this analysis, costs for processors considered were increased meat inspection time, administrative time to liaise with producers, and to install and maintain the technology.

Results of this analysis were expressed in net present value, which is the total present value of benefits minus the total present value of costs.

The estimated benefit cost ratios are 3.65 and 4.56, which equates to \$68 million and \$40 million of NPV for pig producers and processors respectively.

The results demonstrate there is likely to be a strong value proposition for both pig producers and processors.

Overall, this program provides strong evidence that participants across the supply chain can derive significant value from a national rollout of H4W program.

It should be pointed out that the benefits to individual producers will vary, depending on the conditions on their farm and the health of their herds.

For further information on this report or for the full copy of the final report, contact Dr Vaibhav Gole on 0436 934 763 or email vaibhav.gole@australianpork.com.au

Businesses sourcing responsibly

AUSTRALIANS want to know if the businesses they engage with operate in ways that align with their values.

We know Australians care about farm animal welfare and want to support responsibly sourced animal-based products, as has been seen with the uptake of cage free eggs.

While Australians understand that animals are farmed for food, they also believe farm animals deserve a good life and a humane death, with the expectation that businesses believe this too.

Forward-thinking businesses are recognising how important it is to reflect these values, both to maintain community support and remain viable.

This crucial public acceptance is known as having a 'social licence' to operate.

For animal-based industries that source from them, it's becoming more important to consider and improve animal welfare in order to maintain their social licence.

In response, many have made the shift to better practices, sourcing responsibly and maintaining their social licence.

Sourcing responsibly

To responsibly source animal-based products, it's vital that businesses have proactive relationships with their suppliers to enable them to go right back to the source and engage directly on animal management practices.

From this position, businesses are well placed to

thoroughly review their supply chains to understand any current animal welfare issues and how these can be addressed.

The RSPCA has developed responsible sourcing guides for key species, which provide businesses with a step-by-step process for exactly this.

As part of the RSPCA's responsible sourcing guides, short and long-term goals applicable to the current Australian market and production are available for businesses to use when planning next steps.

Most importantly, businesses that are responsibly sourcing animal-based products should publish a public-facing animal welfare policy.

The policy should clearly identify who is responsible for animal welfare

within the company, articulate how the policy is governed and, based on the outcome of the supply chain analysis, outline goals for improving animal welfare.

Not part of the procurement process but wanting to help source responsibly?

You can still help to encourage businesses to source responsibly, even if you're not part of the procurement process.

As an example, you might be looking to ensure your workplace is doing their part to incorporate animal welfare standards in their operations.

Consider sharing the RSPCA's responsible sourcing guides with your business procurement team or starting the conversation with colleagues about developing formal

animal welfare policy.

If you're an individual who cares about animal welfare, you can also ask companies that you purchase from about their supply chains – the guides are for consumers too!

You can use them as a tool to ask informed questions of your favourite companies and brands.

No matter our role in the supply chain, we can all play a part in ensuring that businesses source animal-based products responsibly.

With the right tools, businesses can improve operations and enhance their social standing,

consumers can make informed choices from companies they trust – both contributing to the shared goal of a good quality of life for animals.



To responsibly source animal-based products, it's vital businesses have proactive relationships with suppliers.

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Project commences to examine causes of tail biting

THE project 'Eliminating pig tail removal to improve welfare and industry sustainability', funded through the Cooperative Research Centres Projects government program and others in the industry, commenced in January 2022.

SunPork Pty Ltd is the lead applicant in this

three-year project.

In addition, Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd, Australian Pork Limited, PIC Australasia Pty Ltd, Rivalea Australia Pty Ltd, RSPCA Australia, the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland and the University of New England have all

committed resources to collaborate on the project.

Dr Darryl D'Souza of SunPork Pty Ltd, and the project's principal investigator, will oversee the research and training that aims to provide valuable information to enable pork producers to make objective decisions with

confidence as to whether they can raise pigs with intact tails.

APRIL chief executive officer and chief scientist Dr John Pluske said the project will provide support and training for early-career scientists, postgraduate students and Honours students.

To this end, Dr Sophie Ward has been appointed by APRIL as an early-career scientist, along with Dr Megan Lucas at the University of Melbourne and Dr Arun Kumar at the University of Queensland.

Rutu Acharya, at the University of Melbourne has also commenced her PhD within the project.

Within the next six months, PhD students are expected to commence at the University of Queensland and the University of New England, as well as the first influx of Honours and MSc students.

Members of the project team who could travel, met in Melbourne in April for their first face-

to-face meeting.

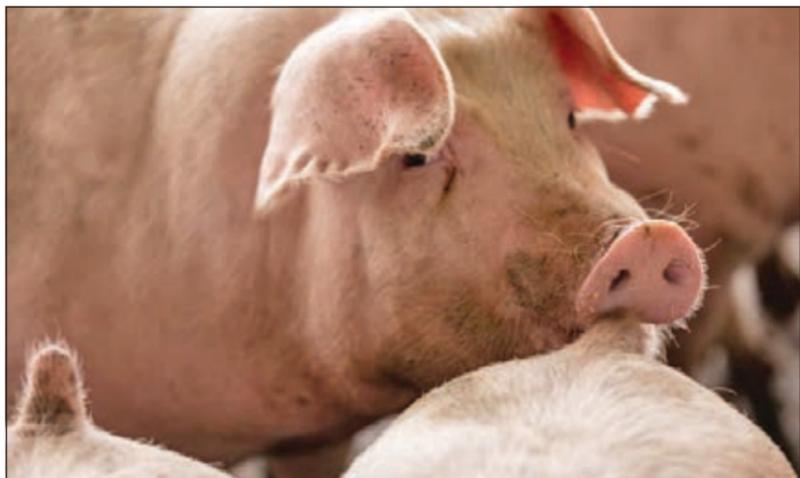
Despite progress having been impacted by Japanese encephalitis virus, floods and COVID-19, a desktop review and the initial fieldwork program were discussed and refined by the team.

Technical staff at both Rivalea and SunPork have been through training exercises to collect relevant production data.

This data will be used by the University of Melbourne and the University of New England to understand behaviour patterns and risk factors associated with tail biting.

Further, the University of Queensland will investigate options for new dietary and management strategies associated with tail biting in pigs.

Ultimately, this knowledge will contribute to the generation of a decision-support tool that aims to assist producers in potentially rearing and managing pigs with intact tails.



The Cooperative Research Centres Projects government program funds 'Eliminating pig tail removal to improve welfare and industry sustainability' project. Photo: Alltech

ASF in Asia

African swine fever continues its relentless spread across Asia, with countries desperate for measures to control ASF.

The Philippines

In the Philippines in May, 12 communities had active cases of ASF.

Official reports from the national veterinary authority outline a further 250 new cases of ASF at 86 locations, according to recent notifications to the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Of these latest outbreaks, 66 occurred in nine Mindanao provinces and 20 in 10 provinces on Luzon.

All were confirmed between March 1 and April 8, and affected village pig herds.

They take the number of outbreaks in these two regions to more than 850, with more than 482,000 pigs directly impacted.

First ASF cases in Nepal

Nepal has reported its first ever cases of ASF.

Since the end of March, the virus has been detected at 10 locations, according to notifications to the WOA.

All were in Bagmati province, in nine municipalities.

So far, a total of 5167 pigs have been directly impacted by the outbreaks, including 3370 mortalities.

Authorities have attributed the spread of the virus to swill feeding.

South Korea reports more ASF cases in wild boar

Between mid-April and May 9, 63 more wild boar tested positive for the ASF virus in South Korea.

Found in the provinces of Gangwon, North Chungcheong and Gyeonggi, they bring the number of virus-positive animals reported to the OIE to 1022.

On May 21, the first cases in South Korea's domestic pigs of this year were reported.

Affected was a farm with 1175 animals in Gangwon.

This province is in the north of the country.

At the end of May, it was reported that new cases of ASF in wild boar had slipped from the nation's news headlines.

So far this year, the number of confirmed cases – already at 738 – looks likely to pass the 2021 total of 964 cases.

Total cases in South Korean wild boar had reached 2619, as at June 7.

Further ASF cases confirmed in Bhutan and Thailand

Since ASF returned to Bhutan in mid-April, the number of pigs affected has risen to 1008.

According to recent WOA reports, this includes 423 more animals that were involved in depopulation at the one outbreak site.

This is a village in the Chukha district, near to the border with the Indian state of West Bengal.

In November 2021, Thailand confirmed its first cases of ASF.

Based on the latest notifications to WOA, the number of confirmed outbreaks had reached 89, with more than 820 cases among 2864 pigs.

These were reported to be in non-commercial herds.

The three most recent outbreaks to be registered with WOA started during the first half of May.

While two affected herds were in southern provinces, the other was in northeastern Thailand.

Outbreaks in three Indian states

While WOA has not been notified of the ASF situation on India, local media continue to report widespread outbreaks in the northeast of the country.

In the state of Mizoram, the situation is described as "disastrous," according to India Today.

ASF has been blamed for the deaths of more than 37,000 pigs there, and the chief minister is reported to be preparing to declare a state of emergency.

Since the first cases in March 2021, outbreaks have affected more than 50 villages in seven districts of Mizoram.

A further 14,000 animals have been culled as part of the efforts to curb the spread of infection.

Over the past week, an outbreak has occurred in neighbouring Manipur state – also in the northeast of India.

According to reports, about 80 pigs were culled at the farm, which is in the Kamjong district.

With investigations underway to establish the source of infection in the area, movement of pigs and their products are banned.

Meanwhile, all pig movements were banned at the end of May in Sikkim.

These measures were introduced after ASF was detected in this state.

In various districts of North Sikkim, 117 pigs were reported to have died of ASF over the previous two months.

Taiwan on ASF alert

Ahead of a major festival recently, Taiwan's authorities stepped up measures to stop incoming pork products.

The Dragon Boat Festival is marked by the giving of gifts, and as at the end of May, the territory's customs service had seized almost 240kg of illegal pork.

About half of these parcels were from China, including Hong Kong.

continued P17

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African swine fever in Asia

from P16

Of the 226 parcels seized, 28 had tested positive for the ASF virus.

While inspections of mailed parcels and imported goods were stepped up, Taiwan's authorities reminded travellers and citizens that bringing pig products into the territory was illegal and significant fines would be imposed.

ASF situation in China widely resolved

Recently, China's veterinary agency declared to WOA that 15 earlier ASF outbreak series had been "resolved."

Covering 14 provinces and special regions were a total of 39 confirmed outbreaks.

Directly impacted were almost 55,000 pigs.

Of these now-closed outbreaks, the first was in October 2018 in

Shanxi province.

December 2021 was the last of the closing dates for these disease series, after single outbreaks in Hainan and Hebei.

Of all the outbreaks, 14 were detected on premises described as farms in WOA notifications.

Individual affected herds ranged in size from 165 to almost 10,000 swine.

While there were four such outbreaks in the Xinjiang Uyghur region, seven more provinces each reported only one or two outbreaks.

Also testing positive for the ASF virus over this period were nine backyard herds in five provinces.

Fifteen were detected at highway checkpoints and quarantine facilities in six provinces and regions.

These had been set up by authorities to prevent the

spread of the ASF virus around the country in infected pigs.

Finally, one outbreak in Jiangsu province in April 2020 affected 17 pigs at a premises described as "other."

ASF detected in Hong Kong wild pig

In Hong Kong, a new outbreak series has begun in wild boar.

According to the official WOA notification, one sick boar reported by the public was found dead in the Sai Kung area at the end of May.

Among the pig farms put under close monitoring, one was within 3km of the infected carcass.

Between September 2021 and February, a total of nine wild pigs tested positive for the ASF virus at three other locations in the Hong Kong area.



Lab trials of the Navet-ASFVac vaccine revealed it protected at least 80 percent of pigs for six months.



Recently, Vietnam authorised the commercial sale of Navet-ASFVac. Photo: VTV

Progress with ASF vaccine

PROGRESS in the development of a vaccine against African swine fever has been made in Vietnam and the Philippines over recent weeks.

As African swine fever continues its relentless spread across Europe, Africa and particularly Asia, there is a growing need for a safe and effective vaccine against the disease.

This would help to protect domestic and wild pigs, which are the main hosts of the ASF virus.

It poses no direct threat to human health.

However, the devastating losses it brings can badly impact the owners' livelihoods, disrupt supply chains and raise the price of pork.

Vietnam

It was reported recently that not one but two ASF vaccines were scheduled to be authorised in Vietnam by the end of 2022.

After successful farm

trials this year, AVAC Vietnam Co and Dabaco Group each have a vaccine that is expected to receive a license this year.

Vietnam is among the Asian countries in greatest need for additional measures to control ASF.

In early 2019, the virus was first detected in the country, which spread to the nation's 63 provinces and cities.

More than six million pigs were culled and costs have topped an estimated \$A1.88 million.

Though infrequently reported, ASF continues to cause significant losses in Vietnamese pig herds.

For the first three months of 2022, 562 outbreaks were confirmed in 42 of the country's provinces.

This is according to the latest update on the ASF situation in Asia from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Recently, Vietnam authorised the commercial sale of Navet-ASFVac.

Development of Navet-ASFVac – the world's first vaccine against ASF – began in early 2022 by Navetco National Veterinary JSC in collaboration with US experts.

According to Vietnam Plus, lab trials of this vaccine revealed it protected at least 80 percent of pigs for six months.

In the US, an ASF vaccine candidate recently passed important safety tests as part of its regulatory progress.

The Philippines

The Philippines reported recently that testing of an ASF vaccine there had also shown positive results.

In May, the Philippine News Agency reported that the vaccine was moving on to the next phase of testing – vaccinated pigs would be moved to pens containing

ASF-infected materials.

Preliminary results were expected at the end of June, according to trial organisers, the Department of Agriculture and Robina Corp.

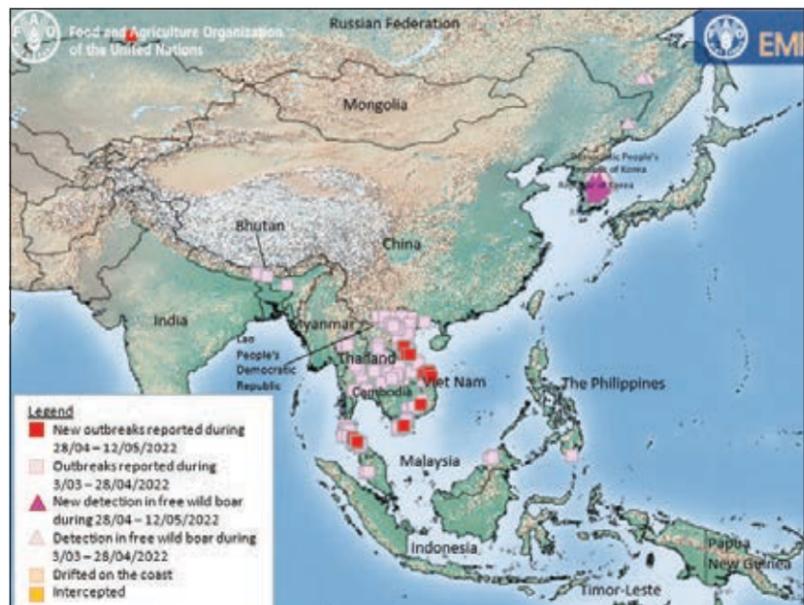
At the end of May, it was reported that the nation's Department of Science and Technology and a US Embassy scientist were exploring opportunities to collaborate over ASF diagnostics.

Aims of this cooperation were to improve detection kits and make them cheaper.

According to PNA, a mobile lab was deployed in Mindanao to support efforts to control the spread of ASF.

Speeding up testing of suspected cases should lead to fewer animals culled.

The rising cost of pork is the main driver for the efforts to control ASF in the Philippines, according to one DOST official.



African swine fever in Asia to mid-May 2022.

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Italy to cull infected pigs

ITALY will cull 1000 pigs after the first cases of African swine fever were detected in domestic pigs in the country.

Two cases of ASF were detected on a farm in Rome's Lazio region on June 9.

Crisis manager Angelo Ferrari said, "We have to slaughter all the pigs in the contaminated area very quickly."

"The sooner we act decisively and incisively, the greater our hope that the commercial damage will be reduced."

In Italy to date, more than 150 wild boar have been infected with the

ASF virus and authorities have recently stepped up control measures.

According to official reports, the country's first cases of ASF on the mainland were confirmed in early January in the northwestern region of Piedmont.

Soon after, wild boar in Genova province in neighbouring Liguria tested positive for the virus.

One month ago, the first cases were identified in a park in the Rome area, also in wild boar.

Italy is the seventh largest pork producer in the European Union, with 8.9 million pigs, representing a \$A12.17

billion industry.

Recently, authorities in the Piedmont region were reported to be establishing nets to control the movement of wild boar.

The nets are in the province of Alessandria, where this region's cases have so far been detected.

Gradually, the barrier will be moved so that it connects with a similar structure in Genova, the affected province in the Liguria region.

In Piedmont, authorisation has been granted for the depopulation of wild boar.

At the end of May, demonstrations were held in Rome, with those in the Italian pork industry calling for urgent action to reduce the wild boar population.

According to a recent survey, almost 70 percent of the population want the national population of 2.3 million wild boar to be reduced.

Among the reasons given are that the animals are dangerous, a nuisance and cause damage to crops and the environment. 🐷



The products we buy are a vote for the system that produces them. Photo: Alan Roberts



Pig culling in Italy on detection of African swine fever. Photo: Kenneth Schipper-Vera

New value-add recipe range

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited butchers' program has launched a new value-add range of recipes for retail butchers.

The resource – highlighting value options and easy to cook recipes – is available free to all on porkbutchers.com.au

The range was developed by superstar butcher Bec Gamble to be quick and easy in the workroom with cost-effective ingredients that can be reused in-store by butchers.

Bec worked with the APL team to create recipes that can help increase the gross profit margins for retail butchers.

The focus for the range was to create

product offers that help customers unfamiliar with cooking pork to have a straightforward way of incorporating it into their weekly shop.

APL market research indicates that young families – the future proof of butchers' business – are still not familiar with cooking pork, beyond the classic roasts and pork chops.

This is due to changes in living and eating habits, where roasts and chops may no longer be week-night dinner staples.

To engage this consumer, pork needs to be both inspiring and convenient.

The pork value-added product – such as the parmigiana braciola from the new range –

is a twist of fun with pop culture but a quick and easy dinner the consumer can pop into the oven.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that financial pressures will affect consumer behaviour when shopping for groceries this year.

APL research shows some consumers are still willing to pay extra for convenience and inspiration, as they see value in an easy solution.

The new recipes complement the free point-of-sale kits available to butchers, as well as a range of other free resources, all on porkbutchers.com.au

Jack Nicholl
APL Marketing Administrator

Pork labelling and how to choose higher welfare pork

BEING an educated consumer and choosing higher welfare products is one way in which Australians can improve conditions for farm animals and support farmers raising animals to better welfare standards.

The choices we make and the products we buy are a vote for the system that produces them, and Aussies are increasingly sending the message they want higher welfare products from farms that prioritise good animal welfare.

One area of ongoing concern for Aussies is pork, and people particularly want to know how to purchase pork that is higher welfare.

As with egg-laying hens, the vast majority of pigs reared for pork in Australia are kept in barren conventional systems, with a smaller percentage in outdoor systems.

Unlike eggs, pork products aren't generally required to clearly label the type of farming system, which is a big problem.

However, there are some fairly consistent terms you can look for that are used to describe how pigs are reared.

Here's how to make sense of pork labels to help you choose higher welfare.

Identifying higher-welfare pork products

All fresh pork sold in Australia comes from pigs that are farmed in Australia.

What consumers may not realise is that many pork products such as processed ham, bacon, deli meats and pre-cooked products such as pulled pork are imported, most commonly from the US, Canada and some

European countries.

Why does this matter?

Pig welfare standards vary greatly between countries and pigs are often not raised to the same standard overseas.

Though Australian conventional production of pork isn't entirely good for pig welfare, there are attributes that put it ahead of US production.

The Australian pork industry has phased out sow stalls and now about 80 percent of sows are housed in groups during their pregnancy.

However, most sows are still confined in narrow farrowing crates during and after the birth of their piglets.

In Australia, Country of Origin Labelling has also been introduced, requiring all businesses selling packaged food products to ensure packaging includes a product label stating the percentage of Australian ingredients and the country of origin of those ingredients.

Be sure to check the bar to see what percentage of ingredients are Australian, if its low, it's unlikely the pork is Aussie grown.

RSPCA Approved

When you see the RSPCA Approved certification on pork, this means the pig has come from a farm that meets the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme's detailed and publicly available standard for pigs – and that the farm is regularly assessed to make sure the standard is being met.

The RSPCA standard for pigs has 322 requirements on farm and 88 at slaughter.

Whether an indoor, outdoor-bred or free range

farm, there is a focus on providing for pigs' behavioural and physical needs.

Sow stalls, traditional farrowing crates and painful husbandry procedures – such as tail docking and teeth clipping – are not at all allowed under the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme.

RSPCA Approved pig farms are assessed twice a year and abattoirs once a year by specially trained RSPCA assessors.

Any brand marketing their product as RSPCA Approved also undergoes traceability assessments by the RSPCA to verify the products supply chain.

Coles has long been working with the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme on pig welfare, and all Coles free-range pork is now RSPCA Approved and available nationally.

Free range

Free range pork comes from pigs born and raised with free access to outdoor areas or paddocks with vegetation, and the freedom to move, forage and socialise.

Sows are not confined to traditional farrowing crates or sow stalls and have access to a farrowing hut to nest with their piglets.

It's important to understand however, that a free-range housing system does not automatically mean higher welfare – how the pigs are raised, handled, kept and managed is also crucial to achieving good welfare.

Outdoor bred

Not to be confused with free range, this label is used to signify pigs that

have been born in a free-range environment but then subsequently raised indoors.

Outdoor bred pigs may be raised in good indoor systems with large open sheds and comfortable straw bedding or in small pens with concrete floors in more conventional farming systems.

From the label alone, there is little way of knowing, so gathering further information from the brand is a good way to find out more.

Sow stall free

'Sow stall free' is the term used to define pigs that have been born from sows that are group housed during their pregnancy.

While the growth of sow stall-free pork is an important development, the label of 'sow stall free' alone does not indicate higher welfare production.

Sow stall-free farms still confine the sow to a farrowing crate prior to and for the weeks following the birth of her piglets.

In a farrowing crate, a sow can only stand up and lie down.

She can't turn around or engage with her environment.

Sows are strongly motivated to seek a nest site and build a nest before giving birth – not only can they not do this in a farrowing crate, but a sow can't interact with her piglets.

Piglets born in sow stall-free systems are still raised in barren intensive systems, often with no enrichment or bedding.

Painful husbandry practices such as tail docking or teeth clipping can also still be used. 🐷



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North Ryde NSW 2113
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Fax: 02 8875 8715
william.coombs@boehringer-ingelheim.com

Rose McFarlane
Territory Manager



Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Pty Limited
78 Waterloo Road
North Ryde NSW 2113
Mobile: 0408 459 356
Tel: 1800 808 691
Fax: 02 8875 8715
rose.mcfarlane@boehringer-ingelheim.com

Meg Donahoo
Senior Account Manager



Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Pty Limited
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Gavin Davies
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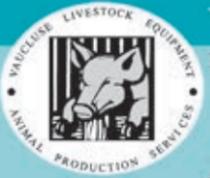
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