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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER



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Vol 23. No. 8 August 2019 Australian Pork Newspaper PO Box 387 Cleveland 4163 Phone (07) 3286 1833 Fax (07) 3821 2637 Email [ben@porknews.com.au](mailto:ben@porknews.com.au)



Dr Kate Plush (middle row, third from right) used her 2017 award to complete the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's TRAIL: Emerging Leaders Program.  
Photo: ARLP

## Calling for nominations for the 2019 Batterham Memorial Award

THE Batterham Memorial Award is a prestigious award conferred and supported by the Australasian Pig Science Association in memory of the late Dr Ted Batterham, an internationally respected researcher who made major contributions to pig science in Australia and around the world.

Ted was a world-leading and respected scientist in the area of amino acid nutrition and played a significant role in mentoring the next generation of pig scientists over three decades.

Since Ted's passing in 1994, the APSA Committee has presented the award to 12 deserving recipients who have each used the prize to broaden their exposure to national or international pig science and further their professional development.

The 2017 recipient Dr Kate Plush, manager of Science, Technology and Adoption at SunPork Solutions, completed her PhD in 2014 and has a strong background in applied R&D.

Kate used her award to complete the Australian Rural Leadership Founda-



tion's TRAIL: Emerging Leaders Program.

She is grateful for the opportunity in that it transformed the way she now thinks and acts across all aspects of her scientific career.

She is more confident in setting strategic plans into motion and is not afraid to have the inevitable 'difficult conversation', making her a more confident and effective scientist and manager.

Scientists in the pig industry are encouraged to nominate for the 2019 Batterham Memorial Award.

They should articulate how they've delivered research outcomes to the

Australasian pig industry and be able to demonstrate successful contributions through publications, collaboration and innovation in pig research and development.

To be eligible, nominees must be within 10 years of graduation at undergraduate level or within five years of completing Masters/PhD studies, or be a current postgraduate student.

Nominees must also be a current financial member of APSA, be working in the pig industry or a related field and have not won the Batterham Memorial Award previously.

Nominations shall include an outline of the nominee's contribution to pig science, how they would use the \$5000 cash prize, their CV and a letter of nomination.

The full list of criteria and how to apply can be found at [apsa.asn.au/Awards/BatterhamAward.aspx](http://apsa.asn.au/Awards/BatterhamAward.aspx)

Nominations open August 12 and close September 30, 2019.

The winner will be announced at the conference dinner on Monday, November 18, 2019.

## Adapting to new challenges



### Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



I grew up in Warren, NSW and that's a major reason I've found working on behalf of farmers and rural communities a driving passion throughout my career.

I've been fortunate to be involved with rural and regional stakeholders in various roles I've held with the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, the CSIRO, the University of NSW and the Townsville City Council, and I'm looking forward to continuing that connection via APL.

the product was made and what countries ingredients were sourced from.

And we need to ensure pig industry language like pork, bacon and ham continue to be protected legally from being hijacked by any meat-imitation or lab-grown product.

Providing opportunities for rural people to develop professional skills to become industry leaders is something I find particularly rewarding and APL has an important role in up-skilling producers from around Australia.

Leadership skills among grass-roots producers will be a valuable asset for the future as we strengthen industry representation and tell the compelling stories of Australian pork and the wonderful people who produce it.

The integrity of the people I've met throughout my career, like talking face-to-face with a producer on-farm, is absolutely compelling.

I'm a keen learner and know there's plenty about this industry I'll need to expand my understanding of as I settle into the CEO role.

With this in mind, I know there's no substitute for getting out of the office and seeing our supply chains, so I'm looking forward to getting some first-hand insights into Australian pork in coming months.



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## Pig Industry Calendar of Events

**2019**

**AUG 11 - 14** – The International Conference on Boar Semen Preservation, Hunter Valley, NSW [www.boarsemen2019.com](http://www.boarsemen2019.com)

**AUG 25 - 28** – Asian Pig Veterinary Society Congress, Busan, South Korea [www.apvs2019.com/invite.html](http://www.apvs2019.com/invite.html)

**AUG 26 - 29** – SafePork Conference, Berlin, Germany [www.safepork-conference.com](http://www.safepork-conference.com)

**SEP 21 - OCT 1** – Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne Showgrounds VIC [royalshow.com.au](http://royalshow.com.au)

**OCT 19 - 21** – Leman China Swine Conference, Zhengzhou, China [www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference](http://www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference)

**NOV 13 - 15** – 2019 Pig Welfare Symposium, Minneapolis, US [www.pork.org/events/pig-welfare-symposium](http://www.pork.org/events/pig-welfare-symposium)

**NOV 17-20** – Australasian Pig Science Association Conference, Adelaide, SA [www.apsa.asn.au](http://www.apsa.asn.au)

**NOV 27-29** – Fatty Pig Conference, Okinawa Prefecture Gender Equality Centre, Okinawa, Japan [www.pig333.com/calendar/5th-fatty-pig-conference-2017](http://www.pig333.com/calendar/5th-fatty-pig-conference-2017)

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

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# Emerging applications of digital technology



by HEATHER CHANNON  
Research and Innovation General Manager



THE first Australian Agriculture Immersive Technology Conference was recently held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This conference was organised by Meat & Livestock Australia and supported by the 15 Rural Research Development Corporations who also facilitated themed presentation sessions.

The conference highlighted the emerging importance of digital technology to the sector and featured augmented reality, virtual reality and technological innovation across many different sectors of the economy and how this information may be applied to agriculture.

The line-up of speakers included representations from Virtual Method, Think Digital, Australian Eggs, Forest Learning, IBM, Microsoft, DXC technology, Hitachi, Saab, Australian Wool Innovation and KPMG.

Themes included engaging with consumers in retail, marketing and the consumer, education and training, manufacturing operations, engineering maintenance and safety on farm agtech.

Many of the speakers also had trade displays which demonstrated their technologies and capabilities as well as provided delegates to have in-depth discussions with these companies.

Key benefits included:

- Education and training applications, particularly in remote localities and where biosecurity protocols are in place;

- The ability to use light-weight wearable and handsfree technologies to relay technical problems and receive remote assistance virtually, for example animal health assistance, technical and machinery maintenance;

- The ability of technologies to conduct design reviews and enter confined spaces virtually to record issues or relay engineering issues;

- Potential auto-haul technologies;

- Use of apps as portals to augmented reality – examples demonstrated involved the use of a

mobile phone camera to scan a code on packaged product which provided consumers with information about the product. This information can be regularly changed without modifying packaging which present opportunities to convey provenance information about Australian pork; and

- 360-degree farm tours/immersive experiences using virtual or augmented reality headsets to showcase industry while reducing biosecurity risks associated with bringing visitors on-farm.

We are following up on the contacts made at this conference to better understand how these types of technologies could be applied to deliver added value to industry through new and novel applications.

### R&I welcomes Vaibhav Gole

I am pleased to advise that Dr Vaibhav Gole has been appointed to the role of Manager, Integrity Systems and Capability with the Research and Innovation Division and commences with us on Monday, August 5.

His role includes the management of APL's R&D investments in food safety, traceability and eating quality and he will also oversee our technology adoption and capability programs.

Vaibhav comes to us from Rivalea (Australia) Pty Ltd where he has been the Microbiological Laboratory Manager for the past three and a half years.

He is a Veterinary Science graduate with a Master's degree in animal biotechnology and completed his PhD in microbiology (food safety) from the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at The University of Ad-

elaide in June 2014.

We look forward to welcoming Vaibhav to Australian Pork Limited and to his ongoing contributions to the Australian pork industry.

### Wrapping up the Zero Zinc Conference, Copenhagen

By 2022, the use of high levels of zinc oxide for the therapeutic treatment and prevention of diarrhoea in weaner pigs will be banned in the EU.

The ban is due to the negative effect ZnO has on the environment.

Therefore, the EU is currently seeking alternatives to ZnO without having to increase antibiotic usage to keep their pigs free from diarrhoea.

With this deadline looming, the Danish Pig Research Centre organised and convened the Zero Zinc Conference, held in Copenhagen on June 17 and 18.

Whilst there are no moves currently to ban the use of ZnO in Australia, it is important for the Australian pig industry to keep abreast of the alternatives in order to be prepared if a ban does eventuate in order to manage post-weaning diarrhoea in our pigs in the most effective and sustainable manner.

The Summit brought together researchers, nutritionists, consultants, industry representatives and key stakeholders from the international pig industry with most of the world represented.

The event was sold out with over 450 participants and a further 50 on the waiting list to attend.

This highlights how much of an issue production without ZnO is to global pig production worldwide.

At the end of the two-

day event, the answer to the replacement of ZnO was clear - there is no single product proven to be able to replace ZnO effectively.

Rather, production management strategies for the whole herd are required to tackle this issue.

The opening presentation, given by Hanne Damgaard (Aarhus University) and Jürgen Zentek (Freie Universität Berlin), focused on the 'mode of action of high levels of zinc oxide and alternative zinc sources'.

This talk provided good context and understanding of the importance of zinc, outlined briefly below:

- Zinc is mainly absorbed in the first part of the small intestine, with physiological demand increased in young, fast-growing animals.

- A zinc deficiency will lead to a decrease in feed intake, growth check, an outbreak of diarrhoea, increased intestinal zinc loss, reduced zinc levels in the blood and in some cases skin lesions.

- A decrease in feed intake affects energy intake. This leads to insufficient dietary zinc intake. Sufficient daily zinc intake is often met through the inclusion of high levels of ZnO in the feed.

Dr Alfons Janssen from Wageningen Livestock Research, presented an interesting discussion on 'Altering feed composition as alternatives to ZnO and to reduce post weaning diarrhoea', where he outlined that feed intake was the key to the relationship between gut barrier function and the risk factor for diarrhoea development in the newly weaned animal.

He stated that good preparation for weaning begins with the stimulation of the young animal's gut (via effective creep feeding) while they are still on the sow.

Multiple options were suggested for diet optimisation, including:

- Pre-weaning feeding (shaping the microbiota and gut development);

- Selection of protein sources (focusing on digestibility and functionality);

- Optimisation of di-

etary protein level and amino acid profile;

- Selection of processed starch source;
- Inclusion of selected feed additives (organic acids, enzymes, pre- and probiotics); and
- Diet formulation, structure and palatability.

Dr Janssen highlighted that an increase of protein in the gut results in an increase in fermentation and a subsequent reduction of microbiota.

He made the following suggestions when considering protein selection for the weaner diet:

- Try to reduce to the selection of enzymatically non digestible proteins as they are a fermentation risk in the distal gastrointestinal tract;

- Sources with a high crude protein content are highly digestible (such as whey protein, soya concentrate, potato protein and fishmeal) should be selected;

- Low levels of anti-nutritional factors allowing good intake and digestion; and

- There needs to be a balanced amino acid profile.

Dr Janssen concluded his presentation by stating weaning is a very critical period in the life of a pig in relation to the functional development of the gut.

The sensitivity for gut health problems will not only affect short-term performance, it may impact on performance later in life as well.

Niels Jørgen Kjeldsen (SEGES) presented results from an experimental study using 6800 weaners.

This study led to SEGES changing their recommendation to limit protein level inclusion to 17.5 percent in both phase one and two weaner diets.

The study found the treatment of pigs on low protein diets for diarrhoea was reduced by 25 percent compared to diets that did not include ZnO.

Multiple speakers mentioned the value of clinical testing to define the cause of post-weaning diarrhoea when present in the herd.

Though this sounds like simple advice, outcomes

► continued P4



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# Emerging applications of digital technology

► from P2

from several studies have suggested different interventions may be required, other than including ZnO in weaner diets, to best manage the causal agent of diarrhoea.

The importance of having motivated, well-trained staff to manage the herd appropriately was raised by many speakers.

The ability of having stock people recognise early signs of post weaning diarrhoea is highly underrated – particularly when we know early intervention

results in better outcomes.

APL is currently investigating in the area of alternatives to antimicrobials, such as ZnO, to help manage post-weaning diarrhoea.

Assoc Prof Eugeni Roura from the University of Queensland is conducting a research project that aims to reduce the quantity of undigested feed available for bacterial fermentation in the hindgut in weaner pigs through the inclusion of bitter compounds in the diet.

In previous studies, Eugeni found certain bitter compounds slow the intestinal passage rate, allowing for more complete digestion of food and absorption of nutrients.

It is hoped the inclusion of bitter compounds in weaner diets will reduce the risk of diarrhoea in weaners and thus the use of antimicrobials while improving growth performance and feed efficiency.

For further information on items discussed in this article, please contact me on 0423 056 045 or heather.chan non@australianpork.com.au



Brad Thomason was rather chuffed at all the attention at his farewell dinner at Crown Towers Perth after 19 years as managing director at D'Orsogna and a lifetime in the meat and smallgoods industries.

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Greig Smith is now D'Orsogna managing director.

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## Pork roast was Brad Thomason's crowning glory

I WAS honoured to be one of a few friends and business colleagues to take centre stage as part of a roasting panel at the retirement dinner for D'Orsogna managing director Brad Thomason at Crown Towers Perth on Friday, June 26.

They say every picture tells a story, so I'll leave the many 'crackling roast' stories to your imagination and the pictures on this page to give you a little taste of the night.

Needless to say, it was a great send-off for Brad after 19 years at the helm of D'Orsogna and a lifetime in the meat and smallgoods business.

With more than 100 people from overseas, interstate and Brad's hometown of Perth assembled for a gala dinner, it was a worthy tribute to someone who has given so much to so many for so long.

I've had the professional privilege of working in PR



Cant Comment  
by  
**BRENDON CANT**

with Brad for more than 30 years during his time heading up George Weston Foods Meat & Dairy Division and D'Orsogna and it's always been challenging,

► continued P5



The author (second from right) captured the attention of D'Orsogna chairman Tony Iannello (left) and others at pre-dinner drinks.



Brad's long-time PA Colleen Bassula with Neil and Barbara Reid.



Corey and Adrian Neira (D'Orsogna category analyst), Loreta D'Orsogna-Valentini, Paul Butcher (D'Orsogna marketing manager) and Gabi Oldmeadow watched the guest magician work his magic.



Son Kim and wife Norma happily put a lot of work into Brad's retirement dinner, noting that he deserved a big send-off after he'd put in a lot of work over a lifetime.



Lola and Rob Wilson.

## Pork roast was Brad Thomason's crowning glory

from P4

never boring, sometimes amusing and even a little frustrating at times.

While a natural born leader and with the outward appearance and sometimes manner of a 'tough nut', Brad has not only a soft side, once you can find it, but, most importantly, he has always had honesty, integrity and goodwill at the forefront

I know he's accepted a Board position at D'Orsogna and may consider other offers. I wish him well in his retirement, albeit he's never been the retiring type, so he'll have some work to do. ☺

[www.porknews.com.au](http://www.porknews.com.au)

of everything he does, in his business life and his personal life.

I wish him well in his future endeavours.

I know he's accepted a Board position at D'Orsogna and may consider other offers.

I wish him well in his retirement, albeit he's never been the retiring type, so he'll have some work to do. ☺



D'Orsogna senior business manager Francesco Taranto and D'Orsogna Board member Ian Thubron.



Brad is very proud of his children Nicole (second left) and Kim (second right), pictured here with their partners and Brad's granddaughters.



Brad Thomason and business colleague Jorg Reimer, who flew out from Germany for Brad's retirement dinner.



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# Represent the Australian pork industry as an APL delegate

■ Voting closes on September 2, 2019

THE Australian Pork Limited delegate elections are now open.

If you haven't renewed or applied for APL membership yet, do it soon so you can vote for your delegate.

Alternatively, if you're interested in representing your fellow pig producers at industry events, consider becoming an APL delegate yourself.

Delegates play an important role in assisting APL to better meet the needs of members and the broader industry.

All APL producer members are entitled to nominate and vote for an APL delegate to represent their interests more directly to APL.

Delegates are appointed for three-year terms to represent members' interests at APL general meetings and other industry events, such as the biannual Delegates' Forums, where delegates can provide input into and find out about APL strategies and activities.

Delegates form a vital conduit for the two-way

exchange of information between APL and the industry and have a responsibility to their producer voters to be diligent in representing them in industry matters.

A delegate is a 'natural person', meaning they are appointed in their own right as an individual, not because of any organisational or representational role.

Delegates do not have to be members or directors of APL.

To become a delegate, you must be nominated by one or more APL members who have in aggregate paid an amount of pig slaughter levy as recorded in the APL membership register equal to or greater than the 'delegate levy amount' determined for each election – in this case \$460,880.

If you're interested in becoming an APL delegate, complete and submit the Consent to Act as Delegate form, available from [australianpork.com.au/members](http://australianpork.com.au/members) or via the PigPass Portal at [pigpass.com.au](http://pigpass.com.au).

APL encourages all potential candidates to submit their forms as soon as possible to allow producers sufficient time to consider voting for them.

Candidates for election at the date of writing include (in alphabetical

surname order):

- Tracy Anderson
- Edwina Beveridge
- Russell Bishop
- Laurie Brosnan
- Ken Cameron
- Matt Cartwright
- Jorge Chorrez
- Cherie Collins
- Darryl D'Souza
- Tristan Donaldson
- Richard Evison
- Neil Ferguson
- Rod Hamann
- Karen Henwood
- Mick Hewat
- Ian Hill
- David Hodgson
- Peter Howard
- Andrew Johnson
- Marcus Jones
- Tim Kingma
- Rob Martyn
- Mark McKenzie
- Mark McLean
- Paul O'Leary
- David Plant
- Ean Pollard
- Nathan Sandral
- Aaron Scheid
- Kenton Shaw
- Rob Smits
- Matt Starick
- Paul Taylor
- Robert Van Barneveld
- Darren Wilson
- David Wright.

More details about these candidates, including their biographies, are available in the PigPass Portal.

To view the progress of the delegate elections in real time, log into the PigPass Portal and click on the Voting Progress link to see who has been nominated and how close they are to the

delegate levy amount – including whether they have already been appointed.

From the PigPass Portal, you can also renew or apply for membership via the Membership Status section, complete a Consent to Act as Delegate form, and vote for your chosen delegate.

When voting for your delegate, you are in effect allocating votes equal to your entire levy amount to that candidate.

Voting via the PigPass Portal helps ensure your levy vote allocation is directed to the nominee of your choice and not reallocated to a different nominee in the case where your first choice is already appointed.

If you prefer not to use the PigPass portal for membership renewal/application and delegate voting, you can instead download the relevant forms from [australianpork.com.au/members](http://australianpork.com.au/members) or request a copy by calling APL on 1800 789 099.

Please note, voting closes on September 2, 2019.

For more information, visit [australianpork.com.au/members](http://australianpork.com.au/members) or contact the APL Membership Team at [members@australianpork.com.au](mailto:members@australianpork.com.au) or 1800 798 099.

# What you need to know to protect your business from African swine fever

IF we track the gradual spread of African swine fever over the past 10 years in Europe, despite best efforts made by farmers and governments to prevent it reaching their domestic pig herds, these measures have generally failed.

Interestingly, the challenges faced in Europe have been somewhat different to those now emerging in Asia.

In Europe, a large population of wild pigs made the task of limiting the spread of the disease through official movement restrictions all but redundant.

The proposals to build perimeter fences that stretched hundreds of kilometres have also been seen as being mostly futile attempts at preventing the disease moving across borders.

The spread of the disease in Asia appears to be different.

Asia has very little left of its wild pig population but from north to south, an approximate 580 million pigs can be found on Asian farms.

Pig farming in Asia remains predominantly practised by smallholder farms and this has been the principal cause attributed to the rapid spread of ASF.

A lack of understanding of basic biosecurity concepts and continued swill feeding practices have all but guaranteed ASF was going to develop differently in Asia.

In parts of Asia, panic set in, with both animal health authorities and pig farmers congregating regularly to find out about the latest developments and measures taken, which has undoubtedly led to a faster spread of the disease.

Farmers inadvertently carrying the disease on their shoes and clothing back to their farms fuelled a faster proliferation of the virulent disease.

## Australian industry fears

Much has been said in Australia about the inevitability of ASF reaching our shores.

Over the past few months, Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has stepped up its biosecurity screening and teamed up with the Australian Animal Health Laboratory to test for the presence of ASF in pork products seized at border entry points.

Alarmingly, the results of confiscated pork products during two rounds of testing showed African swine virus DNA was present in 46 of the intercepted products.

In the past six months alone, Australian authorities have confiscated 17

tonnes of pork products from air passengers and two tonnes in the mail.

All of which was being brought into the country in contravention of customs regulations.

With over 9.2 million visitors entering Australia every year, the chances of ASF entering Australia's pig herd are very high.

What is of concern is Australia, like many parts of Europe, has a large wild pig population.

Some estimates put the number of feral pigs at between eight and 10 million.

As such, once the disease has entered, controlling its spread in Australia could prove to be challenging and a repeat of the difficulties encountered in Europe.

Australia also farms many of its pigs through free range systems, which inherently increase the risk of the spread of disease and could facilitate the movement of ASF between states and territories.

## What can be done?

While Australia's animal health authorities and the industry continue to be proactive in preventing the entry and spread of this disease, the pig farming community can ready itself by taking steps to mitigate the risk.

Biosecurity measures should be assessed and updated.

Simple things such as increased levels of disinfection of people and vehicles entering and leaving farms should be adopted.

Farm workers who return from overseas should be quarantined and monitored.

An inexpensive biosecurity risk audit is recommended to help farms ascertain if their current disease prevention systems are adequate.

## Protecting your business

Several insurance products are specifically designed to protect pig growers, their animals and businesses.

Livestock Mortality is perhaps the most common of the insurance protections available.

This insurance covers the cost of production in case a pig dies from disease or other events.

Receiving a payment for the costs incurred in breeding and rearing a pig can help a business restock quickly.

This compensation does not provide protection for the entire financial loss to the business.

Livestock Business Continuity and Loss of Profits is a customised coverage to help livestock growers protect their farms and businesses against the financial impact, additional costs and loss of profits following the outbreak of

a serious disease.

In the event of a disease outbreak in or outside the farm, a business can expect to experience some form of interruption and impact to its bottom line.

If it is external, animal health authorities are likely to impose movement bans and restrictions, preventing business trade from taking place and putting the farm under financial stress to cover costs such as additional feed expenses, ongoing general overheads and loss of revenue as pigs are unable to be sent for processing. In some cases, it is also possible pigs held for longer periods may gain weight and exceed local market requirements, resulting in animals having to be sold at below price or, worst case scenario, unable to be sold because of oversupply once the movement ban has been lifted.

If the disease has entered the farm, animal health authorities would be expected to step in and enforce slaughter orders. Though compensation will be made available from the government, it is unlikely to provide the protection required to cover a business for its full loss of profits, additional expenses it has incurred (carcass removal and disinfection) and in some instances the costs of keeping the farm operational while it restocks and restarts. Keeping farm staff employed, having the ability to continue paying fixed costs (rent, insurance, maintenance and service) and other critical expense items such as loan repayments are crucial to allowing a business to get back on its feet as quickly as possible.

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# Going for the everyday

As we move further into the new financial year, we are facing quite a few potential changes in both the global and local meat markets.

The combination of the drought and low pig prices is likely to cause less beef, lamb and pork to be available than last year.

On the global front, the decline of pig numbers as a result of African swine fever is likely to drive up global prices and it is possible to conceive the Australian pork premium versus global pork prices may decline.

However, in the world of the consumer, some things change a lot slower.



## Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON  
General Manager Marketing



Minced meat and sausages are still a core ingredient for many of the most popular meals in the country.

In addition, prices at retail for both beef mince and beef sausages have moved upwards over the

past six months.

From a consumer perspective, pork is now better value and pork mince and sausages are just as good and some might even argue better tasting.

With this in mind, the 'Get Some Pork On Your Fork' ads will continue to air every month until Christmas, highlighting pork's versatility and value for money.



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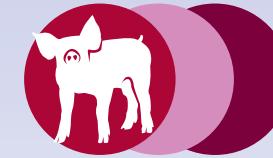
Pan roasted pork chops with apple beans and red onion.



Pork and cranberry burgers.

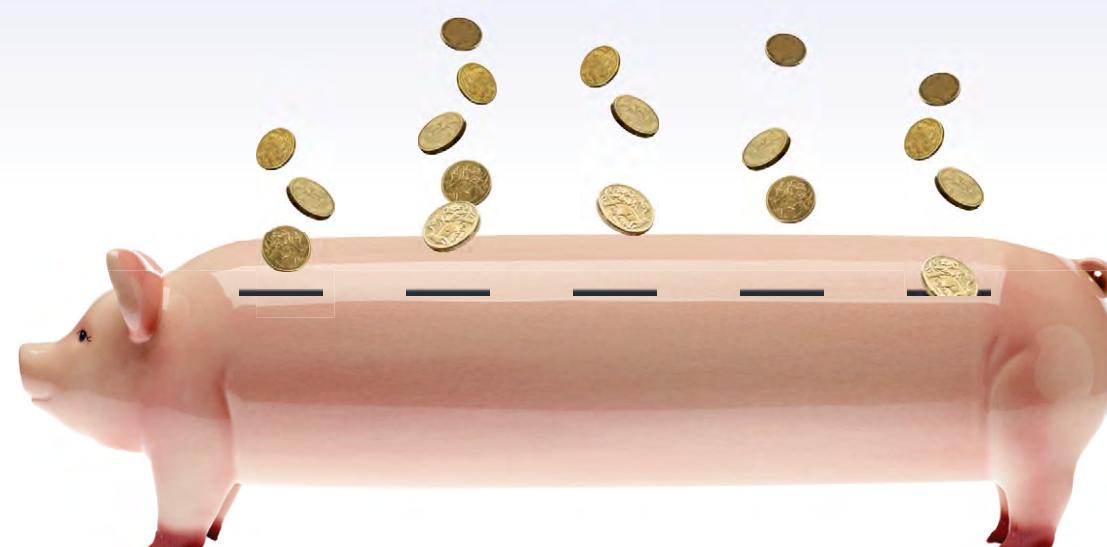


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# What is the role of industry now and in an ASF incursion?

IT is clear the Australian pork supply chain is highly sensitised to what may occur during an African swine fever incursion.

This concern enables a focus on preparations – including governments working out how they may manage an ASF incursion, producers working through how an incursion may affect their business (whether disease has been identified on their farm or not) and the input and output supply chains.

It's fair to say that this has created much uncertainty and speculation about what the gaps are and whose role it is to address them.

A good description of what happens in an incursion is that we're all on a bus – and government is the driver.

There are a lot of people across the industry sitting on that bus looking at the chasm in the road coming up fast.

Australian Pork Limited may be the navigator trying to work through gaps such as business continuity, response plans and others.

This all feels like chaos, even though the framework to manage the response does exist.

This framework is contained in the series of documents known as the

**AUSTRALIAN Pork<sup>®</sup>**  
**Point of View**

by DEB KERR  
General Manager Policy



AusVetPlans found on Animal Health Australia's website animalhealthaustralia.com.au, which details how governments and industry work together during an incursion and their respective roles and responsibilities.

A lot of preparation has already been done (much of this is generic) or is underway. State governments are currently drafting their ASF response plans, a plan for tracing pigs, surveillance plans and so on.

The response plan is a key document with the purpose of showing the proposed response is technically sound, whether eradication or containment is possible and the estimated costs of doing this.

It will be pre-filled where information is known and must be com-

pleted within a few hours of a positive test.

It covers:

- Status report on the suspected disease, for example location, species, clinical situation, laboratory diagnosis, results of tracing and surveillance, numbers of susceptible species nearby, actions taken to date and the feasibility of eradication;
- Proposed response activities such as quarantine arrangements and movement controls, stamping out, decontamination and farm clean up procedures, restocking, diagnosis, surveillance and tracing, zoning, situation reports, management of feral pigs, proof of freedom protocols and animal welfare;
- Indicative budget;
- Public relations;
- Local and state control centres;

- Additional research and information needs;
- Accounting procedures; and
- Monitoring.

The response plan determines how much money is required to combat the incursion (including those costs which are repaid to government from producers via a specific slaughter levy).

It must be approved by the National Management Group (comprised of ministers, chairs of affected industries and the chair of an unaffected or independent industry).

The response plan will be updated as the incursion event unfolds.

During a disease incursion, events and circumstances change hourly, daily and weekly.

As a result, governments require some flexibility in how they will manage an incursion.

They have the capacity to call on resources, including the armed services to assist.

This occurred during the north Queensland floods earlier in the year when Army specialists assisted in developing plans on how to deal with the animals that did not survive.

Their role was to come up with the burial plan, which was then put in place by local and state

government officials.

The role of Governments is to ensure the arrangements are in order to control and to stamp out any exotic disease incursion.

As I see it, APL's role is ascertaining what gaps there are in these arrangements, particularly those that fall outside the remit of governments.

As previously advised, business continuity planning for producers is one of these, along with identifying any research needs e.g. can the kangaroo soft tick play a role in transmitting ASF to feral pigs?

In addition to research needs, APL is:

- Reviewing draft ASF response, surveillance and tracing plans currently being drafted by state governments;
- Providing input into the review of Australia's priority animal diseases;
- Providing input into the review of the ASF AusVetPlan manual;
- Ensuring the industry's liaisons, specialists, vets and decision makers are sufficient and are trained;
- Along with state farming organisations, working with state governments to test their preparedness arrangements;
- Continuing to communicate with producers on the disease arrangements through several channels; and
- Talking to feral pig hunters to seek their support in surveillance of feral pigs, taking samples for testing for disease and tick identification, and their co-operation not to move pigs to new regions for hunting purposes.

It is imperative producers and pork supply chain partners understand how any exotic disease incursion will impact their businesses.

For a producer, the extent of this will depend on whether their pigs have the disease, whether they are in a control or restricted zone (where pigs cannot be moved, or pigs and feed received), and whether a pig, pork and pork products standstill occurs and for how long.

Even if you are fortunate not to have these apply, Australia's export markets will close, there will be domestic market impacts and subsequently the prices for your pigs are likely to change as a result of oversupply and undersupply.

It is essential you think about these impacts and develop continuity plans so that your business can get through a disease incursion.

APL is currently reviewing a checklist business continuity plan and will shortly make this available to producers.

ASF is a hunting mechanism for holes in bio-security.

It is essential you continue to review your farm biosecurity plans.

Even if ASF does not get to Australia, it is imperative your piggery's biosecurity has no holes – this includes reviewing of people, pig and vehicle movements, perimeter fencing and inanimate things including boots, clothing, trucks, cars, phones, pens and food.

Anything that has access to your farm and your pigs is a risk you need to manage.

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Shirley Turner, Kevin Duff, John Coward, Deb Kerr, Jonathan Lee and Allison Crook at the recent African swine fever workshop in Toowoomba.

## African swine fever workshop prepares Queensland producers

B I O S E C U R I T Y Queensland recently hosted a workshop focused on African swine fever preparedness to ensure Queensland is well equipped to respond in the event of ASF reaching our shores.

Australia is in the favourable position of being free from ASF, however recent incidents in Eastern Europe and Asia are a reminder it can spread quickly.

Around 50 people attended the workshop including pork industry representatives, pig producers, abattoir operators, nutritionists and feed companies.

Topics discussed at the event included the disease, the risk to Australia, the response in place under the AUSVETPLAN, surveillance, destruction and disposal and diagnostic testing.

Australian Pork Limited General Manager of Policy Deb Kerr delivered a presentation on the industry perspective of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement and also talked about livestock movement arrangements.

Biosecurity Queensland veterinarian Sandy Adsett co-ordinated the meeting and said ASF would devastate Queensland's pork industry.

"ASF is highly contagious and up to 100 percent of affected pigs may die as a result," Sandy said.

"The workshop brought key people together to discuss what would actually happen in Queensland in an ASF emergency response and it was great to see this level of collaboration from government and industry.

"A big thank you to Sara

Willis from Agri-Science Queensland for helping co-ordinate the workshop and ensuring it was a success."

Dr Allison Crook, Chief Veterinary Officer and General Manager of Animal Biosecurity and Welfare attended the workshop.

"ASF is an emerging threat and it's important Queensland is well prepared to respond to emergency animal diseases such as this," Allison said.

"Measures are in place at a federal level to protect Australia from ASF,

including not importing fresh pork, but if there was an ASF incident in Australia a rapid, co-ordinated response would be key.

"That's why preparedness activities like this one are so important."

Future preparedness plans include holding an on-farm emergency animal disease exercise focused on ASF.

Biosecurity Queensland has also formed an ASF Working Group to ensure ASF preparedness in Queensland.



Deb Kerr, Jonathan Lee and Allison Crook engaged with attendees.



Biosecurity Queensland Principal Veterinary Officer Jonathan Lee

Main route of infection is via ingestion of contaminated pork products.



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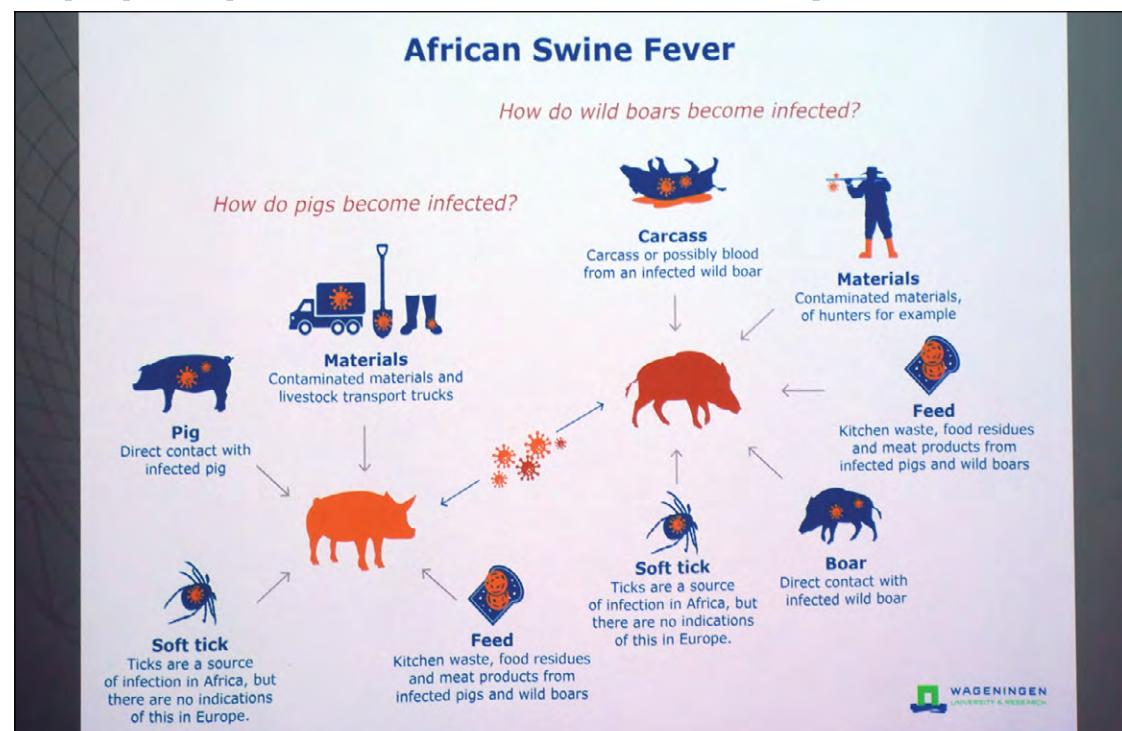
How times have changed.

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# African swine fever workshop prepares Queensland producers



Feral pigs will eat almost anything.



Transmission pathways of ASF.



APL GM Policy Deb Kerr and Queensland Government CVO Allison Crook provided a wealth of information.



Deb was kept busy answering many questions from attendees.



Biosecurity Queensland's Kevin Duff.

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## As little as possible, as much as necessary – lab tests help reduce medication to control ileitis by 85 percent

DURING the 1970s a disease was recognised in growing pigs which caused the cells of the pigs' gut, particularly those of the small intestine (ileum), to multiply abnormally and produce thickening and inflammation of the small intestine (ileitis).

The micro-organism (a campylobacter-like bacteria) detected also appeared to be involved in a syndrome in breeding gilts which produced massive bleeding into the small intestine.

The disease, then poorly understood, had several names: campylobacter, ileitis, porcine haemorrhagic enteritis and proliferative enteritis were all used.

Through work by Australian veterinarian Steve McOrist in Edin-

burgh in the 1990s, the causal organism (*lawsonia intracellularis*) was grown in a laboratory and the disease reproduced.

Until 2000 the disease was kept under control by adding antimicrobials to pig diets.

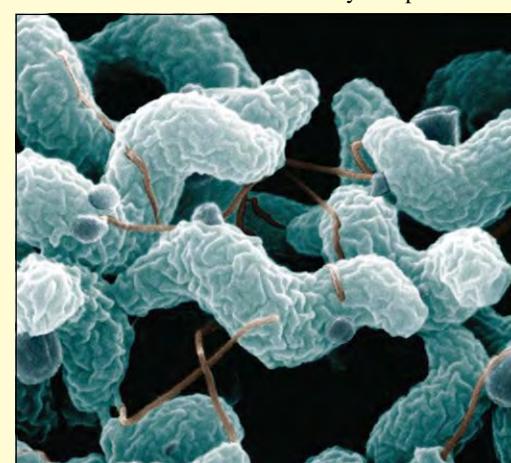
Every so often, veterinarians recommended removing the antimicrobials.

However, because the bug was still present on farms and the antimicrobials often prevented the pigs from catching the disease and developing any immunity, when the medication was taken out of the feed the pigs got sick.

They showed all the typical signs such as reduced growth rate and increased deaths.

This was expensive.

Every 1 percent in-



Campylobacter

crease in death rate per week costs a farm about \$3 per pig in weekly inventory.

If the herd growth rate is reduced by 10g per day this can cost an extra \$1.50 per pig produced.

It's understandable that producers and their veterinarians were nervous about this disease and used continuous in-feed antimicrobial medications for control.

Following McOrist's work, laboratory tests were developed.

These could detect whether pigs had been exposed to the bacteria.

Only then could management of the disease be modified.

Instead of using antimicrobials in all the grower rations continuously, medication at low doses could be given to specific age groups of pigs.

Adding the antibiotic at a low level to the feed allowed the pigs to become exposed to the bacteria but prevented the signs of the disease.

Veterinarians could take blood samples from the growing pigs at about 14 weeks of age to check the pigs had developed an immunity, so finisher pigs could then be safely left unmedicated.

If there was a fail-

ure during the process of controlled exposure, then emergency antibiotic could be given via the water supply.

This method of managing the bacteria and using the blood test has meant farms have been able to reduce their use of in-feed antimicrobials by as much as 85 percent.

No two farms are the same and solutions need to be tailor made but there are many examples that show how reducing antimicrobial use can be done safely.

In the early 2000s, a vaccine became available.

It contained a live form of the bacteria that did not cause the disease.

This vaccine was given by mouth or in water.

It worked very well to the point that some high health status herds were able to remove antimicrobials from the weaner feed.

Though some damage to the pigs' intestines was noticed at slaughter inspections from time to time, this was fixed by making sure the vaccine was administered correctly on farm.

An injectable *lawsonia* vaccine is available internationally and its arrival in Australia is eagerly anticipated.

Ross Cutler

## Reducing antimicrobial use in animals is important but not always easy to do

REDUCING antimicrobial use is a pivotal part of the global plan against microbial resistance in both human and animal pathogens.

When it comes to on-farm decisions for treatment, human factors are as important as technical ones.

Prior experience and risk avoidance have a major influence on decisions about treatment.

There is extensive knowledge available to substantially prevent, reduce and control the burden of many animal diseases without the use of antimicrobials in production animals – the battleground is in consistently and effectively implementing the necessary management changes.

In practice, however, these behavioural changes are difficult to accomplish.

The reasons are complex and differ from person to person.

Insights into enabling or inhibiting factors can be helpful for policy makers, advisers and others, which will ultimately help support veterinarians and farmers in adopting new behaviours.

The adoption of prudent antimicrobial use

principles thus requires a change in attitudes for both veterinarians and farmers.

It is widely believed the role of veterinarians should change from reactive and curative antimicrobial prescribers towards a more proactive role as animal health consultants for farmers without relying on prescribing antimicrobials.

Farmers should ideally depart from relying on using antimicrobials as a management tool towards a more proactive approach that prevents animal diseases and uses antimicrobials only as a last resort.

To successfully implement change, individuals need support tailored to their situation.

A person's beliefs are related to attitudes, perceived norms of others and self-efficacy.

Understanding people's beliefs can be useful in designing specific strategies to support people to adopt new behaviours.

Once an intention for a certain behaviour is established, it needs to progress into action and should be sustained over time to have a lasting impact.

Here, external factors

come into play – factors an individual often has limited control over.

A

person's skills, knowledge and environment can facilitate or restrict the performance of an actual behaviour through resources, tools, education, subsidies, regulations, organisational constraints, fines and so on.

Veterinarians increasingly advise farmers on specific management measures aimed at preventing animal diseases and reducing antimicrobial use, but uncertainty regarding the (cost) effectiveness of these measures often hampers implementation of the recommendations.

Also, conflicting recommendations from different farm advisors (including other veterinarians) can be a major obstacle for implementing veterinary advice.

Personal (bad or good) experience with specific antimicrobial use practices or management changes has been found to greatly influence the attitudes of farmers and veterinarians – especially when exploring new management or antimicrobial use routines.

Governments can in-

duce regulations and fines to induce behaviour changes, but these might also introduce unforeseen and unwanted side effects (illegal use practices, animal welfare issues) and require significant inspection capacity, something Australia will likely try to avoid.

Governments can also support veterinarians and farmers to engage in voluntary behaviour changes by means of provisions, education and social pressure.

The Dutch approach in the past decade has shown a combination of policy – setting strict reduction targets for antimicrobial use – and supportive instruments can have a huge effect on the level of antimicrobial use in farm animals.

Public pressure has also been a major driver in several countries to reduce the use of antimicrobials in farm animals.

It can serve as an accelerator for further action through marketing programs.

Already chickens reared antibiotic free are appearing in Coles in Australia and in Canada 'No Antibiotic Ever' pork dominates the shelves of some supermarkets.

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# Australian Government delivers to protect farmers

THE Australian Government has delivered on its election commitment to protect the privacy of Australian farmers and primary producers by introducing legislation to protect them from the unlawful actions of animal activists.

The Criminal Code Amendment (Agricultural Protection) Bill 2019 introduces new offences for the incitement of trespass, property damage or theft on agricultural land.

Attorney-General Christian Porter said incidents of trespass by animal activists, such as those we saw earlier this year, have impacted on Australian farmers and their businesses, prompting this

stronger action to deter those who incite this behaviour.

"There must be consequences for this unacceptable behaviour," the Attorney-General said.

"Farmers should not be subjected to the illegal invasion of their property and privacy."

"The Bill introduces serious criminal penalties to ensure farmers and their families are protected, with offenders facing up to five years' imprisonment."

"The Bill includes exemptions for journalists and whistle-blowers who expose instances of animal cruelty."

The Bill also covers other private agricultural

businesses such as fishers and foresters.

Minister for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie said the Bill sends a clear message to animal activists that if you use the personal information of our family farmers to incite trespass then you will be risking jail, once the Bill passes.

The government has also called on the state and territory governments to increase penalties to deter animal rights activists from trespass.

"These laws are necessary to protect farmers and their businesses – most of them small family businesses – from potential trespass, property damage, theft and

biosecurity breaches, and the substantial loss of income that could follow," the Minister said.

"These new laws build on other actions taken by the Morrison Government to protect farmers and their families, including prescribing Aussie Farms under the Privacy Act, meaning the organisation could face fines of up to \$2.1 million for breaches of the Act."

"The Federal Government is committed to supporting Australian farmers, their families and their businesses and this Bill delivers on that commitment to this critically important part of our economy – our \$60 billion agriculture industry."

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IMPROVING the safety around wastewater pumping can have a significant effect on morale, but also the bottom line, according to engineered pump supplier Hydro Innovations.

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The asset owners see the effects on the bottom line for the entire life of the asset.

A surface-mounted pump does not need a crane to access pumps, so the associated costs of crane operation/use are minimised or eliminated.

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of the installation.

One operator can adjust pump clearances on a Gorman-Rupp self-priming pump in minutes, keeping the pump at its peak operating efficiency for the life of the installation – providing a substantial energy saving for the life of the asset.

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**FLEX**

# Doug Ross Overseas Travel Award 2019: call for applications

THE Doug Ross Overseas Travel and Study Award provides a professional development and education experience for young veterinarians who have demonstrated an interest in pig production.

Candidates for selection will be Australian citizens working in Australia in the final year of their veterinary degree course or having graduated within the past five years.

They will have demonstrated an interest in pig production through working on pig farms, extra mural experience with pig veterinary practitioners, completing a research project or a university assignment on pigs or currently working in a professional environment where they see pigs.

They may even be employed in another branch of veterinary medicine but are interested in finding out more about pig practice and having a closer look.

For further information about the award, contact Ross Cutler at rossccu@gmail.com or 03 5255 5614 before September 30.

Application forms are available from Rachael Bryant at rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au

The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2019.

The award winner for 2017-18 was Charles Sturt University veterinary graduate Molly Dunstan (pictured), who completed her degree in 2018.

Molly worked on pig farms in South Australia as a student and after graduation started work with Dr Barry Lloyd in Gawler, South Australia.

As a student, she assisted Ross Cutler who was lecturing at the CSU vet school at the time, with tutorials involving students in discussions about pig production.

For her award, Molly

attended the Allen D. Leman Swine Conference in pig health in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Her report to Australian Pork Limited reflected new learning about gilt selection based, in part, on a minimum birth weight standard of 1.1kg.

"The Leman conference is an annual international meeting for the global pig industry," Molly said.

"It presents the latest on disease diagnostics, biosecurity and production.

"A highlight for me was the session on sow lifetime productivity.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Leman conference and the chance to network with some fantastic leaders in pig health and production."

Molly's report also showed an acute awareness of developments in truck biosecurity, something of keen interest to Australia given the

threat of African swine fever and the spread of the disease in China associated, among other things, with poor transport biosecurity.

The award provides an economy airfare from Australia to an international conference venue, registration fees and accommodation and living expenses for the period of the meeting.

The total value of the award is around \$6000.

Candidates may put forward their own travel proposals and the selection panel will consider these on their merits.

The award enables veterinarians who are interested in a career in the pig industry and food animal production to significantly improve their skills and build contacts that will stand them in great stead for their future career.

The award is supported by funds set aside from the Australian Pork Corporation and Pig Research and Development Corporation at the time of the formation of APL, a donation from the Australian International Pig Veterinary Society 2000 organising committee and a donation from Intervet Pty Ltd (now MSD Animal Health).

The Doug Ross Overseas Travel and Study Award recognises the contribution of the late Doug Ross (1947-2000) to the Australian pig industry.

Doug was a veterinarian who was passionately involved in the pig industry and was a mentor for many people in the industry, including several veterinarians.



2017-18 Doug Ross Overseas Travel and Study Award winner Molly Dunstan at the Allen D. Leman Swine Conference in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota. Photo: Dr Bernie Gleeson



Aussie Pumps' dealer support team will hit the road at field day shows.

## Field day season – water is the issue

THE Aussie Pumps team is ready for this season of field days across the country, with a clear recognition water security is the biggest single issue.

The company launched its Drought Buster program late last year, designed to introduce farmers to more efficient ways of moving water at all levels.

The self-priming centrifugal pump range was fast tracked into a program to offer farmers reduced prices for diesel-drive pumps with extended payment terms.

High-pressure self-priming centrifugal pumps provide huge fuel savings.

Aussie Pumps' formula was simple.

The company introduced big 3" and 4" portable Kubota diesel engine powered pumps marketed under the Drought Buster program.

The pumps come in heavy-duty galvanised

steel frames.

Most have electric start as standard and can move water at rates of up to 2600l/pm.

The big Drought Buster pumps are even offered on 90-day payment terms through qualified Aussie Pump dealers called 'Buy Now Pay Later'.

It's just another way Aussie Pumps recognises the plight of farmers and at the same time acknowledges the huge debt the country has to the agriculture sector.

Farmers have helped the company develop what is the most advanced range of self-priming centrifugal portable pumps in the world.

The big pumps will be on display at field days around the country as part of this year's program.

### Water security the key

With people like Alan Jones, Barnaby Joyce, Twigg Forest and many more supporting the cause, the drought affecting a huge percentage of Australia's farming community cannot be ignored.

Aussie Pumps' Brad Farrugia said, "We can do our bit by allowing farmers to move water the most efficient way possible and at the lowest cost."

"We can also continue to promote the idea farmers should demand an infrastructure program to build dams that will harvest the water from where it is and move it to where it should be," Farrugia said.

### New pressure cleaners released

Aussie Pumps' listens to farmers and acknowledges the huge feedback it gets from attending field days both directly and through its distributor network.

"Our distributors are a terrific pipeline of feedback about applications and requirements," Farrugia said.

"For example, we didn't realise piggeries face real problems with clearing blocked drains and are doing it the hard way."

"Using a 4000 or 5000psi Aussie Cobra drain cleaner, drains can be cleared promptly, reducing the risk of disease within the piggery."

The machine can also be used as a very effective and time-saving pressure cleaner for routine maintenance wash-down at the piggery.

The same principle applies to feedlots, chicken farms and even for machinery wash-down applications.

### New Scuds hit market

The new Scud pressure cleaners from Aussie Pumps will be displayed at field days around the country.

The machines feature the OH&S friendly Scud design with the frames now made from stainless steel, a major upgrade from the old hot-dipped galvanised versions of the past.

The stainless steel frames are not only aesthetically pleasing but eliminate rust issues.

The machines are built to last and should be sized for the job to make sure the customer gets the right product the first time around.

"We'll be giving instruction sheets out on pressure cleaner application just to make sure farmers get the best advice and are not saddled with buying a machine too small for the job," Farrugia said.

Aussie Pumps' was founded only 25 years ago.

It has grown from strength to strength and exports its products all around the world.

Watch out for Aussie Pumps' products at field days around the country and get a taste of the huge advantages provided by this innovative and customer-focused Australian company.

For more information on Aussie Pumps' range of products, visit aussie-pumps.com.au or contact Aussie Pumps' distributors throughout Australia.

"For example, we didn't realise piggeries face real problems with clearing blocked drains and are doing it the hard way."



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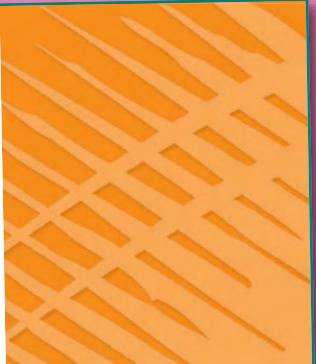
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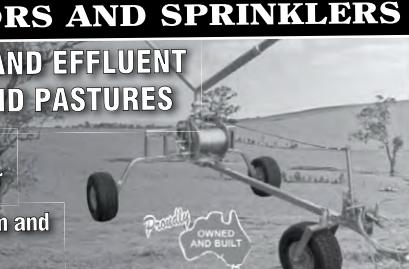


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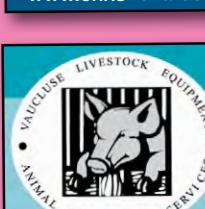
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# Bush voices demand Government leadership on quad bike safety

ALREADY this year, seven Australians, including children, have lost their lives in quad bike accidents.

Despite the horrifying statistic, the Government is stalling on implementing the mandatory fitting of operator protection devices to all new quad bikes within two years.

Following an extensive inquiry, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission made the recommendation to Government in February this year.

The change is made by the Assistant Treasurer signing off on a 'declaration' without the need to introduce new legislation.

However to date, the Government has failed to take action.

National Farmers' Federation president Fiona Simson said, "We are at a loss to understand why the Government won't introduce this simple change to save lives."

"Since 2001 more than 230 Australians have died in quad bike-related incidents.

"More than half of these deaths were a result of a quad bike rollover and crushing or asphyxiation, which OPDs prevent.

"Either the Government doesn't think the

many lives lost warrant taking action or there are other factors at play," she said.

The National Farmers' Federation is supported in its call for quad bike safety changes by a coalition of regional and rural Australia's most respected voices including: Rural Doctors Association of Australia; Royal Flying Doctor Service; National Rural Health Alliance; National Rural Women's Coalition; Country Women's Association of Australia; Australian Workers Union; National Centre for Farmer Health; AgForce; NSW Farmers; Victorian Farmers Federation; Primary Producers South Australia and WAFarmers.

"During National Farm Safety Week, Federal Parliament was sitting in Canberra," Ms Simson said.

"The Government need do little more than tick a box to see this change enacted.

"By not taking action, they may think they are responding to concerns about the supposed risks associated with OPDs and the impact on quad bike values.

"But these 'concerns' have been seeded by the manufacturers who are simply advancing their own interests.

"Not one of the 'excuses' advanced by the manufacturers withstand scrutiny or trump the risk of death and crippling injury.

"To not act on the advice of the ACCC and the calls from the many organisations speaking

out is a slap in the face to rural and regional Australia and our most important asset – our people.

"We are calling on the Government to step up and show leadership on what is an issue of the utmost seriousness."



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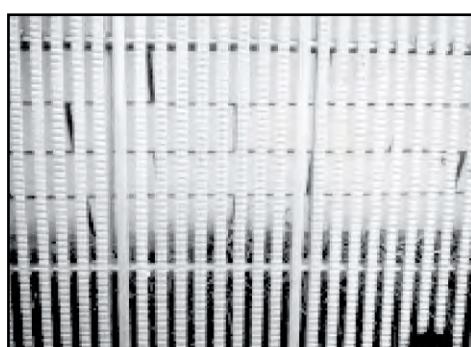
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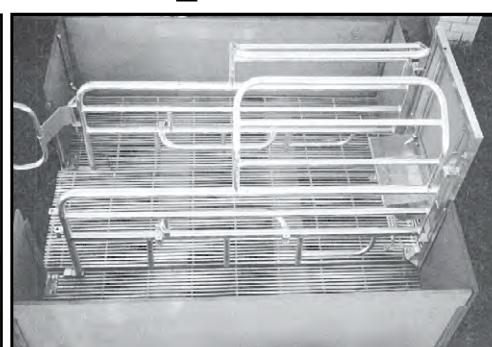
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# Proactive farming sector key to Australia meeting carbon targets

An engaged farming sector could tip the odds in Australia's favour when it comes to meeting carbon emission targets, according to new AgriFutures Australia-commissioned research.

A report released recently, 'Improving carbon markets to increase farmer participation', carried out by Australian National University and the Mullion Group, and funded by AgriFutures Australia, shows current policy and regulatory framework for carbon markets is proving a significant barrier.

AgriFutures Australia managing director John Harvey said the research addressed a knowledge gap and examined the opportunities for producers and barriers preventing their participation in carbon markets.

"This report indicates carbon markets are shaping as the incentive for Australian farming industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a trading environment where CSIRO forecasts carbon market returns of \$40 billion to the land sector by 2050," Mr Harvey said.

"Reducing uptake barriers for primary producers may be key to more consistent farmer participation in carbon offset markets."

He noted the report pointed to low carbon prices and price uncertainty, restrictions on the scope of methods, high transaction costs, lack of information and a lack of trust in information providers, as well as concerns about changes in the rules that govern participation and crediting as key issues reducing farmer engage-

ment in carbon markets.

Australian Pork Limited and Sugar Research Australia also contributed funding for the research and provided producer insights surveying pig farmers and the carbon service industry.

Results from the survey supported report findings which indicated there are generally low levels of awareness of carbon market opportunities among pig producers, particularly among small to medium-sized farms.

This contrasts to 100 percent awareness among the largest farms (more than 10,000 sows).

AgriFutures Australia senior manager, business development Jennifer Medway said similarly the lack of adoption of soil carbon projects on sugar cane farms likely stems from lack of awareness of opportunities, high transaction costs and the small size of many cane farms reducing the viability of projects.

"Increased efforts to raise awareness of carbon market opportunities and further analysis of the economic returns from soil carbon projects could help reduce these barriers," Ms Medway said.

"Enhanced participation in carbon offset markets will lead the sector closer to the forecast \$40 billion return."

"It has been shown soil carbon projects result in improved soil health, which can lead to improved agricultural productivity."

"Methane capture can provide a means for generating renewable energy and improving the efficiency of intensive farm

operations like piggeries.

"Communicating the benefits to producers and simplifying market instruments is critical to enable Australia's agriculture sector to capitalise on carbon offset opportunities and support Australia's international commitment to reducing emissions."

Mr Harvey acknowledged the sector's leadership in addressing the carbon challenge.

"The red meat sector recently announced a bold target to be carbon neutral by 2030," Mr Harvey said.

"Similarly, the National Farmers' Federation is taking a progressive stance in setting a vision through its 2030 Roadmap for the whole sector to be trending towards carbon neutrality by 2030."

"While Rural Research and Development Corporations and industry are investing heavily in innovative, proactive approaches to address the carbon challenge, there remains a reliance on public investment to fund instruments to deliver on-farm carbon abatement."

The Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund is the nation's primary carbon market and allows landholders to

generate Australian carbon credit units or 'carbon credits' by sequestering carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

These credits can be on-sold to companies required to offset carbon-producing projects.

Agriculture has dominated ERF to date, with 70 percent of registered projects relating to agriculture, but uptake from the sector is inconsistent.

"According to this study, most of the uptake to date has involved the regeneration or protection of native forests on grazing lands in semi-arid regions of Queensland, NSW and, to a lesser extent, Western Australia and South Australia," Mr Harvey said.

"Higher carbon prices may boost involvement but is unlikely to be a 'cure all' as the research shows non-price factors are inhibiting uptake and require targeted policy responses."

"These include the scope of methods and eligible activities, the absence of cost-effective abatement technologies, the lack of awareness of carbon market opportunities and the complexity and transaction costs associated with participation."



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## Malaysian swine breeders given two months to improve biosecurity

THE Malaysian National News Agency reports swine breeders have been given two months to improve biosecurity on their farms to prevent the spread of African swine fever.

Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Sim Tze Tzin announced the Department of Veterinary Services would begin enforcement activities in September to ensure all swine farmers make the desired

improvements to biosecurity at their facilities.

The two-month deadline has been established to provide producers with enough time to start implementing new biosecurity measures.

Among other key steps, producers are required to ensure farm perimeter fences are in good condition, ensure workers are wearing clean, disinfected clothing when entering the farm facilities, and foot dipping stations are being used effectively.

Producers and staff are encouraged to avoid visiting other swine farms and regions with confirmed cases of the disease.

All trucks and transportation are to be disinfected upon entry to facilities.

The feeding of food waste to swine is now also prohibited, with an emphasis on keeping all pork products away from pigs.

## New policy targets feral pigs in South Australia

REVISED policy to help better manage South Australia's feral pig populations has put a renewed focus on landholders to take greater responsibility or face hefty fines of up to \$100,000 or imprisonment for two years.

In a recent report from *Stock Journal*, Pork SA chair Mark McLean expressed the need for South Australian landowners to step up and take responsibility for the wildlife on their property.

Feral pigs, in particular, represent a great threat to livestock as vectors of a number of contagious diseases, including the highly virulent African swine fever virus.

Wild swine species can also cause costly environmental damage that can upset important ecosystems.

The new policy targets pig farmers and land-

owners with wild pigs on their property: any feral pigs found are now to be destroyed, domestic pigs must be secured and prevented from escaping and the release of any domestic or feral pigs is prohibited.

Containment pens for domestic pigs can be reviewed by Natural Resources Management officers who, if the containment facility is deemed inefficient, can request the landholder to take corrective action.

The breeding and release of feral pigs is thought to be a possible contributor and McLean hopes the new policy will address this.

"If a landholder allows pigs to breed for hunting, I would hope a \$100,000 fine was a big disincentive," he said in an interview with *Stock Journal*.

Read the full story at [stockjournal.com.au](http://stockjournal.com.au)



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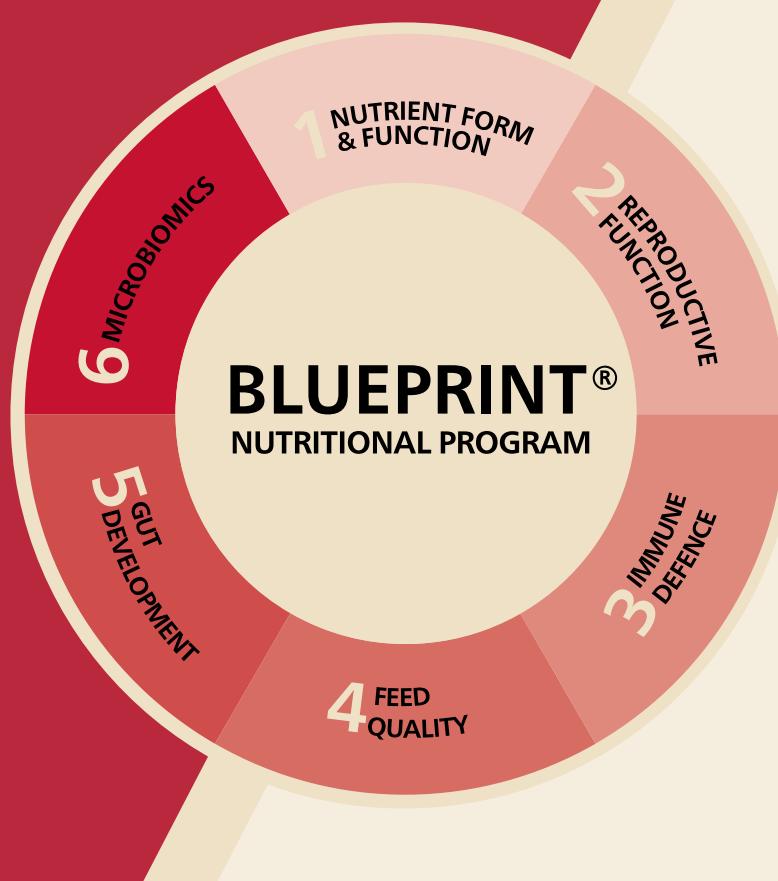
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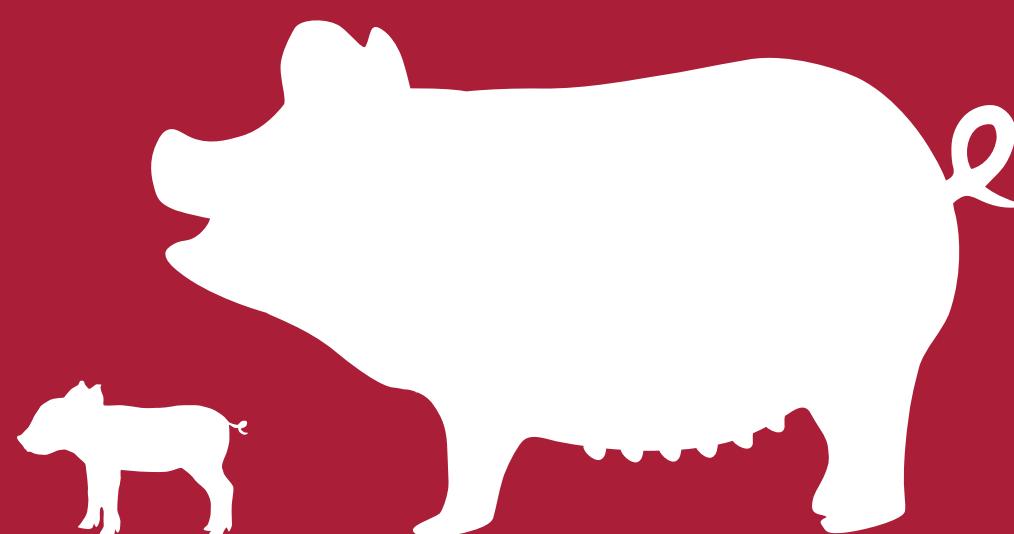
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