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Pork producer Sharon Starick is reappointed to GRDC Board.

New directors take the reins at GRDC

MINISTER for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud has appointed the next Grains Research Development Corporation non-executive directors for a three-year term, which commenced on October 1, 2020.

Minister Littleproud said

among the seven persons appointed, three are reappointments and four are new appointees.

"The appointment of the next non-executive directors is paramount to realising the priorities highlighted in GRDC's Research, Development and Extension Plan for 2018-2023," Minister Lit-

tleproud said.

"The directors will oversee approximately \$114 million in grain levies and approximately \$60 million in government matched funds.

"GRDC has set ambitious targets and is delivering on a long-term strategy to create enduring

continued P2

Virtual meetings to build framework of strategic plan

AS a producer-owned industry organisation, Australian Pork Limited has worked hard this year to find new ways to maintain high levels of consultation and accountability.

The way in which our members have embraced online meeting platforms has demonstrated that APL continues to be the go-to body for the entire industry, especially in times of disruption and uncertainty.

The technology to conduct virtual meetings is indeed important, but it is only the willing participation and input of stakeholders that has enabled APL to maintain meaningful two-way dialogue with producers.

Not long ago, the idea of conducting whole-of-industry meetings online would have seemed fanciful.

Yet APL has undertaken several virtual meetings since March, including the May Delegates Meeting, and we've been buoyed by the very positive response from participants.

Both our forthcoming Delegates Meeting on Wednesday November 18 and Annual General Meeting on Thursday November 19 will be conducted virtually.

Following the AGM, a special Producer Forum will be open to all producers and other interested industry stake-



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



holders who register to attend, regardless of APL membership.

The session will give us the opportunity to discuss APL's current project outcomes and priorities, including the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

The development of a sustainability framework, which will position our industry as social licence leaders, is a key part of APL's Strategic Plan.

The framework will guide APL's strategy in communicating the proud and progressive story of Australian pork in a way that creates positive engagement with our customers, government and the broader community.

The draft framework is centred around four key pillars – people, pigs, planet and prosperity.

Each pillar has specific targets for industry to work towards over the next decade, and we're currently consulting with producers about how we map out

the journey to reaching our goals.

It was with an eye on our industry's short and long-term goals that APL welcomed a number of measures announced in the Federal Budget on October 6.

The budget's vision for a business-led approach to Australia's post-COVID 19 recovery recognises the significant role rural and regional Australia will play in driving economic growth, in line with the agricultural sector's goal of achieving \$100 billion in farm gate output by 2030.

Producers will benefit from having access to immediate tax incentives and asset write-offs, which will contribute to supporting farm businesses, especially those impacted by COVID-19.

Other highlights include increased investment in biosecurity and export programs, including \$28 million over four years to

strengthen biosecurity controls and investment in automated technologies to scan imports.

In terms of supporting our increasingly valuable export trade, the budget contains a \$317.1 million extension to the International Freight Assistance Mechanism and a \$328 million package to allow for modernisation and digitisation of Australia's export industries.

Incentives for young Australians to join the agriculture workforce, including providing grants to assist in relocating to regional Australia and supporting businesses to take on apprentices, are also important measures.

The way research and development will unlock productivity opportunities for Australian farmers has also been recognised by way of the expansion of the R&D tax incentive.

With R&D in mind, APL is very pleased to be involved in the establishment of Agricultural Innovation Australia, a not-for-profit company that will drive rural industry research and innovation.

Buoyed by these positive developments, we're looking forward to coming together – albeit virtually – with producers at our meetings on November 18 and 19, to take stock of the past year and look ahead to what we can achieve.

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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2020

NOV 2-4 – Annual NIAA Antibiotic Symposium, VIRTUAL, www.animalagriculture.org/2020-Antibiotic-Symposium

NOV 3-4 – Saskatchewan Pork Industry Symposium 2020, ONLINE www.saskpork.com/pork-industry-symposium

NOV 23-25 – Int. Conference on Antimicrobial Agents in Vet. Med. - VIRTUAL www.aavmconference.com

2021

MAY 4-5 – Pan Pacific Pork Expo (PPPE), Gold Coast E: pppe@australianpork.com.au

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

AUG tbc – Kingaroy Baconfest www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au

AUG tbc – Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) Conference www.apsa.asn.au/

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

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Sustainable protein supplier opportunity

AS we enter the last few weeks of spring and looking out of my north-east Victoria window, I have a strong sense of optimism about Australian farming.

Victoria is finally winding out of lockdown and the rest of the country is beginning to ease restrictions into the hospitality sector, as well as continued growth in the retail sector.

Tractors, mowers and balers are on the move and tremendous tonnages of hay and grain are being reported from most parts of the country.

Even taking into account several reduced forecasts of grain in Western Australia and Queensland – due to a drier September in parts of those states – the September national outlook of the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences predicts a record Australian wheat harvest of 29 million tonnes, which will rival the huge volumes of the 2016-17 season.

The barley harvest is tipped to increase to 11 million tonnes and canola to 3 million tonnes.

Meanwhile, global export markets for grain are softening due to an abundance of grain stocks, while world meat protein markets remain strong due to the impacts of African swine fever.

I mention the ABARES outlooks because it presents the Australian pork industry with a wonderful opportunity to be a sustainable protein supplier to Australian consumers and specialist export markets.

The industry has also benefitted in many ways from the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit in the context of the tragic loss of almost 1000 lives, and the pain caused to businesses and the broader economy.

The pandemic has changed the way we work and communicate,



General Manager –
Research & Innovation

by ROB SMITS



how we value what is Australian, and how we might handle an emerging animal disease response such as ASF.

Australian Pork Limited and industry representatives have recently completed a major practice run of how the pork industry and government departments would respond to an ASF outbreak, as part of the Operation Razorback initiative.

I was fortunate to listen

to the review of the simulated destruction exercise on small, medium and large piggeries.

It was enlightening as to how comprehensive the simulation was, but also the breadth of industry involvement and government willingness to update the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan as part of the response review.

Hats off in particular to APL ASF coordinator Dr Lechelle van Brada; Sun-

pork and APL ASF liaison Dr Kirsty Richards; ASF Technical Taskforce chair Ross Cutler and APL ASF liaison Tony Abel, all of whom have worked incredibly hard for our industry over many months.

The huge turnaround in the seasonal outlook compared to 12 months ago reminds us that agriculture exists in a world of changing fortunes.

A key theme of the APL Strategic Plan is sustainability.

People often interpret a sustainable production system as one which doesn't exploit resources and create waste.

While this is an important part of APL's sustainability goals, there is much more to it.

APL Climate Friendly Farming program leader Gemma Wyburn has prepared the APL Sustainability Framework, which

is now out for industry consultation.

This framework addresses four major pillars of sustainability – people, pigs, planet and prosperity.

The Australian pork industry has the potential to be a world leader in terms of sustainability and show how progressive and innovative we can be.

The benefits of doing so addresses each of the four pillars.

Everyone in the industry should see themselves as having incorporated these same four pillars in their own farm or supply chain business.

By supporting APL's Sustainability Framework, we will be better placed to maintain productivity and profitability, however markets or seasons might change from year to year. 🐷

New directors take the reins at GRDC

from P1

profitability for Australian grain growers.

"The directors' role is to deliver the best possible research and development to support Australian grain producers to be profitable and succeed in the highly competitive global grain market."

"For example, through strategic investment led by GRDC and its directors, Australian scientists have developed a new tool to better determine when to act against Russian wheat aphid, to reduce harvest losses."

GRDC is hosting a series of half-day forums that focus on harvest loss reduction, harvest weed seed control and preventing harvester fires.

"The work of the GRDC leadership team will enable growers, advisers and contractors

to learn about strategies to improve harvest practices from industry experts," Minister Littleproud said.

"Research and development led by GRDC benefits our hard-working grain growers, ensuring that more grain goes in the bin and more money ends up in their pockets."

"I'm confident the new Board members are the right people to lead GRDC through the challenges ahead."

"I congratulate the new directors and look forward to working together to benefit our rural and regional communities."

"I also want to take this opportunity to thank outgoing directors for the leadership, skills and expertise they brought to GRDC's operations during their appointments." 🐷



Appointed to the GRDC Board is former APL CEO Andrew Spencer.

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Protein extracted from grass may be included in feed mixtures.

Developing an alternative protein source to soy

DENMARK imports approximately 1.5 million tonnes of soybean per year for use in animal feed, most of which is sourced from Argentina and Brazil.

Given the size of the Danish pig herd, it is not surprising that pig production is a major consumer of this legume.

Growing soybeans in Argentina and Brazil often uses large amounts of pesticides – many of which have been banned for use by the European Union.

In addition to the pesticide use, large amounts of land – both natural rainforest and small populated rural towns – are constantly being cleared to make way for the production of soybeans.

It is because of these reasons, coupled with the rising consumption of meat, increased meat production and the additional environmental costs associated with transporting the soybeans to Denmark, that there has been a focus on finding a suitable replacement for soy in feed by the Danish pig industry.

Significant research and collaboration in Denmark, with SEGES as the lead partner, has led to the development of a 'grass protein', which has recently been commercialised.

The first commercial plant for the production of grass protein has been sown on a farm in Jylland (the Danish mainland) and will be harvested for use in feed in the coming autumn.

It is expected that protein extracted from the grass will be included in feed mixtures where the content of imported soy has been minimised.

Though pigs can eat the grass directly from the paddock, the high fibre content means that it is difficult for them to digest.

Previous trials have shown that they will not consume enough to reap the benefit of the high level of protein in the grass, which leads to poor growth and poor muscle building, with a negative effect on meat quality.

However, when the grass is refined, it can be added to feed at a 15 percent inclusion rate, allowing the soy component to be completely removed.



Nordic News

by ASHLEY NORVAL

Therefore, many local biorefineries are needed, which require significant investment.

Despite these challenges, the development of the grass protein is not only a big step towards a more sustainable Danish agriculture but could also prove to be a more cost-effective solution to imported soy for Danish pig producers – if enough refineries are built.

It is expected that more plants will be grown in the coming season, with further development trials planned until 2023, which will explore species development, the building of biorefineries and nutrition research.

If you would like any further information on this topic, contact me at asno@danbred.com

There is still a way to go before grass protein is a regular component of Danish agriculture.

Though the refinement process has now been developed, it requires a large amount of fresh



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Industry salutes departing Smith

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has recently farewelled widely respected team member Peter Smith, after 16 years with the organisation.

Following his partner Chris Sturrock to Geneva for her commencement with the World Health Organisation, Mr Smith was due to leave for Europe earlier in the year, but COVID-19 travel restrictions meant he remained in Australia and with APL for longer than initially planned.

APL executive general manager operations Peter Haydon said Mr Smith had earned a reputation as a dedicated and consultative team member, who was generous with his time and interactions with APL colleagues and producers.

"It's not often we get to celebrate the contribution of a person who has served Australia's pig producers for more than 16 years," Mr Haydon said.

"Peter has always encapsulated APL's desire to have a human approach to producer relations, and in fact to all relationships across the industry.

"We know his work in listening to feedback from producers and sharing market movements with stakeholders was highly valued by our levy payers."

In his time with APL, Mr Smith held a number of roles and responsibilities.

These included supporting state managers, overseeing retailer relationships with Woolworths and managing APL's market reporting.

He also oversaw all channel marketing and then took responsibility for international marketing, before successfully establishing APL's producer relations team earlier this year.

At the time of his departure from APL, he was producer relations director.

"In each of his varied roles, Peter was quick to help, particularly in times of crisis," Mr Haydon said.

"Just this year when COVID-19 grounded international airfreight, Peter was instrumental in keeping exports of Australian pork flying out to Singapore and other important overseas markets."

"He has had a long involvement with Australian farmers, working in agricultural supply chains

prior to joining APL in 2004, and that affinity for producers and industry businesses was always evident.

"He was a huge asset for APL and the industry more broadly, and leaves a wonderful legacy."

On his final day with APL, Mr Smith said he would always have very strong memories of his time working on behalf of Australia pork producers.

"The last 16 years have been full of amazing experiences, and even from Switzerland I will be keeping a keen eye on how the industry is going in the future," Mr Smith said.

"It has been a great privilege to work with a terrific bunch of people, both at APL and across the industry, for such a long time."



Farewell to Peter Smith.

Billions of reasons to celebrate World Farm Animal Day

MORE than 2.5 billion layer hens, meat chickens, pigs, turkeys and farmed Atlantic salmon have now benefitted from higher welfare farming conditions through the continued efforts of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme.

Announced to coincide with World Farm Animal Day on October 2, the latest statistics highlight the positive impact of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme, which is Australia's leading animal welfare certification program.

In 2019 alone, more than 174,000 layer hens, 509 million meat chickens, 116,000 pigs, 122,000 turkeys and 4.7 million farmed Atlantic salmon were raised to the RSPCA's detailed higher welfare standards.

RSPCA Australia's chief executive officer Richard Mussell said the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme is intended to improve the lives of as many farm animals as possible.

"The scale of Australian animals farmed to the RSPCA's higher welfare standards clearly illustrates the sheer number of lives positively impacted by the scheme," Mr Mussell said.

"We know consumers care about farm animal welfare and want greater assurance about how the food on their plate is farmed.

"Independent certification is the best way of guaranteeing welfare and, with the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme, Australians are fortunate to have a logo they can trust, to find eggs, meat and fish that have come from a farm with a focus on animal welfare.

"RSPCA Approved products are now widely available in supermarkets, convenience stores and are on the menu at some

of our favourite restaurants."

The RSPCA has animal welfare standards for laying hens, meat chickens, turkeys, pigs and farmed Atlantic salmon, and they focus on providing good housing conditions specific for these animals.

The standards are based on the best available animal welfare science, RSPCA policy, leading farming practices in Australia and overseas, and take into account the commercial realities of farming.

"Importantly, RSPCA Australia works collaboratively with farmers and industry to ensure not only do the RSPCA's standards improve welfare for farm animals, but they're also attainable in Australia," Mr Mussell said.

"All eligible farms are assessed against these standards by trained RSPCA assessors, who visit all participating farms two to four times a year.

"The rigorous assessment process behind the scenes is a critical aspect of the scheme."

The COVID-19 pandemic had heightened focus on supply chains and interest in farming practices from consumers seeking assurance.

"Through the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme, we are proud to work with dedicated farmers and forward-thinking brands who have raised the bar for farm animal welfare in our country," Mr Mussell said.

"It's also now easier than ever for Australians to choose humanely farmed products and that is having a big impact on how millions of animals are farmed every year."

Find out more by visiting rspcaapproved.org.au

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Pork belly porchetta.

Roast pork and crackling on the menu this Christmas

CHRISTMAS is fast approaching and as a nation, we have spent the majority of the year stuck at home with limited ability to dine out or travel.

While it seems likely that a few restrictions will remain in place over the Christmas period – certainly with international and several regional destinations out of the question – two things are clear.

First, the majority of Australians will stay put over summer and enjoy Christmas close to home.

Second – and perhaps more than ever – we all need an excuse to celebrate the festive season and take a moment to recharge after a year that has tested our patience on so many fronts.

As such, we are presented with a wonderful opportunity to get more home-grown pork on consumers' forks over Christmas, especially as all signs are pointing to

increased supply on retail shelves during this period.

Given the increased likelihood of Christmas lunch or dinner being in-home affairs this year, the Australian Pork Limited marketing team has been working on strategies to reach more people on the path to purchase.

The majority of Australians celebrate Christmas, and Australian pork plays a prominent role in those celebrations, whether home-grown Australian ham or delicious roasts.

With particular regard to roast pork, APL's job is to remind consumers

of golden, bubbly, crunchy crackling paired with the tenderness and flavour of pork.

This year's Christmas marketing activities are an amplification on previous years, with increased budgets, a rise in activity across media channels and communication touchpoints.

From a media perspective, we will be reaching at least half of the grocery-buying population in both metropolitan and regional Australia across NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia



Marketing Matters

by EUNBI LEE



and Western Australia.

This year, we encourage industry members to keep their eyes out for Australian Pork advertising, as we have national presence promoting roast pork and crackling from December 6-24 through the following media:

- Free to air TV
- Foxtel (subscription TV)
- Catch up/online TV
- YouTube
- Shopping centre panels (digital and static banners outside supermarkets and butchers)
- Taste magazine.

These activities will also be supported by proactive public relations and in-house social media to inspire consumers with Christmas recipe ideas, as well as demonstrating the simple steps to get the perfect pork roast and crackling.

From a category perspective, we have also looked at increased marketing activity in retail

channels to align with brand activity, so we are reaching the consumer at home and all the way through to the point of purchase.

Joint activity has been confirmed with butchers, Woolworths, Coles and Aldi.

In foodservice channels, we are investigating opportunities to promote meal kit services such as Hello Fresh, in-home Christmas meal delivery kits from restaurants and charity Christmas hampers such as OzHarvest.

These opportunities will ensure Australian pork has presence in the Christmas offering, no matter where it comes from.

Ideally, the increased activities and reminders in the lead up to Christmas will equate to more pork on forks and more crispy crackling, which is a win for both the consumer and for Australia's pork industry. 🐷



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Have your say on a new animal welfare act

VICTORIANS have the chance to help improve animal welfare in the state by shaping

new legislation, with a Directions Paper setting out key proposals and options for a new

Animal Welfare Act now available for public comment.

Minister for Agriculture



Jaclyn Symes recently encouraged Victorians to have their say on the options for the new laws, which will help keep a high standard of animal welfare and support the state's farmers to maintain access to important export markets.

"Victorians love their animals – that's why we are encouraging people to provide their feedback and shape new legislation that will help make sure people treat animals humanely," Minister Symes said.

A new act will deliver on the government's election commitment to replace the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 – which is more than 30 years old.

The Directions Paper sets out several proposals for the new act, which aim to strengthen Victoria's reputation as a humane and responsible producer of food, and to maintain public confidence in the agriculture industry, research institutions and many other animal sectors.

Among the proposals put forward for comment is the setting of minimum standards of care people must provide for animals.

This would mean people caring for animals must meet the basic needs of the animal – such as providing adequate food and water, and veterinary treatment for an injury or illness – rather than simply outlawing cruelty.

Other options being considered are how best to deliver on the government's commitment to recognise animal sentience – meaning they feel pleasure, comfort, discomfort, fear and pain – in the legislation, and how to ensure regulators are better able to drive behavioural change, monitor compliance and

undertake enforcement.

This would further protect the welfare of animals, with penalties better aligned with the seriousness of the offence, and authorised officers better able to ensure animal carers are doing the right thing.

Recognising animal sentience would also bring Victoria in line with other Australian and international jurisdictions.

"Right now, animal welfare obligations are spread through multiple acts, regulations, several national standards and guidelines, and almost 30 codes of practice," Minister Symes said.

"Our new laws will simplify the rules and help those doing the right thing demonstrate their high standard of care for animals."

The Directions Paper was developed following extensive consultation with key industry and community stakeholders about our existing laws and opportunities for improvement.

The government has already made reforms to improve animal welfare, including mandatory pain relief when mulesing sheep, regulating appropriate fruit tree netting to protect wildlife and introducing the Pet Exchange Register to improve the traceability of cats and dogs.

The government is also investing \$3 million to support not-for-profit and community vet clinics, animal shelters and foster carers to purchase equipment and improve their services.

The Directions Paper and survey on the proposals for the new act are available at engage.vic.gov.au

The survey closes on Monday December 14, 2020. 🐷

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UK report hammers Australian free trade agreement with antimicrobial use

AUSTRALIAN meat imports into the UK under a free trade agreement, currently being negotiated, have become the target of a campaign by a coalition of 65 health, medical, environmental and animal-welfare groups to stop the overuse of antimicrobials in animal farming.

The coalition is not seeking a blanket ban on the use of antimicrobials, rather it seeks a world in which farming systems do not rely on routine antimicrobial use.

In written evidence presented to the UK parliament in September this year, the coalition pointed to the progress over recent years to improve antimicrobial stewardship in farming in the UK and European Union.

These are strong words, but they are increasingly heard in trading environments.

British farmers have reduced their antimicrobial use by about 50 percent between 2014 and 2018. In contrast, the document states that Australia

has not published any information on its farm antimicrobial use for any year after 2010.

Unfortunately, while there have been several limited studies examining antimicrobial use on pig farms at an industry-wide level, this statement is true.

Though Australia has good data regarding the very low prevalence of several key resistance

genes in bacteria derived from slaughter pigs, and its record regarding registration of antimicrobials for use in pigs is at global best practice level, it is silent on the matter of antimicrobial use.

No data is publicly available, so the UK's claims regarding the level of use cannot be refuted for any Australian livestock sector.

While reducing anti-

microbial use should not be an end in itself, Australia should at least be able to document how much it uses in each food animal species, given the long-term importance of antimicrobial resistance.

Currently, we cannot do that.

Almost certainly, given local experience and data from elsewhere in the world, it is highly likely that antimicrobial use can

be moderated on many Australian pig farms.

Dr Peter McKenzie has long been an advocate of reliance on good-farming practices rather than antimicrobials among his client base.

Separately, another farming group in Australia has been quietly going about a program of compliance with the WHO global antimicrobial resistance strategy.

It has demonstrated a nearly 70 percent reduction in antimicrobial use over the past three years across multiple farming sites, without adverse health impacts.

This example of responsible antimicrobial use is the sort that will place the Australian pork industry in a better light for its global markets and local consumer confidence.

Ross Cutler

Calls to update country of origin labelling laws for pork products

WORLD Animal Protection has launched a campaign calling for greater transparency to help shoppers support NSW pig farmers.

The campaign is urging the government to update country of origin labelling requirements so that consumers can tell where their pork comes from.

According to World Animal Protection, while the fresh pork on our shelves is Australian, most of our processed pork – such as ham and bacon – is imported from Europe or North America, with the US making up around 50 percent of total imports.

Head of Campaigns at World Animal Protection Ben Pearson said, "Australian pig farmers are ahead of many US pig farmers when it comes to animal welfare."

"Clearer pork labels would give shoppers the information they deserve, allowing them to sup-

port the higher standards being promoted by most Australian pig farmers," Mr Pearson said.

World Animal Protection is encouraging those who choose to buy pork products, to check the labels for a country of origin when they're at the supermarket.

In the case of ham and bacon, avoid products imported from the US and look for higher welfare Australian options.

The Australian industry is working towards a sow stall phase out in response to consumer sentiment.

Current country of origin labelling laws allow companies to completely omit which country imported ham and bacon is from, and Australians are unaware of the ramifications, according to World Animal Protection.

Get involved in the campaign or find out more at worldanimalprotection.org.au



World Animal Protection says most mother pigs in the US are kept in sow stalls or cages, while the Australian industry is working to phase it out. Photo: Thomas Alexander

www.porknews.com.au

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WAPPA needs to dish up a variety of tasty morsels – some hot, some not – that will whet the appetites of consumers and others who can and will influence for good or bad the future of all WA pork producers. Image is a pork offal hotpot enjoyed three years ago by the author in Chengdu, the capital of south-western China's Sichuan province.

All quiet on the western front with WAPPA

SIX weeks after the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the WA Pork Producers' Association, I remain none the wiser on its outcomes.

Nor am I aware of what speakers had to say at its industry day, which followed.

There's nothing on WAPPA's website and

only a few social pictures of WAPPA people and guests appear on its Facebook page, with the description "WA pork producers shake off the cobwebs at their industry day on Friday."

From my reading of local rural media, I noted no particular coverage either and I was informed – hopefully reliably – by one of the industry day's attendees that no media were present.

Hence, I followed up with one presenter, Dr Bruce Mullan (Director, Livestock Research and Industry Innovation, Primary Industries Development, WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), whose topic was 'DPIRD restructure and COVID-19 preparation'.

I must say, I was surprised he felt most of his DPIRD restructure PowerPoint presentation wouldn't make much sense to anyone without his dialogue, and most of that was probably not for publication.

He also said the COVID information was not really suitable for publishing.

While I've known Bruce for a very long time and always respected him highly – especially with his excellent research and producer extension work when he was more precisely focused on a pork portfolio with the state government's agriculture and food department, in its various guises – his response did make me wonder.

Surely any announcements or reflections on a restructure of a taxpayer-funded public department such as DPIRD should not be kept behind closed doors to be shared only with a privileged few.

I also flagged my interest in another presenter, Dr Rob Wilson (WAPPA Life Member and Chair of Pork Innovation WA), whose topic was 'WA pork research capacity – The fork in the road'.

Alas, no response from Rob at all.

I posted the following



Cant Comment
by
BRENDON CANT

on WAPPA's Facebook page before referencing my interest in Bruce's and Rob's topics.

"Great to see social pics of peeps at WAPPA's industry day on Friday."

This annual event is always a good get together, albeit sadly minus the evening dinner this year.

Will also be interesting to learn of outcomes and learnings from the AGM and speakers at the industry day.

Some important topics were listed on the agenda."

Alas, the only feedback I received from my post came from WAPPA president Graeme Dent, who posted the following comment.

"Hi Brendon thanks for following what's happening in the industry on our industry Facebook page."

I think we have news covered well to our members.

Cheers GD."

Having received that and thinking a little about it, I simply concluded that WAPPA is now an inward-looking producer body, concerned only with its producer members and with no particular remit or desire to promote itself and what it stands for to the wider community – which of course includes pork producers who are not members and con-

sumers who may or may not buy WA pork.

Sadly, I've observed this demise for some time.

A quick look at WAPPA's website for example reveals that it effectively stopped openly and publicly sharing and communicating three years ago.

Under the 'News and Publications' drop-down menu, the last reference to an AGM and Industry Day was 2017.

Here's what WAPPA says it's all about on the front page of its website – it makes for interesting reading.

"The primary objective of the Association is to promote and safeguard the interests of the Western Australian Pork Industry."

In addition WAPPA aims to:

- Provide a forum for the collection and exchange of information
- Represent and advance the interests of the pork industry and its members with the Western Australian and Federal Governments and their respective departments
- Provide access to published information to improve pig production and quality
- Promote and participate in the improvement of the standard of pig meat production, processing and manufacturing, through research."

I do acknowledge that WAPPA emails a weekly 'WAPPA News', usually late on a Friday afternoon, and has done quite regularly for five years or so, but I don't believe it would resonate with any significant spheres of influence beyond WAPPA's membership.

Besides that, 'WAPPA News' typically catalogues events and rehashes announcements already made by others, with only rare commentary, critique, analysis or interpretation on any issues by its president Graeme Dent or executive officer Jan Cooper.



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Innovation in the Australasian pork industry

WE hear a lot nowadays about innovation and the need to never lose sight of opportunities to transform our businesses.

Innovation, if done correctly and appropriately, should not only support and improve core pork production – and its processing principles and practices – but enable the Australasian pork industry to become more efficient, sustainable and globally competitive.

But what is innovation? Accompanied by a plethora of meanings and definitions, broadly speaking innovation is the creation, development and implementation of a new product, process or service, with the aim of improving efficiency, effectiveness or competitive advantage.

When contextualised to the Australasian pork industry, I think we'd all agree that we have done an excellent job of this – for example, with the development and implementation of porcine somatotropin, Improvac and AusScan Online, and solutions to group housing of sows for starters.

Then, on a daily basis, our producers are continually innovating as they strive to improve their practices and business performance.

But this started me thinking – how do we continue to innovate as an industry, and what might be next?

In exploring this further, I came across a piece last year in Farm Journal's Pork written by Dr Clint Schwab, Vice President



Science and Technology at The Maschhoffs.

The Maschhoffs is based in Carlyle, Illinois in the US and is one of the largest family-owned pork production networks in North America.

Dr Schwab commented that there were several examples of new products or tools in the marketplace that could and would create incremental value – however, these incremental changes needed to be combined in ways that would create material change.

Dr Schwab then outlined three innovation platforms he believed encompassed significant opportunities for The Maschhoffs – namely digital transformation, the intersection between health and nutrition, and harvesting genetic potential.

Arguably, these platforms apply equally to the Australasian pork industry.

In regard to Dr Schwab's comments about digital transformation in particular, I thought his comments were salient.

He mentioned that the pork industry is ripe for a digital transformation, that the industry remains data-rich and information-poor and, in comparison to other industries outside of animal agriculture, is stuck in the dark ages when it comes to leveraging information technologies.

Dr Schwab then ob-

served that the first step to rectifying this situation is the more timely capture of useful information, because until data can be acquired efficiently – for example, with the use of sensors that lead into the realm of more real-time business intelligence tools – producers cannot begin to determine how to make sense of it.

This requires a new level of predictive analytics and a new way of thinking.

Not only will these tools allow for more efficient responses to production challenges, but they will help potentially unlock areas of opportunity the industry may not even currently realise or fully understand.

Agree with this or not, I doubt there would be any disagreement concerning our industry's need to support research for continued innovation and industry application.

The Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd recently called for innovation projects, asking investigators to submit applications addressing 'out of the box' ideas that will potentially deliver smart, new approaches to tackle current and emerging issues and challenges for the Australasian pork industry.

We will begin assessing the 20 applications received in this scheme, and anticipate supporting a number of projects that continue innovation for our industry.

John Pluske, APRIL CEO and Chief Scientist



Vice President of Science and Technology at The Maschhoffs Dr Clint Schwab.

Don't risk illegal food sales on social media

BUYING food from unregulated vendors on social media puts both you and your family at risk of food poisoning.

The Food Safety Information Council has warned Australians not to buy or sell food prepared in unregulated home kitchens on social media sites.

Food Safety Information Council chair Cathy Moir said that people selling unregulated food through social media sites such as Facebook and WeChat were putting the public at risk, as it was unlikely they would meet the required food safety standards.

"We first became aware of this practice after media reports in May 2020, and since then this practice has increased significantly, with a range of high-risk foods such as curries, spring rolls, dumplings, roast meats, baked goods, pastas, seafood and even raw sausages being offered," Ms Moir said.

"These unregulated food sales are a considerable food safety risk.

"There is a real risk of food poisoning, which in its worst form can have severe health consequences.

"Not only that, it is illegal.

"Government and local council enforcement agencies are clamping down on these unregistered food businesses, as and when they become aware of them – though new sellers keep popping up and this is putting a considerable strain on our health services."

The rules around the production and selling of food in Australia are strict and anyone selling food must adhere to the state or territory regulations.

"This requires specific food safety knowledge and controls that cover hygiene, safe cooking and cooling rules, correct refrigeration, safe storage and transportation," Ms Moir said.

"It is unlikely that food prepared in a home kitchen or backyard barbecue would meet these standards.

"Another reason to be extremely wary of these illegal sellers is the risk of an allergic reaction.

"Licensed sellers must also be aware of any labelling requirements, including the allergens in their food, so they can inform consumers.

"Don't risk buying from an illegal seller."

Prior to purchasing food, ask yourself these questions:

- Is the location the food is collected from a home address?

- Does the vendor have a website or social media page that proves it is a licensed food business and, if not, can the vendor prove it has a food licence or is a registered business?

- Is the food a much cheaper price than you would usually pay?

If in doubt, don't take the risk of buying unsafe food.

Support your local food businesses instead, either in store or by ordering online.

"If you are considering turning your hobby into a business, we recommend contacting your local council for advice on how to set up a food business, safely," Ms Moir said.

"There are council contact details and also access to online food safety training courses on the Food Safety Information Council website.

"If you have a local farmers' market, they may also be able to advise you about how to sell your food legally."

For more information, visit foodsafety.asn.au



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¹ Australian Veterinary Journal Volume 97 No 7, July 2019



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Rabobank senior grains analyst Cheryl Kalisch Gordon.

Australia on track for above-average winter crop

AUSTRALIA is on track for a major recovery in grain production, with the winter harvest set to come in at above-average levels, according to recently released forecasts by agribusiness specialist Rabobank.

In its Australian Winter Crop Production Outlook 2020/2021, the agribusiness bank said that after three successive years of below-average production due to drought in many parts of the country, Australia's "long-awaited grain production recovery is here" – with the nation expected to harvest 47.4 million tonnes of winter grains, oilseeds and pulses this year.

This is an increase of 63 percent on last year and 16 percent above the five-year average.

For NSW, it represents a staggering 366 percent increase on last year's harvest, and for Queensland 139 percent – with all grain-growing states in Australia set to record an increase in production.

Rabobank senior grains analyst Cheryl Kalisch Gordon said in the report, "This increase not only represents a recovery, but also puts production back over average levels."

"A 22 percent year-on-year increase in planted

hectares, together with well-timed and above-average rainfall in most regions, support our expectations for 28.8 million tonnes of wheat, 11 million tonnes of barley and 3.3 million tonnes of canola to be harvested in Australia in 2020/21," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

This will see Australia stage a major return to the global grains market, with Rabobank forecasting the nation's grain exports to increase 93 percent on last year.

According to the report, exports would be supported by a relatively low Australian dollar – forecast to remain at around 70 US cents for the coming year – and comparatively high global grains prices.

"The last time Australia had export volumes in these ranges, the Australian dollar was 10 US cents higher and global grain prices were around 35 percent lower than our current forecasts for the year ahead," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

"Both these factors will assist in moving these anticipated export volumes and support a good year for Australian grain farmers."

From famine to feast
NSW would be the

driving force behind Australia's grain recovery in 2020/21 after being "the epicentre of devastatingly low grain production in recent years."

"NSW has gone from worst to best performer in only 12 months, to lead the pack when it comes to grain production," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

"We expect a year-on-year lift of 12 million tonnes – a massive 366 percent increase – in grain production in NSW, which would put the state's harvest neck and neck with its record 2016/17 harvest."

"Seasonal conditions in NSW have been near to ideal and in stark contrast to recent years."

"Most production gains will be made in the central west, but above-average yields are also expected in the north and south of the state."

"All other states are set for an average or above-average harvest, with the exception of Western Australia."

"Here, a poor start and lower rainfall across the growing season means we expect a hit and miss year for WA, with the state's harvest volume to come in above last year but still 10 percent below the five-year average."

Wet spring

The report said with a La Niña now declared active by the Bureau of Meteorology – for the first time since 2010 – and expected to deliver a wet spring, this would help finish crops and improve soil moisture in the eastern states, ahead of summer crop planting.

"Above-average spring rain will be beneficial, especially for regions that had a drier July and August, though the risk of a wet harvest – especially in parts of Victoria and NSW – is heightened," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

"Above-average rainfall during later spring does, of course, introduce challenges to harvest and the prospect of impact on quality."

"In areas that have already begun harvest, such as northern NSW, rain delays have already interrupted progress."

"This brings with it the real risk of downgrades to the quality of the grain which, if widespread, could have a substantial impact on the market due to the change in the quality profile of grain on offer."

COVID concerns

The report said Australia's grain sector had been able to proceed with an almost 'business as usual' production year, despite the upheaval caused by COVID-19.

Challenges related to the availability of harvest labour and contractors were also expected to be managed for the most part, with forward planning and workarounds in place.

"Early season concerns regarding input availability due to COVID were managed so that there were no material impacts on production and, for the most part, we expect the same with harvest," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

"However, the need to manage a wet harvest period without the typical labour force may deliver some regionally significant production and quality downgrades."

Market outlook

Notwithstanding the need to rebuild domestic grain stocks following drought, Australia is on track to export 19.8 million tonnes of wheat, 5.6 million tonnes of barley and 2.7 million tonnes of canola this year, Rabobank forecasts.

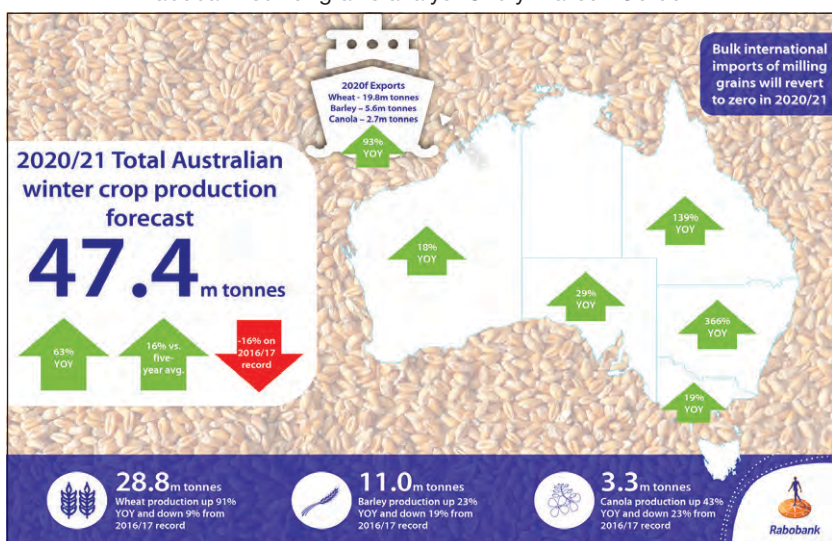
According to the report, while global wheat stocks are forecast to grow again by more than five percent in 2020/21, the location of those stocks outside key exporting nations means global prices are expected to be supported.

"With a combined 15 million tonne year-on-year reduction in wheat exports from the European Union and Ukraine this year, the world is looking to Australia's recovery to help keep the market in balance," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

The bank forecasts Chicago Board of Trade wheat to trade around US cents 580 per bushell (\$A8.18/bu) over the coming 12 months, up 12 percent year on year and approaching 40 percent higher than 2016/17, when Australia last harvested an above-average winter grain crop.

continued P11

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Australian winter crop production outlook.

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Pork podcast examines the future of food

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited's podcast series 'Next on the Menu' has continued to explore the innovations that will challenge the world of food in the future by tapping into the knowledge of a range of leading thinkers from across agriculture and the supply chain.

The latest episode features American author and filmmaker Diana Rodgers, who draws on her professional background as a nutritionist to argue the environmental, dietary and ethical merits of meat consumption.

Her book *Sacred Cow: The Case for Better Meat* has enjoyed such a strong response that a companion film is about to be released.

Next on the Menu has earned a strong following since launching in September on the back of an impressive line-up of guests, including renowned chef Nino Zocali, Stephen Nankervis from Fairtrade Australia, Adelaide butcher Luke Leyson and New Zealand agricultural futurist

Melissa Clark-Reynolds.

Listeners have also enjoyed the insights provided by the podcast's co-hosts APL chair Andrew 'Billy' Baxter and APL general manager of business and innovation Mitch Edwards, both of whom bring their own valuable experiences to the discussion.

Mr Baxter is one of Australia's most trusted business, marketing and communications advisors.

He has worked with many of Australia's largest companies, brands and government bodies, as chief executive officer of two of the country's biggest communications agencies – Publicis and Ogilvy – and currently as a senior advisor at both KPMG and BGH Capital, as well as the Adjunct Professor of Marketing at the University of Sydney.

Mr Edwards boasts more than 30 years experience marketing Australia's major proteins internationally and domestically, with a track record of executing successful marketing strategies and turning struggling agri-

cultural categories into market leaders.

His achievements include leveraging US McDonalds to use Australian beef in their 'all American hamburgers' and turning Australia into a pork-loving nation by playing a prominent role in the 'Get Some Pork on Your Fork' campaign.

Currently, Mitch oversees Business and Innovation and coaches Marketing Communications for Australian Pork Limited, and is the face of the prestigious PorkStar chef influencer program.

An important PorkStar initiative – which has enabled ongoing engagement with the foodservice industry despite COVID-19 challenges – has been its own podcast 'The Crackling'.

Hosted by Anthony Huckstep, The Crackling is a food-focused podcast,

which talks with some of Australia's best chefs, butchers and pork producers.

While the first season wrapped up in mid-September, episodes are available online and feature interviews with eight pork industry identities, including chefs Louis Tikaram, Matt Stone, Dave Pynt and Annie Smithers, as well as producer Judy Croagh from Western Plains Pork.

The new season of The Crackling will include interviews with chefs Paul Carmichael, Lennox Hastie, Claire Van Vuuren and Melissa Palinkas, as well as producers Frank Vigliante and Luke Tathra.

All episodes of The Crackling and Next on the Menu are available on a range of platforms, including iTunes and Spotify.



American nutritionist and author Diana Rodgers features in the latest episode of Australian Pork Limited's 'Next on the Menu' podcast.

On track for above-average winter crop

from P10

"Despite supply renewal in Australia, we expect domestic prices to be supported by both global prices – which we expect to be near to 40 percent higher than the last time Australia had an above-average harvest – and by an Australian dollar that is lower than 2016/17," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

"This will keep prices in line with the five-year average and off the lows of 2016/17."

Barley

Based on the outlook, with barley representing close to 23 percent of this year's winter crop harvest, 2020/21 is expected to be the second-highest barley crop on record (albeit still 19 percent behind 2016/17).

Export opportunities for Australian barley are also very different to 2016/17, with China's introduction of tariffs on Australian barley effectively ruling out significant volumes being sold to that market in the near term.

"Instead sales to feed-grain markets – such as Saudi Arabia, Japan and Thailand – will dominate Australian barley exports this year," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

"This will mean pricing that is competitive relative to other origins of feed grain and at a discount to corn.

"These exports will also not replace the volumes that would have gone to China."

As such, domestic barley stocks will grow this year,

keeping local prices at a broad discount to wheat in 2021.

Canola and pulses

Despite an increased Australian canola harvest, Australian canola prices are expected to remain supported in 2020/21.

EU import demand for canola will approach record volumes this year due to a significantly below-average European rapeseed (canola) harvest for the second year running – with Australia 'in the box seat' to provide non-genetically modified canola, the European preference, to that market.

"We also expect Australian genetically modified canola prices to remain supported in 2020/21, based on higher year-on-year pricing in the global edible oil complex more broadly, and potential Chinese demand for GM canola," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

Cash or carry

According to the outlook, after successive years of drought, the generation of cashflow would be critical for many Australian grain farmers this season.

"However, alongside this there is also increased on-farm storage capacity among growers, as well as the recent memory of high grain pricing due to drought while interest rates are at record lows," Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

"With this in mind, we expect a large number of farmers will choose to carry grain, especially barley, into 2021."

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New ASF outbreaks recorded

FIVE countries have officially recorded new cases of African swine fever in domestic pigs – Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa and Ukraine.

As at October 18, 984 outbreaks of ASF among domestic pigs in Europe were recorded to the Animal Disease Notification System of the European Commission since the start of 2020.

Almost 57,000 pigs have been directly impacted by the outbreaks.

With its first cases of ASF more than two years ago, Romania's battle to control the spread of the disease continues.

Based on official reports submitted recently to the World Organisation for Animal Health, a further

40 outbreaks have been confirmed in Romania – most detected between September and mid-October.

In addition, two discarded pig carcasses have tested positive for ASF.

Affecting only backyard herds of up to 146 animals, the latest outbreaks directly impacted a total of 680 pigs.

After a short absence, ASF has returned to two oblasts in Ukraine.

In total, 87 pigs were involved in these two outbreaks, seven of which died.

ASF was last detected in Donetsk in October 2019, and as recently as the end of September in Kiev.

The European Commission recorded 8953 confirmed outbreaks of ASF

in wild boar from the start of 2020 to October 18 – an increase of 173 since October 5.

The figure well exceeds the 6407 cases recorded for 2019.

Hungary recorded the most outbreaks with 3608 – a jump of 39 more than the previous two weeks.

At 3387, Poland's total had risen by 58 over the same period.

Since the beginning of October, seven other European states had confirmed ASF outbreaks to the EC – Romania with 688 outbreaks, Bulgaria 437, Latvia 230, Slovakia 187, Lithuania 186, Germany 70 and Estonia 51.

New cases in wild boar reported to the OIE were Hungary with 43, Romania 23, Russia 3, and Germany and Latvia each with two.

Germany's agriculture ministry puts the number of wild boar infected with ASF at 86.

Since the first detection on September 10, all have been in wild boar and confined to three districts in the eastern state of Brandenburg.

The nation's domestic pigs remain free of the disease.

Russia's agriculture ministry reports new cases affecting two backyard herds in its Far Eastern Federal District, and three of the total 21 pigs affected died at the two premises located in the same district of Khabarovsk Krai.

Since the first outbreak in August 2019, 175 ASF outbreaks have been in this region of Russia, with 4778 pigs directly impacted.

These figures are based on reports to the OIE.

Modernising the meat export regulatory system

CRITICAL government and industry action to modernise the Australian export meat inspection and regulatory system is underway following the \$328 million Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters measure, announced by the Australian Government as part of the 2020/21 Budget.

The Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters package will fund reforms for Australian agricultural sectors, including the meat processing sector, to reduce unnecessary red tape, get products to export markets faster and support jobs in rural and remote Australia.

The package, worth more than \$328.4 million over four years from 2020-21, will:

- Support Australia's agriculture industry to grow towards a \$100 billion in farm gate returns by 2030 – from \$61 billion currently
- Maintain and strengthen existing preferential access to overseas markets
- Support economic recovery, and provide jobs in rural, regional and remote Australia
- Support government efforts in response to COVID-19, bushfires and drought, and
- Provide an immediate freeze on increases in fees and charges, to assist exporters with the

impacts of COVID-19, with stepped increases to be spread over four years consistent with the government's cost recovery policy.

The measures announced in the budget will support the development of a more competitive meat industry by bolstering Australia's reputation as a provider of high-quality safe meat, underpinned by a robust regulatory system.

To deliver strong outcomes for the export meat processing sector, a package of modernisation proposals has been developed in conjunction with, and strongly supported by, industry leaders – including senior representatives of the Australian Meat Industry Council and other export meat processing establishments.

Major modernisation proposals include the 'Digital Services to Take Farmers to Markets' and 'Building a More Competitive Meat Industry' measures.

The Digital Services to Take Farmers to Markets measure includes an investment of \$222.2 million to modernise Australia's agricultural export systems by reducing red tape and improving regulation and service delivery for our producers and exporters.

Practically, this measure will transition

departmental export systems online and provide a single portal for transactions between exporters and government, streamlining processes for exporters and helping them experience faster and more cost-effective services, while continuing to meet trading partners' requirements.

The Building a More Competitive Meat Industry measure embeds modernisation activities that will keep Australia's export systems world leading and introduces new regulatory assurance tools that reward high levels of conformance and targets any areas of poor compliance.

The measure also introduces flexible assurance methods, including smarter technology to ensure the Australian meat industry maintains and expands its global position as the number

one supplier of choice.

AMIC's National Processor Council chair Terry Nolan said the Australian export meat sector understood the vital role it plays in achieving our joint aim of \$100 billion in farm gate returns by 2030.

"A key pillar of this is building exports – and our sector plays a key role in Australia's overall agricultural export growth," Mr Nolan said.

"Knowing that we can continue to deliver high-quality and safe meat products to a global market is paramount.

"It's also incredibly important that we work with government to make sure that our regulatory system continues to be contemporary, fit for purpose and robust.

"We are proud to play our part in driving modernisation for the benefit of the whole agricultural sector."



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Royal DSM completes acquisition of Erber Group

ROYAL DSM, a global science-based company in nutrition, health and sustainable living, recently announced the completion of its acquisition of Erber Group, for an enterprise value of \$A1.6 billion.

The transaction – which excludes two smaller units in the Erber Group – is expected to be earnings enhancing in the first year upon completion.

The acquisition of Erber Group was first announced on June 12, 2020.

DSM acquired Erber Group's Biomin and

Romer Labs.

Erber Group's specialty animal nutrition and health business Biomin specialises primarily in mycotoxin risk management and gut health performance management, whereas the Romer Labs business focuses on food and feed safety diagnostic solutions.

Both expand DSM's range of higher value-add specialty solutions.

The acquisition of Erber Group's Biomin further strengthens DSM's expertise and reputation as a leading provider of animal health and nutrition

solutions for farm productivity and sustainability, with an emphasis on emissions reduction, feed consumption efficiency, and better use of water and land.

It is therefore very much aligned with DSM's focus to make animal farming more sustainable from both an ecological and economical perspective.

Romer Labs also complements DSM's human nutrition and health offering to customers in the food and beverages market segments.

More information can be found at dsm.com





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Foodbank serving up Aussie pork to those in need

AMID the social and economic disruptions caused by COVID-19 in recent months, Australia's pork industry has been working with the country's leading food relief organisation,

Foodbank Australia, to support Australians struggling to put food on the table.

In a collaboration involving the Federal Government and Australian Pork Limited, Foodbank

Australia's provision of protein to members of the community in need has been boosted by weekly deliveries from several pork wholesalers across the country.

More than a quarter of

Australian pork is usually consumed in foodservice outlets, so when restaurants, pubs and clubs across the country were forced to closed earlier in the year, alternative markets had to be found.

Australian Pork Limited chief executive officer Margo Andrae said while the rise in home-made meals increased pork sales at butchers and supermarkets, the supply chain has still been under pressure in adjusting to COVID-19 restrictions.

"Australia's weekly pork production is very consistent.

"While supply chains have been disrupted in recent months, we've continued to process about 100,000 pigs a week nationally," Ms Andrae said.

"Even with retail sale increases, we were looking at ways to take pressure off of our processors and wholesalers to ensure the market stayed as stable as possible and producers had some certainty."

"We approached the Federal Government to talk about ways we could turn a challenge into a

positive because while we had surplus product, there were lots of people facing food insecurity."

Emergency relief funding made available to Foodbank by Federal Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston enabled the initiative to commence.

"Wholesalers Linley Valley Pork, Holco, Global Meats, Mastercut Meats and Top Cut have been pivotal in this wonderful initiative, providing pork to Foodbank at a significant discount to ensure the funding can be stretched as far as possible," Ms Andrae said.

"We're proud of the role our industry is playing in providing food security for those in need, but we're also very grateful to Foodbank because the weekly supply arrangements have given processors and wholesalers added operational certainty for their businesses and employees."

"This has helped keep employees at our plants working and helped ensure producers could be confident they had a buyer for

their weekly turn-off of pigs.

"Sadly, we've seen market failure in the US in recent months, where major pig processors have closed for extended periods."

"Thousands of pigs have been euthanised on-farm and prices have fallen dramatically, yet the need to feed Americans in-need has been more critical than ever."

"We are very grateful that by working together, we've avoided that sort of devastating scenario in Australia."

Pork provided to Foodbank has included sausages, roasts, mince and forequarter chops, totaling 23,685 kilograms of made-to-order pork products over a three-and-a-half-month period.

Based on this success, APL and industry wholesalers are looking at ways to continue working with Foodbank.

Foodbank Australia national program manager agriculture Jacqui Payne explained how significant this supply has been to the Foodbank network na-

tionally and to food relief recipients.

"We're so grateful to APL and all the local wholesalers who have supported Foodbank through this period," Ms Payne said.

"Having a regular, reliable supply of a high-demand protein product such as pork takes the 'surprise' out of our supply chain and goes a long way in helping us end hunger in Australia."

Melissa Parker from Mastercut Meats said the wholesaler, which has been supplying pork for distribution in NSW and Australian Capital Territory, was keen to continue supporting Foodbank.

"As a family business, we're always looking for ways to give back to the community," Ms Parker said.

"This has been a fantastic opportunity to support Foodbank with supplies of premium Australian pork, helping those in need during this time of crisis, and also supporting our supply chain, our employees and Australian pork producers."




Provision of protein to the community in need has been boosted by weekly deliveries from pork wholesalers across Australia.

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That's when Blantyre Farms' maintenance

manager Mark Schulz contacted Hydro Innovations, in search of a suitable pump for the application.

The problem for the farm was that the slurry had the consistency of molasses and pumping it 1km up a hill to the ponds proved no easy feat for standard pumps.

Hydro Innovations' NSW regional manager Phil Rothheudt said, "Ordinary pumps just couldn't

handle the slurry."

The solution was to use a Ragazzini MS3 Peristaltic Pump.

The operation of this style of pump is derived from human 'peristalsis' intestinal muscle movements – an alternating contraction and relaxation of muscles around a tube to coax the contents through.

"Peristaltic pumps are usually found in medical situations, and often used to pump blood," Mr Rothheudt said.

Mr Schulz was happy with the results and said, "The information supplied by Phil to select the correct pump for our application was great, as was the communication for the actual purchase."

"Our success is due to a team with many years of

expertise," Mr Rothheudt said.

"We can turn an enquiry around in the same day and offer a solution – we know the specifics – that's what matters."

Ragazzini pumps use a roller on bearing design, so the casing does not have to be filled and re-filled with expensive lubricating fluid.

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Clean labelling interactive online workshop

THERE is enormous pressure on food product suppliers and retailers to present products as natural and as free from artificial substances as possible.

With this in mind, it is essential to know precisely how every ingredient and substance will or might be declared on the product label and marketing – if it has to be declared at all.

FoodLegal have organised an interactive online workshop to focus on the food labelling obligations under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

The workshop will cover how these obligations under the ANZFS Code can be interpreted, applied and circumnavigated to present the cleanest image of your product, and of course, without misleading or deceiving your consumers in breach of the Australian Consumer Law.

The workshop also covers claims and marketing strategies that go hand-in-hand

with clean labelling practices, such as claiming your product is 'natural', a 'super-food' or '100 percent free of anything artificial'.

FoodLegal will help answer questions such as:

- How can I simplify my long ingredients list?
- When can I leave an ingredient off the label?
- What makes a substance 'artificial'?
- When does a food substance become a processing aid, or a food additive, or a nutritive substance?
- How do I avoid breaching the Australian Consumer Law?

The FoodLegal interactive workshop will be held on Tuesday November 24, 2020 via Zoom at 9.00am to 1.00pm Australia Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

Early bird price offer for registrations before November 5, 2020.

Numbers are limited to ensure an interactive experience.

Register at foodlegal.com.au

Aussie Pumps piggery package

PORK producers have a major challenge every day in the management of liquids.

They need to clean, sterilise, collect and pump away waste, and often provide fertiliser and nutrients to grow feed.

One Australian company, Aussie Pumps, has worked with operators to come up with a package that covers everything, from the growing right through to the final production of the edible end product.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "We have managed to go all the way, from initial birth and production, through the growing cycle to product in supermarkets or butcher shops."

A clean environment is essential

Keeping the piggery clean to grow healthy young piglets is mandatory – it is a legal obligation and a matter of good business.

Aussie Pumps produces a range of Australian conceived, designed and built pressure cleaners, all the way up to 5000psi machines.

They can be electric or engine drive.

They all feature stainless-steel frames, heavy-duty Bertolini triplex pumps, and are fitted with solid ceramic pistons and 'cool-fin' crank cases.

The range includes flows of up to 40L per minute, making them suitable for both wash and

flush activities.

Best of all, the machines are designed in line with Aussie Pumps registered 'Scud' concept, where the stainless-steel frames are designed to have virtually zero sharps.

They are claimed to be the most occupational health and safety friendly pressure cleaners in the world.

"We even have piggeries operating their own high-pressure water jetters, that not only wash, flush and clean but also clear blocked drains using our Aussie Cobra jetter concept," Mr Hales said.

"The Aussie Cobra jetter concept features the use of 4000psi and 5000psi pressures to clear blocked drains fast, without the

use of mechanical or electric drive drain cleaners.

"It's fast, cheap and clean."

Steamy activities

Several piggeries have graduated to hot wash and steam cleaning machines, to not only clean but to disinfect at the same time.

The World Health Organisation has said that using hot water at over 60C will kill almost all germs.

Aussie Pumps range starts with electric drive machines from 1800psi to 4000psi, with flows up to 21L per minute.

Prices are low too, with the Aussie Sizzler, a new stainless-steel entrant to the market, retailing at only \$4,420 plus GST.

The Aussie Pumps hot water range also includes a 4000psi Honda engine-powered steam cleaner, with the temperature range of up to 130C.

The machine comes in a stainless-steel frame and mounted on four wheels, to make it portable anywhere on the piggery.

Best of all, using steam means the elimination of caustic or harmful carcinogenic chemicals being used for cleaning in the piggery.

Pumping effluent

It's all part of the job.

The Aussie Pumps range includes super heavy-duty cast-iron semi-trash pumps capable of moving up to 2300L per minute.

Recently introduced models include a high head capability that can pump small compressible solids in suspension.

The new machines feature flows and high heads, with the ability to handle up to 1200L per minute and pump to a vertical lift of up to 80m.

They all self-prime and are built in a mono-block style execution, with the quick open impellers and front-opening port for

easy cleanout.

Silicon carbide mechanical seals and stainless-steel wear plant are used.

As an ISO9001 certified company, Aussie Pumps believes in delivering products that work.

"All of our products are sourced as components from developed countries.

"We stay away from suppliers from developing countries – knowing the risk involved," Mr Hales said.

Trash pumps are a piggery essential

Aussie Pumps also makes a range of trash pumps that are suitable for use in any situation, from piggeries to abattoirs.

These are engine-driven machines, with flows of up to 6000L per minute and the ability to pump to heads of 47m.

Driven by either petrol or diesel engines, these machines are part of Aussie Pumps quick prime range.

They are designed to handle solids in suspension of up to 7.6cm (or 3") in diameter.

They all feature excellent priming capabilities, with several models capable of lift of up to 7.6m.

The company also makes agricultural spray units, with flows of up to 125L per minute and pressures up to 50 bar.

These machines are all powered by Honda petrol or Yanmar diesel engines, and come in handy stainless-steel carry frames, capable of being used for anything from wash and flush to spraying agricultural chemicals or even disinfectants.

For more information, including Aussie Pumps free Agricultural Solutions Brochure, visit ausiepumps.com.au or contact one of Aussie Pumps distributors throughout Australia.



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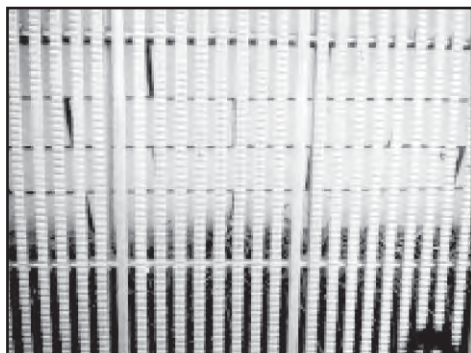
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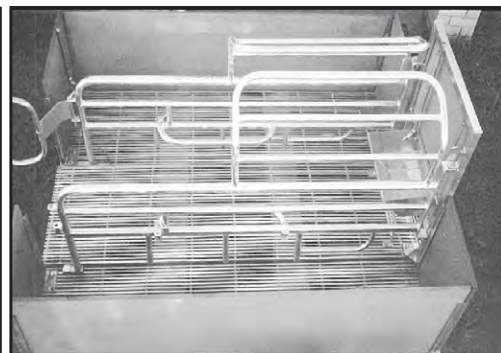
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Westridge Meats secured bounty of pork legs for Christmas ham orders

COVID-19 has impacted nearly every aspect of our lives, with the potential to affect those looking forward to enjoying ham for Christmas lunch.

Production at one of Australia's biggest ham manufacturers has been affected by COVID-19 – being located in Victoria.

KR Castlemaine experienced a cluster at the end of July and was also one of regional Victoria's epicentres during the second wave.

In response, the Victorian Government introduced strict rules, which reduced the capacity of meat processors by one-third.

Now meatworks are required to test a quarter of their workforce each week.

Owner and head butcher at Toowoomba's Westridge Meats Luke Jensen said there was an increased demand for pork legs, and prices from wholesalers would continue to increase leading into Christmas.

"We've been advised that there is an increased demand for pork legs, so we'd highly recommend customers get their Christmas ham order in early this year to avoid disappointment," Mr Jensen said.

"Westridge Meats have secured hundreds of pork legs from local farmers across the Darling Downs, and we've even been approached by Sydney companies to supply hams to their Queensland clients, due to the ham shortage."

Westridge Meats has won Queensland's Best Ham at the Annual Australian PorkMark Awards three times, and judges and customers agreed the way it's cooked and presented was exceptional.

The competition had been cancelled this year, but Mr Jensen said the team at Westridge Meats was excited for the return in 2021, as they had been perfecting their recipe.

"We're looking forward to the 2021 PorkMark Ham Awards and showcasing the great pork from local producers here in the Darling Downs, together with our recipe, which we've been working hard to perfect," he said.

For all Christmas ham orders placed between now and November 30, customers will also receive a Westridge Meats gift voucher, depending on the size of the ham ordered.

To order your ham phone 07 4635 6611.



Owner and head butcher at Westridge Meats Luke Jensen.

Pork to tap into innovation opportunities

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has welcomed the establishment of Agricultural Innovation Australia, a new not-for-profit company formed by all 15 of the national rural research and development corporations.

APL chief executive officer and interim director on the AIA Board Margo Andrae said the company would drive a new cross-industry approach to agricultural innovation.

"Many of the challenges and opportunities the pork industry faces are common across other farm sectors, so we see AIA as a collaborative way for APL and businesses in our supply chains to tap into cross-industry research," Ms Andrae said.

"AIA will help APL to scope out new ways of leveraging knowledge and accelerating innovation and commercial solutions in the pork supply chain."

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud, who announced AIA's establishment on October 1, said the organisation would capitalise on cross-industry opportunities to drive productivity, sustainability and profitability across Australia's farm sectors.

"I welcome the leadership shown by RDCs to work together, leveraging their collective knowledge and resources to target the big, national challenges facing the sector, such as building climate resilience, natural resource management and supply chain traceability," Minister Littleproud said.

"Innovation is key to help meet industry's target for a \$100 billion sector by 2030 and we know the biggest productivity gains will come from long-term research and development."

"Now more than ever, with record government investment to support COVID-19 recovery, we need to demonstrate the greatest returns from our investments, improve transparency of outcomes, and drive efficiencies and greater uptake of our R&D efforts."

Minister Littleproud said AIA is a key element of the Federal Government's new National Agricultural Innovation Agenda to modernise Australia's agricultural innovation system, which is why \$1.3 million in Commonwealth funding has been committed for the first AIA investment strategies, to fast-track action on the ground.

"AIA will bring work with the private sector to attract investment, bringing new perspectives and players to agricultural innovation," Minister Littleproud said.

Chair of the Council of RDCs and Grains Research and Development Corporation John Woods said AIA represented an exciting new era for Australia's farming sector.

"AIA will transform investment in Australian agriculture," Mr Woods said.

"Having a single entity to lead cross-industry strategies will make it easier for investors from around the world to navigate and partner with our agricultural system."

"Activities undertaken by AIA will focus on areas with greatest impact across multiple agricultural industries."

"To avoid duplication of effort when prioritising opportunities for investment, consideration will be given to existing RDC and industry strategies."

AIA will be managed by an independent, skills-based Board and invest in strategies to deliver transformative outcomes for Australia's agricultural industries.

RDCs are responsible for investing around \$800 million each year in agricultural innovation.

Almost \$300 million of this is Federal Government funding from taxpayers, and around \$500 million comes from industry levies.

Details are at aginnovationaustralia.com.au



APL CEO Margo Andrae is an interim Board director of Agriculture Innovation Australia.

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