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CM Farms director David Keyte. Photo: Paul Robbins

CM Farms strikes gold at the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show

CRAIG Mostyn Group Nambelup (CM Farms) impressed the judges at the 2019 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show, taking home Champion Pork for its Berkshire Premium Pork at the Taste of Excellence awards held in Sydney recently.

Run by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, the Fine Food Show celebrates Australia's best producers, with CM Farms becoming the third winner of the Champion Pork category following the introduction of the standalone class within the Branded Meat competition in 2017; a reflection of the growing industry.

Branded Meats Sydney Royal Chair of Judges George Ujvary said Sydney Royal Champions are prime examples of great Australian quality. "There were some exceptional exhibits on display at this year's competitions, with a few standouts, like CM Farms, who took home a champion," Mr Ujvary said.

"These medal-winning exhibits are a true testament to the hard work of the industry as a whole and the individuals involved.

"They are to be highly commended for continuing to put some of the greatest Australian products on plates around the world and for supporting Australia's fine reputation of delivering high-quality produce."

Craig Mostyn Group general manager Meat and Livestock Peter Spackman said CM Farms Nambelup is honoured to be recognised.

"Over the past three years CM Farms Nambelup has been exploring ways to develop a line of pigs that produce a premium-quality fresh pork product," Mr Spackman said.

"The Berkshire breed was selected for its known superior eating quality traits, in particular, enhanced juiciness, tenderness and flavour.

"CM Farms Nambelup together with Linley Valley Pork have partnered to develop CM Farms Berkshire, a product that consistently delivers an exceptional eating quality experience."

Over the past month, more than 1800 Fine Food entries across nine categories were judged by some of the finest palates in the country, sup-

porting excellence within the industry by providing invaluable feedback to exhibitors and awarding quality producers.

Sydney Royal Fine Food Committee chair Lachlan Bowtell said consumers should be proud of the outstanding products made available right here in Australia.

"A Sydney Royal medal is a symbol of excellence and those awarded here today can be proud that their products are of the highest standard in Australia," Mr Bowtell said.

"This year's Show again demonstrated that despite the current adversities our farmers are facing, local producers continue to persevere and deliver outstanding quality time and time again.

"Australians should be proud of their local producers and the standards they adhere to."

Other highly commended pork producers that took home silver medals included Gumshire Hampshire Pork for its Pork Loin, Andrews Meat Industries' Byron Bay Berkshire Pork and Black Label Berkshire for its pork loin special edition.

Home-grown message reaches millions

THE success of our industry's efforts to promote Australian pork products as part of International Bacon Day on August 31 was even more important this year.

Australian Pork Limited's move away from what was previously Bacon Week to align with International Bacon Day has been significant as a way of using the global momentum to raise timely awareness in Australia about the importance of choosing home-grown pork products.

A highlight of the initiative was to acknowledge the outstanding quality of the local products on offer to Australian consumers in crowning the winners of this year's PorkMark Australian Bacon Awards.

Congratulations to Canberra-based Southlands Quality Meats for being judged the producer of Australia's best shortcut bacon and to Princi Smallgoods in Western Australia for winning the full rasher category.

The awards and APL's broader promotion of International Bacon Day meant our message about choosing Australian bacon and supporting Australian pig farmers reached a national audience of more than 17 million Australians – an outstanding, powerful result.

The importance of raising awareness about specifically supporting Australia's pork industry, rather than simply celebrating pig meat products regardless of their origin, has never been so pertinent.

Within a week of International Bacon Day, I joined Pork SA chair Mark McLean at a special Biosecurity Round-



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



and our ongoing input in the review.

Producers wishing to have a direct say in reforming the RDC system can submit feedback by November 4.

The seasonal fortunes that play out in spring always play a huge role in determining the productivity and profitability of Australian farmers and, unfortunately for so many regions, the season has again been disappointing.

The seasonal situation, commodity prices and on-farm profitability have impacted recent slaughter figures.

ABS numbers show a continuing of the slowing production trend, with MAT slaughters at 5.31 million to the end of June.

Abattoir data of week-on-week pigs processed numbers from mid-July have shown a significant drop, with differences of up to 6000 pigs compared to the same week last year.

Confidence in supply for slaughter is fundamental to our industry.

This was abundantly clear to me at the recent opening of the new SunPork Swickers plant at Kingaroy in Queensland.

Touring the facility and seeing the investment in new technology made by SunPork – boosting employment from 550 workers to 800 – says a great deal about the positive outlook SunPork has for Australia's pork industry.

On a final note, I join with the APL Board in acknowledging the contribution of David Lock who resigned as APL chairman in September.

Mr Lock became APL chair in July 2018.

Andrew Baxter will serve as acting chair until a new chair is appointed.

table in Canberra to discuss African swine fever.

The meeting, convened by Federal Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie, was attended by key representatives from relevant government agencies and producer representatives.

Australian Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Mark Schipp provided a global update on the status of the virus, while the Department of Agriculture outlined the systems in place to protect Australia's biosecurity status in light of the global spread of ASF.

Representatives from ABARES also mapped out the real and potential trade implications triggered by the spread of the virus.

ASF is now confirmed to have spread to South Korea and the Philippines, but the deepening production and supply impact of ASF in China continues to draw a great deal of attention.

There are predictions that China's annual pork supply deficit as a result of ASF will be 20 million tonnes and prices for pork in China are already at a record high of \$4.39 (\$A equivalent).

APL will continue to actively ensure the government is responding to the critical threat posed by ASF in an effective and informative manner.

We are determined to play a leading role in ensuring Australia's preparedness is co-ordinated across industries and all tiers of government to ensure we protect our \$5.3 billion industry, our 3700 producers and the pork sector's 36,000 employees.

Jurisdictional grey areas or failure to ensure the whole supply chain is armed with appropriate information must not create weak links in our nationwide efforts to combat the risk of ASF.

Those jurisdictional issues have been important topics for discussion in my recent visits to producers across the country, including farmer groups in Western Australia and Victoria.

Another important governance topic has been the Federal Government's discussion paper 'Modernising the Research and Development Corporation System'.

The paper confirms the government shares our industry's priority for value for levy payers, effective advocacy and policy research and identifying where improvements can be made.

APL is working in co-ordination with the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations in relation to the discussion paper



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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2019

OCT 19 - 21 – Leman China Swine Conference, Zhengzhou, China 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

NOV 17 - 20 – Australasian Pig Science Association Conference, Adelaide, SA 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-2087

DEC 10 - 11 – The Pork Show, Quebec City, Canada www.leporcshow.com

2020

JAN 7-9 – Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Canada www.banffpork.ca

FEB 12-13 – Missouri Pork Expo, Missouri, US www.mopork.com/events/missouri-pork-expo-2

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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Growing a digital future for Australian agriculture

SINCE 2016, Australian Pork Limited has been working with a number of other Rural Research and Development Corporations to support digital innovation in the Australian agricultural sector, with a particular focus on agricultural data.

Outcomes of a number of projects have shown that currently, Australian agriculture is in an immature state regarding strategy, culture, governance, technology, data analytics and training, which is detrimental to innovation and producer adoption of digital agriculture.

By increasing the maturity and therefore the implementation of digital agriculture across all Australia production sectors, it has been estimated the gross value of agricultural production could be increased by \$20.3 billion (a 25 percent increase on 2014-15 levels).

So what does this mean for individual producers?

By embracing and utilising agricultural data through digital platforms, producers will be better able to make more informed decisions on various aspects of production within their businesses, improving productivity while reducing inputs.

However, for farmers to be in a better position to adopt digital technologies on-farm, policies, infrastructure, technology platforms and training programs need to be considered and further developed.

A national forum on 'Growing a digital future for Australian agriculture' was held on September 16 at Parliament House in Canberra.



by **HEATHER CHANNON**
Research and Innovation
General Manager



The purpose of this forum was to get this topic on the agenda of policy and decision-makers not only in agriculture, but also those involved rural and regional development.

Outcomes from the 'Growing a digital future for Australian Agriculture' cross-sector project were presented to attendees at the forum.

Briefly, these included 'A digital maturity index and assessment tool to identify areas of digital strength and areas for development for individual businesses or sectors'; and 'An agricultural workforce digital capability framework to map the digital capabilities of the agricultural workforce'.

These tools may be applied to help people adapt to a rapidly changing technological environment.

The insights from research conducted to understand the impact of digital technologies on the future agricultural workforce as well as insights from current training providers and learning pathways were used to identify the capabilities that will be required by agricultural workers in the future.

A guide 'Agricultural data rules: best manage-

ment practice' has also been developed to provide data management practices to support producers, agribusinesses and associations who collect, manage and share their data.

The guide aims to assist farmers with legal, ethical and security concerns around data management and its use.

All these tools are now available on our website and you are encouraged to utilise both the digital maturity index and assessment tool and the Digital Capability Framework to assess your current maturity and capability with digital agriculture.

Overall, it was recommended that an overarching agricultural data strategy and policy needs to be developed to enable Australian agricultural industries to produce, manage and share high-quality data outputs.

It will be imperative any further work done ensures the privacy of individual producers is protected and trust and confidence in the collection, sharing and use of agricultural data is maintained.

Gilt management manual now available

I am pleased to advise APL has just published a new resource 'Best prac-

tice gilt management for fertility and longevity', edited by Dr Rebecca Athorn (Manager, Production Innovation at APL) and Dr Kate Plush (SunPork Solutions).

This manual is now available for downloading from australianpork.com.au

The manual provides recommendations to support producers with reducing average annual replacement rates and improving sow productivity and longevity.

Congratulations to two APILP graduates

APL would like to congratulate two graduates from Course 1 of the Australian Pork Industry Leadership Program – Tracy Anderson and Tristan Donaldson – on their success in being voted in as APL delegates for the coming three years.

Both Tracy and Tristan graduated from the inaugural APILP course in January 2019.

Together with her husband Peter and their family, Tracy is an owner/manager of a 500-sow farrow to finish farm in the South Burnett, Queensland.

Tracy has been in her role as office manager since 2012 and is jointly responsible for all aspects of the business decision-making, including financial and operational.

She is also a director and chair of Riverbend Pork Group, a producer-formed service company that jointly owns pigs, and has recently become a director of Pork Queensland Inc.

Tristan, together with his family, manages a 500-sow farrow to finish unit in Deniliquin in

southern NSW. Tristan has been actively involved in the Australian pig industry for many years, at both a national level and within state farming organisations.

The APILP program was created to provide a succession program for the Australian pork industry, allowing producers to gain skills and experiences to support them in their endeavours to become more involved in industry decision-making processes.

We have already seen great success from all Course 1 graduates and look forward to continuing to see the positive contribution this program makes to our industry for many years to come.

In a few weeks, Course 2 participants will be heading to Denmark for their 12-day overseas industry immersion workshop.

They will visit five farms (varying in size and production type), attend the 2019 Svine Kongressen, tour a Danish Crown processing facility, visit commercial sites and have the opportunity to meet and network with Danish producers, researchers and key industry contacts.

Applications for Course 3 will open in early 2020.

For further information about the APILP program, please contact Ashley Norval, Manager, Benchmarking and Leadership at ashley.norval@australianpork.com.au

For any further information on the topics presented in this article, please contact me on heather.channon@australianpork.com.au or 0423 056 045.

APL Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Consultation Roadshow

Your input is needed to develop the next Australian Pork Limited (APL) Strategic Plan

This consultation aims to identify the strategic direction for APL over the next 5-10 years and the priorities for our investment of your levies in R&D. The views of producers and our other stakeholders are important to drive our future direction. We want your views on what's important to you, your business and your industry.

What do you need to do?

Email apl@australianpork.com.au to RSVP for the meeting you want to attend including dietary requirements **by 7 October** (for catering purposes). Then, just turn up and participate – it's that simple.

Stakeholder meetings and locations

Stakeholder meetings will run from 10am to 3pm. Lunch will be provided.

- 23 October 2019: Technology Park, Perth, WA
- 24 October 2019: Adelaide Royal Coach, Adelaide, SA
- 20 November 2019: Stamford Plaza, Sydney Airport, Sydney, NSW
- 27 November 2019: Venue TBC, Melbourne, VIC
- 3 December 2019: Novotel, Brisbane Airport, Brisbane, QLD

Producer meeting dates and locations

Producer meetings will run from 11am to 5pm, including a working lunch. Networking drinks and casual meal to follow.

- 21 October 2019: Commercial Club, Bunbury, WA
- 22 October 2019: Technology Park, Perth, WA
- 25 October 2019: Tanunda Weintal, Barossa, SA*
- 18 November 2019: Narrandera Ex-Serviceman's Club, Narrandera NSW
- 19 November 2019: Young Services Club, Young, NSW
- 25 November 2019: Venue TBC, Launceston, TAS
- 26 November 2019: Melbourne Airport, Melbourne, VIC
- 28 November 2019: Venue TBC, Echuca, VIC
- 4 December 2019: Burke and Wills Hotel, Toowoomba, QLD
- 5 December 2019: Kingaroy RSL, Kingaroy QLD

* The Pork SA AGM is after this workshop, followed by dinner. For Pork SA AGM information contact Andy Pointon on 0418 848 845 or andypointon.food@iinet.com.au



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AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED CONCISE NOTICE OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Australian Pork Limited (ABN 83 092 783 278) (**APL or the Company**) will be held on **Thursday 14 November 2019** commencing at 1.00pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time) at the **Melbourne Marriott Hotel** (Exhibition Room), Corner Exhibition and Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

The business of the AGM will include:

- Financial statements and reports
- Auditors' remuneration
- Election of Elected Directors
- Amendment of Constitution.

The complete Notice, AGM Agenda, Explanatory Notes, Meeting Procedures and 2018-2019 Annual Report are available from the APL website at australianpork.com.au and can be posted to members on request.

A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company. Please refer to the Meeting Procedures for full details.

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

Improving the eating characteristics of fresh Australian pork cuts

AS discussed last month, our eating quality research confirms the key opportunities for improvement for pork are smell, flavour and tenderness.

Specifically, the loin when grilled and the silverside prepared for cooking methods other than stir-fry.

These failure points are especially common with 18 to 45-year-old customers, confirming cut knowledge and cooking ability are also major contributing factors to a positive eating experience for pork.

For our industry to improve baseline quality we need to address the incidence of boar taint and implement interventions to improve the performance of the loin and silverside.

From there we can focus improving positive eating experiences in pork.

We understand pork production is a low-margin business, if we are to solve the challenges facing the industry, any recommended changes need to be communicated to and supported by the broader industry.

The good news for producers who currently meet APIQ[✓] standards is they already meet best practice recommendations for high eating quality pork.

Australian Pork Lim-

ited is currently consulting with industry on a number of recommendations that could be implemented to solve these challenges.

They are summarised below.

Effective interventions on-farm

In addition to meeting APIQ[✓] standards, the use of Improvac on male pigs is likely to be the major recommended change impacting on-farm production.

Effective interventions in processing

At the plant level, meeting the Australian Livestock Processing Industry Animal Welfare Certification System or equivalent is a positive step to reducing stress for pigs on-plant, while measuring the rate of pH decline and achieving an ultimate carcass pH of 5.5-5.7 or higher will be a clear recommendation.

Ultimate carcass pH is a widely recognised indication of meat quality.

Variations outside the recommended pH range won't tell you what's gone wrong, but it is a sign there has been a breakdown in best practice somewhere in the process that has negatively impacted meat quality.

Additional interventions – including the use of moisture infusion and packaging type – can all play a role in

improving quality.

Brining or moisture-infusing loins, especially if they are retailed as a grill, has clear consumer benefits and will be among the recommendations put to industry.

The benefits of product ageing are not as significant in pork when compared to the improvements achieved in beef.

This is an area requiring greater investigation.

Effective interventions in cooking

The final key recommendation is communicating the correct cook method and steps for each cut.

This is especially important for younger customers.

We know choosing the right cut and cooking it to the optimum internal temperature is a significant contributing factor to tender, juicy pork.

Successful marketing initiatives based on cooking methods such as the 6-2-2 campaign have already resulted in a measured shift in awareness of the best way to cook pork steaks.

A key role for APL going forward will be to continue to improve our customers' confidence and ability to cook a range of fresh pork cuts.

For more information, contact Garry McAlister at garry.mcalister@australianpork.com.au

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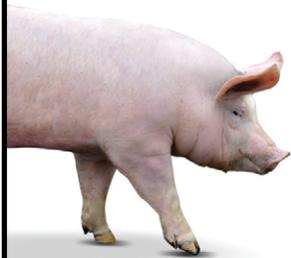
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South Korea orders military to target wild boar to stop spread of ASF

SOUTH Korea has ordered hundreds of soldiers manning the demilitarised zone on its border with North Korea to track and capture wild boars in a bid to prevent the spread of African swine fever, military officials said.

South Korea confirmed its seventh case of African swine fever on September 26, just over a week after the virus was first detected and prompted authorities to step up disinfection measures.

The source of the outbreak has not been confirmed, but the virus has been found on hog farms near the border with North Korea, which reported an outbreak in May.

Troops and equipment normally used to guard against North Korean provocations were deployed to monitor and trap wild boars suspected of carrying the virus, a South Korean military official told Reuters.

"We can't shoot them because it would be a violation of the armistice agreement," the official said, referring

to the 1953 pact with the North that halted fighting but did not end the war and has governed the border ever since.

The border decades after the 1950-53 Korean War is laced with land mines, razor wire and high-tech surveillance equipment.

The 250km DMZ is also home to wild animals that thrive in the wooded no-man's land.

The animals may be deterred by fences and other barriers along the DMZ, the military official added.

US-led United Nations Command, which helps oversee the DMZ, is not involved in containing the virus, the official said.

The UNC did not respond to a request for comment.

The efforts against the highly contagious disease, which is fatal to pigs but does not affect humans, have taken on new urgency as more cases are reported.

Wild boars trapped by the military have tested negative for African swine fever, the

military official said.

Two boars found dead in the DMZ also tested negative, the defence ministry said.

South Korea has deployed 1173 military personnel and 166 decontamination vehicles to seven areas, deputy defence ministry spokesman Roh Jae-cheon said recently.

"There have been no cases of wild boars crossing the border from North to South within the DMZ," he told a news briefing.

"No attempt was made to enter general outposts and no boars have been shot dead inside the DMZ."

More than 300 South Korean soldiers and 40 decontamination trucks were deployed along roads and checkpoints near the border recently to control the spread of the virus.

South Korea has been disinfecting people, cars and equipment at a liaison office jointly run with the North in the border city of Kaesong.

DMZ 'peace trails' used by hikers have also been closed.

Improvements to enhance PigPass

PIGPASS is a significant industry asset that enables governments and Australian Pork Limited to trace pigs in the event of a food safety incident and disease outbreak.

Governments are progressively implementing the requirements for mandatory reporting – South Australia, NSW and Western Australia now have mandatory reporting.

Victoria's arrangements will commence early in 2020 and the remaining states are also progressing towards mandatory movement reporting.

Until all jurisdictions have implemented these arrangements, PigPass is a mix of voluntary and mandatory reporting.

From the early stages, APL advocated that all those who move and receive pigs should comply as this would make it easier for all our producers, saleyards and abattoirs to make the transition to mandatory reporting.

If a disease event – like African swine fever – were to occur now, tracing all pigs within a short time is likely to be compromised.

It doesn't matter if you are a commercial producer, own one pet pig, are a saleyard or abattoir or if you own a couple of pigs for your own use, pig movement reporting helps us help you to keep your pigs safe.

The key to controlling a disease like ASF is the efficacy of PigPass to trace all pigs within a short time frame.

The sooner this occurs, the sooner movement restrictions can be lifted,

and your business can get back to normal as soon as possible.

It is also very important for export markets who need to be assured our governments have control of a disease outbreak.

This assurance combined with surveillance to ensure the disease is eradicated are the cornerstones of our return to export pork and pork products to other countries.

In addition to ensuring you report pig movements, is the accuracy of pig movement reporting up to standard?

As an example, has the PigPass NVD serial number been entered correctly?

It is easy to verify, but to assist, APL has introduced a small change to movement reporting to ensure this check now occurs.

You will now be asked to verify the serial number and that the sending property identification code is correct.

So now, when a Queensland producer or abattoir is receiving pigs from a producer in NSW, seeing a serial number showing it is from Western Australia should set off alarm bells.

These adjustments to PigPass to enhance this industry asset are an ongoing activity for APL – but we need you to help us make PigPass even better by checking movement reporting details to prevent inadvertent errors.

For assistance, please contact the PigPass helpdesk on 1800 001 458 or helpdesk@pigpass.com.au

Deb Kerr, General Manager Policy

Preparing for the 2019 APL AGM

IT is that time of year when the Australian Pork Limited staff, and in particular the Corporate Services Division, are beginning to organise the Annual General Meeting.

Whilst some people know how much work goes into organising the AGM, the delegates forum and the many other side meetings that occur round it, there is a significant amount of governance involved.

That is to say, there are things we must do, actions that have to happen in specific order and with specific notice periods to our members and interested parties.

You can find the official notice of the AGM on the APL website, australianpork.com.au.

It will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 commencing at 1pm at the Melbourne Marriott, Melbourne, Victoria.

As usual, we will be receiving and considering the financial statements of the company, together with the reports of the directors and auditors in respect to the year ended June 30, 2019 and approving the remuneration of the company's auditor for 2019-2020.

We have invited members to propose resolutions for the AGM (as they are entitled to do).

www.porknews.com.au

For those unaware, the APL constitution requires elected directors to routinely retire as set out in Rule 14.2(b).

The 2019 AGM will require our delegates to vote to fill two vacant elected director positions.

Persons who wish to stand for election as an elected director must be nominated by either the Board or a member.

I encourage anyone interested in running as an elected director to contact me for further information.

For anyone entitled to vote at the AGM but cannot make it, APL needs a proxy form returned to us prior to 12.30pm on November 12, 2019.

Other than that, the 2018-2019 Annual Report is available on the APL website.

Please advise if you prefer a printed copy of the report and we will post one out to you.

For more information, visit australianpork.com.au or for information regarding any of the AGM processes, please contact APL Corporate Services Executive Nikki Watson on 02 6270 8814 or nikki.watson@australianpork.com.au or myself at dami.en.howse@australianpork.com.au or 02 6270 8805.



AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED ELECTED DIRECTOR VACANCY

As required by Australian Pork Limited's (APL) constitution, two elected directors of Australian Pork Limited will resign at the AGM being held on 14 November 2019.

Two Elected Director positions will become vacant on Thursday 14 November 2019.

Delegates will vote to elect two Elected Director candidates to the vacant positions at the AGM.

Nominations are being called for the APL elected director vacancies. A producer member of APL or a current APL Director can nominate a person(s) to stand for election as an Elected Director.

The Funding Agreement between APL and the Commonwealth Government (Department of Agriculture) and the APL Constitution both require a 'skills-based Board'.

To ensure a skills-based Board is maintained, nominated candidates who are not existing Directors of the Board are required to provide a curriculum vitae together with a statement specifically addressing their potential contribution to the following collective Board core skill and experience competencies:

- Governance
- Financial management
- Government relations/public policy/administration
- Production
- Processing
- Food industry
- Promotion and marketing
- Market development and international marketing
- R&D/R&D administration
- R&D commercialisation and technology transfer
- Conservation and natural resource management
- Business and management acumen.

The APL People & Culture Board Committee will review all nominations received to determine the impact of each candidate's skills on the maintenance of a skills-based Board.

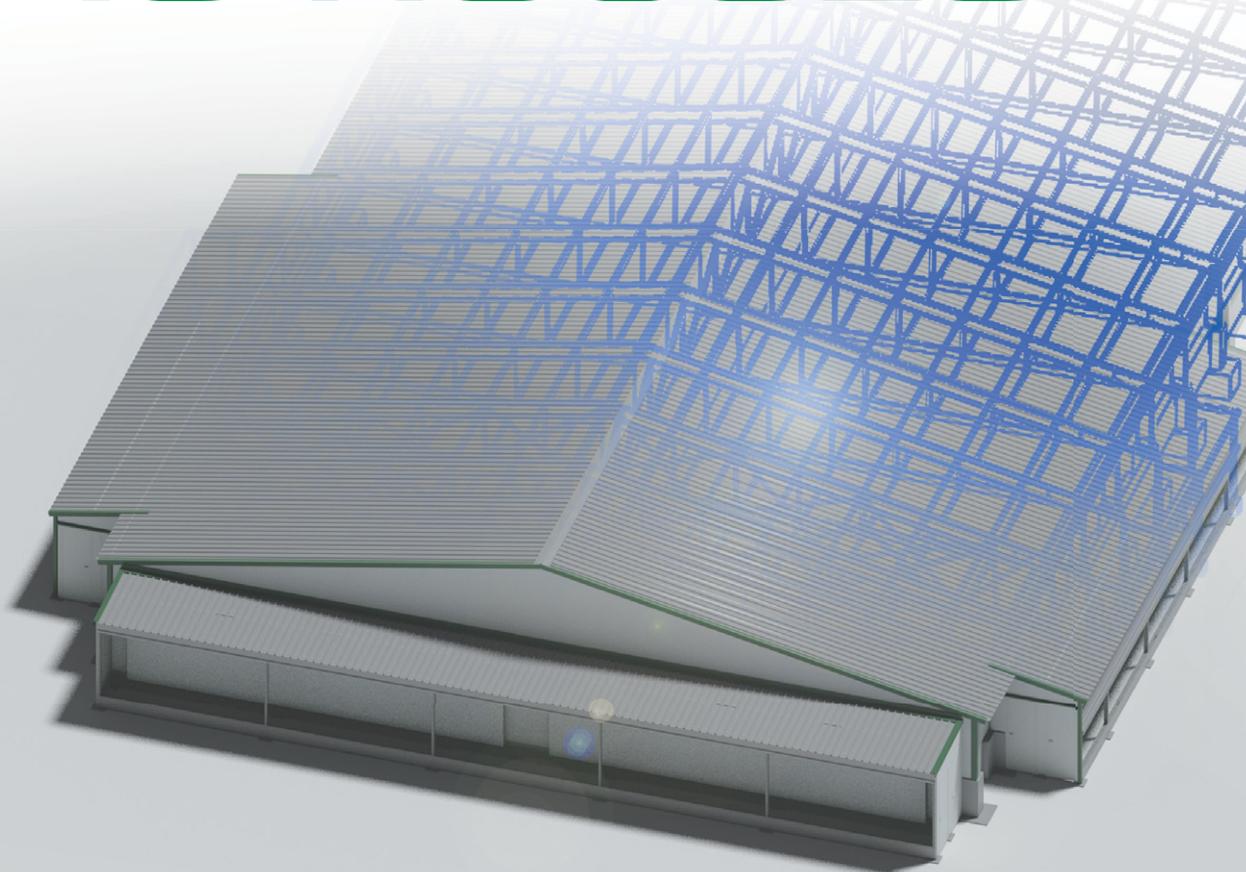
Nominated candidates must provide a consent to the nomination.

Nominations for these positions close at 5.00pm on Thursday 10 October 2019.

For further information, to nominate a candidate(s) or to obtain a consent to nomination form, please contact:

Mr Damien Howse
Company Secretary,
Australian Pork Limited
PO Box 4746,
Kingston ACT 2604
Phone: 02 6270 8805
dami.en.howse@australianpork.com.au

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What's in a name when it comes to fair trade

SPENDING a few weeks in Portugal and Italy over September and October meant I'd have missed the editorial deadline for October's APN, hence writing this pre-trip while contemplating the trip two days out from departure.

One expectation I have is enjoying some quality pork and processed meats, especially in Italy, where I have done exactly that in years past.

As for Portugal, where I've not been before, my understanding is it'll be a bit more seafood driven while in Lisbon and Porto. I can deal with that.

After all, sardines on toast, topped with turmeric, some garden greens, olive oil and balsamic vinegar has long been my go-to daily breakfast.

Of course, the Italians are famous for their char-



Cant Comment
by
BRENDON CANT

cuterie or traditional art of preparing and assembling cured meats and other meat products.

While we are well ca-

tered for down under with traditional Italian small-goods from the likes of market leader D'Orsogna and some smaller artisan producers of continental delights, place of origin eating and dining always adds a sensory hit akin to watching Steve Smith carve out a century against struggling poms.

That is, it's an experience like no other and one filled with pleasure and a lifetime of memories.

Cured meats, which is really what we're talking about, are the result of the oldest possible food preservation and flavouring techniques and they come in many forms and lots of varieties.

I confess, there are really none I don't take a fancy to and I probably will indulge in most while in Italy.

Here's a few examples of my understanding of where my taste buds are likely to take me in Italy:

- Prosciutto, made from the whole hind leg of a pig (the ham) and comes salt-cured and air-dried. Typically, it's enjoyed in very thin slices and has a slightly chewy texture.

- Italian salami is traditionally made from lightly ground beef or pork combined with seasoning and animal fat, which is then stuffed into a casing. The sausage is hung in a controlled room where the vital fermentation process begins. The more time salami spends fermenting, the drier it will be, meaning certain types of salami will be juicier and fattier than others.

- Pepperoni, I understand created by Italian Americans in the early 1900s, is made from a mixture of finely ground beef and pork, with seasonings added to create

that savoury, slightly spicy flavour.

- Pancetta, the Italian version of bacon, is made by seasoning a pork belly side with salt and lots of pepper, curling it into a tight roll and then wrapping it in a casing to hold the shape. It's cured, but not smoked.

- Coppa, or capicola, is made from the neck or shoulder of the pig, has a tender texture and is usually smoked and prepared with a variety of spices, herbs and sometimes wine.

- Cacciatore literally means hunter, and folklore states hunters carried this little salami in their packs and ate bits for sustenance during the hunt. Cacciatore is typically about 18cm long and is cured with the usual spices, wine and herbs. It tends to be a little chewier than coppa and prosciutto.

Interestingly and somewhat alarmingly in some circles, the names of some of these products are under threat in Australia, with the European Union currently negotiating a free-trade agreement with Australia.

As part of this, geographical indications, a form of intellectual property protecting the names of specific products, is a key element of the negotiations.

The EU is asking Australia to extend the protection of these names from wines to spirits and foodstuffs.

I know that here in the west, at an August meeting called by IP Australia, Department of Agriculture and Food, and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, industry participants were asked by DFAT to forward any

continued P8

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Australia is well catered for with traditional small-goods from the likes of market leader D'Orsogna.



The author's occasional indulgent weekend breakfast complements the working week's sardines on sour-dough toast, topped with turmeric and garden greens.

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Naturally ahead



Notice of Pork Queensland Inc AGM



President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



PORK Queensland Inc is holding its annual general meeting on November 5, 2019 by teleconference at 7pm.

This will allow members to call in from home without the issues of travel.

Any current members or producers wishing to join the organisation and wanting to join the telemeeting and AGM should email me on john.coward1@gmail.com or phone 0407 622 166 to register interest in attending and obtaining the dial-in details.

PQI is renewing memberships after providing free ongoing support and representation for the past year due to the extreme drought impacts.

While the drought remains, keeping grain prices at record highs, pig prices have firmed, providing an offset to the high feed costs.

As such, PQI is calling for memberships to be renewed to allow us to continue providing representation to Queensland pork producers and associated stakeholders.

PQI directors give their time to provide representation on a number of Queensland Government committees to ensure the interests of pork producers are brought to the fore.

Over the past 12 months PQI has worked with the

Minister of Agriculture Mark Furner on a range of issues including the enhancement of fines relating to farm trespass.

African swine fever and increased border security has also been a focus for PQI, ensuring government departments and industry are addressing the potential risks.

PQI sits on the Ministerial Advisory Committee addressing issues impacting the pork industry.

Pork farmers are also represented through PQI's membership of Queensland Farmers' Federation.

It is so important that we maintain a state-based representative organisation and I call for your support in being a member of PQI.

To renew your membership or join PQI, please note the following:

- Pig producers with up to 300 sows or contract growers: \$150 per annum.
- Pig producers with more than 300 sows: \$300 per annum.
- Pig industry associates (feed suppliers, vets, equipment suppliers): \$200 per annum.

Call or email for details of our AGM including dial-in numbers and/or to discuss membership.

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What's in a name when it comes to fair trade

from P6

objections to assist the Australian government in their negotiations concerning this issue.

I understand the letter was to be submitted to DFAT by September 13.

The list of foodstuff names the EU wants Australia to protect as GIs is 172 long.

Ouch!

Listed processed meats that have long been household names down under include prosciutto, salami, mortadella and speck.

Popular cheeses such as pecorino, mozzarella and edam also made the list.

The EU has requested EU GI names be protected against:

1. Any direct or indirect commercial use of a GI name: (a) for comparable products; or (b) in so far as such use exploits the reputation of the GI, including when that product is used as an ingredient.

2. Any misuse, imitation or evocation, even if the true origin of the product is indicated or if the protected name is translated, transcribed, transliterated or accompanied by an expression such as style, type, method, as produced in, imitation, flavour, like

or similar, including when those products are used as an ingredient.

3. Any other false or misleading indication as to the origin, nature or essential qualities of the product, on the inner or outer packaging, advertising material or documents relating to the product concerned, and the packing of the product in a container liable to convey a false impression as to its origin, including when those products are used as an ingredient.

4. Any other practice liable to mislead the consumer as to the true origin of the product.

Australia and the EU launched negotiations for a FTA in June 2018.

As a bloc, the EU is Australia's second-largest trading partner, third-largest export destination and second-largest services export market.

The EU was Australia's largest source of foreign investment in 2018.

While all of this won't worry me while I chow down on some cacciatore in Italy, sipping on a nice glass of sangiovese or barbera, it will be a concern back home.

Ciao for now.

Responsible use of antibiotics – resolving a salmonella diarrhoea outbreak without mass antibiotic medication

IN any disease outbreak it's tempting to reach for the mass medication button to stop the outbreak in its tracks and prevent further spread.

In this case study sent in by an experienced veterinary colleague, resolution of salmonella infection followed a laboratory-supported diagnosis, all-in all-out pig flow, thorough hygiene measures and individual treatments of sick animals.

By necessity it includes staff training in disease control principles.

The veterinarian was faced with a sudden outbreak of diarrhoea and

ill-thrift at five to eight weeks of age, affecting 30 percent of weaners.

The pigs were kept in straw-based sheds.

They had been moved there with a trailer.

Sheds had not been properly cleaned nor disinfected between batches.

Neither had the trailer.

Consistent with good veterinary practice, the vet autopsied some affected pigs.

Lesions were typical of disease caused by salmonella infection or swine dysentery.

Lab results confirmed salmonella typhimurium,

a common type of salmonella.

Non-recoverable sick pigs were euthanised.

Pigs with recovery prospects were isolated and based on the lab antibiotic sensitivity results, treated with trimethoprim sulphonamide injections daily.

Survival rates were high.

The farm commenced an aggressive hygiene program.

The pig trailer was pressure washed and disinfected before every week's pig movements.

Sheds were more thoroughly pressure washed and disinfected between each batch.

Rodent control was

stepped up because rats carry salmonella and were a risk to the herd.

The salmonella outbreak was resolved within three weeks without recourse to in-feed medication with antibiotics or blanket injections of antibiotics.

Ongoing control can be challenging.

It is achieved through rigid adherence to all-in all-out pig flow in each shed, together with thorough cleaning and disinfection between batches.

Feed and water acids can help.

For full effect this requires the diligent attention of staff and reinforcement of health principles in staff training.

Ross Cutler

Take-home message for removing in-feed antimicrobial medication: all-in all-out pig flows rule

IN a controlled study on a large farm, Sun-Pork Farms veterinarian Dr Yvette Pollock found all-in all-out pig flow has a bigger impact than "anything else" on herd mortality rates.

Dr Pollock reported her findings at the Australian Pig Vets AGM in Cairns in July this year.

She compared batch by batch post-weaning mortality performance on a site that was pulse medicated in feed throughout post-weaning period with a site (part of the same system) where a change in pig flow occurred and they were medicated only in water for short periods (and not past eight weeks old).

Like all other performance indicators in animal production, there were good weeks and bad weeks.

These occurred whether the pigs were medicated in-feed or not.

On the site, after the pig flow was changed to all-in all-out, and after the medications were removed from the feed, mortality rates decreased for about six months and then rose.

The pig flow change involved once a week weaning (versus twice weekly), fixed numbers into weaner room (and excess going to the other site) and inclusion of extra feeders and drinkers.

However, on the site where the feed medication was not changed, though there was no change overall in mortality, bad batches (with high mortality percentage) still happened.

On the site where feed medication was removed, only about 0.5 percent of the increase in mortality is likely to be attributed

to feed medication removal.

On-farm investigation of mortality and shifting of the water medication dose program is under way to address this.

In the weaners, mortality rates were at their lowest when the feed was unmedicated but, as time went on, there was substantial variation on a week-by-week basis just as there was for the in-feed medicated pigs.

Data monitoring shows the effect of removing the Selko water acidification (not so good) and the effect of installing heaters (good) for the three to eight-week-old weaners in winter.

They also show the week-to-week variation in the pigs medicated in feed.

Dr Pollock said: "Too often we think the changes to medication on-farm might be a response to medication."

However, as the data in her presentation showed, there was a lot happening.

Animal production systems are dynamic.

They change all the time and must be managed and monitored (preferably in real time).

There is much at stake.

Every 1 percent change in mortality rate costs a herd about \$3 per pig, per week in inventory.

Every 10g per day reduction in average daily gain costs \$3.50 for every pig produced.

Given that there is much more to disease control than medication, it pays to monitor health in the same way other performance is monitored.

Water supply and quality, water addi-

continued P10

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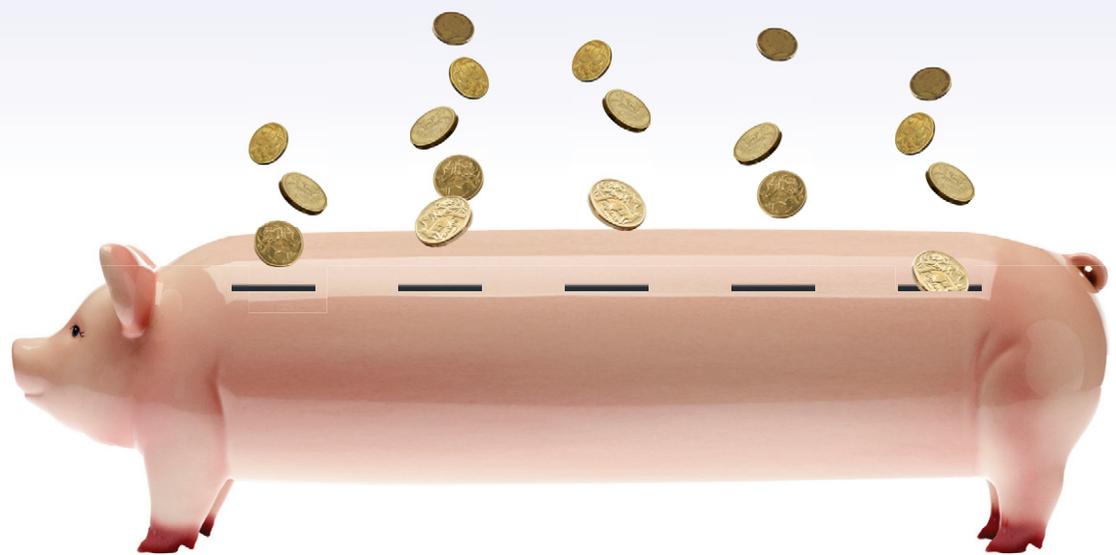
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Give piglets the iron they need without the heavy metals they don't

MOST producers understand iron is an essential nutrient for all livestock, vital for producing the proteins that enable red blood cells to carry oxygen around the body and facilitate normal growth.

Yet piglets in particular are commonly born with low iron reserves.

That's why it's become standard global practice to inject piglets with doses of up to 200mg of supplementary iron to prevent anaemia, particularly in the first 60 days of life when their body weight should increase tenfold.

However, in doing so, producers bear an important responsibility.

Ultimately they're not just breeding pigs, but preparing a food product

for human consumption.

That's why it's important for producers to realise impurities in injectable iron products are a serious concern for the agricultural industry.

An independent study, published in the Journal of Swine Health and Production in 2018, analysed 16 injectable iron products from around the world, testing them in particular for heavy metal impurity levels including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead and mercury.

In 15 of these products, the levels of arsenic, chromium and/or lead exceeded the permitted daily exposure limits for humans.

The study concluded that arsenic, chromium and lead could inadvertently

be administered to pigs receiving iron injections.

Though the effects of these heavy metals in humans is well known, the effects in young pigs is yet to be determined.

Choose a heavy metal-free injectable iron product for your piglets

One product tested 'clean' in terms of levels of chromium, lead and arsenic below Permitted Daily Exposure limits.

That product is Uniferon (Abbey Animal Health), which contains 200mg/ml of iron.

Uniferon is manufactured without the use of organic solvent or cyanide, avoiding trace residues of heavy metal impurities.

It's the one brand of injectable iron that met human pharmaceutical standards.

The quality of injectable products depends on the steps taken to avoid and remove impurities that may be introduced during manufacture.

The 2018 tests demonstrate the way in which Uniferon is manufactured makes this goal achievable.

The tests provide reassurance that producers can administer quality iron without the risk of heavy metal impurities.

Heavy metals don't belong in iron products

Balancing animal health

and welfare while meeting food standards is paramount.

Producers and veterinarians need to be aware that heavy metals simply don't belong in these products and don't need to be there.

Consumer expectations are also driving retailer and producer behaviours.

Consumer trends towards eating animal products that are minimally processed – such as the 'clean eating' movement – place more responsibility on the shoulders of injectable iron manufacturers and producers to meet these expectations.

Not only should the product consistently deliver the correct amount of iron, it shouldn't be contaminated with heavy metal impurities.

Put simply, to maintain the health and profitability of its animals, the industry needs 'clean' injectable iron products.

The potential for iron products to deliver elevated levels of heavy metals to very young piglets is a concern... especially when there is no need to compromise.

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Take-home message for removing in-feed antimicrobial medication: all-in all-out pig flows rule

from P9

“In relation to specific disease challenge, brachyspira (growing pig scours) is not your friend in a low antimicrobial use environment, but then neither is poor management in a high or low-use environment.”

And again, she highlighted the value of all-in all-out pig flow. “Can anything be done to make it AIAO?” Dr Pollock said.

“This is likely to have a bigger impact than anything else.”

For a copy of Dr Pollock's APV paper, talk to your veterinarian.

It is available as a PDF.

Dr Pollock's experience showed removing feed medications might affect mortality rate, but might not too. “You can only know by having systems that measure weights (weaning and later weights) and their variation together with mortality rate and individual treatments by batch and over time,” Dr Pollock said.

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“You can only know by having systems that measure weights (weaning and later weights) and their variation together with mortality rate and individual treatments by batch and over time,” Dr Pollock said.

PM's drought assistance helpful but a new approach desperately needed

THE National Farmers' Federation said the Federal Government's announcement of ongoing assistance to support farmers and rural and regional communities to manage the current drought was some good news in tough times.

NFF CEO Tony Mahar said while drought is a feature of the Australian landscape and farmers are well practised at managing dry times, for some these are unprecedented times.

"Parts of Queensland have been in drought for seven years and the Murray-Darling Basin has recorded its driest period on record.

"Unfortunately, there appears no end in sight.

"The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting below average rainfall across most of the country again this summer."

Mr Mahar said the announcement by the Prime Minister of new assistance would go some way to assisting those in need of help.

"The NFF particularly welcomes changes to the Farm Household Allowance that reduce the administrative burden of applying," he said.

"The strain on farming families of continuing to run a farming business, keeping food on the table and supporting children cannot be underestimated.

"Making it easier to apply means accessing help is not adding to that strain."

The NFF also welcomes the Government's extension of the Drought Community Programme, providing \$1 million to 13 Local Government Areas.

"If well targeted and implemented, this funding can provide employment when drought has forced people out of work," Mr Mahar said.

"It can also support community initiatives that increase resilience for future droughts.

"The severity of this drought and the increasing hardship it has brought to farmers and rural and regional communities must make us stop and rethink our approach to drought.

"Ad hoc measures in the middle of drought provide some short-term relief and of course are applauded.

"But the fact that farmers and local communities continue to suffer and call on government for further assistance means we've

failed as a country to find an effective and enduring approach to preparing, managing and recovering from drought.

"The government's willingness to remain engaged and continue to assist is appreciated.

"But we have been here before, and we will undoubtedly be here again unless we take a new approach."

Mr Mahar said the NFF was currently completing a national drought policy and called on all levels of government, industry and community groups to rethink their approach to drought.

"We need a comprehensive and enduring national approach to drought that focuses on preparedness and resilience measures," he said.

"We need an approach that mandates the assessment of the effectiveness of drought measures and allows for improvements when measures fall short.

"It's absolutely crucial we have a co-ordinated approach that ensures all voices are heard and the responsibility of managing drought is shared across government, industry and community." 🐷

Call for Expressions of Interest for the APIQ[✓] Panel

Australian Pork Limited (APL) is seeking expressions of interest for two positions on the APIQ Panel, an independent pig producer and an intensive livestock veterinarian.

Please send expressions of interest and a brief resume in writing addressing the selection criteria above to the APIQ[✓] Operations Manager at apiq@australianpork.com.au by midnight on Sunday 27 October 2019.

If you:

- Are an APIQ[✓] Certified producer OR an intensive livestock veterinarian with experience in managing APIQ[✓] Compliance
- Have an interest in serving the industry as a member of the Panel
- Want to assist Pork producers to improve the quality of their practices
- Have the industry expertise needed to serve on the Panel

As a Panel member, you will have exceptional communication skills together with an understanding of the APIQ[✓] Standards, quality assurance principles and knowledge of the issues and challenges facing the industry.

A sitting fee is paid to Panel Members for their services whilst on APIQ[✓] Panel business.

If you'd like more information, contact APIQ[✓] Operations Manager Steven Miller on 1800 789 099 or 02 6270 8808 or 0439 261 168 or visit the APIQ[✓] website at apiq.com.au

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AUSTRALIAN PORK INDUSTRY
QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

New feeders cut feed waste at Deni Piggery

A YEAR ago David and Tristan Donaldson of Deni Piggery visited Europe in search of a feeder that promoted piglet growth and reduced wastage.

They found the SKIOLD MaxiMat feeders were common on Danish farms, leading to their initial investment into the feeders.

Today, the Donaldsons are completing their second installation of SKIOLD MaxiMat Feeders at their commercial pig farm in southern NSW.

The primary motivation for the re-investment in the feeders?

Increased efficiency in feeding, better animal health among weaners and higher profitability.

"I was very impressed with the operational functionality of the feeders when we saw them on farms and immediately assumed it would be a good investment for us," Tristan said.

"When fed through the SKIOLD feeder, weaners were eating naturally and their mash wasn't getting thinned by mixing with the water trough.

"In the past we had extensively used feeders that mixed the meal and water into a paste, believing this was best for the weaners.

"The constant repairs and adjustments required to those feeders and their intermittent reliability was detrimental to our weaners and feed wastage was apparent."

Tristan went on to explain some of the benefits they have received from the SKIOLD MaxiMat Feeders.

The fact that dosing can be set very accurately allows them to optimise the feed usage and control the flow of mash efficiently.

"After buying and trialling our first order of the MaxiMat feeders, we were impressed with

the weaners' health and growth and the minimal to no feed wastage," Tristan said.

"Upon our second purchase, we discarded all the existing feeders.

"These MaxiMat feeders continue to impress us with how easily the piglets can turn and dispense the meal, availability of water, consistent growth weight and minimal feed wastage while showing low maintenance.

"The money expended on these feeders was well-spent."

Additional features:

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The SKIOLD feeders are available in four versions: one for porkers weighing 15-130kg, one for weaners weighing 7-60kg, one for weaners to growers of 7-130 kg and a fourth model for weaners with a separate drinker on the side.

All four versions are recommended to be used with a SKIOLD MaxiMat Aqua water supply, designed to promote water consumption.

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Roundtable bolsters ASF preparedness and response actions

AUSTRALIA'S preparedness for African swine fever has been bolstered through a roundtable of industry leaders, scientists and governments that discussed the actions needed to keep African swine fever out of Australia.

Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie called the meeting so industry, scientists and governments could make sure Australia was taking all appropriate actions to keep the disease out, had plans to eradicate it quickly if it were to arrive and could play a role in supporting international food security.

"This disease is highly contagious, spreads rapidly, there's no cure or vaccine, it kills about 80 percent of pigs it infects and looks like one in four of the world's pigs will be wiped out by the end of the year," Minister McKenzie said.

"Our first priority is to keep it out of Australia but we also need to make

sure we are prepared in case it does arrive – after all, about 15 percent of the product we've confiscated at the border has tested positive.

"The Australian Government is playing its part, industry is aware and watchful and we need the community to take this seriously and do the right thing.

"What I heard at the roundtable was the need for more forums like this where all parties can come together, test our respective systems and share perspectives and knowledge.

"There was a lot of goodwill and consensus around the need to improve communication not just between governments and industry – like those represented recently, Australian Pork Limited, MLA, Sheep Producers Australia, Australian Meat Industry Council, Stockfeed Manufacturers and Grain Growers – but also with the whole community.

"I've asked my department to actively engage with international student associations and tour operators to make sure the message is getting through to people in African swine fever countries – don't bring pork products in through the airport or the mail.

"We're also increasing the testing of the confiscated pork we seize through our mail centres and airports, and I'll be sharing those results with industry as soon as I have them.

"We'll be holding a simulation exercise later this year to test our disease response capabilities to make sure we're as prepared as we can be – should the unthinkable happen.

The exercise will involve all those with a stake including state and territory departments, the pork industry and Animal Health Australia."

Australian Pork Limited's chief executive Margo Andrae said the Australian pork industry was an important contributor to rural and regional economies, providing 36,000 jobs and is worth \$5.3 billion to the Australian economy.

"Our industry is very proactive in managing biosecurity risks and today is an important reminder that whether you have a pet pig or 10,000 pigs, you have a responsibility," Ms Andrae said.

"Most importantly, this devastating disease doesn't affect people and isn't in Australia so all Australians can continue to enjoy pork and pork products."

Minister McKenzie said it was important to remember that African swine fever wasn't just a threat to Australia; in some countries it was having disastrous consequences and causing social and economic impacts.

"China says it will have a 10 million tonne pork deficit this year – that is more than the total amount of pork traded internationally each year," Minister McKenzie said.

"Some Chinese consumers will be looking to substitute pork with other meats like poultry, beef and lamb but China has said it will struggle to fill the gap with domestically produced meat.

"China is already a significant market for Australian beef and lamb, so we're well placed to support Chinese consumers' access to safe, high-quality protein.

"And while we don't have direct market access for poultry and pork, we can expect those countries that do will be sending product to China.

"That may present an opportunity for our producers to 'backfill' in other markets so Chinese consumers can continue to access the protein they want."

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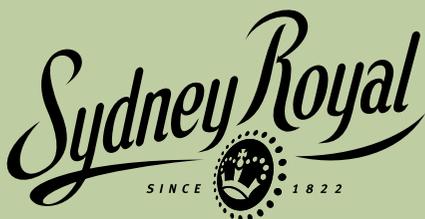
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Strengthening borders to stop swine fever

WITH African swine fever confirmed less than 700km from Australia's northern border, Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie is calling for heightened vigilance to keep the disease out.

"One quarter of the world's pigs will be dead by the end of this year from African swine fever, which kills about 80 percent of the pigs it infects, and there's no vaccine and no cure," Minister McKenzie said.

"Our government is stepping up our border intervention to make sure we keep it out, not just to protect our 2700

pork producers but also to protect Australia's global reputation as a supplier of clean, green, safe and nutritious food.

"In increasingly competitive markets our freedom from diseases like African swine fever is central to our trade proposition across all our agricultural products and we need to protect that.

"We're boosting our biosecurity effort at international airports to target those flights from countries affected by African swine fever and in coming weeks we will be undertaking spot checks of each and every person arriving

on selected flights.

"I've asked my department to employ detector dog capabilities in Darwin given the heightened risk direct flights from Timor Leste could pose."

The government is also working with airlines in countries that have African swine fever to make sure passengers understand Australia's requirements and have every opportunity to comply.

"Earlier this year we implemented changes to immigration legislation so international visitors who bring in undeclared high-risk items, like pork from African swine fever-affected

countries, can be sent back home," Minister McKenzie said.

"They can be refused entry to Australia and have their visas cancelled for up to three years.

"Since we increased border checks, we've been seizing 100kg a week in illegal pork products.

"Between November 5, 2018 and August 31, 2019, over 27 tonnes of pork were intercepted on air travellers entering Australia.

"We need every Australian and all our visitors to play their part and leave pork products overseas." 🐷

New high-head cutter pumps

TSURUMI, the world leader in submersible pumps, has produced a new range of high-head pumps called the NHC Series.

Cutter pumps handle solids-contaminated waste, chopping material to ensure clog-free operation.

The breakthrough design enables piggery effluent to be transferred through cost-effective pipes up to 3" at high volume.

Tsurumi's latest cutters achieve heads up to 49m and flows to 1410l/pm.

Aussie Pumps product manager Albie Bester said, "Tsurumi's breakthrough cutter impeller with tungsten-carbide tips chops through sewage, straw, plastic, rags and other materials in seconds."

"We've seen various unmentionables handled by these extraordinary pumps, so they are an obvious choice for the piggery waste water collection pit."

The extra head capability ensures the effluent is processed while removing any blockages and increasing productivity.

The pressure enables the pump to compensate for inefficient pipe installations without compromising on flow rates.

The best news for users is they are extremely competitively priced.

This provides massive cost savings combined with a product that will last, perform better and reduce maintenance costs.

"We often see mountains of dead third-world pumps at pump repair centres around Australia," Bester said.

"You would be hard pressed to find a Tsurumi in any of those piles of disappointment."

Like all Tsurumi submersible pumps, the NHC Series includes features that extend the life and enhance reliability of the pump.

Significant design details make a big difference.

All Tsurumi submersible pumps are backed with a three-year warranty.

This is possible because they incorporate features that make them extremely robust.

They are designed for an extended working life in severe conditions.

Tsurumi NHC series cutter pumps can be supplied with either floats or guide rail configuration.

Motors range from 1.5kW to 11kW.

The pumps come fitted with three-phase heavy-duty two-pole motors with thermal protection.

They are manufactured from heavy-duty cast iron with DOL start.

Tsurumi submersibles are uniquely built to withstand dry running conditions.

The mechanical seals are completely enclosed in an oil chamber with a patented oil lifter.

This ensures they are cooled and continuously lubricated, extending seal life.

Free catalogues on the Tsurumi cutter pump range and other products are readily available from Aussie Pumps and distributors throughout Australia.

For further information, visit aussiepumps.com.au 🐷



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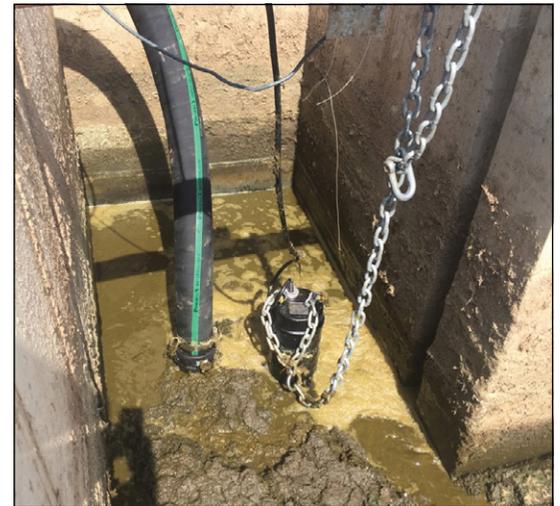


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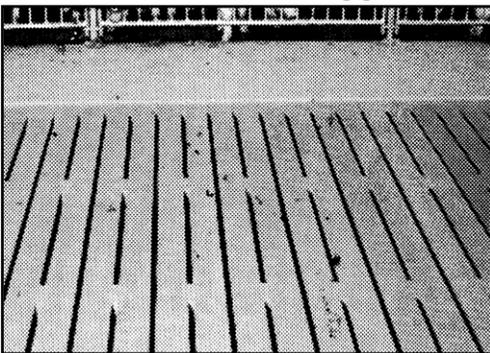
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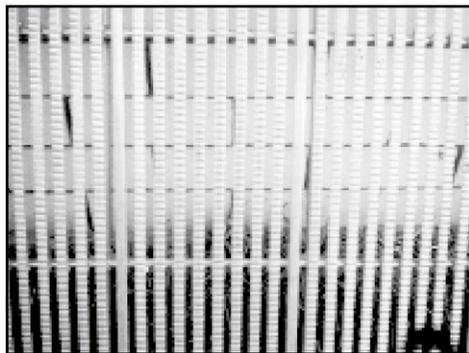
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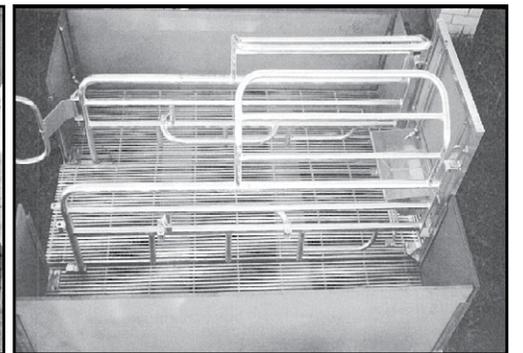
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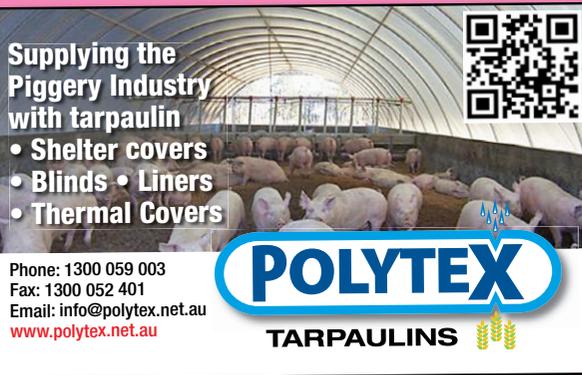
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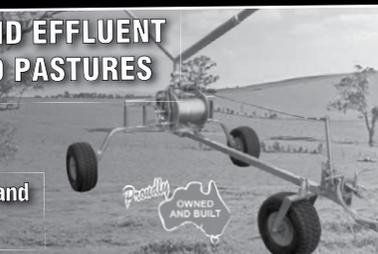
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Summer of the zombie sperm: Heat stress-induced DNA damage and its mitigation in boar spermatozoa

DR Damien Paris gave quite a memorable presentation at this year's Australian Pig Veterinarians Annual Conference.

'Pork is the most consumed meat in the world and summer infertility equals reduced reproductive performance, costing the industry \$300 million annually in the US.'

The thermal comfort zone of pigs is 16-26°C and tropical countries exceed these temperatures in summer easily, with spermatogenesis in boars impaired above 29°C.

Boars are vulnerable to heat stress due to inefficient sweating and non-pendulous scrotum.

Libido, semen volume, sperm concentration and mobility decreases, while abnormal sperm and disturbed testosterone production increases.

Sperm DNA may be susceptible to damage due to loss of cytosolic repair mechanisms during maturation.

In pigs, 1.5 fewer embryos survive conceived from heat stressed boars.

However, important links between heat stress and DNA damage in boar

sperm is still missing.

Damien and his team are working on figuring out what those missing links are.

The aims of their project are to:

- Determine effect of summer heat stress on boar sperm quality and DNA integrity; and
- Evaluate therapeutic effect of antioxidant supplements.

The goal is to prove boars can significantly contribute to summer infertility in sows and develop a mitigation strategy to solve the problem.

Methods - sperm DNA fragmentation

- Sperm purified by 40/80 Percoll gradient centrifugation;
- Breaks in 3'-OH end of sperm DNA labelled by TdT-mediated dUTP Nick End Labelling and nucleus counterstained

with DAPI; and

- 20,000 sperm/boar/treatment evaluated by flow cytometry.

Antioxidant supplementation

- Boar feed supplemented with 100g/boar/day custom-made antioxidant during summer; and
- Semen collection.

Temperature and sperm concentration

- Summer lower than winter but did not differ to spring;
- Consistent with previous studies; and
- Did not improve after 42 or 84 days antioxidant treatment.

Results - sperm DNA fragmentation

- Summer increase 16-fold higher than winter and nine-fold higher than spring;
- Significant decrease after 42 and 84 days antioxidant treatment;

- More than 6 percent DFI cause decrease in piglets born per litter;
- First definitive link between heat stress and DNA damage in boar sperm; and
- Developed first putative mitigation strategy to improve DNA integrity of boar sperm during summer.

Sperm motility

- However, summer did not differ to winter or spring;
- Contrasts with previous studies;
- Did not affect motility after 42 and 84 days antioxidant treatment; and
- Traditional measures of sperm motility do not detect inherently compromised or improved sperm.

Conclusion

- Summer induces DNA damage and reduces sperm concentration without depressing sperm motility;
- Traditional evaluation of sperm motility may not detect inherently compromised or improved sperm;
- Heat stress-induced, DNA damaged sperm from boars may contribute significantly to early embryo loss in sows; and
- Antioxidant therapy during summer appears to significantly alleviate heat stress-induced DNA damage but not concentration nor motility in boar sperm.



Dr Damien Paris

Problem in the Tropics

- Tropical countries among top 10 pork producers (National Pork Board 2014)
- Queensland has 2nd largest pig industry in Australia (APL 2013)

Highest Ranking Pork Producers	Average Summer Temp
China	32-33°C
Europe	32-33°C
USA	32-33°C
Brazil	34-35°C
Russia	34-35°C
Vietnam	34-35°C
Canada	31-34°C
Japan	28-32°C
The Philippines	31-34°C
Mexico	28-32°C

- **Problem:** thermal comfort zone of pigs 16 - 26°C (APL 2013);
- tropical countries exceed these temperatures in summer
- spermatogenesis in boars impaired above 29°C (Stone 1982)

Affect of Heat Stress on Boar Fertility

- Boar vulnerable to heat stress (Ingram 1965; Einarsson et al. 2008);
- inefficient sweating & non-pendulous scrotum

- **Fertility:** ↓ libido & semen volume, ↓ sperm concentration & motility, ↑ abnormal sperm & disturbed testosterone production (McNitt & First 1970; Wetterman & Desjardins 1979; Cameron & Blackshaw 1980; Egbunike & Dede 1980; Heitman et al. 1984; Stone & Seaman 1984; Flowers 1997)
- **Sperm DNA:** may be susceptible to damage due to loss of cytosolic repair mechanisms during maturation (Pena et al. 2012)

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To be successful in this role, the candidate will need to have:

- A sound knowledge of livestock breeding and production;
- Be able to meet and exceed company production targets and KPIs;
- Have exceptional stockperson skills and the ability to apply the highest animal welfare standards expected by the business;
- Demonstrate the ability to work in a team-based environment and manage and direct staff accordingly;
- The ability to be proactive and hard-working and to develop a strong team around them; and
- The ability to apply mandatory OHS and QA standards required by the business.

Expressions of interest should be emailed, with attached CV to:
Richard Evison at jobs@westpork.com.au

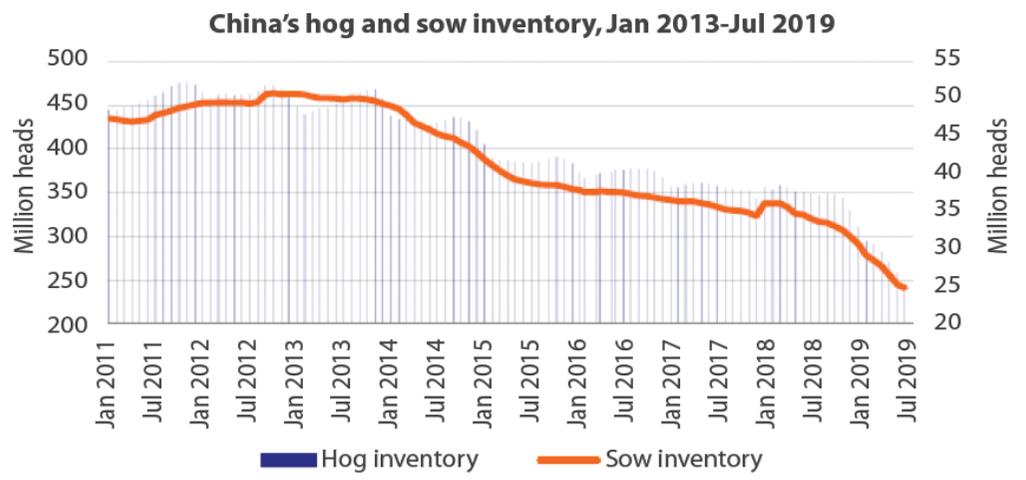


Figure 1

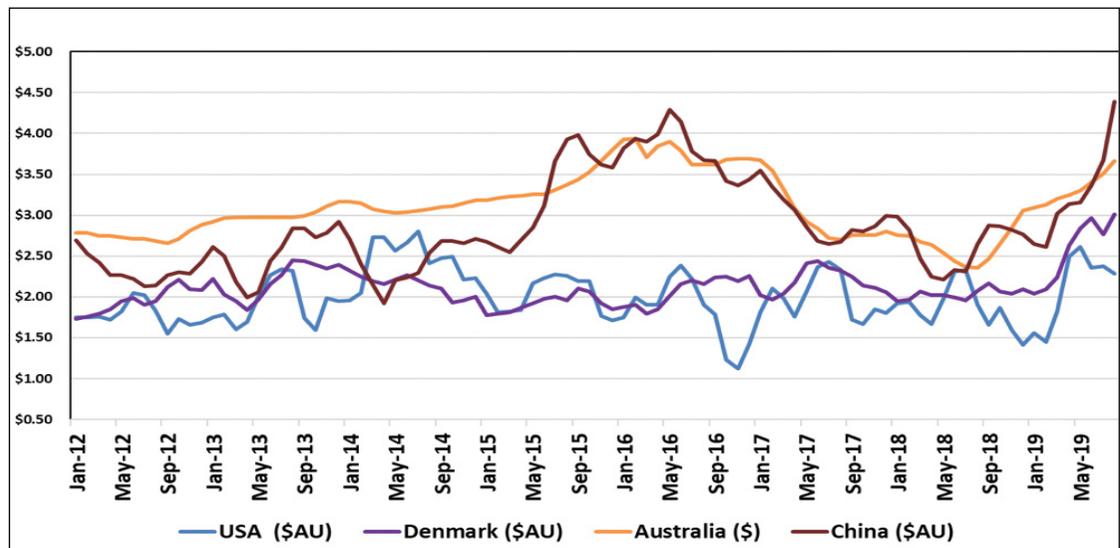


Figure 2: International pig price comparison.

Can we think like a predator?

THERE'S no two ways about it, African swine fever is scary as hell.

In an effort to keep ASF out of Australia, most producers have tightened their own biosecurity, industry is working to identify and fill any gaps in communication between federal and state jurisdictions, there are multiple 'what-if' scenarios to manage any possible incursion and additional legal and monitoring activities are now at postal and tourist points of entry. All these defensive measures are necessary.

All parties are working towards further strength-



ening our defences, yet in reality, this is prey-type thinking because our primary focus is 'how do we keep ourselves safe from attack?'

However, despite the

risk and continued management of this, ASF also presents opportunities.

And to take advantage of these we need predatory-type thinking.

We need a shift from defensiveness to asking what we can take from this situation that benefits both Australian producers and new potential customers overseas.

Chinese production is outlined in Figure 1, an extract published by Rabobank.

While the obvious opportunity is millions of tonnes of missing pork in China, Australia does not currently have export protocols and the political trade environment can diplomatically be described as volatile.

So, while the APL Board agreed recently to allocate more funds to accelerate access to China (should an opportunity arise that requires prompt action), legal exports to China are not within our control.

However, if you look at the pig prices in China, it appears those who do have access may pivot volume towards China where the highest value is.

This scale of short supply in China is probably not recoverable in the next year or two.

The latest estimates are China may have a 25 million tonne shortage, with only eight million tonnes traded globally last year.

If volume moves into China, it must, by definition, be moved out of oth-

er international markets, creating opportunities for new 'predators'.

Clearly, Australian costs of production and processing mean we will need to find premium niches for the short term.

In order to understand what opportunities may exist, Peter Smith (Marketing Development Manager, APL) and Andrew Robertson (Policy Manager - Trade and Workforce, APL) commissioned a study looking for additional market opportunities in existing markets (Singapore and Hong Kong), markets where Australian meat is already valued (Japan and South Korea) and new emerging markets (Philippines and Vietnam) on the basis that ASF would spread.

The research, which commenced in July 2019, was reported to exporters via a webinar on September 9, 2019.

We have asked exporters to review and ask questions of the research over the next three weeks.

We will then have an international meeting to decide where the most attractive opportunities are in late October.

Obviously, we only want to attack where the commercial professionals see opportunities.

We have set a goal - to grow export volumes sold at a premium to the Australian wholesale market (above \$4.40/kg) - in order to monitor progress.

We will update industry in November and again in February next year.

If you would like to know more about the export market research or participate in the next workshop, please contact peter.smith@australianpork.com.au or andrew.robertson@australianpork.com.au

A recording of the initial webinar is also available.



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Food processing company gets amazing results with venturi-aerator

IN 2018, Bega Cheese Northern Victoria environmental manager Mr Sean Trebley was given the task of upgrading the Strathmerton Plant's wastewater aeration system.

The wastewater system consisted of a DAF unit, which flowed into an aerated lagoon, and after this the effluent was stored in two non-aerated lagoons during winter before irrigation in summer.

Aerators are needed to keep the COD down and reduce odours in the aerated and downstream non-aerated lagoons.

They had an ageing system of surface aerators in the aerated lagoon, consisting of two 22kW units and six 8kW units, however, generally only one or two of these units was operated at any time.

Over a number of years these surface aerators had progressively failed because of their age and repairing them meant deploying cranes and/or boats to access them.

This process was expensive and had resulted in damage to the dam liner.

Eventually it became uneconomical to keep repairing the aerators.

Therefore it was decided

to look for a solution that was safer for operators and easier to maintain.

Mr Trebley contacted Hydro Innovations to discuss the use of their 'bank-mounted' venturi-aeration systems.

These are mounted on the banks of lagoons and use a self-priming pump to draw water from the lagoon.

The pump discharges it under pressure through the venturi-aerator.

The unit draws in atmospheric air using the 'venturi effect', mixes it with the water being pumped and discharges it back into the lagoon, charged with dissolved oxygen.

Sean and his team really liked the idea of bank mounting because it gave operators easy access to equipment for monitoring and/or repair, making it much safer and more cost effective to maintain.

Their only concern was whether the units were as efficient as the surface-mounted technologies.

Hydro Innovations was able to provide information indicating that with the use of the right pump, oxygen transfer efficiency for venturi-aeration units can be as high or higher than 1.86kgO₂/kWh,

making them at least as efficient as the surface (floating) technologies.

The aerated lagoon contained 45ML of effluent, with in-flows from 80-120ML per year.

This required a 150mm venturi-aeration unit and was paired with a Gorman-Rupp V6A60-B self-priming pump, with a hydraulic efficiency of 70 percent.

Bega installed the unit early in 2019.

The attached photo shows the condition of the lagoon at this point, after the previous system had been decommissioned several months previous.

In this photo you can see ripples from the aerator 'radiate' to all parts of the lagoon, ensuring a good level of mixing.

Since installation, op-

erators have seen a continued increase in the dissolved oxygen level and have seen COD fall by 50 percent, even though the higher level of mixing was re-suspending settled solids, which became more 'bioavailable' to the CFUs.

Sean and the Bega crew are happy with the ever-increasing levels of DO, the reduction in COD and the odour-free lagoon.

The wastewater and maintenance teams are also pleased that monitoring and maintenance can be done safely, and without the use of cranes, boats or winches.

More information about venturi-aerators and Gorman-Rupp pumps can be obtained from info@hydroinnovations.com.au



Prior to the installation.



Two weeks after the new system was installed.



Bega Strathmerton's new venturi-aerator system.

Thailand designates 24 surveillance areas for swine fever

THAILAND has designated 24 provinces as 'surveillance areas' for African swine fever and ordered strict animal controls in the hope of preventing an outbreak of the deadly disease that has hit its neighbours.

Thailand has been on high alert since the outbreak of African swine fever among pigs in Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, but it has yet to report an outbreak.

Earlier in September, the government ordered the culling of 200 pigs as preventative action after two pigs died mysteriously in the northern province of Chiang Rai, 20km from the Myanmar border.

Those two pigs turned out not to be infected, an agriculture official said.

The government has put 24 of its 77 provinces on watch, with restrictions on movement of pigs and wild boars as well as carcasses, semen or embryos for breeding.

Violation of the restrictions is punishable by imprisonment of up to two years and a fine of up to 40,000 baht (\$A1930).

Department of Livestock Development director-general Sorawit

Thaneto said, "This is a precautionary measure for provinces that have large pig populations or are in border areas."

"The results of the blood test from pigs culled in Chiang Rai also show the pigs were not infected, but we continue to be on alert."

Private business members of the Swine Raisers Association of Thailand have also jointly bought 8000 pigs raised in 'risk areas' along the border to limit exposure to the disease in future stocks.

Those pigs were not infected and have since been slaughtered and sold as meat.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Prapat Pothasuthon said: "I want to stress that there is no outbreak of the disease in Thailand and both government and private sectors are working together to prevent this."

ASF was first detected in Asia in August 2018 in China, wiping out nearly 40 percent of pigs in the world's largest pork producer.

It has since spread across Asia, affecting Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines.

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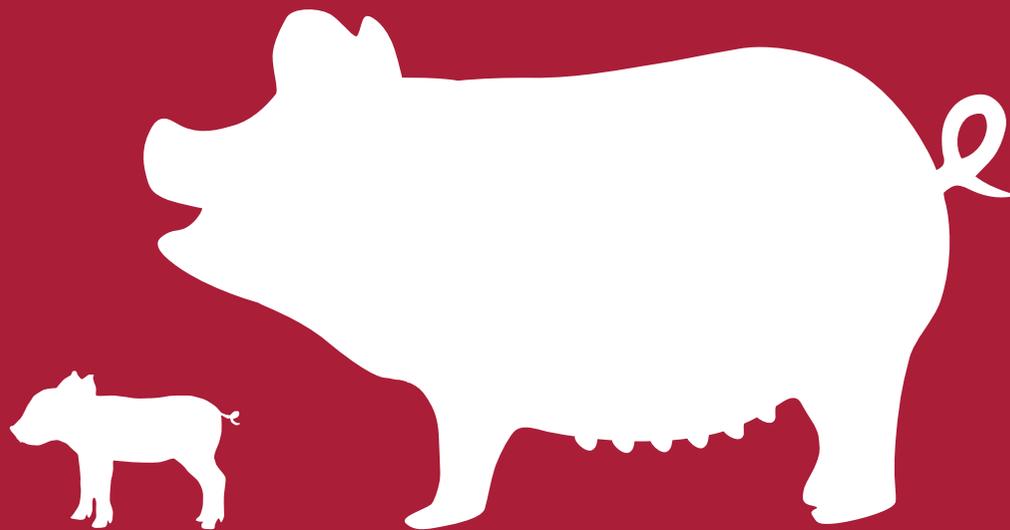
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