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Belinda, a WOHO member and Co Head Chef at Bar Rochford, loves the supportive and fun atmosphere of her job, and this shows that prospective young women can have a great job at a great restaurant.

Second round of Women in Hospitality Mentor Program

FOLLOWING the success of the Women in Hospitality Mentor Program launch in February 2020, the program is back!

This August, WOHO celebrate the second round of the program with a virtual event to bring together mentors, mentees and members across the country in one place!

Proudly sponsored by JRM Hospitality Recruitment, this is a national launch event and participants can meet the newest mentor and mentee matches for another round of the 6-12 month program.

WOHO are delighted to announce that the event will be hosted by National Brand Ambassador for Nip of Courage JustAbby

(Abby Roennfeldt), the first female-owned spirits distribution company in Australia, and the first distributor ever to represent 100 percent Australian-made and Australian-owned craft spirits.

The aim of the program is to provide WOHO members with an opportunity to be inspired and gain hands-on experience and guidance from industry influencers and leaders.

They have cast the net wide in their search for mentors to ensure a diverse cross section of the industry is represented and the calibre is exceptionally high.

Welcomed by WOHO Directors Lisa Hobbs and Claire Van Vuuren, the event brings together likeminded individuals at every level – back of house, front of house or those in administration roles.

Applications for both mentors and mentees are open, and all are encouraged to apply.

For more information visit events.humantix.com/woho-mentor-program-august-intake



WOHO member Cassie started her career as an apprentice in some of Sydney's best fine dining restaurants.

One year on: ASF, a global pandemic and an ambitious new plan

AUGUST marks the anniversary of my start as Chief Executive Officer at Australian Pork Limited.

I thought a move out of the cattle industry into pigs would be a refreshing change, which it has been.

Australia was only just becoming aware of what African swine fever was, we didn't know a whole lot about feral pigs and of course had no inkling a global pandemic would be upon us by early 2020.

The ACIL Allen report of late 2019 estimated an ASF outbreak in Australia would cost more than \$2.03 billion.

This, teamed with ASF detections in nearby countries to ours, put biosecurity at the fore in late 2019.

While we had begun preparedness work, what the disease would mean for our industry and global protein supply made headlines.

Additional federal government funds were announced, including \$66 million for biosecurity initiatives.

This included expanding our remit to address the problem of Australia's 25 million feral pigs – a real threat to our industry.

More recently, collaboration with the federal government has supported two new industry liaison officers to help us better support producers' mitigation efforts.

This comes as ASF



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



has continued its spread, with detection in India and floods in China causing a resurgence there.

It's a reminder that while COVID-19 has the world's attention, the threat of ASF remains.

After a horrific summer of bushfires, climate change was top of mind in early 2020 as we began to finalise our Strategic Plan for the next five years.

Come February, our focus quickly shifted to a human disease in China and what that might mean for our exports, and incoming tourist and food service industries.

Little did we realise that within a month, the country would be in lockdown and a global pandemic declared.

Over the past five months, since COVID-19 has been in Australia, the pork industry and its supply chain have worked harder than ever to navigate the challenges the pandemic and its restrictions have thrown at us.

While initially our

focus was on the food-service trade, exports and shifts in our marketing campaigns, more recently outbreaks in processing plants and border closures have caused additional challenges for our producers.

I have been proud of the work APL has done to advocate on behalf of industry, supply chain and foodservice to navigate the difficulties and address the significant anxiety around the risks of further restrictions being implemented.

Amid all this, last month reports of a new swine flu being detected in China received significant attention.

We continue to liaise with the Department of Agriculture and Animal Health Australia about the research referenced in news reports, but we need to make it clear that influenza viruses are not transmitted through the consumption of pig products.

When we undertook consultation on the new APL Strategic Plan in

late 2019, we did things differently.

Our conversations with our producers and industry stakeholders outlined the importance of a thriving Australian pork industry.

The new Strategic Plan recognises the industry's achievements, such as 35 percent fresh pork consumption growth in the past 10 years, impressive gains in productivity, industry value growth, improved animal welfare and piggeries using 60 percent less carbon.

The new plan builds on this success with priorities including making pork Australia's preferred protein, increasing productivity and market diversification.

The industry's climate-friendly farming practices are a focus as we strive to be zero waste by 2025.

The goals are supported by our APL team, which has now realigned to be more producer-focused and proactive.

This is what we need to deliver on with our new Strategic Plan, but the new structure has also enabled us to navigate the challenges 2020 continues to throw at us.

It's been a challenging first year to say the least, but one that has demonstrated the true strength, agility and innovation of the Australian pork industry.



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2020

AUG 11-15 – ONLINE & DOMESTIC
Global Animal Nutrition Summit,
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
globalanimalnutrition2020.uoguelph.ca/welcome

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

SEP 24-26 – Animal Health Innovation
Asia, Toykyo, Japan animalhealthasia.com/events

2021

MAY 25-26 – RESCHEDULED British
Pig and Poultry Fair Warwickshire, UK
www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

JUN 9-10 – RESCHEDULED Alberta
Pork Congress, Alberta, Canada
albertaporkcongress.com

JUN 9-11 – World Pork Expo, Iowa, US
www.worldpork.org

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

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African swine fever still front-of-mind

AS flagged last month, this article will focus on African swine fever.

While there has been a high focus on the COVID threat of late, ASF remains a very real risk to our industry and so remains firmly on our radar.

APL are continuing to work with stakeholders across the pork supply chain, as well as with federal, state and territory governments to ensure we as an industry are doing everything we can to prevent an outbreak in Australia, as well as ensuring we are prepared should the disease make it here.

Pork industry welcomes ASF Liaison Officers

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has funded an industry ASF Liaison Officer position with the aim of enhancing collaboration between industry and government, and to support response strategies for future disease challenges in the pork industry.

This role will be shared between Dr Kirsty Richards and Mr Tony Abel.

Each bring a good understanding of the industry and diverse networks to the position.

Dr Kirsty Richards is a veterinarian for Sun-Pork Solutions and will



by PETER HAYDON
Research and Innovation
General Manager



be working with APL members to ensure best-practice on-farm biosecurity, as well as working to enhance government and industry collaboration.

Tony Abel is a former member of the APL team, and was previously involved in the management of APIQ, and the Integrity Systems research portfolio covering eating quality, traceability and processing.

As an ASF Liaison Officer, his focus will be on building relationships with small producers and non-APL members to help them improve their on-farm biosecurity and better understand the risk ASF poses.

New research projects to ensure the industry is ASF ready

Euthanasia, disposal, and decontamination project

• This project will ex-

plore options for mass-herd euthanasia, disposal and decontamination following an exotic disease outbreak.

• It will ultimately deliver a practical guide for use on-farm to help producers understand their options and put clearer plans in place.

Truck biosecurity project

• This project will be led by Dr David Hamilton and will review current truck biosecurity practices to identify both best practice and any potential risks and gaps.

• It will ultimately deliver guidelines for best-practice truck biosecurity and disinfection, in terms of both procedures and of equipment and infrastructure.

Biosecurity data project

• This project will be led by Adrian Turner and will be phase one of what we expect will be a 3-phase project. At the completion of phase one, we will have identified gaps that can inform where the sector needs to invest to cap-

ture additional structured biosecurity data. This will give industry a better understanding of the biosecurity landscape and allow for better preparedness.

Biosecurity focus in the APIQ Major Review

The APIQ Major Review will seek to formalise some of the practices pig producers have already put in place as part of its standards revision.

The focus will be on ensuring the standards reflect best-practice biosecurity and that producers are taking appropriate steps to manage their biosecurity risk, including managing risks that may be specific to their location – for instance, high numbers of feral pigs.



Dr Kirsty Richards. Photo: The Weekly Times

APRIL call for AusScan tenders

APRIL is calling for tenders for strengthening the AusScan Online pig digestible energy calibrations.

Near infrared spectrophotometry calibrations were developed within the Premium Grains for Livestock Program and the Pork CRC for ileal DE and faecal DE (MJ/kg) of cereal grains for growing pigs.

The DE calibrations for pigs contain a wide range of cereal grains including natural and artificially weather damaged grains, and at present the calibration includes only grains grown in Australia.

In order to improve the

robustness of the calibrations, maize grains from overseas are to be incorporated as well as connectivity grains.

APRIL manages the license for the commercial use of the AusScan Online calibrations and is responsible for maintenance and upgrades.

Recently, APRIL upgraded the poultry AME calibrations by including high energy wheat varieties from Europe and Canada, which significantly enhanced robustness and improved validity for use outside Australia.

APRIL is requiring a qualified research team or teams with access to

suitable facilities to provide the required specialisations to upgrade the current AusScan Online pig DE calibrations.

The research project will use imported maize samples and a number of connectivity grains (grains from previous studies), which will

provide additional data for the pig ileal DE and faecal DE calibrations to improve the validity and suitability of AusScan Online.

Complete details can be found on the APRIL website <http://april.com.au/research/funding-opportunities/>

The tender opens August 3, 2020 and closes August 31, 2020.

For further information or inquiries, contact Dr Charles Rikard-Bell, APRIL Manager Commercialisation and Research Impact on 0439 513 723 or c.rikardbell@april.org.au



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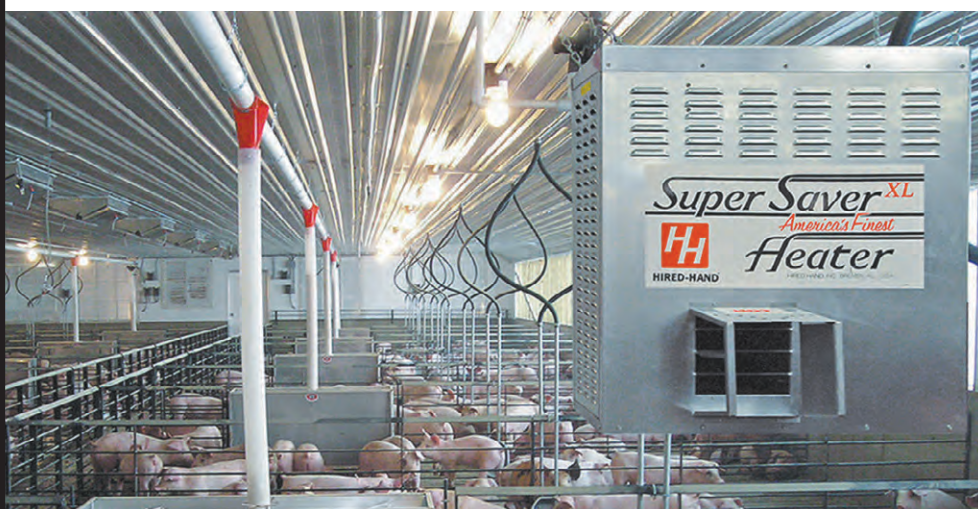
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Brian Ramsay

The life of Brian

I MUST say it was a refreshing blast from pork's past when on June 29 I read an opinion piece by inaugural Australia Pork Limited CEO, Brian Ramsay in *farmonline*, an informative and popular national e-newsletter produced by Australian Community Media.

Headlined 'Is a shakeout of peak bodies looming?', it posed some topical questions.

Brian was APL's CEO from May 2000 to November 2003 and its inaugural 'captain', steering what was a new ship commissioned to charter a new path through sometimes murky waters following the amalgamation of Australian Pork Corpo-

ration, Pig Research and Development Corporation and Pork Council of Australia.

These days Brian apparently advises on strategy and innovation in his role as Managing Director of Inovact Consulting.

He also maintains a Canberra pedigree as Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra.

He was inaugural CEO of Australian Pork Limited.

With that pedigree, Brian's view on industry peak bodies and rural R&D corporations is worth noting, especially at a time when the federal government, including Agriculture Minister David Littleproud, is shining a spotlight on RDCs.

Australia's 15 RDCs comprise five Commonwealth Statutory Authorities and 10 industry owned companies, or IOCs, of which APL is one.

All RDCs manage R&D services, while most IOCs provide other industry services, mainly marketing.

Following legislative amendments in 2013, statutory RDCs can also undertake marketing activities at the request of industry, where supported by a statutory marketing levy.

Littleproud in a July 30 address to the Australian Grains Industry Conference said the government was looking into a "continued modernisation" of RDCs to ensure they delivered to stakeholders.

"Is it a return to the levy payers, is it a return to the taxpayer, is there accountability of our RDCs through making sure that they're consulting with the levy payer?" Minister



Cant Comment
by
BRENDON CANT

Littleproud asked.

Bearing that in mind, let's see what Brian Ramsay had to say in *farmonline*, so here goes:

"Is a shakeout of peak bodies looming?"

Business viability is a major issue in the recession.

However, industry institutions like peak bodies must also confront a challenging new reality where funding from government and businesses will tighten as the recession unfolds.

A shakeout of peak bodies is looming.

Agriculture has an excess of peak bodies, with many struggling for financial viability and to show relevance to farmers and other value chain businesses.

Today, the vast majority of businesses and value of industry production are no longer in membership of traditional peak bodies.

The pandemic and the unfolding global recession

have wound forward long-term trends with a jolt, creating a window of opportunity to consolidate and modernise peak bodies.

It won't be easy, as history says these organisations will linger on unchanged and continue to exert influence far beyond what their small membership base warrants.

Many agricultural peak bodies can endure because of their government-backed status to influence the work of the rural R&D Corporations.

There are 15 RDCs – 10 industry-owned and five statutory – which invest over \$840m annually, including levy funds from businesses and matching public R&D contributions.

Most RDCs are legally obliged to consult with and report to at least one prescribed industry body for industry-owned companies or declared representative organisation for statutory RDCs on matters like levy expenditure and strategic direction.

The idea of a declared representative organisation made sense in the early 1990s when all RDCs were statutory bodies and owned by the government.

However, 30 years on there are 10 industry-owned R&D companies with levy-paying businesses in direct membership.

Modern governance says that the boards of these industry-owned companies are first and foremost accountable for performance to their levy-paying members and the government as investors.

In a bizarre hangover from the days when all R&D corporations were statutory bodies, most industry owned RDCs still have prescribed industry bodies that they must report to.

At best, the arrangements create excessive complexity and confusion, and imposes bureaucratic red tape.

At worst, it creates a serious governance distortion where industry owned R&D companies are legally obliged to accommodate the interests and priorities of third parties in the form of PIBs - many of which are unrepresentative.

A fundamental question for levy-paying businesses is whether their industry-owned companies must take direction from and be directly accountable to members or to an unrepresentative PIB.

The problem is that today, most industry-owned companies are accountable to both their members and PIBs.

It comes at a hidden and crippling cost for levy-payers.

The conflicted governance arrangements muddy the waters.

It enables blame-

shifting, risks empowering vested interests and more than likely stifles rather than improves RDC performance, accountability and innovation.

Modernising institutions is vitally important if businesses are to lead the economy out of recession.

The Australian government has just set an example by acting decisively to discard the Council of Australian Governments model and form the National Cabinet, in what Prime Minister Scott Morrison described as a "congestion-busting" move to "avoid endless meetings that do not result in action."

It's time for business and government leaders to take similar action and make agricultural industry institutions more agile and effective for all.

Agri-food businesses can start by demanding that reforms to the RDC system begin with removal of obsolete regulations requiring prescribed industry bodies for industry-owned R&D companies.

There are many good people involved in peak bodies and rural R&D corporations.

They all need modern business models and governance arrangements that provide clear accountability and the flexibility to adapt faster and perform at their best.

It's time for agri-food business leaders to do some congestion busting and unleash the true potential of the sector."

Pondering the theme of unleashing the Australian pig industry's potential, I recall Brian Ramsay back in 2002 when addressing a general meeting of WA Pork Producers' Association saying that despite being a small player in the global pork industry, Australia could compete effectively in the global market by recognising its relative market power.

He said this would help identify Australia's competitive advantages and how it could develop opportunities in major and niche markets.

"Australia's most important competitive advantage is its unique and unparalleled animal health status, which underpins the future of the industry."

"The Australian pork industry is in the enviable position of having a national pig herd with a 'world's best' health status that in turn underpins the competitiveness and growth of our pork exports," he said.

Weighing up the world's perilous pork position, with ASF decimating herds, especially in China and COVID-19 wreaking havoc on global trade and economies, versus Australia's relatively healthy position, one wonders why we aren't doing more to push our pork boundaries.

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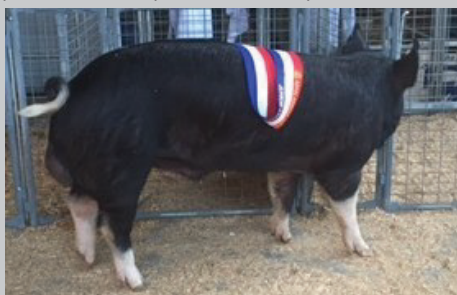
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Feral pig estimated annual \$100m damage bill

A REPORT published this week by Australian Pork Limited has confirmed that feral pigs are second only to rabbits in terms of their economic impact as an invasive species in Australia.

The report is part of the development of the National Feral Pig Action Plan, a \$1.4 million federal government initiative which is being managed by APL due to the direct threat feral pigs pose to Australia's commercial pork industry as potential carriers of African swine fever.

National Feral Pig Management coordinator Dr Heather Channon said, "Feral pigs are one of the most destructive invasive species in Australia, with an estimated national population of up to 24 million spread across 45

percent of the country – some 3.43 million square kilometres.

"This report confirms that even conservative modelling indicates feral pigs cause more than \$100 million in direct economic costs to the agricultural sector each year.

"They cause losses in productivity through livestock predation, competing for feed, fouling water sources, damaging farm infrastructure, reducing crop yields, spreading invasive weeds and acting as a vector for disease.

"The potential cost posed by feral pigs' ability to act as carriers of endemic and exotic diseases is substantial.

"The annual estimated damage bill of \$100 million seems to be the tip of the iceberg."

Dr Channon said that while feral pigs are prolific in Queensland, the Northern Territory and NSW, local populations can be found across the continent, especially near wetlands and other watercourses.

She said analysis is being undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics and Sciences to estimate the feral pig population's current distribution and density.

"Feral pigs can increase their population by more than 85 percent a year.

"Typically, 55-70 percent of feral pigs need to be culled annually to keep the population size from expanding," Dr Channon said.

"We're dealing with highly fertile, intelligent animals with a wide-

ranging omnivorous diet, which is why feral pig management is such a complex issue for industry and all tiers of government.

"The challenge of the National Feral Pig Action Plan is to develop a coordinated, best-practice approach to feral pig management, similar to what the National Wild Dog Action Plan is delivering.

"Effective management of feral pigs will require a well-coordinated approach between all relevant stakeholders and the success of a sustained reduction in damage caused by feral pigs will be contingent upon ongoing control, continued monitoring and cohesive control efforts."

The release of the APL report coincides with the first meeting of the Na-

tional Feral Pig Action Plan steering group held on July 15 and chaired by experienced agribusiness leader John Maher.

The steering group represents a wide range of stakeholder groups and is guiding the development of a preliminary action plan to be delivered to the federal Department of Agriculture by January 2021.

Making up the National Feral Pig Action Plan steering group are:

- Mr John Maher (Independent chair)
- Dr Heather Channon (National Feral Pig Management coordinator)
- Ms Margo Andrae (Australian Pork Ltd)
- Mr Ricky Archer (North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance)
- Dr Bruce Christie (DPI NSW, Environment and Invasives Committee)
- Mr John Kargotich (WA Farmers' Federation)
- Mr Matthew Koval (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment)
- Mr Darren Marshall (NRM Regions Australia)
- Dr Leigh Nelson (Grains Research and Development Corporation)
- Mr David Palmer (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions)
- Dr Justin Perry (CSIRO)
- Ms Zena Ronnfeldt (AgForce Queensland)
- Ms Emma White (Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association)
- Mr Jason Wishart (Agriculture Victoria)

UN backdown on anti-meat campaign

THE Australian government has welcomed the United Nations' decision to abandon its misleading and ideological campaign against meat producers both in Australia and around the world.

Australian Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said the UN's attempt to blame meat producers for driving climate change was reckless and irresponsible, and deserved the strong condemnation with which it was met.

"I make no apology for defending Australia's meat producers against unfair and irresponsible attacks from the UN and I am pleased that they have deleted their out-

of touch tweet.

"It was also irresponsible to compare emissions from meat production to those created by the oil industry, exposing a fundamental misunderstanding and a deliberate misrepresentation of the science.

"As I said earlier this week, Australian meat producers were among the most sustainable land managers and environmental stewards in the world, and we are committed to supporting them in their noble task of helping feed the world.

"The fact that the UN's anti-meat Twitter campaign lasted just days demonstrates how out of touch the international body was found to be on this issue.

"I hope the UN will act less like an activist organisation in future and focus instead on their job of promoting peace and prosperity," Minister Littleproud said.



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



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Drastic changes ahead for German pig production

EARLIER this month a bill was accepted in the federal council of Germany's parliament, which will see sow stalls phased out during the insemination period and much stricter rules applied in the lactation period.

Though there are some political steps ahead before this is officially legislated, sources within the Danish Agriculture and Food Council – who are in close contact with the German Farmer's Association, DBV – indicate that a lessening of these conditions is highly unlikely.

As a result of these new restrictions, it is estimated that up to 30 percent of the German pig industry

Nordic News
by ASHLEY NORVAL



will be forced to shut down, likely meaning more weaners would be imported into Germany from Denmark and the Netherlands.

German pig production is the second largest in Europe, with 1.85 million breeding sows and

a further importation of approximately 11 million 30kg weaners from Denmark and the Netherlands annually.

These changes have come about after years of discussions between German politicians, however have now been passed due to the green government currently in power.

The transition period for the mating unit is eight years, and the new legislation will mean the following:

- Sows can only be confined during mating and this will likely be a number of hours rather than days
- Existing systems can be maintained during transitions but only if sows are able to lie on their side with their legs stretched out

• For the first eight days after mating, sows must have access to 5sq m, including a minimum laying area of 1.3sq m

- An activity area
- A 'retreat' area where submissive sows can escape from aggressive sows, and a minimum length of 15m to help this

• Feed stalls or insemination stalls, which must always remain open including during feeding

- No changes are anticipated to the gestation unit.

For the farrowing unit, the following changes apply:

- An area of 6.5sq m per sow
- Maximum five days in confinement – currently 35 days

• A transition period of 15 years, where after 12 years each producer must have submitted an application to authorities to build in order to meet

these conditions.

This legislation is expected to be implemented by January 1, 2021.

In order to force producers to take action and not delay on these changes, politicians have added further conditions.

After three years – following implementation of the legislation – producers must submit a declaration to the authorities stating whether or not they intend to continue pig production or stop.

After five years, producers must either cease pig production or submit an application to build to authorities.

Further to this, after eight years they must have changed their system.

It is likely that there will be major flow-on effects throughout European pig production as a result of this proposed legislation.

About \$A500 million has been allocated to assist German producers with these changes, but is currently a part of the coronavirus crisis package, meaning that the funds must be used by the end of 2021.

DBV will be working towards extending this timeframe and increasing the support available, but it is early days.

It seems the Greens are supportive of an assistance package but only on the condition that animal production in Germany will be drastically reduced.

Scarily, it seems that these deals have been struck as a result of a political compromise – I have no information on what the original proposal was, however it seems clear that the Greens do not see a future for animal production in Germany.

It is incredibly disheartening and quite frankly concerning that such high restrictions can be forced so quickly on an industry by the government, particularly considering that it will mean the exit of many family-owned small to medium-size farms.

One can only hope this will never happen in Australia.

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Free ranging wallabies have also been found to be hosts for staphylococci (skin bacteria) demonstrating AMR.

Wild antimicrobial resistance merry-go-round

ANTIMICROBIAL resistance occurs in both wildlife and their environment.

It is likely that resistant microorganisms are cycling from people and animals through wildlife and back into the ecosystem.

Bacteria have an evolutionary ability to develop resistance to antibiotics.

There are naturally occurring antimicrobial producing microorganisms in soils and the evidence for this goes back thousands of years.

The best examples are the fungi that led to the development of penicillin.

During the modern era,

human use of new antimicrobials has driven the emergence of more and different types of AMR.

While antimicrobial resistance is commonly seen in many bacterial species, the development of resistance to several drugs at once is a relatively recent concern.

Most pork producers will be aware of multi-drug resistant salmonellas, brachyspires (swine dysentery), E coli and even actinobacillus (pleuropneumonia).

Antimicrobial resistance is a fact of life in animal as well as human medicine.

The evidence suggests AMR in wildlife is associated with proximity to humans or domestic animals.

Water contaminated with human, livestock or aquaculture waste is the most important way for the transmission of resistance from humans or domestic livestock to wildlife.

This may include the application of manure or compost from intensive livestock production and human waste systems.

It follows that microorganisms and AMR genes may then be re-cycled through soil, ground water, marine water, wild

animals, crops, shellfish, livestock, and humans – round and round.

Other examples of drug resistance transfer occur when sick or injured wildlife are taken into human care for treatment.

They may be treated with antimicrobial drugs or inadvertently exposed to antimicrobial residues through faeces of other treated animals or humans.

If these animals find their way back to the wild after treatment, they provide a potential source of environmental exposure.

The same is true for captive breeding and release programs.

Brush-tailed rock-wallabies are a good example.

Free ranging wallabies have also been found to be hosts for staphylococci (skin bacteria) demonstrating AMR.

Similar bugs pop up in people and the pigs and horses they care for.

Even sea lions held in captivity carried more than their fair share of AMR E coli.

These wild animal numbers are relatively small, but they are cumulative.

Seagulls can disseminate AMR bacteria over wide areas and between species.

They inhabit the same

areas as migratory birds.

They all live together on water courses and they share roosting sites with other birds.

Gulls are a focus of AMR research because of their contact with humans.

They feed at rubbish tips and provide a direct pathway for transmission of bacteria (and their resistance genes) from humans to wildlife.

Around the highly populated Australian coast, seagulls carry microorganisms with a high level of resistance to several critically important antimicrobials used in humans.

The major contributor to AMR in any species is the use of antimicrobial medicines.

The higher the level of use, the more likely that resistance will develop.

It is a matter of selection pressure.

Though there is an increasing body of research that supports the idea that the origins of resistant infections in humans largely lie with human health medical practices, the animal industries have an important role to play in reducing resistance by reducing use wherever possible. 🐷

Ross Cutler



AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED ADVANCE NOTICE OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

The business of the Annual General Meeting will include:

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

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

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

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

Western Australia pork industry wraps up grant projects

THE Western Australia pork industry has benefitted from two Grower Group Research and Development grants worth \$600,500 through the state government's Agribusiness Innovation Fund.

Pork Innovation WA, the state's industry-led pork research group, was successful in both rounds of the grants program, with projects to stimulate innovation along the value chain.

A key focus of the first project – establishing Western Australia as the

national centre for production of high-quality free range pork – was to evaluate technologies to reduce impacts of summer on sow reproductive performance and ensuring consistent supply and quality of free range pork.

PIWA Chairman Dr Rob Wilson said: "Of the 40,000 sows in WA, 27 percent are farmed under APIQ✓ Free Range and Outdoor Bred conditions, well above the national average of nine percent."

The project took a bold move to install solar-powered air conditioning in farrowing huts to provide a zone of cool air for sows.

'Snout cooling' saw an increased percentage of live born piglets, and sows spending more time with their litters, increasing suckling opportunities.

A large-scale comparison of carcass characteristics found carcass weights of free range pigs to be more variable than conventionally raised pigs, and backfat depth less sensitive to changes in live weight.

While pork quality was similar, there were subtle but consistent differences in colour and pH, which can improve eating quality of free range pork.

The second project – pork raised without antibiotics (RWA): new opportunities for Western Australia's pork industry – looked at the challenges and opportunities for a new niche market in the state.

"With increased global competitiveness and high volumes of imported pork, industry standards for pork RWA will become critical for Australia," Dr Wilson said.

An international scan

revealed that pork RWA occupies a small but growing niche, with products in Europe and North America often attracting a premium.

However, labelling is complex and sometimes confusing.

Producers and veterinarians shared their experiences and highlighted the key challenge in overseas systems as being limiting antibiotic use without compromising animal welfare.

While attention to detail is critical, Western Australia is well placed with high health status in many of its herds.

A study measuring antimicrobial use and resistance on a sample of WA farms found that the level of bacteria resistant to antibiotics varied across farms but wasn't necessarily associated with the level of antimicrobial use.

An evaluation of consumers, producers and other stakeholders' views on pork RWA found that overall knowledge was low in all sectors, however the consumer survey revealed a willingness to pay a premium for pork RWA.

Armed with this knowledge, PIWA stands poised to assist the industry in developing an Australian standard for raising pork without antibiotics should there be sufficient demand.

The Grower Group Research and Development grants program awarded almost \$11.2 million to 21 grower groups across WA.

For further information, contact PIWA Chair Dr Rob Wilson on 0418 486 141 or Executive Officer Ms Emalyn Loudon on 0429 370 289. 🐷

www.porknews.com.au

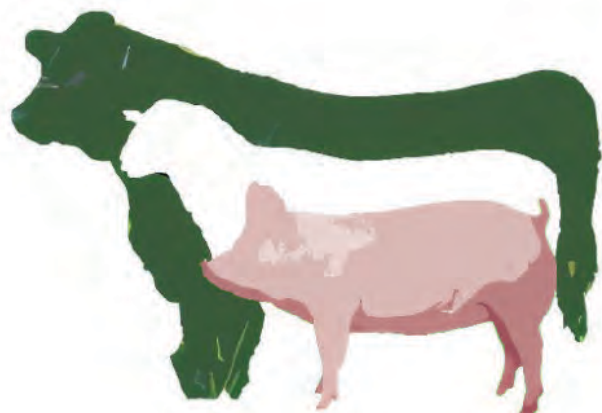
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How to get more pork on forks

PORK is Australia's second most consumed protein, if you combine fresh pork and deli meats like ham and bacon.

But when you look at fresh pork, familiarity is still a challenge and can lead to poor eating experiences.

One of the biggest barriers to shifting perceptions of pork as an everyday meat is that consumers simply don't know how to cook it.

We want to make pork Australia's preferred protein.

That's the big goal of our new strategic plan.

Aussies have been getting more pork on their forks, with consumption up 40 percent in the past 10 years.

If we want to continue that trend and knock chicken off its roost, we need consumers to see pork as an everyday meat and give them the knowledge of how to use it in



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON



great tasting meals.

Over the years, we have worked to expand our repertoire of easy to follow, how-to-cook instructions for the average home cook.

That has put us in a great position in a challenging year that's presenting increased volume, changes in consumer behaviour, COVID-19 lockdowns and more – we have the tools and knowledge that Aussies need to enjoy more pork at home.

Central to this, the marketing team have de-

veloped easy-cooking instructions on 27 cuts available at retail for seven potential cooking methods – barbecue, grill, pan, roast, stir-fry, slow cook and casserole – for sharing with consumers, retailers and supply chain.

As part of the digital rollout, an interactive how-to-cook guide has been created and the new resource is live on pork.com.au, offering cut-by-cut guides for the major cuts.

The cuts are accompanied by recommended cooking methods, step-by-step instructions with images, how-to instructional video of the steps in motion and suggested recipes.

This was a big job and we're now getting the message out there.

Pork is extremely versatile and easy to cook, making it perfect for a midweek meal.

We want Australians to know that no matter the pork cut they choose, we'll guide them through step-by-step to perfect pork and a great tasting meal.

In the case of pork, if part of the problem has been improving consumer's knowledge of how to cook it, then now more than ever, we have the ammunition needed to solve that.



Pork belly popcorn recipe is available at pork.com.au

US Department of Agriculture finds new ASF detection method

SCIENTISTS from the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service have identified a new way to detect the presence of live African swine fever virus that minimises the need for samples from live animals and provides easier access to veterinary labs that need to diagnose the virus.

ARS scientist Dr Douglas Gladue said they have identified a cell line that can be used to isolate and detect the presence of the live virus.

"This is a critical breakthrough and a tremendous step for African swine fever virus diagnostics," he said.

There are currently no available vaccines to prevent ASFV, and outbreak control has often relied on quarantining and removing infected or exposed animals.

Until now, effectively detecting live ASFV required collecting blood cells from a live donor swine for every diagnostic test, because the cells could only be used once.

The new cell line can be continuously replicated and frozen to create cells for future use, reducing the number of live donor animals needed.

It is also commercially available to veterinary diagnostic labs that traditionally

did not have access to swine blood cells needed to test for live ASFV.

Recent outbreaks of ASFV outside the African continent started after a single introduction of ASFV in the Republic of Georgia in 2007.

The disease has recently spread to China and Southeast Asian countries.

The current Georgia outbreak strain is highly contagious and lethal in domestic pigs.

Even though the virus is not currently present in the US, the nation's swine industry could suffer substantial economic losses should an outbreak occur.

This research, which is highlighted in a recent issue of the journal *Viruses*, was funded through an interagency agreement with the Science and Technology Directorate of the US Department of Homeland Security, US Department of Energy and the US Department of Agriculture.

A provisional patent application for this research was filed in April 2020 and the technology is now available for licence.

ARS scientists at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Plum Island, New York will continue to perform research and work towards finding tools to control the spread of ASFV in the nation.

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Photo: Christopher Carson



Photo: Greg Ortega

Pumping iron leads to heavier weights

WITH porker and baconer prices on the rise, all producers are primed on how to produce not only more pigs, but heavier kilo pigs at wean.

It goes unsaid that the more robust and healthier a pig is at weaning, the less mortality and medication cost a producer should expect to invest, until time to market.

Whether prices are above or below market standard, at the end of the day it all comes down to how to produce pork in the safest and most efficient manner possible.

The past decade has seen an enhanced focus on preventative medicine.

The good producers are keeping their finger on the pulse of what the industry is doing, and the best producers are then taking it a step further to see how they can set the pace.

Administering supplementary iron is a perfect example.

The data is out there, telling us that pigs raised indoors will become anaemic early on without the administration of supplementary iron.



It's the implementation process where variation, and thus opportunity, lies.

Here are the basics.

Iron, a mineral that is found naturally in abundance in soil, is unavailable to pigs raised in farrowing crates.

This traditionally hasn't been a problem, as injectable iron is both economical and easy to administer.

Pigs are a unique species in that they are born with very low iron levels.

Studies will estimate that they are born with roughly 50mg of iron, mostly in the form of haemoglobin.

This is critical to understand because iron is the key component that holds oxygen to red blood cells and makes sure that what your lungs are breathing

in can be used by your body.

Iron also has the added benefit of being critical for the immune system, brain function and muscle strength.

Supplementary iron is typically provided either orally or as an injection within the first week of life.

Iron is available in both 100mg/ml and 200mg/ml concentrations.

Day of administration, as well as route, could potentially be costing your piggery both in terms of weaning weights as well as feed conversion in the nursery.

Sow milk is a poor substitute for soil when it comes to iron supplementation.

Milk provides roughly 1mg of iron per day, which only accounts for about 15 percent of the pig's daily requirement of 7mg per day.

What's more, a pig doubles in size in the first week of life.

This requires a tremendous increase in iron both for its oxygen carrying ability as well as muscle – and thus weight – gain.

Studies in 2015 and 2017 in Danish, US and Canadian systems demonstrated severe gaps in iron administration protocols that result both in anaemia and subsequently decreased average daily gain.

By measuring haemoglobin at weaning, it was determined that 19 out of 20 farms assessed had anaemic pigs at weaning.

Several factors could be contributing to these pigs having subpar iron levels, but at the end of the day almost every farm was affected and the effects on their weaning weights were consistent.

Each report recorded that the largest piglets in the litter were at the highest risk of developing iron deficiency at weaning.

Thus, our inability to provide adequate iron could then be implicated in holding these heavy weight pigs back from maximising their full growth potential.

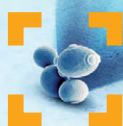
Consequently, pigs with higher haemoglobin levels at weaning, showed marked average daily gain advantages over their anaemic counterparts, even three weeks post-weaning.

If you are concerned your pigs may be at risk for anaemia, reach out to your Apium pig veterinarian today and request an on-farm assessment.

Step one is to identify if the problem exists, step two is to collaborate with your veterinarian regarding your farm-specific data to develop an intervention strategy or new protocol, and step three is to reap the benefits of heavier weaning weights and improved average daily gain.

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Broad Spectrum Activity

- Z-71 Microbe Shield is a broad-spectrum antimicrobial sanitiser demonstrated to be effective against bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens.
- Laboratory tests by Wageningen University in the Netherlands has demonstrated Z-71 Microbe Shield to provide a 4.5 log reduction (99.99% reduction) against African Swine Fever virus in both clean surfaces and in the presence of low levels of organic matter.

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Surface application is a safe, simple and quick process. It is important to use a surface application device that is suitable for the area/s to be targeted. Apiam Animal Health can assist with the initial sanitising process and training of farm staff on how to effectively sanitise facilities.

Appropriate devices can be purchased through Apiam Animal Health.

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Z-71 Microbe Shield has been approved by the Australian Governments' Therapeutic Good Administration (TGA) for use against COVID-19, bacteria and germs on hard surfaces.



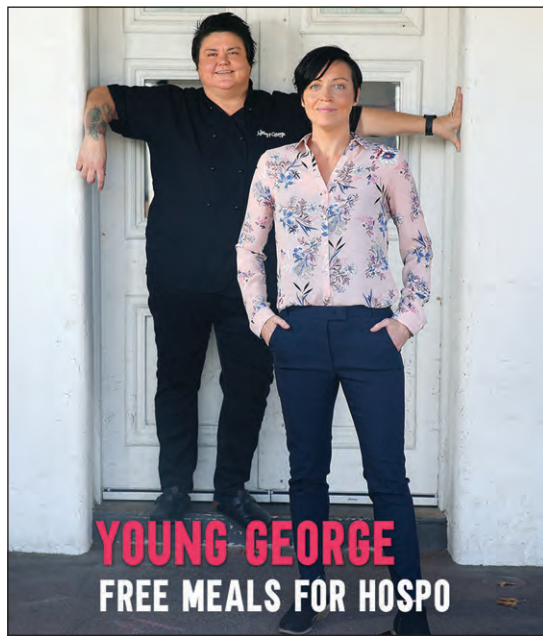
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Jeff Watts

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E: jeff@aafeeds.com.au

Andrew Collins

0427 253 136

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PorkStar creating value during COVID-19

COVID-19 restrictions forced many restaurants to close but PorkStar chefs opened their homes and created pork recipe content that consumers loved.

It was a challenging time, though manager of APL's foodservice influencer brand PorkStar, Kylie Roberts, found opportunities.

Supporting out-of-work hospitality employees was a priority, so she established Hospo4Hospo to serve up pork meals from restaurants who had swapped to takeaway models.

The program pivoted again to put pork on the menu as restaurants reopened.

PorkStar's success lies in its relationships, so when chefs suddenly found themselves at home with more time on their hands, Kylie picked up the phone.

High profile chefs Colin Fassnidge and Adrian Richardson were tasked with producing recipe videos in their own homes, showing consumers how to cook pork

cuts they may have had in their freezer after the panic buying.

While both chefs could easily attract a premium due to their profile and skill, their love of pork and PorkStar meant they were happy to provide high-quality content at a highly discounted rate.

Both PorkStars went even further, delivering additional videos with no cost to Australian pork.

More than a million people have watched the videos on APL and the chefs' own social media, with recipes including Adrian's crackling and roast, and Colin's schnitzel and meatballs.

The exposure for Australian pork increased even further when Colin used a Coles "What's for dinner?" TV spot to feature pork mince.

The segment ran nationally twice during the evening news and was amplified through the supermarket's social pages and taste.com.au

In just four months PorkStar relationships have generated more than \$300,000 worth of crea-

tive and media value, but cost APL less than a twentieth of that.

Coming soon: podcast conversations to challenge industry norms

APL is about to hit 'record' on conversations with local and international experts in the food industry that will transcend the spaces in which APL has traditionally played, and challenge and disrupt existing views.

The new podcast is a complement to the future-focused five-year APL Strategic Plan and challenges the norms of our industry.

Season one – co-hosted by APL Chair Andrew Baxter and general manager of Business and Innovation Mitch Edwards – will launch in September and will be available via Spotify, Apple podcasts and APL channels.

Keep an eye on the APL Facebook page for information on upcoming guests and email ashley.gray@australianpork.com.au to suggest questions for guest experts.

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Low cost reliable pumping for piggeries

WHEN Aussie Pumps launched their Aussie GMP 2" through to 4" super heavy-duty cast-iron semi-trash pumps, they originally had construction sites and tanker operators in mind.

It wasn't long before the same pumps, used in those applications with either engine or hydraulic drive, were also finding a niche in livestock effluent disposal.

A co-operation between Aussie Pump engineers and GMP's team in northern Italy resulted in low cost but very heavy-duty cast-iron pumps, built to handle waste effluent material.

Significantly less expensive than exotic American equipment on the market, the Aussie GMP range are all self-priming.

It's the self-priming factor that makes them more suitable, in either electro submersible or

long column sump pumps. Aussie Pumps' chief engineer John Hales said, "We know that over its lifetime, an effluent-handling wastewater pump has to pump a wide range of materials.

"As a result, pumps can clog, and submersible pumps have to be extracted and dismantled for repair or cleanout."

The Aussie GMP models have a handy front clean-out port that enables the pump to be cleared of debris without disconnecting pipework or having to enter the pit.

The pumps have a big, non-clog style open cast-iron impeller, with the option of 316 stainless steel, for potentially abrasive and corrosive applications.

"We think they're ideal for piggeries because of the feedback we're getting from the market.

"People like the price, compared to the much bigger and heavier US equivalents," Mr Hales said.

Aussie Pumps claim the GMP semi-trash pumps can be supplied either in bare shaft configuration for long coupling of electric motors or alternatively in close-coupled motor pump configuration.

The company said that service is simple because they are so easy to access.

Even routine maintenance is no issue because of the easy clean-out port built into the front of the pump.

Mechanical seals are silicone-carbide with tungsten options.

Each pump is built with a stainless-steel wear plate to preserve the wear factor and protect the pump body.

"Best of all for customers,

we can also build these pumps in 316 stainless steel configurations for the same price that other brands sell cast-iron pumps for," Mr Hales said.

The illustrated 4" pump, with a 15kW close coupled heavy duty 415-volt motor, can produce 2300 litres per minute in-flow and has a maximum head of 29 metres.

Their self-priming design will draw fluid through a vertical lift of 6 metres.

"We wonder why piggeries, abattoirs and meat processing plants are still using submersible surface mounted pumps when Aussie GMPs are so easy to operate, access and service," Mr Hales said.

Further information, including Aussie Pumps' free Primed for Action catalogue, is available from aussiepumps.com.au



This big Aussie pump is not only a great slurry pump but can also service as an aerator.

Rewarding world-class biosecurity innovation

THE Innovations with 3D X-ray Technology project has been recognised, with the 2020 Public Sector Innovation Award winner in the Digital and Data category.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said the technology is a game changer for managing biosecurity risks and processing goods and people at the border.

"To meet the challenges associated with increasing volumes of cargo and passengers, we need to work smarter and more efficiently to manage biosecurity risks," Minister Littleproud said.

"In a world-first for biosecurity, this 3D X-ray technology allows us to automatically detect biosecurity risk material that arrives at our airports and mail centres.

"3D X-ray units are now installed at Melbourne international airport and Melbourne international mail centre.

"We will also be installing a unit at Sydney international mail centre.

"They have proven to be much more effective than current detection technologies, significantly increasing the detection rate at the airport and mail centre."

The units can automatically detect meat, seafood and fruit, which means they can help safeguard from several of the deadliest biosecurity threats, including African swine fever.

"The algorithms use in-

formation such as density and shape to alert officers to potential biosecurity risks in baggage or mail items and enables the detection of two to three times more risk material than current screening technology," Minister Littleproud said.

"Increased image quality from the 3D X-ray also enables our biosecurity officers to be more confident in decision making.

"They are significantly reducing the burden for officers and allow for more risk material to be easily detected.

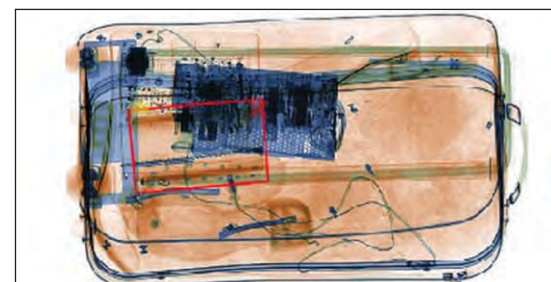
"I congratulate the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on this well-deserved achievement, and I am excited by the further opportunities this technology presents."

The successful 3D X-ray algorithm trial was funded through the \$7.5 million Modern Seamless Border Clearance measure and the \$25.2 million Biosecurity Innovation Program announced in the 2018 Budget.

The Australian government will continue to invest in the national biosecurity system to work smarter to address current and emerging risks.

For more information on the Innovations with 3D X-Ray Technology project, visit agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/biosecurity-3d-x-ray

For more information on the 2020 Public Sector Innovation Award and finalists, visit act.ipaa.org.au/innovation-awards.



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- Develop, implement and maintain quality assurance protocols
- Supervise employees collecting semen
- Ensure operational activities remain on time
- Organisation of staffing and available for rostered Sunday work
- Skills and qualifications
- Excellent ability to delegate responsibilities while maintaining organisational control of operations
- Experience in boar management
- Knowledge of general business software and an aptitude to learn new applications with proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Must hold a current driver's licence and be an Australian residence

Laboratory Manager

- Maintain constant communication with management, staff and customers
- Develop, implement and maintain quality assurance protocols and standards
- Ensure high quality live boar semen is processed, freighted and delivered to our customers
- Ensure operational activities remain on time
- Organisation of staff rosters
- Skills and qualifications
- Excellent ability to delegate responsibilities and maintain organisational control of operations and customer service
- Knowledge of general business computer software and an aptitude to learn new applications, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Must hold a current driver's licence and be an Australian residence

Operations Manager

- Maintain constant communication with management, staff, and vendors to ensure efficient and timely operations of the organisation
- Develop, implement and maintain quality assurance protocols
- Grow the efficiency of existing organisational processes and procedures to enhance and sustain the organisation's internal capacity
- Actively pursue strategic and operational objectives
- Ensure operational activities remain on time and within a defined budget, and assist in budget preparation
- Organisation of staffing
- Comprehensive knowledge of current Workplace Health and Safety legislations
- Running the business in the absence of the General Manager
- Skills and qualifications
- Excellent ability to delegate responsibilities while maintaining organisational control of operations and customer service
- Highly trained in conflict management and business negotiation processes
- Knowledge of general business software and aptitude to learn new applications, and proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Preferred qualifications
- Strong IT skills including database development
- Must hold a current driver's licence and be an Australian residence



Market hurdles inhibit viability of feral pig harvesting

THE potential revival of commercial harvesting of feral pigs faces significant business and market challenges, according to a new National Feral Pig Action Plan report.

The report has been published as part of the development of the National Feral Pig Action Plan, a \$1.4 million federal government initiative driven in part by the potential for Australia's feral pig population to spread African swine fever and infect Australia's commercial pig herd.

Due to their biological similarity to the European boar, commercial harvesting of the Australian feral pig has previously enabled significant volumes of swine product to be processed for overseas markets.

While the annual value of the industry peaked at \$50 million in the mid 1980s, the harvesting of feral pigs for export has endured volatility on a number of fronts for many decades.

Chair of the Steering Group leading the development of the National Feral Pig Action Plan John Maher said the business case for feral pig harvesting was important to weigh-up as part of a na-

tionally coordinated feral pig management plan.

"I'm especially interested in understanding any commercial opportunities to help better control the feral pig population in Australia, which is estimated to be up to 24 million head," Mr Maher said.

"A lot of stakeholders we're talking to remember when feral pig harvesting was viable on the back of strong export demand for wild boar meat.

"Not only did that help control our feral pig numbers, it also generated employment and millions of dollars of economic activity in regional Australia.

"As we develop a preliminary Action Plan to present to the federal Department of Agriculture by January 2020, the potential for a revived feral pig harvesting industry is important to consider."

The annual value of the feral pig harvesting industry ranged from \$10 to \$50 million between 1980 to 2010, but the commercial trade became increasingly inviable over the past decade due to a number of factors, including increased competition in overseas markets.

Mr Maher said the economic viability of com-

mercial harvesting has also been undermined due to the logistical challenges and the cost of harvesting pigs over large areas.

"The sporadic supply of carcasses suitable for processing and a decline in the number of accredited hunters has made it difficult to meet offshore demand and maintain market share," he said.

"Nonetheless, there's value in conducting a feasibility study specifically looking at the economic, environmental and social benefits that commercial harvesting might play as part of a broader national feral pig management strategy.

"That could include an assessment of employment opportunities in remote and indigenous communities where feral pigs are abundant, such as Cape York Peninsula, and the cost effectiveness of providing assistance to help fill logistics and skills gaps that currently exist, as well as ways to re-establish export markets."

The full report is available at feralpigs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/National-Feral-Pig-Management-APL-Report-July-2020.pdf



Food process plant reduces BOD with bank-mounted aerator for wastewater

A WESTERN Australian food process plant's wastewater surface aerator broke down during peak production.

Not the most desirable situation to be in, particularly in the midst of a pandemic, which could complicate issues of potential repairs or replacement.

The process plant was in need of a simple, reliable and efficient replacement system and fast.

The plant manager had heard of bank-mounted aerators and was excited to learn more about how effective they could be, and how much simpler the maintenance would be, ensuring he wouldn't have to experience this



annoying and costly situation again.

He also wanted to know if the bank-mounted aerator could be retrofitted to replace his existing surface aerator easily.

The team at Hydro Innovations were able to explain the benefits of the Venturi Aerator, a bank-mounted aerator, and pinpoint the exact model to fill their requirements.

The benefit of the Venturi Aerator over a sur-

face aerator is that the equipment is mounted on the bank of the lagoon.

This makes maintenance and servicing simple and easy, which in turn means the equipment is more likely to be regularly serviced and have a longer lifespan than aerators that are dif-

ficult to access.

The Venturi Aerator does not need any special equipment such as cranes or row boats, or any complicated annual certifications for servicing and maintenance.

Not only was the process plant happy with the pump and the price, the plant manager was thrilled that Hydro Innovations could deliver the system and solve the problem in less than four weeks, including transportation from the east coast of Australia to WA.

The process plant was not disappointed with the

results its new purchase delivered.

Shortly after installation, its BOD had gone down by 1400ppm from the previous month.

Hydro Innovations keep a wide range of products in stock, which was instrumental in solving this particular problem quickly and effectively, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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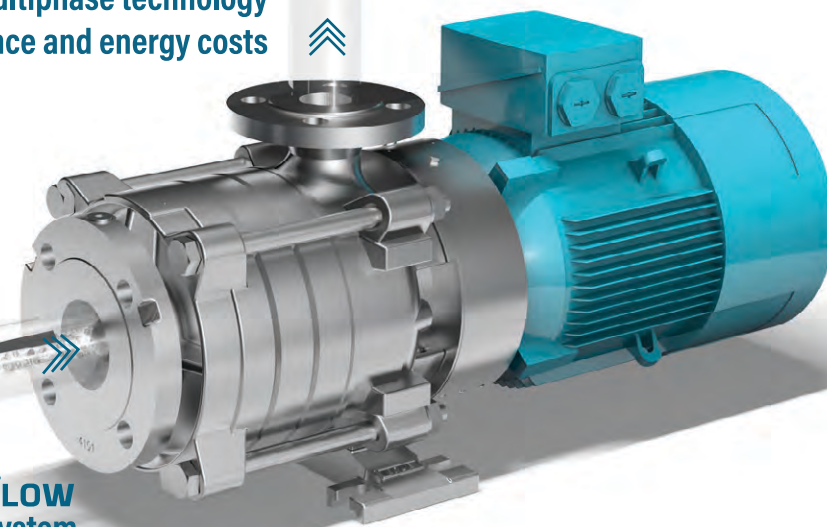
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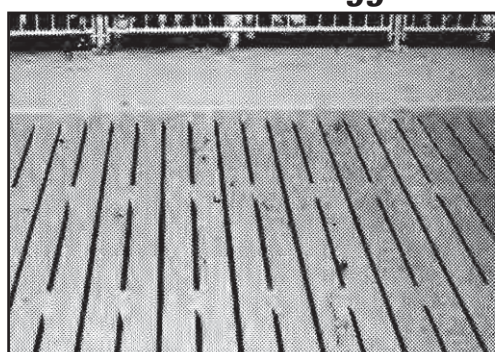


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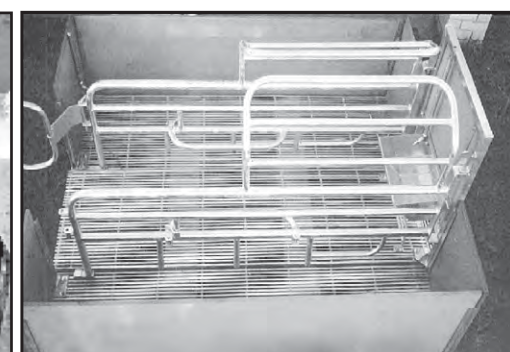
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A Queensland-based recreational hunter.

Shooting feral pigs

THE Shooters Union of Australia has renewed calls for a state lands hunting plan to combat the threat of African swine fever.

Shooters Union Australia president Graham Park said there are literally hundreds of thousands of licensed, law-abiding shooters in Queensland and around Australia who would not only be happy to control feral pigs for free, they'd even pay the government a fee to do it.

"If you have a look at the maps, north Queensland is absolutely overrun with feral pigs and they are abundant throughout pretty much everywhere else in the state too.

"All these rural areas are crying out for an influx of dollars and we've got 200,000 licensed shooters in Queensland who would be only too happy to oblige by visiting the regions and shooting their feral pest animals," Mr Park said.

A recent report commissioned by Australian Pork Limited found feral pigs caused an estimated \$106.5 million in damage each year, and that up to 70

percent of the population needed to be culled each year to prevent it from expanding.

A state government spokesperson commented that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, like all landholders, manages declared pests such as feral pigs on its land.

"Trapping had been used as an effective means of removing the threat of feral pigs from national parks in some areas for more than 20 years.

"The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries supports feral pig management by local government and landholders using a range of controls, including aerial and ground shooting, trapping and baiting."

"Queensland has also conducted significant evaluation of baits and their best use.

"The results are made available to landholders and land managers," the spokesperson said.

According to Mr Park, feral pigs are smart and know full well that if they go to certain places such as state forests and national parks, no-one will come and shoot them.

"The pigs can breed

safely in the state or national parks then come back into farmland to cause chaos, escaping back to the parks before farmers and shooters can eliminate them all.

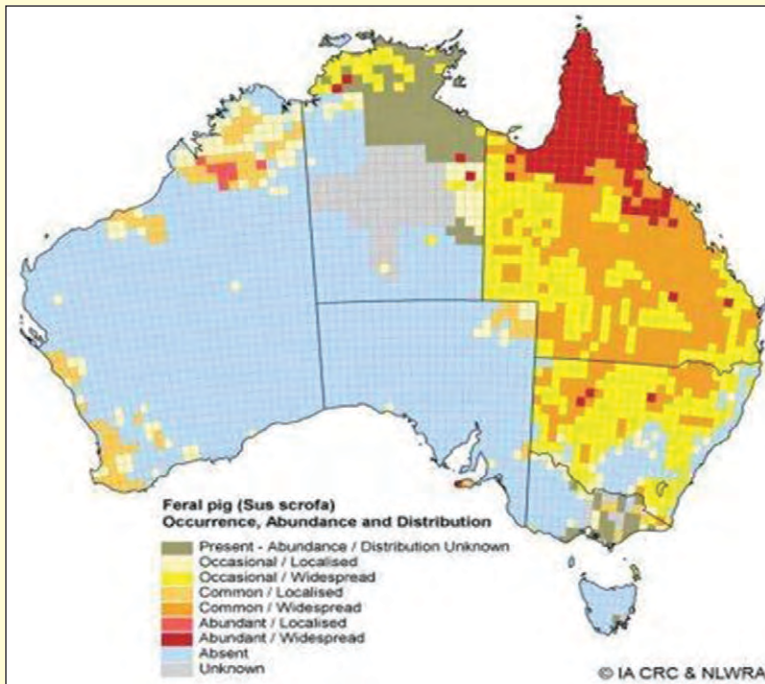
"This completely undermines the efforts by landowners and shooters to protect Queensland's biodiversity.

"State land hunting schemes in other states allowed people onto unused state forest and was managed via an app that controlled how many people were in any one area at a time.

"We approached the government a couple of months after the petition had been presented and just got a flat 'we have no plan to change our mind' response," Mr Park said.

National Feral Pig Management coordinator Heather Channon said that as part of the development of the National Feral Pig Action Plan, they were commencing consultation with stakeholders.

"All views will be looked at by the steering group before any suggested policy recommendations are able to be made," Dr Channon said.



An IA CRC and NLWRA map showing where feral pigs are found in Australia.

Anti-viral properties of formic acid

AFRICAN swine fever is an important economic disease and in most countries, infections are notifiable by law to relevant authorities.

First discovered in Africa in the early 1900s, ASF infects all breeds of pig, and impacts pork producing countries through severe mortality and bans on the export of pork products.

Formic acid has been shown to be effective in inactivating certain types of virus, such as enveloped viruses, avian influenza and ASF.

Formic acid is a key active ingredient in Anpario's acid-based eubiotics such as pHorce.

Controlling the spread of ASF

ASF is highly contagious and can spread easily from infected pigs and wild boar to fomites, including equipment and feed materials.

Using formic acid in high-risk feed materials, such as animal by-products, has been shown to inactivate enveloped viruses within 24 hours.

Formic acid has also been shown to be effective in inactivating enveloped viruses such as ASF on fomites such as equipment.



Using one of Anpario's ABE has been seen to be beneficial in reducing the transmission and virulence of viral infections in pigs.

Cleaning pig areas, feed and water lines is a major control measure and here is where products containing formic acid can be helpful, as they are registered for safe use in the animal.

Formic acid as part of an ASF control program

Prevention is, as always, more effective than a cure, especially in terms of ASF, which has no vaccination or known cure and in most cases results in the death of all pigs infected.

As wild boar are the reservoir of the virus, it is of paramount importance to ensure their exclusion from land where pigs, equipment, feed and feed bins and the workforce reside as much as possible.

Regular cleaning and a high level of biosecurity

are the only ways to ensure ASF does not enter the unit.

This anti-viral activity means that formic acid can be used as part of an effective hygiene program.

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Photo: Murray-Darling Basin Authority

The environment, communities and farmers suffer from water market

TREASURER Josh Frydenberg has released the interim report of the Murray-Darling Basin Water Markets Inquiry carried out by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

National Farmers' Federation chief executive Tony Mahar said the report is clear and unequivocal about the need for decisive, rapid and comprehensive reform.

"The report notes 'the Basin's water rights markets have serious problems that have to be fixed now to generate more of the potential benefits of water trade'," he said.

"This independent assessment must now be considered and acted upon.

"There must be a pathway mapped out to meaningful reform of the

water market."

In its report to the Treasurer, the ACCC found the market was poorly regulated and governed.

"It is clear duplicative and inconsistent rules and processes between Basin states have led to significant information failures, which has created potential opportunities for exploitation.

"This has undermined confidence in the water market."

The report also cites a 'disconnect between the rules of the trading system and the physical characteristics of the river system'.

"The market does not sufficiently consider delivery capacity, conveyance losses nor adverse environmental impacts and ultimately, it is farmers, communities and the environment who lose

out," Mr Mahar said.

"This is clear in the communities we have visited and consulted with.

"We need clear and robust rules and governance in a system that farmers and Basin communities rely on for their livelihoods."

The report also finds water markets have brought significant benefits to water users and communities across the Basin.

The ACCC clearly articulates the solution is not to dismantle the system, but to reform the system to provide greater clarity and confidence.

"The ACCC has proposed a number of reform options and the NFF and its members will consider these in detail in developing a response," Mr Mahar said.

"Ensuring clarity and

confidence in the way the water market operates will be a key focus and critical outcome of this process.

"The NFF notes over 40 reports into the Murray-Darling Basin have now been released.

"By not implementing recommendations to improve the plan, governments are perpetuating the pain suffered across the Basin and demonstrating utter contempt for farmers, communities and the environment.

"The first order of business must be the adoption of the 38 Productivity Commission report recommendations.

"We also keenly await the release of the Sefton socio-economic and Water for the Environment Special Account reviews currently with the water minister."

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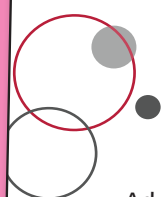
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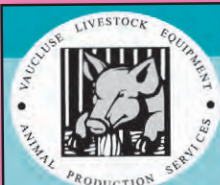


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Letters to the Editor

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

I am writing in response to Andrew Reilly's recent letter in this publication.

Being from the isolated town of Esperance in southeast Western Australia and with over 37 years of pig farming here, money and time has stopped us from going to many pig meetings in Perth.

So, please forgive me if I seem to not understand the political side of Australian Pork Limited.

In my view, it does not matter who is out the front, there will always be some people that agree and those who do not.

As long as the ship is going in the right direction and to the better of all concerned is what matters.

In this case, we, the producer, pay around \$3.50 a pig in levies, which goes a long way in paying the bills at APL.

I remember back as a young lad the price of pigs always going up and down, and since the import of pig meat into this country, I have found the price to have been reasonably stable.

The reason I farm pigs is because I love it, and have since I was a young boy, taking over the family farm of 1400 acres with a 350 sow piggery and a \$500,000 debt back in 2000.

Today having 600 sows, the same acreage and over \$1.5 million debt, have I progressed? I do run sheep and cows and buy in all my grain.

I feel that the pigs

have given our family a good way of life over the years and we have survived, they have paid their way, but it's the capital growth of our farm that has always allowed me to do what I have wanted.

With this in mind we have a good bank manager and God has blessed me with good health.

Two years ago, I experienced the worst financial position that I had seen in our industry.

To survive we had to cut the heads off 150 of my pregnant angus cows.

That got us through to harvest to buy more grain.

This year in Esperance, we are going through the fourth dry autumn in a row.

As you farmers on the east coast know, it is very mentally challenging.

There is no grain on farms, and again I will have to sell more of my cows so I can buy grain from CBH Group to feed to my pigs.

Where is APL and what have I had from them in all these years of paying levies?

Yes, I have been to Brisbane for three expos, to Melbourne for five CRC Benchmarking meetings, and to Adelaide for an APL meeting, all paid for by them.

If my calculations are right, selling around 15,000 pigs a year, is nearly \$50,000 that I have paid a year in levies.

Some of that money

goes into research and a lot into paying the wages at APL.

I see a lot being spent on advertising a pork dinner, and let's face it, how many people have the money and time to make a meal like that?

As a farmer I feel, whatever industry it is, we produce food for the people of this country, especially the pig industry.

We are that small on the world scale of things.

Why do we still talk about supply and demand?

We are in the 21st century.

Why can't the lower paid workers in this country afford a steak or pork chop?

Making a 10 percent profit on farm allows us to live, pay tax and interest, and any capital or debt reduction.

Today, selling a 70kg baconer, I am getting around \$255.

It is costing me \$73.50 to get my pigs killed, so I can supply 12 pigs a week to three little butcher shops.

Why is it still happening today, that we have the animal on the farm for months and it's in the abattoir and out again in a day or two, and the supermarkets make the money?

I think we worry too much about our little export market, while more pork meat is coming into this country.

What is going on at the APL side to allow this to happen?

In 2017, we here at Shark Lake Piggery

won the pork chop competition, so I believe I produce a quality carcass.

Why is it that we still get paid by the P2 measurement?

Going forward – as I am 53 years old – for the next 10 to 15 years, with the help of my great team, my clean disease status and my love of producing pigs, I hope to still be here.

We have gone forward as an industry with quality assurance and group housing.

Now I ask APL to take us to the next level and work out how we can get paid for lean meat yield, so I can survive, and my children have a future in our industry for years to come.

As for the fighting of the wild pigs, in today's climate, how are you going to get money from the government?

Do you know how hard it is, and how much money gets spent on keeping starlings and sparrows out of WA?

While talking of vermin, with the price of sheep and cattle today, the price of meat meal has gone up nearly \$250 a tonne for me in the last few years.

Can APL look into putting wild camels or kangaroos into meat meal?

So, having read my epistle, it is only hard work, a good wife, the love of pigs and the fact that I am in too deep that keeps me doing what I do.

As for APL, I can't say whether they help me or not.

Stephen Hoffrichter

SIR, further research regarding the NSW swine compensation fund.

First, I find that nearly all states had pig compensation funds.

Most have been repealed and where the funds got to, I cannot find with a cursory search of Google.

For instance, Queensland instigated a fund in 1962 at a rate of 1 cent per \$5.00 value of pigs sold.

This was to be suspended once the fund accumulated \$300,000.

Apparently suspended at a quick read.

The parliamentary speech to suspend the fund noted that the swine fever outbreak in NSW and Victoria in 1961-62 cost \$400,000 in compensation with 12,000 pigs slaughtered, so they surmised that \$300,000 was adequate for Queensland.

Again, where is this money now?

Victoria seems to have a current fund operating, which in 1994 collected 16 cents per pig.

In 2016-17, the fund contributed \$250,000 towards what was recorded as "to minimise a biosecurity threat."

Again, I assume this being a current fund, the money will still actually exist.

What is its current value?

South Australia established a fund in 1936.

The payment is unclear but something like 1 cent per \$5.00 worth of pigs sold –

more accurately, a half-penny per 1 quid.

The fund was to cease annually once \$50,000 was raised.

Then it seems the rate was 1 cent per every \$3.00 of pigs sold not exceeding 21 cents.

A later amount appears to be 20 cents for pigs amounting to more than \$20.00.

Regardless, this fund was also repealed in 1997.

Where is this money now?

Western Australia established a fund in 1942.

The details are unclear and may have had contributions of 50 cents per pig.

It also seems to have been repealed.

So that leaves NSW, where the fund was established in 1928.

I sent a letter (unanswered) over two months ago to the Minister of Agriculture asking where the NSW compensation fund had gotten to and what the accrued amount is.

A second reminder letter has now been sent.

The non-reply does not surprise me as there is no-one left in the bureaucracy who would even remember the fund.

I have found many ex-Department of Agriculture piggery officers – all retired – who clearly remember the fund

and the government of 1988 stealing the lot – around \$12 million. The payment into the

fund at that time was 20 cents per pig slaughtered.

One ex-piggery officer from NSW, who is well acquainted with government procedures, has told me that the money had to go into "something" as it couldn't just disappear into consolidated revenue – I am not that hopeful.

Where is the money now and what is its current value?

These are my recurring questions to all states that have or have had a swine compensation fund.

The answers to these questions are vital, with the prospect of African swine fever entry into Australia.

Compensation is to be paid but by whom?

Are pig producers to pay twice, having already contributed to compensation funds, that have conveniently "disappeared" and then are we pig producers expected to pay half of any future slaughter out costs again?

Just who is to pay what?

This is an answer that must be addressed now, not after we have an eradication battle on our hands.

All funds legitimately belong to pig producers, not governments.

Just where are they now?

I am one of a few pig farmers old enough to remember the NSW fund!

Neil Unger

Here's my Card

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