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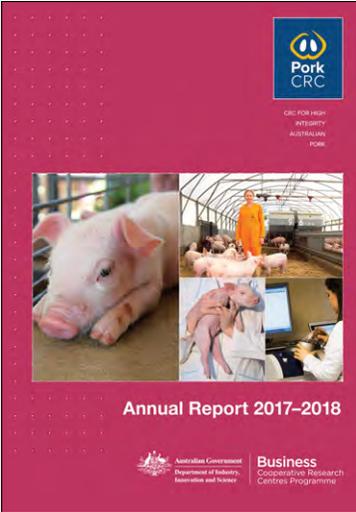
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The Pork CRC Annual Report 2017-2018 is now available.

Positive Pork CRC outcomes outlined

ROGER Campbell, in his final annual report as Pork CRC CEO, highlighted positive R&D outcomes, including measuring and enhancing contentment of sows housed in conventional farrowing systems, global interest in a swine dysentery vaccine developed by Murdoch University, research at SARDI that developed an eating quality model for Australian pork and enhanced AusScan calibrations for grains and protein meals.

In Program 1 (Reduced Confinement of Sows and Piglets), researchers at Melbourne University, SARDI, SunPork and Rivalea showed enrichment with straw or lucerne two days before farrowing significantly reduced still birth rate and in one study lucerne chaff offered throughout lactation also improved colostrum intake and pre-weaning performance.

Based on differences in anticipatory behaviour between treatments, it also seemed that straw/hay before farrowing improved the affective state of sows, but not gilts.

"This major new piece of research certainly warrants follow-up," Dr Campbell said.

Other researchers from Melbourne University and Rivalea demonstrated that the Ridley Enrichment Block had similar effects as straw or hay on behaviour of gestating sows.

Acknowledging that antibiotic use and resistance remained one of the biggest issues glob-

ally in animal agriculture and in intensive industries particularly, Dr Campbell said Pork CRC's Program 2 (Herd Health Management) had made significant progress.

Dr Sam Abraham from Murdoch University provided new information on the pathogenicity of strep suis in the Australian industry, while Narelle Sales from NSW DPI did similar for erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae.

Dr Tom La and his team at Murdoch continued their excellent work on swine dysentery and one of the brachyspira strains discovered by the team is now being tested as a potential vaccine candidate in the US.

In Program 3 (Healthy Pork Consumption), Dr Jessica Jolley and her team at SARDI used all the eating quality research supported by Pork CRC to develop an eating quality predictive model similar to MSA used by the red meat industry.

The model comes up with a Pork Quality Score, based on a combination of eight factors at cooking temperatures of 70 or 75C (gender, cut, cooking method, ageing time, ultimate pH, moisture infusion, hanging method and electrical stimulation).

Dr Campbell believed the model could revolutionise the marketing and eating quality of Australian pork.

In Program 4 (Carbon Conscious Nutrient Inputs and Out-

puts), an LCA assessment by Dr Stephen Wiedemann predicted greenhouse gas emissions of the Australian pork industry would fall from 3.6kg (in 2010) to near 1.3kg of CO2 equivalents by 2020-21.

"This was due to uptake of biogas capture and use from effluent and rising productivity by the herds and businesses that will represent the industry," Dr Campbell said.

Pork CRC supported researchers also upgraded the AusScan pig energy and amino acid calibrations in the 2017/18 reporting period.

They included 67 new grains in the energy calibrations and demonstrated the calibration for predicting faecal DE is extremely accurate.

This unique technology continued to be strengthened and the calibrations were now appropriate for maize and overseas grains.

Dr Campbell was optimistic about the future of Australia's pork industry, which he felt would emerge from its current challenging situation stronger and more resilient.

"And it will need to be, as globally things are getting tougher and this is unlikely to change," he said.

Pork CRC concludes June 30, 2019, with much of its good work and legacy to be continued by the industry supported Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited.

www.porkcrc.com.au



Photos from Pork CRC/ APRIL Stakeholders' Day P19

Looking to the future, Dr Roger Campbell says Australia's pork industry will emerge from its current challenging situation stronger and more resilient.

Mixing in Melbourne – the big and the small

WE recently saw the gathering of industry representatives in Melbourne for the Delegates' Forum and annual general meeting of Australian Pork Limited.

After some consideration by the APL Board and management, especially with the difficult industry conditions and the ongoing attempts to improve engagement with certain segments of industry, we had higher numbers than normal of smaller producers invited to the Forum to give them a greater opportunity to describe how that particular segment of the industry is travelling.

The end result was 36 delegates or their representatives in the room, which was balanced with about 20 smaller or younger producers representing parts of the industry that don't normally get a strong voice at the Forum.

The Forum agenda first dealt with what we believe were the three key issues affecting the industry right now.

These were the ongoing low pig prices, the rapidly accelerating and very high grain prices representing a huge increase in the cost of production for pigs, and third, the threat of African swine fever outbreaks in China and Western Europe and what these might mean to our industry in Australia.

Pig prices – as I pointed out last month – are showing signs of improvement and some producers are getting what could be considered relatively high prices at the moment compared to what we've been used to over the past couple of years.

Anecdotally, the room believed pig numbers are relatively tight and the environment does exist for ongoing increases in prices.

Supply predictions driven by results of our production survey presently in development suggest the numbers of pigs going to slaughter are moderating, breeding sow numbers in the industry are slowly reducing as sow slaughter numbers remain



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



relatively high and further reductions in months to come will continue to moderate pig slaughter numbers through to the middle of next year.

We had a very interesting external speaker – Liam Marshall from GrainCorp – who outlined how grain stocks differ across the country and how demand will be met through shifting grain around by either ship or rail from states with relative surpluses, which includes Western Australia and South Australia.

There is a lot of attention presently on the weather in northern NSW and Queensland where there has been a significant area of sorghum planted but a harvest won't be secured until further rain-falls in that area, which could present a moderating impact on prices.

There is no expectation, however, grain prices will reduce to levels seen several years ago in the \$200 per tonne range.

More likely they will sit in the \$300 range at best, which is still lower than where they are now.

ASF continues to spread across China, now being found in larger piggeries and also having recently been found in the wild boar population there.

We had Tim Chapman from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources talk to the Forum about the government's position on minimising the risk of an ASF outbreak in Australia and the activities the govern-

ment is undertaking to ensure that risk remains as low as possible.

Teleconferences have been held or are being organised across the country to inform industry participants and other stakeholders about the threat, what the Department is doing and what APL has been doing to try to ensure we don't get this disease in Australia.

There was an interesting session at the Forum about the challenges we will face coming out of the pig profitability crisis, given we see pig prices on the improve at present.

There is very general agreement that APL should focus on improving the quality and timeliness of information being provided to industry so the business decisions made on farms are of the highest quality they can possibly be.

There was some scepticism in the room, however, that no matter what APL does, we will always be subject to market forces and there will always be the risk in future of another rollercoaster ride through the highs and lows of the pig cycle.

One of the best things we can do for producers perhaps is to continually remind them of history.

That is, we have been through this cycle several times over the past couple of decades and it seems to occur on a relatively regular basis.

The messages we're hearing at APL are, first, we need

continued P2



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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2018

DEC 5 – The Pork Show, Quebec City, Canada www.leporcshow.com/en

DEC 11 – Stock Up - Keeping pigs on small farms FREE webinar with Dr Trish Holyoake 8-9pm www.eventbrite.com.au/e/stock-up-keeping-pigs-on-small-farms-webinar

2019

JAN 8 - 10 – Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Canada www.banffpork.ca

MAR 9 - 12 – 50th AASV Annual Meeting, Florida, US www.aasv.org/annmtg

MAY 19 - 21 – ONE19 Conference, Lexington, US www.one.alltech.com

JUN 5 - 7 – World Pork Expo, Iowa, US www.worldpork.org

JUN 12-13 – Australian Biosecurity Symposium, Gold Coast QLD www.biosym.com.au

AUG 25 - 28 – Asian Pig Veterinary Society Congress, Buscan, South Korea www.apvs2019.com/invit.html

NOV 17 - 20 – Australian Pig Science Association Conference, Adelaide SA www.apsa.asn.au

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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Antimicrobial stewardship – what's happening

IN mid-November, the first Australian Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference was held on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

The purpose of this conference was to provide Australian veterinary stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to, and learn about the growing number of veterinary antimicrobial stewardship initiatives under way in Australia.

The conference was purposely scheduled during World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2018, which aims to promote the appropriate use of antibiotics to contribute to the avoidance of further emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance.

The World Health Organization has described antibiotic resistance as one of the greatest threats to human and animal health, as well as food and agriculture.

In 2015, the Australian Government Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources released Australia's first National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy covering the 2015-2019 period.

This document provides a framework for AMS activities in the human health, veterinary and environmental sectors, with an overall goal to minimise the development and spread of AMR to ensure the continued availability of effective antimicrobials for use in humans and animals.

So, what is meant by the term 'antimicrobial stewardship'?

Prof Luca Guardabassi, who presented at the AVAMS conference, defined antimicrobial stewardship as "the multifaceted and dynamic approaches required to sustain the clinical efficacy of antimicrobials by optimising drug use, choice, dosing, duration and route of administration while minimising the emergence of resistance and other adverse effects".

Stewardship plans therefore need to be tailored to individual herds and farms – and require collaborative efforts between producers and their veterinarians to minimise animal health and welfare challenges.

The Australian pork in-



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



dustry has been practising antimicrobial stewardship for several decades with support from pig veterinarians.

An integrated approach to herd health management is supported by many pig veterinarians as antimicrobials alone will not improve animal health without keeping a strong focus on other contributing factors.

Good biosecurity, animal husbandry and nutritional management practices on farm reduce the need for routine use of antimicrobials.

Details of the antimicrobial stewardship practices, both current and historic, in the pork, poultry, red meat and dairy industries can be found in the newly released publication funded by DAWR and Australian Eggs.

The report can be found on the Animal Health Australia website.

It describes the '5R framework' for AMS – namely responsibility, review, reduce, refine, replace – and how these principles are being applied to pork.

AMS plans have already been voluntarily adopted by a number of producers and integrated into their standard business operations.

APL is working to develop an industry-wide AMS plan to encourage the wider industry to undertake similar endeavours.

This is being supported through the use (and ongoing development, where required) of diagnostic assays to confirm disease treatments, increased use of vaccines (including autogenous vaccines) and the implementation of alternative treatment options.

Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Mark Schipp and Chief Medical Officer Prof Brendan Murphy attended the

AVAMS Conference and each discussed some pertinent points in their keynote speeches.

Dr Schipp highlighted that the contribution of food to antimicrobial resistance in the human population is not known, and that this is due to either a lack of data on antimicrobial usage or this data is not being collated.

This is not just an issue for the pork industry – it extends across the Australian livestock sector (as well as in many other countries).

This is important, given the majority of antimicrobials globally are used in the animal (both food animal and companion animal) sector and some countries are already testing imported food products for AMR.

Importantly, Australia has had a conservative approach to the use of antibiotics in livestock production, which has meant usage levels are lower than other countries, but evidence is needed for both usage and resistance in companion, food and performance animals to determine the correlation between use and resistance.

There are tools available that are being, or could be, used to monitor antibiotic usage in individual herds, including the antibiotic usage calculator developed by Dr Pat Mitchell with sup-

port from the Pork CRC. At an industry level, how granular national level data on antibiotics approved for use in the pork industry could be collected and collated, who would manage it and how and to whom it would be reported are key questions that require further discussion.

This is needed so the Australian pork industry can work together to address these information gaps and also proactively use this data to support market access opportunities, meet domestic and international trade requirements and address consumer concerns.

In relation to antimicrobial resistance surveillance, Australian Pork Limited is leading a DAWR Rural R&D for Profit project in collaboration with AgriFutures Australia (Chicken Meat), Murdoch University, University of Adelaide, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Thermo Fisher Australia, Illumina and Tecan, which is focused on developing cost-effective robotic laboratory protocols to measure the AMR status of faecal commensal bacteria in individual herds and establish an AMR index to support surveillance, testing and/or monitoring activities.

This work is just starting and we look forward to reporting our progress with you.

Furthermore, the Veterinary Prescribing Guidelines for Pigs being developed through the Australian Veterinary Association in partnership with Animal Medicines Australia, with support from APL, are due to be released in December 2018.

Additionally, Dr Jacqueline Norris from the University of Sydney discussed the development of an online Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship

training program to assist veterinarians to reduce and rationalise their use of antimicrobial agents in clinical practice.

This work was initiated by DAWR and veterinary schools in both Australia and New Zealand to improve the stewardship of antimicrobial drugs by graduated veterinarians.

This training program will be released in late-2018/early-2019.

On the human health front, Prof Murphy informed conference delegates that every Australian hospital has an AMS plan, which is audited for compliance.

In contrast, general practices, which account for 80 percent of prescriptions for antibiotic use in humans, do not have an AMS plan in place.

Prof Murphy stated barriers for adoption of AMS by general practitioners include time pressures, consumer pressure and the fear of 'missing' an important disease.

Interestingly, Medicare data is being used by the Department of Health to compare the highest prescribers with others in a similar geographical region, with letters then being sent from the CMO's office to the top 20 percent of antibiotic prescribers – a significant reduction in prescribing from these practitioners was then observed.

Overall, it seems behavioural change is needed to translate strategy into action.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for 2019.

For further information on any of the topics discussed, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0423 056 045 or heather.channon@australianpork.com.au

Mixing in Melbourne – the big and the small

from P1

to continue to do everything we can to improve demand for Australian pork.

Second, continuous improvement is our aim regarding the quality and timeliness of information provided to

industry around where supply is going.

And third, we need to continually look backwards and remember what happens when supply and demand get out of kilter.

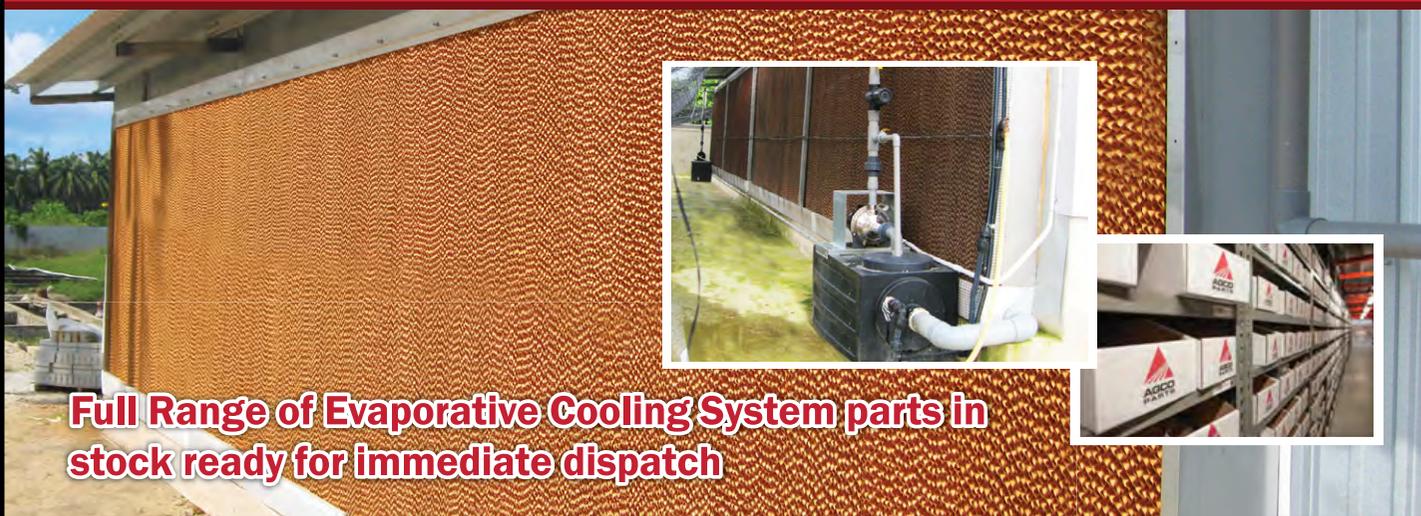
This will be my last article for 2018 so I'd like to wish all the read-

ers and in particular Australian pig farmers a great festive season and a brilliant start to the new year.

Let's have our fingers crossed 2019 brings a totally different business dynamic for the success of the Australian pork industry.



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2018 – a year to learn from in the pork industry

THE only real value of bad years is to learn from them.

This past year has certainly been no fun at all from a profitability perspective.

The oversupply worsened before it started to improve and experts are now expecting terrible things for grain prices in the coming year, so what is there to learn?

From an industry perspective, there have been a number of learnings.

The biggest of which we should focus on is prediction.

How do we forecast better?

First, there appears to have been a significant increase in production efficiency.

Depending on who we listen to, that has coin-



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



decided with progress by the genetics companies and producers becoming more practiced at group housing of sows and with larger than the normal investments in building and maintenance in 2015 and 2016.

Productivity is a good thing – it just so happens that in 2018 it has added to the oversupply.

There were several

ideas raised at the recent Australian Pork Limited Delegates' Forum (held November 14) that may improve our ability to predict growth.

These include asking producers to give the production survey a longer-term outlook for their business and more frequently, as well as involving more people (not just producers but feed suppli-

ers, abattoirs and genetics companies).

Second, historically the pig industry cycle lasts five to seven years with about two years of good times from a price perspective and three to five years of below-trend pricing.

The sense at the Delegates' Forum, in my opinion, was that prices are recovering towards trend, which means we have a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years to get the industry into a more resilient position than it was in 2016.

Some of the initiatives that might help with that would require a change in emphasis by both APL and industry.

For example, we have been focused domestically, and as an industry we

have not collaborated to build additional sustainable international markets for Australian pork.

However, there has been a co-funding arrangement from some exporters to work together to get access to China.

While that remains a long-term goal, it may be possible to extend that thought to developing more international business generally.

Second, we had contingency marketing activities that had been developed in 2015 and 2016.

We had not arranged a method of funding additional activity.

We were – and are – on a mission to increase sales, so we were already marketing as aggressively as we could afford.

This meant we didn't

have enough funds to significantly increase expenditure.

We have three to five years, based on history, to change that position.

Third, when we had a few profitable years in a row up until the end of 2016, producers invested in facilities improvements or expansions.

Edwina Beveridge stood up at the Pan Pacific Pork Expo this year and showed a way that feed costs could be significantly reduced through food waste innovation.

If we get into a position where we have a few profitable years in a row, it would be great if we could have a few investment options that focused on margin by significantly reducing cost of

production rather than increasing production volume.

That would help reduce volatility and make our industry safer.

Finally, the APL Board asked KPMG to review our marketing activity this year.

That review found that while demand has increased significantly, there are further options for improvement.

In 2019, we plan to improve our digital marketing presence, build better relationships with producers and retailers, improve data availability and reporting and build the Australian pork provenance story.

We wish all industry participants a hopeful Christmas and producers a more profitable 2019.

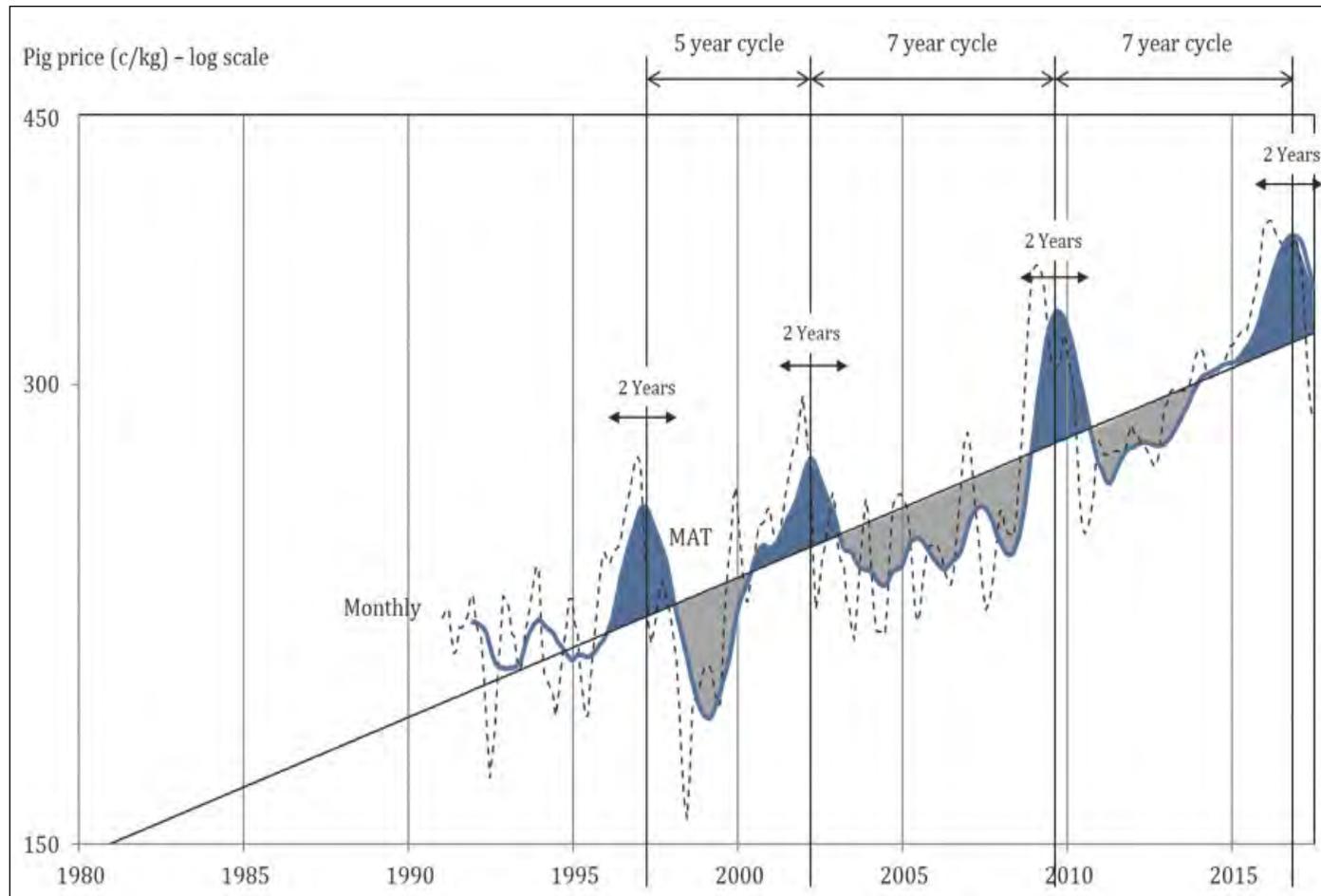


Figure 1

Gen Y turns a blind eye to food and fibre production

SHOCKING new statistics have revealed that young Australians aged 18-29 are the most likely to say they don't care at all how their food and fibre is grown.

The 2018 National Agriculture Day Poll conducted by TEG Insights has found that almost a quarter (23 percent) of people in this age range say they don't care at all how their food and fibre is grown.

This figure is 8 percent higher than for Australians aged 30-49.

The AgDay Poll is commissioned annually by the National Farmers' Federation to gauge the community's connection to the farm sector.

NFF CEO Tony Mahar said the apathy displayed by 18 to 29 year olds is cause for concern.

"This is meant to be a demographic with a deep social conscience, yet almost one in four couldn't care less how the food they put in their mouths is grown," Mr Mahar said.

"While some might say this is a credit to the quality, safety and abundance of food and fibre we produce in Australia, it's troubling that as a country we're growing increasingly disconnected from life's essentials."

The AgDay Poll also found that more than half (52 percent) of 18-29 year olds felt disconnected with farming and uninformed about the industry.

This is unsurprising

perhaps, given 65 percent had not had any contact with a single farmer in the past 12 months.

"We have to do a better job at getting in front of the community and having an open and honest conversation about what we do," Mr Mahar said.

"Otherwise we risk seeing generations of Australians with no understanding of where their food and fibre comes from."

The poll findings coincided with National Agriculture Day on November 21 – an awareness campaign led by the NFF to highlight the farm sector's contribution.

"This year, we celebrated AgDay under the theme 'Grow for Good'," Mr Mahar said.

"It's all about highlighting the progress our industry is making each year by farming smarter and more sustainably.

"There is a great story to tell about Australian agriculture.

"Whether it's strengthening communities by providing jobs, growing more food and fibre to meet surging demand or taking better care of our planet – each year we're improving what we do, and making the world a better place to live."

The public was encouraged to wear green to support our farmers and take a moment to share the 'Grow for Good' message on social media, using the hashtags #GrowforGood and #AgDayAU.

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Pork a steal at half the price

WITH last month's column all about consumers and their buying habits, especially when it comes to pork, I can't help but share a rather personal tale with you that conveys a certain shopper's interesting buying behaviour.

Not just interesting because he chose lamb, but how he came to choose it and how one of my best mates suggested to him, while walking him down the aisle so to speak, that a better buy would have been pork.

First, by way of background, I will tell you my big mate and I have shared many a robust discussion over many years about Australia's first peoples.

Second, by way of declaration, I will tell you I have a reasonable understanding and connection with our indigenous mob, having lived and worked with many over the years in places such as Alice Springs, Arnhem Land and far north Queensland.

I also collect indigenous art.

But my big mate Gavin, although a white fella, was born and raised alongside black fellas in Mount Magnet in Western Australia's remote mid-west and later in Kalgoorlie before attending boarding college in Perth where I got to know him in our early teens.

He fondly recalls heading out from school at Mt Magnet, shooting a kangaroo and then taking it to share with the local Badimaya/Wajarri mob at their camps.

Anyway, let Gavin take up the story.

Here's his email that landed in my inbox on Monday after I'd returned from Injedup (pretty much Yallingup if you surfed the net to find out where it is), where I just happened to have spent a weekend on a bush block among the banksias, grass trees and kangaroos.

"Over at Woolworths this morning getting some health foods for dinner, I heard a bit of a fracas in the next aisle and the next minute an indigenous fella comes around the corner carrying a tray of lamb chops and muttering some profanities under his breath.

I can now assume he was cursing a security guy because he was caught trying to put the meat tray inside his shirt.

He stopped where I was and we stared at each other for a while as a security guard was viewing us from the end of the aisle.

I said "Mate, lamb's a great choice, my friend would prefer it if it was pork, but it's OK."

I asked what the drama was and he said he had been caught trying to steal the meat tray.

I said "Mate, you don't want to do that, too much hassle involved."

"Put in in my trolley and I will pay for it."

He didn't believe me at first but eventually put it in, with security still eyeing us off.

On the way to the check-

Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT



out I told him about a few of my indigenous mates in Mount Magnet – Willie and Ray Little, Bunyil, Frankie and Noon Walsh, Dan Curley and so on.

He said he lived in Brentwood and knew them all.

I asked if he had a bag to carry the meat in and he said he had a backpack.

So, I put all the items through the checkout and not wanting to embarrass him in front of everyone, told him to come outside for the exchange.

I put the meat tray in his backpack and told him to enjoy his meal.

I then looked in my wallet (all I had was a \$50 note – damn) took it out and gave it to him and said "Get a few other things you need

on the way home."

He looked at me and started to cry, thanked me and said no one had ever



While the author's good mate 'Big Gavin' clearly likes a lamb chop or three, he did the right thing telling a fellow shopper that pork was a better choice, in more ways than one.

done anything like this for him in his life.

He thanked me profusely and wished me good karma.

I think I then had a tear-drop in my eye."

I subsequently sent Big Gavin's email to Ken, a high school teacher mate of mine who has served plenty of time in the bush and still teaches and mentors indigenous and migrant and refugee kids.

Here's Ken's response. Worth pondering I think, so we'll leave it at that.

"A great story BC. Bravo to Gavin.

The key is he connected with the guy.

Most would like to but how?

That is the key challenge for real 'on the street' reconciliation, not parliamentary apologies, though they are needed.

Gav has had meaningful contact with indigenous people.

He is lucky, but how do we get others to experience this.

Thanks for sharing."



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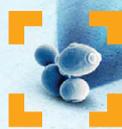
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Season's best Aussie hams perfect for festive feasts



Daryl Pattermore of Pattermore's Meats, Alexandra Hills.

SANTA'S writing a list and checking it twice, but we've revealed the winning hams to complete your festive feast.

The winners of the annual Australian PorkMark Ham Awards were announced recently, revealing the very best true-blue hams, including traditional bone-in and boneless options.

Australian Pork Limited's Marketing and Communications manager Mitch Edwards said, "A beautiful Australian bone-in ham is the perfect centrepiece for any celebration and they're now in season."

"This time of year we love to get together with our nearest and dearest, with food at the heart of those gatherings.

"A traditional bone-in ham can be transformed with a glorious glaze, or enjoyed carved straight from the bone, while a boneless ham can be perfect for canapes."

As people prepare for

their Christmas celebrations, Mr Edwards said choosing the right ham could be a stress point, but the awards helped take the guesswork out of the purchase.

Fleischmeister Horst Schurger teamed up with chefs Simon Bestley and Darren Smith to assess the appearance, taste and aroma of 155 Australian hams from across the country and were pleased with the quality.

Top honours this year were awarded to Pattermore's Meats, Alexandra Hills, which took out Best Traditional Bone-in Ham in Queensland and nationally, as well as the coveted Best Artisan Ham award.

Judges described the ham as being very neat, with a good shape, perfect internal appearance, excellent flavour and balance.

The Best Boneless Ham was awarded to German Butchery, Bexley, which took out both the NSW and national categories.

This was a fantastic product that impressed the judges with a great shape and trim, perfect colouring, very good moisture and excellently balanced sweetness.

"This Christmas, impress your guests by serving a beautiful bone-in ham as your centrepiece," Mr Edwards said.

"All bone-in hams are guaranteed to be made from 100 percent Australian pork, so you'll also be supporting our farmers."

"However, more than 75

percent of ham sold in Australia is made from imported pork, so if you're buying a boneless or sliced ham, look for the pink Australian Pork PorkMark logo.

"Otherwise, check the bar chart on the label says it's made from at least 90 percent Australian ingredients."

To see all this year's Australian PorkMark Ham Award winners, as well as recipes, tips and tricks for your Christmas ham, visit pork.com.au

Overall Artisan winner		
Pattermore's Meats Alexandra Hills, QLD for its Traditional Bone-In ham.		
Traditional Bone-in		
1	Pattermore's Meats	Alexandra Hills, QLD
2	Noosa Meat Centre	Noosaville, QLD
3	Sunshine Meats	Milperra, NSW
Boneless		
1	German Butchery	Bexley, NSW
2	Barkly Smokehouse	Thornbury, VIC
3	Meatways Butchery	Kambah, ACT



Judges Darren Smith, Simon Bestley and Horst Schurger.

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Primegro Technologies

Register now for Roseworthy 'Science and Practice of Pig Production' course

PORK CRC will support the registration costs and Australian Pork Limited the travel and accommodation costs for the first 15 producers, or their staff, who register for the 2019 'Science and Practice of Pig Production' course, which runs from February 4 to February 14, 2019 at the Roseworthy campus of the University of Adelaide.

The popular course covers everything about pork production, plus the latest technologies and information on reproduction, nutrition, health and production in general.

It includes visits to a piggery, abattoir and AI centre and practical demonstrations on AI, heat detection, sample collection and disease diagnosis.

According to course

convenor Will van Wettere from the University of Adelaide, positive feedback from previous participants suggests it's not to be missed and can be career changing.

Pork CRC's 'The Science and Practice of Pig Production' 2018 course at Roseworthy was attended by 44 people, comprising 18 University of Adelaide undergraduates and 22 industry representatives from South Australia, Western Australia and NSW, as well as four participants from New Zealand.

"The course provides participants with a strong understanding of all aspects of pig production, from conception through to processing and it encompasses all the management required in between," Dr van Wettere said.

Topics covered include: reproductive

physiology, breeding herd management, effluent management, nutrition, health, meat quality, quality assurance and marketing.

A range of guest speakers will be involved in the 2019 course, including veterinary consultant Dr Jon Bartsch, Dr Emma Greenwood (University of Adelaide), Tony Edwards and his ACE Livestock Consulting team, Prof Frank Dunshea (University of Melbourne), Dr Kate Plush (SunPork Farms) and members of the APL team, including Steve Miller and Andrew Robertson.

To inquire and register, contact Dr van Wettere, email william.van.wettere@adelaide.edu.au or telephone 08 8313 7911 or 0423 155 750.

www.porkcrc.com.au

Exceptional pork producer highlighted at NAB Agribusiness Calendar launch

INNOVATIVE pork producer SunPork was highlighted at the 2019 NAB Agribusiness Calendar launch in Toowoomba recently, for having achieved extraordinary growth and results in agribusinesses.

SunPork sees a great future in integrated pork production and is investing to support that belief.

Having grown from humble origins as three independent Australian family pork farms owned by the Cameron, Hall and

McLean families, the business now manages a value chain that extends from genetics through to retail brands.

The SunPork Group produces 900,000 pigs per year or 18 percent of Australia's pork.

Today the business is investing \$60 million in a major redevelopment of a world-class abattoir at Swickers Kingaroy Bacon Factory located in Queensland's South Burnett.

This development will

be operational in May 2019 and, as Queensland's only export-credited abattoir, advances at Swickers will continue to support more than 700 jobs and set new standards.

Beyond the new processing floor, SunPork is finalising plans for a new,

high-health-status genetic nucleus herd in NSW.

The business also prides itself on innovations including its Autism and Agriculture program, a world-first initiative to employ autistic adults in animal care roles.

www.sunporkfreshfoods.com.au



Cameron Fuller and Armenio Bento, founder, Game Farm.



Daniel Jalalaty, Game Farm, Julie Rynksi, Customer Executive Regional & Agribusiness, NAB and Armenio Bento.



Cameron Fuller, NAB Customer Executive Growth Sectors, Mark Welsh, Cameron Pastoral Co and Kipling Zuberick, GM Business Marketing NAB.



SunPork Group CEO and managing director Dr Robert van Barneveld.

PigPass NVD review

PEOPLE who use, or have previously used, the PigPass National Vendor Declaration form are being asked how Australian Pork Limited can improve the form, as the biennial review is under way.

APL reviews the PigPass NVD form every two years to make sure it continues to fulfil its purpose – to ensure traceability of pork in the event of a disease or food safety incident and identify risks throughout the pork supply chain.

The success of PigPass relies on regular reviews and updates based on feedback from PigPass users including producers, livestock agents, abattoirs, processors and regulators.

To help with this, APL

would appreciate constructive feedback on your experiences using the current PigPass (version 8) form, including the explanatory notes and the attachments, by Monday, December 17, 2018.

For example:

- Is there anything in the PigPass form that you find unclear, unnecessary or out of date?

- Is there anything new you would like to see included in the PigPass form and why?

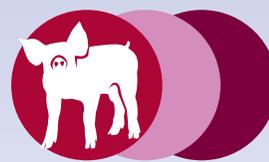
APL administers PigPass on behalf of the Australian pork industry.

PigPass mandatory reporting is being progressively introduced by all states and territories and has been the cornerstone of the National Livestock Identification System for pigs for over 10 years.

Please email your comments to APL's Policy Research Officer Michelle Randall at michelle.randall@australianpork.com.au or contact Michelle on 0436 629 234 during business hours.

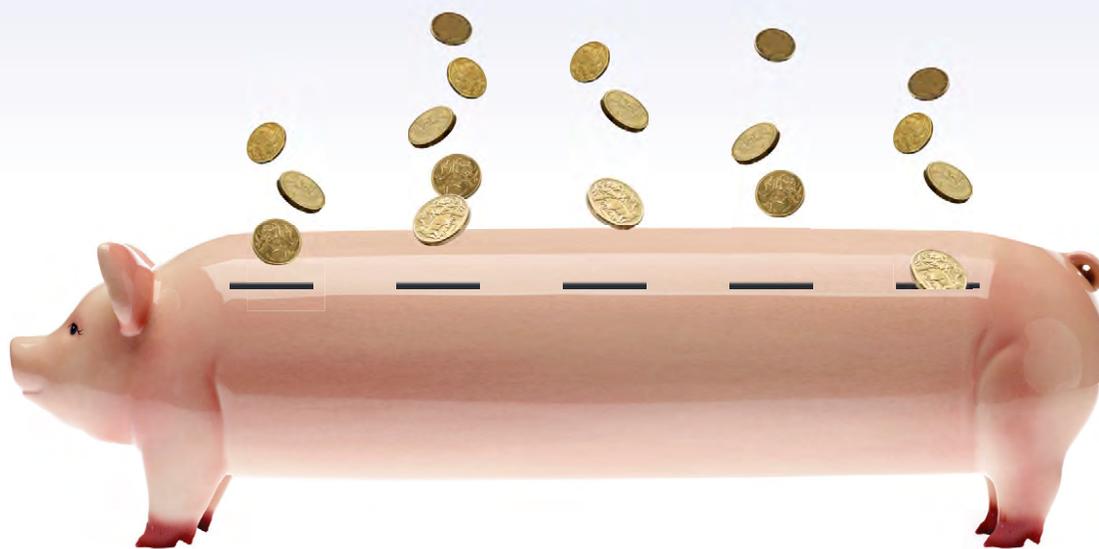


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- 1 double-sided 4-tonne bin for mixed feed
- 1 x 20-tonne protein bin

All associated connecting augers and motors.

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Chinese Ag Ministry says ASF won't become epidemic

CHINA has confirmed 74 outbreaks of African swine fever in 20 provincial areas, but the deadly pig virus, which is not harmful to people, won't break out into regional epidemics according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

The latest case was confirmed on a pig farm in Huangshi city, Hubei province on November 26.

Five of the 63 pigs died, according to the reports from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on *China Daily*.

About 600,000 live pigs have been culled (November 22 statistics) since the

first outbreak in Shenyang, Liaoning province, on August 1.

Head of the ministry's animal husbandry and veterinary department Feng Zhongwu said quarantines have been lifted in 24 areas in seven provinces, including all affected areas in Henan and Jiangsu provinces.

"The outbreaks feature a dispersive pattern, but we have contained the spread through resolute prevention and disease control measures," he said, adding that the chance of a sudden surge of regional infections is very slim.

The ministry has banned the feeding of pigs with kitchen waste since the

end of August, and has ramped up its supervision over the transport of live pigs.

China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center deputy director Huang Baoxu said research released recently shows 46 percent of outbreaks have been caused by people or vehicles carrying and spreading the disease.

It has been confirmed that 23 cases occurred as a result of feeding kitchen leftovers to pigs, and the cross-regional transport of live pigs has led to 13 cases.

The causes of five other cases are being investigated.

He added that the emergence of the African swine fever virus in China is likely linked with a virus strain present in Georgia, Russia and Poland, as genome sequence analysis suggests a 99.95 percent similarity.

Investigations into the origin are ongoing.

Sixty countries around the globe have been hit by African swine fever since the disease was first detected in Kenya in 1921, and 13 have wiped out infections over periods of five to 36 years, according to the ministry.

About 688 million pigs

were slaughtered for food in China last year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Feng said China's frequent exchanges with countries hit by the disease and large amounts of trade from abroad have increased its risk of contagion.

Meanwhile, there are 26 million small farming households or enterprises in China.

Their lack of preventative measures and low awareness of the disease have aided its spread.

"We will ramp up our disease control and prevention measures, such as enforcing the cataloguing of vehicles carrying live pigs, strengthening inspections of international deliveries and travellers and cracking down on smugglers," Feng said.

Feng also assured the public that supplies of live pigs and pig products won't be impacted by the culling and limited transport of live pigs.

"I want to emphasise that African swine fever won't threaten human lives or affect food security," he said.

"Consumers can rest assured of eating quality pig meat."



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A wild boar that died of ASF in the Czech Republic.
Photo: Petr Satran



Photo: panamerica24.com



Photo: agroday.com.ua

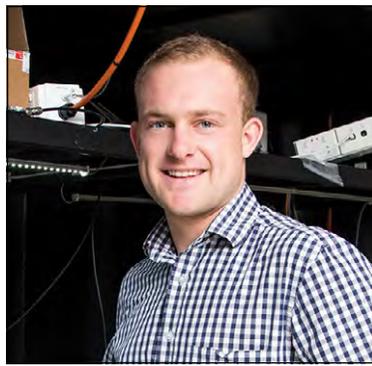
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Dylan Bellchambers



Emma Moss



Jordyn Kitschke



Kate Taylor



James Bidstrup



Matthew Nevison



Minh Nga Nguyen



Rayali Banerjee



Rebekah Ash



Callan Daley

Young agricultural innovators to take the stage at major agrifood tech event

TEN young Australians will shine a light on agriculture's big issues at evokeAG, a two-day event to be held in Melbourne.

Tackling agricultural sustainability and exposing metropolitan dwellers to the everyday operations of our farms will be some of the hot topics discussed on stage in February 2019.

Ten young innovative Australians with a passion for agriculture have been selected to take part in the inaugural international agrifood technology event called evokeAG.

The two-day thinktank, to be held from February 19-20, 2019 in Melbourne, will draw together some of the world's leading experts to discuss the future

of food and most importantly, how it will be produced.

Joining the international program, organised by AgriFutures Australia, will be 10 of the country's brightest young minds specially chosen to take part in the evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program.

They come from a diverse range of backgrounds and include an experienced jillaroo, a HSC student from Sydney and a young Queensland man who has deferred his university studies to help his family in the drought.

Proudly supported by the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations, each successful applicant will pre-

sent their idea, relating to one of the event themes of food, farm or future.

It is a rare opportunity, giving them direct access to producers, investors, private enterprise, corporates, government and entrepreneurs attending evokeAG.

AgriFutures Australia General Manager, Communications and Capacity Building Belinda Allitt said the evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program attracted a diverse range of impressive applicants from both metropolitan and rural areas who demonstrated a passion for food and farming.

"This is not just a unique opportunity for these outstanding young people but also for industry leaders to

come together and think outside the box with some innovative and creative ideas that will ultimately help all Australians.

"We are proud to be facilitating such relationships, to be able to harness such concepts in their infancy that could well change the future of agrifoods worldwide," Ms Allitt said.

Applicants were selected after submitting a video detailing why they wanted to be the voice of the future at evokeAG.

The eight finalists chosen by the Future Young Leaders Selection Panel are:

- Rebekah Ash, 19, The Gap, Queensland;
- Rayali Banerjee, 24, Epping, NSW;

- Dylan Bellchambers, 18, Ulverstone, Tasmania;
- Jordyn Kitschke, 23, Adelaide, South Australia;
- Emma Moss, 20, Southbrook, Queensland;
- Matthew Nevison, 20, Gordon, NSW;
- Minh Nga Nguyen, 18, Stanmore, NSW; and
- Kate Taylor, 28, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania.

A further two finalists were chosen by the general public with a shortlist of five videos shared across the evokeAG social media channels.

The People's Choice finalists are:

- Callan Daley, 20, Beilba, Queensland; and
- James Bidstrup, 21, Beechboro, Western Australia.

Each winner will receive

a five-minute presentation opportunity at the event, as well as return economy airfares, accommodation, airport transfers and a delegate pass to evokeAG.

Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations executive officer Tim Lester said the evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program is a wonderful opportunity to support young forward-thinkers and ultimately keep Australia's rural industries thriving.

"It is incredibly exciting to bring together the next generation of leaders with their passion, bold thinking and bright ideas with industry experts from the food and agriculture industries," Mr Lester said.

"By assisting them with

the skills, research and know-how, we may well be able to fast-track these innovations into a reality."

EvokeAG 2019 will take place in Melbourne at the iconic Royal Exhibition Building on February 19-20, 2019.

For full details of the evokeAG 2019 program including key national and international speakers and to buy tickets online, please head to evokeag.com

To find more information regarding the 10 finalists, please visit evokeag.com/evokeag-future-young-leaders

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Prep time 25 min
Cook time 1 hr 25 min
Serves 18

Spiced apricot and maple glazed leg of ham

INGREDIENTS

- 1 x 7-8kg ham leg, skin removed
- Whole cloves (you'll need about 50) for studding the ham

Spiced apricot & maple glaze

- ¾ cup apricot jam
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 3 star anise
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon allspice

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan forced.
2. Using a sharp knife, score the ham fat (not the flesh) in a grid pattern at 2cm wide intervals. Insert a clove into the centre of each square of fat.
3. Wrap the ham hock in foil (this prevents it from burning). Place

the ham on a greased rack in a large baking dish lined with foil. For ease use a large disposable foil roasting dish.

4. To make the glaze, combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Bring to the boil, stirring, over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 8-10 minutes or until slightly thickened.
5. Brush ham two to three times with the glaze to evenly coat the ham fat. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, brushing with remaining marinade every 15 minutes, until ham is golden and caramelised. Arrange star anise (used in the glaze) on the ham in the last 15 minutes of baking.
6. Set aside to cool for 30 minutes. Slice and serve.

For more pork recipes, visit pork.com.au

Outcomes of the second mycoplasma hyopneumoniae advisory group meeting

MYCOPLASMA hyopneumoniae is a leading cause of porcine respiratory disease complex throughout the Australian pig industry.

Improved control strategies have the potential to address the significant economic losses associated with decreased performance of the pigs and increased medication use.

An advisory group of Australian experts recently held its second meeting to discuss up-to-date and effective M. hyo control measures for the Australian pork industry.

Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Australia, the group aims to utilise its field and diagnostic expertise to devise M. hyo control strategies that are best suited to the herd health status of the varying husbandry systems of Australia's pig production.

Progress report

At the previous meeting, the group agreed that lack of data on the effect of different environmental conditions on the control of respiratory diseases in Australia is a key challenge that must be addressed to improve respiratory disease control.

It is thought that gilts are the main shedders to their offspring, who in turn infect other parity weaners when they are co-mingled.

We know the severity of the disease in the finisher shed is dependent on the number of infected weaners.

As a result, members of the group performed an initial study aimed at determining the extent of M. hyo shedding in gilts to their progeny.

Results from this study, presented at the Australian Pig Veterinarians conference in October 2018, generated valuable discussions and further questions.

These will be investigated in further research involving continued collection of data from different farms, across different parities and with longitudinal sampling of pigs at various/age stages of growth.

Additional projects aimed at better understanding the control of M. hyo in Australia are also under way to determine the best way to acclimatise replacement breeders to ensure they have stopped shedding M. hyo at farrowing.

Two of the M. hyo advisory group members have also been working on a project supported by the Victorian Pig Compensation Fund to develop a pig vaccine against Pasteurella multocida.

Pasteurella multocida is a common cause of death in finishers and is usually a coinfection with M. hyo.

M. hyo suppresses the normal defence mechanism of the lungs, allowing a secondary bacterial infection with pasteurella multocida to occur.

What's next?

The group will meet again regularly in 2019 to further progress their goal of implementing practical and cost-effective solutions, based on collaborative scientific knowledge

and expertise, to develop and promote best practice M. hyo infection control strategies for Australian pig herds.

For more information on M. hyo control strategies, please contact your veterinarian or Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Territory Manager.

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New report shows progress in achieving farm antibiotic targets in the UK

TWELVE months after industry-led targets for antibiotic use were identified for all main farm livestock species in the UK, a review of progress has been released, including details of where targets have been achieved early and where challenges remain.

The 'One Year On' report, issued by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance's Targets Task Force, is a follow-up to the work of the group in 2017 when a leading farmer and veterinary surgeon from each sector identified different starting points and potential for reduction in each species, then worked with their respective sectors to gain support for the plans.

RUMA's secretary general Chris Lloyd said this new review not only shows the transparency and accountability with which each sector is addressing its targets, but also collects information on progress into one place.

"The UK farming industry has already achieved

reductions of 40 percent in sales of antibiotics over the past five years and is one of the lowest users of antibiotics in Europe," he said.

"However, delivering against these and future sector-specific goals will be key to meeting the government's ambitions in its new five-year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy, to be released early next year.

"What this review shows is the industry as a whole is committed and making good progress – but also that the sectors are all in very different places.

"Some species have met their targets already but now, with a measure of what's happening in their sector, they know they can go further and are working on new goals.

"For others at or around their optimal level of use, progress is about animal health, continual refinements to what they do and working to overcome new diseases threats as they emerge."

Mr Lloyd said the pig

sector is on track to meet its ambitious target reductions by 2020 but there is awareness of how much tougher it will get each year to deliver the changes needed.

The next steps could require investment or brave decision-making for some.

"Cattle and sheep farmers and their veterinary surgeons are also working on a range of interventions, though a lack of representative data on antibiotic use across these specific sectors continues to be a challenge," Mr Lloyd said.

"If they had access to better data, this would give them more clarity over what is actually being used, and when – and where – improvements

could be made."

Mr Lloyd also stressed the importance of responsible reductions that do not compromise animal health and its associated welfare.

"The approach has to be sustainable with an end-goal of optimal – not zero – use," he said.

"Antibiotics play an important role in preventing pain and suffering in our farm livestock as well as ensuring food safety.

"This is why it's important to judge progress against the whole range of qualitative and quantitative measures in the review."

The 'Targets Task Force: One Year On' report can be downloaded from the RUMA website ruma.org.uk



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Better weather information, better agricultural results

AUSTRALIAN farmers will soon have easy access to crucial climate and weather information thanks to a joint project between the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud said the new weather and climate guides would give valuable information to all 56 Natural Resource Management regions.

"The Bureau has a wealth of information farmers need and this will put it in their hands," Minister Littleproud said.

"Reliable climate information helps farmers make the best decisions they can to manage risks.

"It will help them better understand temperature and rainfall ranges, frost risk, the onset and length of wet seasons, water storage levels and the likelihood and severity of drought, natural disasters and cold snaps.

"Today Condamine farmers have a chance to tell the Bureau what in-

formation is most valuable for them and how to best deliver it.

"This will mean farmers won't have to rely on guesswork to make decisions that affect their livelihoods.

"This is particularly important during a drought like the one we're currently going through."

The Bureau will start off trialling the service online and taking feedback from farmers to make sure it hits the mark.

"The service is expected to be up and running early next year," Minister Littleproud said.

"These guides are part of the Government's ongoing and long-term drought response.

"Our drought support covers a range of areas, including immediate financial assistance and building resilience and preparedness in rural and regional communities."

For more information about the climate guides, email agriculture@bom.gov.au

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New scanning technique allows rapid identification of meat fraud

MASS spectrometry, a molecular identification method commonly used in healthcare, drug testing and food safety, has now proven its capacity for identifying foreign material in meat products.

Meat fraud has frequently been the subject of news headlines in recent years: incorrect labelling of products and failing to declare other biological material in meat products has led to public exposés and growing distrust for consumers.

Many fraudulent practices are difficult to detect, and current quality measurement methods cannot cope with sophisticated, modern-day tampering.

Not only does adulteration of meat damage the

reputation of the meat industry and put to waste the hard work of producers, but it also results in 'significant economic problems'.

This month (November 2018), researchers from the University of Chemistry and Technology, Czech Republic, and the Institute for Global Food Security, Northern Ireland, have published their latest research detailing how ambient mass spectrometry can now 'quickly and reliably screen for adulterated meat'.

Meat adulteration is a significant economic problem as it can result in substantial economic gains and loss of consumers' trust in the food industry.

Addition of a bulking agent masking the addi-

tion of water into minced meat is a fraudulent practice that is very difficult to detect.

The quality of the meat can be assessed by measurement of total net protein, however the methods used to measure such property are not able to cope with the quite sophisticated modern-day adulteration practices.

In the study, the potential of recently introduced Rapid Evaporative Mass Spectrometry technology was assessed to discover undeclared additives in chopped pork and chicken meat-based products such as sausages and burgers.

The REIMS technique was able to discover such adulterants with a high

degree of confidence when more than 2.5 percent of these substances were added.

The results could be obtained within a few minutes.

In this context REIMS can be classified as a rapid screening method that could be employed as a front-line testing method to ensure the quality and authenticity of meat products.

It is hoped access to this technology will allow more accurate detection of meat fraud and, subsequently, allow more criminal conviction of fraudsters.

It is hoped this will deter such practices in future.



Photo: abelandcole.co.uk



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Flies 'possible route' of African swine fever spread

FLIES that have been in contact with swine infected with African swine fever could be responsible for spreading the disease between herds.

Researchers at Denmark's National Veterinary Institute found pigs can become infected with the virus if they ingest flies carrying the virus.

The results pose extra biosecurity challenges for producers, who should employ good disinfection practices to limit fly numbers, in addition to ensuring wild animals are kept out of farms, the researchers said.

ASF has been spreading across Eastern Europe in recent months, with wild boar populations and contaminated meat identified as the main factors behind infections.

Serious outbreaks are ongoing in China.

Biting flies

Scientists wanted to identify the risk biting flies pose to spreading the virus, as larger insects such as horseflies could feed on dead wild boar before finding their way onto farms.

In the study, researchers divided 12 piglets into three groups, housing each group in a separate room.

Group 1 was inoculated orally with blood taken

from pigs infected with ASF.

Group 2 was inoculated orally with homogenised flies that had fed on ASF-spiked blood.

Group 3 was fed intact infected flies – 20 per pig – which were added to 100g of soft cake.

Following daily monitoring, the scientists found that 25 percent of piglets in Group 1 and 50 percent of piglets in Group 2 and Group 3 were infected by orally ingesting the virus.

The remaining pigs were believed to have been infected via contact with infected pigs in their group.

Readily preventable

The results show that not only can biting flies carry ASF by feeding on infected pigs, they can also infect healthy animals if they are eaten.

"It is unlikely that ingestion of blood-fed flies is a common route for transmission of ASFV between wild boars or between pigs within a stable," the researchers said.

However, when bearing in mind the biology of the flies, the results indicate that flies could be one possible route of transmission over short distances.

"Such transmission seems readily preventable through using ventilation filters," the researchers said.



Photo: sciencebuzz.org



Farmers are frontline defenders against antimicrobial resistance

FARMERS have a vital role to play in stemming the spread of antimicrobial resistance among disease-causing pathogens, and can make a significant contribution simply by adopting good hygiene practices during their day-to-day farm operations.

This was the message the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization stressed recently, as the international community marked World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

The responsible use of antimicrobial medicines is not just an issue in the human health arena.

Antimicrobials are also widely used for domestic animals and on fish farms and are even dusted on crops and fruit orchards to combat infections that affect animals and plants grown for food.

These life-saving medicines are sometimes added routinely to feed, even when animals are already healthy, to try to stave off infections and fatten animals faster.

This poses a number of problems, which is why FAO is calling on farmers to replace this poor practice with better hygiene measures to prevent infections and extend the lifespan of antimicrobials – a critical, limited resource.

Improper use of antimicrobial medicines, such as antibiotics, in both human and animal healthcare has contributed to an increase in the number of disease-causing microbes that are resistant to these treatments, developing antimicrobial resistance that renders them useless for curing some infections.

This means diseases that can affect people or animals (or both) – and which can cause serious economic damage to farmers – are more difficult, sometimes impossible, and frequently more expensive to treat.

FAO Assistant Director-General Bukar Tijani said, "Antimicrobial resistance is a concern for all of us."

"There are over 7 billion consumers in the world, and food safety and quality are paramount to success in meeting many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals."

Farmers are the frontline defenders

FAO Chief Veterinary Officer Juan Lubroth said, "When we use antimicrobials excessively on farms, we're contributing to the spread of AMR, as resistant pathogens move into the environment through animal waste and

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farm run-off."

"They can even contaminate our food systems and market chains, moving from the fields and stables to our tables."

Lubroth called farmers "one of the important frontline defenders" in the battle to contain the growing threat of AMR.

There are three simple steps farmers can take to make a major difference, and though stronger infection prevention measures take some investment, cleaner farming can also yield better profits.

These steps include practicing good farm hygiene, getting veterinary advice before buying and using antimicrobials, and comparing notes with neighbours in order to spread best practices.

He also underlined the role farmers must play in demanding quality animal feed without added antibiotics or other antimicrobials.

Top tips for good farm hygiene

Clean stalls, coops, fish tanks and farm equipment regularly to get rid of the germs that can make animals and people sick.

Wash hands and boots thoroughly before and after contact with animals and change your clothes and shoes when working with livestock.

Keep animal housing and outside areas clean and waste-free – clear manure and bedding often.

Control who can come into contact with your animals and make sure they clean up before and after doing so.

Practice the 'all in, all out' approach.

This means raising animals of the same age at the same time, and keeping these generations of animals together at all stages of production.

This makes it easier to contain waste and clean farms when they are moved or sold.

Keep feed dry and stored safely away from potential sources of germs such as rodents.

Keep animals dry and comfortable with plenty of space.

Lowering animal stress reduces their risk of infection, as does feeding them well and making sure they have clean water.

Vaccinate in consultation with your vet.

Timing matters.

Separate animals when they get sick to prevent disease spread and seek veterinary advice right away to ensure the correct diagnosis and treatment.

A growing threat

One person dies every minute from a drug-resistant infection, and without global action, this number will only rise.

By 2050, the growing AMR threat will cost the global economy an estimated \$6 trillion dollars every year.

AMR also has major implications for food safety, food security and the livelihoods of millions of farming households across the planet, who can ill afford production losses, the costs of caring for sick animals, or the loss of livestock.

"If we are to feed a growing population and keep antimicrobials working, we need to invest in our farmers and food production systems to shift to more sustainable agricultural practices," Lubroth said.

FAO is working around the globe to help governments, agricultural and animal health authorities, and livestock producers build their capacity to address AMR, with strong support from the United States Agency for International Development, the Russian Federation's Ministry of Health, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the United Kingdom's Fleming Fund as well as from China, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Gorman-Rupp selected at Southern Meats

SOUTHERN Meats Pty Ltd is a hi-tech sheep and lamb processing facility strategically located just south of Sydney where the business has access to sheep grown in the healthy environment of NSW's Southern Highlands region.

The company provides quality meat to the local market and export around the world thanks to high-tech automated equipment in slaughtering, boning, chilling, freezing and rendering facilities.

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the plant did not want its operators spending needless time attending to unreliable equipment in wastewater treatment systems.

So when the team went looking for a dependable and reliable wastewater pump to deliver 50lp/s-plus to the treatment area, they looked no further than Gorman-Rupp.

Gorman-Rupp is the world leader in self-priming pump technology, particularly in wastewater pumping applications.

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means the pumps are safer and more conveniently accessed by operators.

Additional safety features built into the pump are designed to protect operators and the pump from damage.

By using self-priming pumps, asset owners don't need to buy rated lifting chains or have the yearly burden of inspection or replacement as they would if using submersible pumps.

And because wet well lids remain closed, the need to have fall protection equipment such as anchorage points, body

support, connectors and descent/rescue equipment is greatly reduced (some of these items requiring annual trips back to the manufacturer for service/inspection).

Plant engineer Mick Speering is very pleased with his purchase and happy to recommend Gorman-Rupp pumps to anyone wanting a quality wastewater pump.

More information on Gorman-Rupp pumps can be obtained from Hydro Innovations at info@hydroinnovations.com.au or hydroinnovations.com.au



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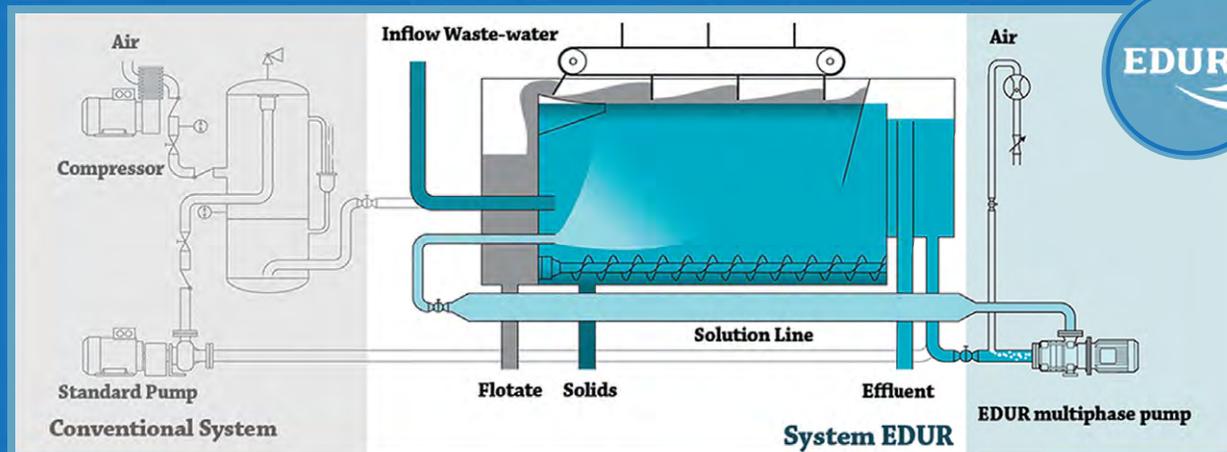


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National Farmers' Federation annual general meeting

THE annual general meeting of the National Farmers' Federation was held in Canberra recently.

Two director positions were declared vacant by rotation.

The resulting votes saw Cattle Council of Australia president Tony Hegarty re-elected and Western Australian Farmers Federation president Tony York elected for the first time as an NFF Board member.

President Fiona Simson thanked outgoing director John Eastburn for his service.

"The work and accomplishments of organisations such as the NFF are only possible through the commitment of people like John," she said.

"John's wealth of governance and representa-

tive experience was highly valued by his fellow NFF Board members and the greater membership group."

Ms Simson also recognised Mr Eastburn's more than four decades of service to Grain Growers Limited, including 12 years as a Board director and a number as chair.

"John's passion for agriculture is unrivalled," Ms Simson said.

"I know John will keep in touch with the NFF and I'm sure he'll be a mentor to future NFF leaders"

The 2019 NFF Board

• President – Ms Fiona Simson.

• Vice President – Mr David Jochinke.

• Director – Ms Robyn Bryant, AgForce.

• Director – Mr Tony Hegarty, Cattle Council

of Australia.

• Director – Mr Mark King, Dried Fruits Australia.

• Director – Mr Derek Schoen, NSW Farmers.

• Director – Mr Tony York, WAFarmers.

• Independent Director – Mr David Carr.

• Independent Director – Ms Andrea Koch.

Members also voted on the positions of committee and taskforce chairs.

Ms Simson thanked outgoing Farming Systems Committee chair Chris Groves and Telecommunications and Social Policy chair Georgie Somerset for their contributions.

"Georgie and Chris have given a great deal of time and expertise to the NFF across two key portfolio areas," Ms Simson said.

"I wish them all the best in their new roles as AgForce Queensland Farmers president and vice president of NSW Farmers, respectively.

"I welcome new committee chairs Kylie Stret-

ton and Melinee Leather."

The 2019 NFF Committee and Taskforce chairs

• Economic Policy & Farm Business Committee – Mr Wayne Dunford.

• Farming Systems Committee – Ms Melinee Leather.

• Sustainable Development Committee – Mr Angus Atkinson.

• Telecommunications & Social Policy Committee – Ms Kylie Stretton.

• Trade Committee – Ms Fiona Simson.

• Workforce Productivity Committee – Mr Charles Armstrong.

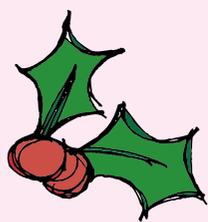
• Climate & Energy Taskforce – Mr Gerald Leach.

• Water Taskforce – Mr Les Gordon.



WAFarmers president Tony York.

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We also wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and happy New Year.



Focused networking under way at Country to Canberra 2018. Photo: Alexandra Gartmann

Supporting our young rural women to reach their leadership potential

THE Department of Agriculture and Water Resources was pleased to be able to support 18 young rural women to attend the Country to

Canberra 'Power Trip' leadership program recently.

Deputy secretary Ms Cindy Briscoe said the program connected young women with influential leaders and mentors and helped them gain leadership skills to take back to their communities.

"Country to Canberra has empowered young rural women for the past four years, providing education, leadership and mentoring opportunities to regional, rural and remote teenage girls," Ms Briscoe said.

"Supporting Country to Canberra is pivotal to providing rich opportunities for young rural women to connect with industry and government during a critical stage of their education.

"This is the second year the department has sup-

ported this program for these young women to promote issues affecting youth, education, rural communities and primary industries to the Australian Government.

"We recognise some of the barriers these young women experience, from distance to time and funding, which can create significant challenges for these students from education to career opportunities.

"We wish the winners all the best during their time in Canberra and look forward to building key partnerships with them in the near future."

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources provided more than \$11,000 towards the program this year.

For more information, visit countrytocanberra.com.au



Attendees at the Power Trip 2018.

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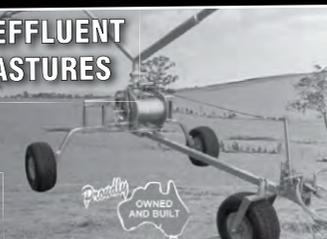


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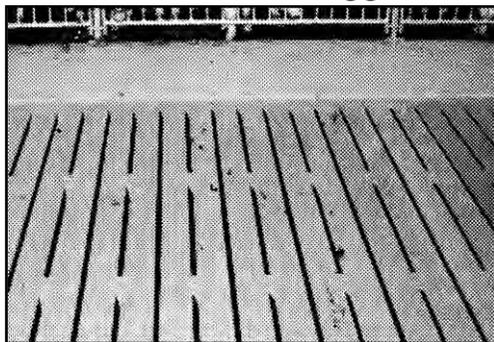
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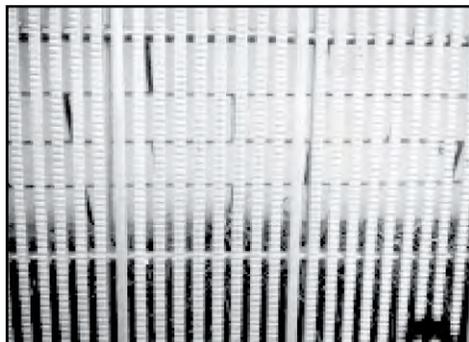
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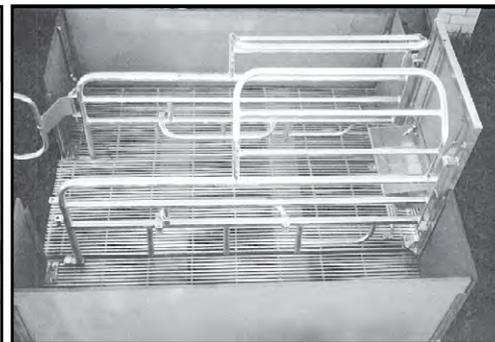
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Aussie Pumps' Scud 351 high-pressure blaster clearance means pork producers can save hundreds of dollars buying direct from the manufacturer.

Piggeries save as blasters clear

FOR a limited time, pork producers can buy top-quality Aussie Pump blasters at clearance prices direct from the manufacturer.

The huge sale, billed as the Aussie Pumps 'Gals Gotta Go' program, is a result of the company changing from galvanised steel frames to new stainless steel models.

The blasters in the clearance must be sold by year end as the company is already in high gear with the production of the new stainless steel range.

Prices for the clearance models start from \$1498 plus GST.

Aussie Pumps manufactures a unique range of high-pressure water blasters ideal for piggery wash-down.

Called the Aussie Scud series, the engine-drive

machines deliver a combination of flow and pressure that facilitates fast, efficient cleaning.

Typical of this range is the Scud 351.

Aussie Pumps product manager Mal Patel said the Aussie Scud 351 has been hugely successful in cleaning piggeries both in Australia and Indonesia.

"However, we're now replacing this model with a new stainless steel version," he said.

"That means we're clearing galvanised-frame blasters with savings of up to 20 percent.

"Piggeries can buy these units direct from us or through their local distributor at the same price.

"This is a huge opportunity to get the best and safest blasters at a great low price."

The clearance includes

models with Honda GX390 petrol engines with either recoil or electric start.

A diesel-drive version using a Yanmar L100 10hp electric-start engine is also part of the clearance program.

The heart of the machine is a 'Big Berty' Bertolini triplex pump that delivers 21l/pm flow.

The slow-speed, gear-box-drive pump has a pressure capability of 2600psi, which is ideal for wash-down applications.

Piggeries need the high flow and pressure to wash and flush!

The machine comes in a unique Aussie Scud hot galvanised one-piece steel frame with four big 13" pneumatic-tyred wheels.

The Scud design, a unique Australian development, provides a combination of OH&S-friendly

features with ergonomics not found on any other machines.

"Users are surprised at the Scud's agility, even with the diesel-drive version that weighs in at around 100kg," Patel said. "Moving this machine around is child's play."

Indonesia's biggest piggery uses a fleet of these Australian-designed and built machines to maintain a clean and hygienic environment.

The piggery ships 1000 pigs to Singapore every night and operates an Aussie blaster fleet of 14 diesel-powered Scuds.

This special offer is available from Aussie Pumps and authorised distributors through Australia and the South Pacific.

www.aussiepumps.com.au

China swine fever outbreak to curb its soybean imports

CHINA'S imports of soybeans are set to drop as an outbreak of African swine fever hits its huge pig herd and saps demand for the animal feed ingredient.

African swine fever, deadly to pigs but not harmful to people, has spread rapidly through China, with more than 70 cases reported across farms since early August.

That and already large soy inventories are curbing appetite for beans in what is by far the world's biggest importer of the commodity, meaning buyers are unlikely to need to return to importing US crops anytime soon.

A Beijing-based executive at an international trading company said, "Had it not been for the swine fever, China would have faced a shortage of beans early next year."

"Now it seems soybean processors will be able to do without US beans."

Washington and Beijing have been locked in a trade war, with soybeans one of the commodities at the heart of the conflict.

After imposing retaliatory tariffs on US soybean imports, China has been taking mainly Brazilian beans, threatening to leave a bumper US harvest piled up in storage or rotting in fields.

But as overall Chinese demand for soybeans slows, Brazilian price premiums are also suffering, plunging to 85

cents a bushel over the January Chicago contract from an October peak of \$2.75.

A Singapore-based trader at an international company that owns oilseed processing facilities in China said China has not been taking US beans for months and now demand for Brazilian soybeans has also dropped significantly.

Large domestic inventories are also playing a big part in the faltering appetite for soy.

China's soybean stocks are at 7.45 million tonnes, the highest for this time of the year in a decade.

A manager at a crushing plant in Liaoning province in the northeast, one of China's key areas for feed and pig production, said the whole northeastern region has enough soybeans as there are lots of domestic supplies and crushers there have stored Brazilian soybeans.

December drop
China's December soybean imports are expected to drop 37 percent to 6 million tonnes from 9.574 million tonnes a year ago, two of the trade sources estimated.

China brought in 6.92 million tonnes of soybeans in October, with 94 percent of that volume coming from Brazil.

Another trader, based in Beijing and who declined to be identified, estimated Chinese soybean arrivals in the first quarter of 2019 at 11-12 million tonnes, which

would be down from 19.6 million tonnes at the same time this year.

China-America Commodity Data Analytics analyst Yao Guiling said, "Farmers will be less willing to replenish their herds with the African swine fever outbreaks spreading in China."

"Soymeal consumption next year will be affected as a result."

However, not all industry sources said the disease would have an immediate impact on demand for soy because restrictions on transporting livestock are making it more difficult for farmers in some areas to truck pigs to slaughterhouses.

Meanwhile, focus in global soybean markets was turned to the recent G20 summit in Argentina, with people looking for any signs the trade war could end or even escalate.

AgriBrasil CEO Frederico Humberg said, "It is a fact that demand for Brazilian beans has slowed in the past 30 days but I would say this is much more due to expectations regarding the G20 meeting."

Farmers in the South American agricultural powerhouse have boosted planting this year, eyeing Chinese demand.

Brazilian soybean farmers in the key state of Mato Grosso may start harvesting the crop before the end of December, agribusiness consultancy AgRural said, as the pace of sowing has been the fastest in history.



Photo: cornandsoybeandigest.com

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Reader's comment

I HAVE just received my levy notice for the coming year and I'm wondering why no one has lobbied to request any form of staggered payment scheme, considering the harsh production environment in which we in the pork industry have all been (and continue to be)

existing in?

What is the function of our local/state/national industry bodies if not to look after the very producers upon whom they rely?

Where are the people who are supposedly looking after us?

Even our council was able to give us some

leeway to pay the rates.

Why can't the Queensland Government afford us the same simple courtesy?

More to the point, why is our industry not dealing with this?

I look forward to an answer.

Madeleine Steinhardt Murgon, Queensland

Pork CRC/APRIL Stakeholders' Day



APRIL and Pork CRC chairman Dennis Mutton (centre) chaired a board of directors meeting of Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited in Melbourne on November 16, the morning after a very successful APRIL AGM and Stakeholders' Day.



Former Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell highlighted the CRC's many achievements from 2005 to 2019, in particular focusing on its impacts on research, education and commercialisation in the pork industry.



APRIL manager, Commercialisation and Research Impact Charles Rikard-Bell, Dennis Mutton and APRIL CEO and Chief Scientist John Pluske played major roles in Melbourne.



Sundown was the right time to reflect on the day's proceedings for Robert Parkes of Ridley and Darryl D'Souza of SunPork Solutions.



John Pluske (centre) met up with APRIL Board members Tony Peacock and Robert van Barneveld prior to the APRIL AGM.



Heather Channon, APL and Ellen Jongman, University of Melbourne, caught up, chatted and reviewed the 2018 Pork CRC and APRIL Stakeholders' Day.



A deliciously irresistible afternoon tea was enjoyed by Susanne Hermesch, University of New England and Melina Tensen, RSPCA, at the 2018 Pork CRC and APRIL Stakeholders' Day.



There was plenty of time for animated discussions over drinks after the very successful and informative 2018 Pork CRC and APRIL Stakeholders' Day. Here, Roger Campbell and John Pluske took the time for just that.



After addressing the 2018 Stakeholders' Day about her student days and very positive aspirations for her future place in the pork industry, PhD candidate Jessica Craig relaxed and chatted with pork producer Andree Rowntree of Windridge Farms, Young, NSW.



Dennis Mutton addressed the 2018 Stakeholders' and annual general meetings in Melbourne.



A big WA contingent landed in Melbourne. Early arrivals were Emalyn Loudon, Richard Evison, Megan Trezona, Karen Moore, Neil Ferguson and John Pluske.



Pork CRC and APRIL consultant Roger Campbell, Westpork CEO and APRIL director Neil Ferguson and APL CEO and APRIL director Andrew Spencer were, effectively, pictured and framed in Melbourne.

PORK CRC held a successful AGM and Stakeholders' Day in Melbourne at the Marriott Hotel on Thursday, November 15.

The day included details of projects Pork CRC's 'successor', the industry-funded body Australasian Pork Research Institute

Limited, is already working on.

Pork CRC concludes June 30 next year.

In his 2017/18 Pork CRC Chairman's Report, Dennis Mutton said great strides had been made over the past seven years through the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork, follow-

ing on from the great results achieved in the preceding CRC.

He concluded by saying that the challenges to keep ahead of the game remain and he was confident the foundations laid through the CRC will continue to be seen as examples of how to make a difference.



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