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Dr R. Dean Boyd (left) kicked off APSA 2019 with the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture on 'Innovation through research in the North American pork industry', which was chaired by 2019 APSA president Stuart Wilkinson (right).

APSAlutely awesome conference in Adelaide

THE 2019 Australasian Pig Science Association Conference was held at the Hilton Adelaide from November 17-20 and saw more than 280 attendees treated to a diverse range of topics presented by invited speakers both from Australia and around the world.

In this Chinese Year of the Pig and despite the horrors of African swine fever elsewhere in the world, outgoing APSA president Stuart Wilkinson urged all those in attendance to make the most of the four-day event by networking and learning more about pig nutrition, reproduction, genetics and many other topics.

The Australian pork industry is full of passionate people with a common interest of constantly striving for improvement in pig production and welfare, and this was evident after four days and 12 sessions of presentations.

The question and answer sessions following each presentation showcased the immense knowledge of both presenters and audience members, with many interesting ideas and follow-up research studies generated through this format.

Of course, the social functions interspersed throughout the conference play a key role in allowing attendees a chance to let their hair down and connect with new industry contacts from around the globe.

The Monday night official conference dinner held at the Adelaide Oval's William Margery Room saw those from across the pig industry come together dressed to the nines and ready to enjoy a great night of excellent pork, music and presentation of the Batterham Memorial Award to Rivalea Australia research scientist Dr Fan Liu.

The conference dinner also saw the introduction of a new APSA committee in the lead-up to the 2021 conference.

Outgoing president Stuart Wilkinson thanked the 2019 committee and welcomed the 2021 cohort comprising Robert Hewitt, Frank Dunshea, Rebecca Athorn, Emalyn Loudon, John Pluske, Jessica Craig, Taya Clarke and Kate Plush.

Tuesday's networking function at Argentinian restaurant La Boca also brought out the best of those present over an

otherworldly dinner comprising succulent cuts of pork, lamb and beef – truly special and genuinely delicious.

APSA keynote speakers for 2019 covered a wide variety of disciplines, with Dr R. Dean Boyd kicking off proceedings on the Sunday with the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture focusing on 'Innovation through research in the North American pork industry'.

Dr Boyd and indeed all the keynote speakers maximised their time presenting in the Hilton Grand Ballroom and captivated those listening with examples and discussion of their novel research findings, which in some cases were part of world-leading research not seen before by many industry participants.

Of serious interest to many was Tuesday morning's symposium focusing on technology and innovation.

The three presenters piqued the interest of attendees and their presentations opened the minds of a large number of listeners to the plethora of benefits able to be capitalised on through effective adoption

continued P18

The greatest gift is an Aussie Christmas ham

RISING prices for Australian pork are receiving considerable media coverage, with warnings that consumers will need to budget when buying Australian ham for festive season gatherings.

Higher retail prices for fresh Australian pork products, as much as 40 percent in the past six months, have seen comparable increases in farmgate returns for producers.

Prices for Australian pigs have already increased from an average of \$2.50/kg 12 months ago to be nudging \$4/kg more recently.

Farmgate returns of \$2.50/kg, especially when factoring in high feed grain prices, were well below the cost of production.

Now, more sustainable prices are providing some much-needed relief for local producers who have endured squeezed margins for too long.

The global spread of African swine fever, which is driving up pork prices, has given us the opportunity to reiterate to consumers the importance of choosing healthy, disease-free Australian pork.

On November 20, Australian Pork Limited launched a new campaign to promote Australian ham in the lead-up to Christmas, with 30 influential voices and members of the pork industry coming together in Sydney for a special festive lunch.

Chef and food personality Manu Feildel attended the event and said it was an opportunity to



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



hear direct from producers how imported pork affects farmers' livelihoods, but also celebrate the Australian industry.

As we're saying, the greatest gift an Australian pig farmer can receive this Christmas is for Australian families to serve up Australian-grown ham on December 25.

The ASF situation has also provided the momentum for industry to achieve significant biosecurity improvements. One particularly important outcome was confirmation by the Federal Government in early November that a National Feral Pig Co-ordinator would be established.

APL has led calls for a nationally co-ordinated approach to feral pig management, especially given feral herds are potential transmitters of ASF.

The new co-ordinator will be based with APL, giving our organisation the chance to play a pivotal role in managing feral pig populations and the risk they pose to our domestic herd.

APL is also looking at opportunities arising from the unprecedented disruption in global

meat markets caused by ASF.

As China offsets declines in its domestic production by absorbing more of the global supply of pigmeat, there are significant export opportunities for Australian product.

The chance to increase our exports to existing markets and gain access to new markets is one we must capitalise on.

The 2019 APL Delegates' Forum and Annual Conference, held in Melbourne on November 13 and 14, provided a timely and highly interactive setting to share updates regarding ASF and industry's crisis and recovery plan, as well as market analysis covering pig prices and feed costs.

Federal Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie participated in the forum via an excellent video Q&A session, while exciting developments in research, innovation and technology showed the future is indeed bright for our industry.

Guest speakers included Dr Narelle Clegg (Department of Agriculture), Sharon Starick (AHA and APIQ Chair), Dr Sam Allen (AHA)

and Dr Sarah Britton (NSW DPI).

APL's recently confirmed Chair Andrew Baxter led discussion on APL's Strategic Plan consultation.

Producer feedback from a preview of APL's new television advertisements was also very positive, with the roll-out of the video campaign to commence in early February.

At the AGM, Edwina Beveridge was re-elected as an APL director and Mark McLean was elected as a new director.

We acknowledge retiring directors Kathy Grigg and Andrew Johnson for their contributions to the industry.

Thanks also to delegates and members who attended and ensured the forum was a genuine success.

Between the Delegates' Forum and the Australasian Pig Science Association Conference in Adelaide on November 17-20, I gained extremely valuable face-to-face insight and encouragement at an informal meeting with South Australian pork producers at Tintinara, organised by Andrew Johnson.

Direct feedback from those working inside the farmgate is always very gratefully received.

The experience talking to producers from the Murray, Mallee and Upper South East regions of South Australia confirmed for me the resilience of Australia's pork producers and the significant value our \$5.3 billion industry adds to rural communities. 🐷



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Steven Clohesy



Cameron Ross



Joe Oliveira



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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2019

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

2020

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

JAN 15 -16 – NutriFair, Fredericia, Denmark www.ilikevents.com/event/10200-nutrifair

JAN 15 -16 – 51st Annual South Dakota Pork Congress www.sdppc.org/events-4/pork-congress

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

MAR 31- APR 1 – London Swine Conference, Ontario, Canada www.londonswineconference.ca

JUN 9-11 – Agritech West Africa 2020, Accra, Ghana www.agritechwestafrica.com

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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Showcasing our new and upcoming industry leaders

ONCE again, Australian Pork Limited's R&I team took advantage of our industry and research community coming together for the 17th Australasian Pig Science Association conference held in Adelaide from November 17-20 to host a postgraduate student workshop on Sunday, November 17.

This workshop was attended by 32 people, including Honours and PhD students from around Australia who are working on pig-related projects and Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited Industry Placement Program recipients.

The afternoon session was dedicated to providing each participant an opportunity to use their presentation skills to provide a three-minute, plain English synopsis of their research project and explain the purpose, expected outcomes and key industry benefits from their work.

It was a terrific day, and it was incredibly clear we have a very talented group of postgraduate students who, through their studies, are each contributing to extend our scientific knowledge of key challenges facing our industry that can then be used to support practical recommendations to producers.

Congratulations to all participants for the high-quality presentations made on the day and for your enthusiastic involvement.

In particular, my congratulations go to Sophie Ward (University of Adelaide) and Nina Matsumoto (Murdoch University) who received the highest scores from the judges and Dr Jessica Craig (Rivalea Australia) for receiving the People's Choice Award for best presentation.



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



I'd also like to highlight that 17 students made oral presentations of their work at the APSA Conference itself (with others presenting their outcomes in the poster sessions) – and capably demonstrated to the 300 or so conference delegates how to do this well!

Leading off the student presentation session was Shandala Loving, a PhD student from Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory.

Shandala's studies are aiming to assess the spatiotemporal distribution of feral pigs in northern Australian wetlands for improved management.

With the ongoing threat of African swine fever, obtaining a broader understanding of the work being done in feral pig management is of high interest to us all.

Shandala opened her presentation by likening risks associated with feral pig culling to the reported increased spread of tuberculosis in cattle as a result of increased badger movement due to the badger culling program in the UK (that has been in place since 2011).

Shandala provided estimates that feral pigs are present on over 45 percent of Australia's landmass, with a population of about 23 million.

In her studies, Shandala is using adapted tracking devices, fitting these to

collars worn by individual feral pigs and using the tracking devices to determine the impact of aerial culling as a management technique for feral pigs.

Notably, her first experiment aimed to understand whether aerial culling increases the movement of feral pigs and therefore disease movement.

Shandala has shown that prior to a cull, feral pigs were not moving more than 3km per day.

Post-cull, the collared animals disappeared (a tracking signal could not be detected) for several weeks (the shooters purposely did not kill any collared pigs).

After this time, some individuals were found to have traversed greater distances per day than pre-cull (with one shown to have traversed 14km in a day), reflecting that new territories open up as pigs are removed.

Shandala considered the current management practices used for feral pigs in the Northern Territory are likely increasing their dispersal and that impacts need to be managed at a population scale.

Her second experiment is exploring whether feral pigs that are geographically close are also genetically close.

To explore this, Shandala has collected 240 samples (with support from hunters) from across the Northern Territory.

Shandala has identified that, of the pigs sampled, there are a number of distinct pig metapopulations and some populations are closely related (such as between a population located on an island and those on the mainland), indicating significant movements of pigs between populations.

Shandala considered that uninformed management interventions used for feral pigs could therefore have negative impacts on disease transmission, with more information needed from other states and other feral pig populations.

We are very fortunate, and pleased, that Shandala was able to accept our invitation to present her research on feral pigs at our postgraduate student workshop and then attend APSA to increase her pork industry knowledge.

Dr Kate Plush from SunPork Solutions gave an excellent and engaging presentation to the students on her career to date, scientific writing, preparation of scientific manuscripts as an author as well as how to best review a manuscript when invited to do so by a journal editor.

We also had the opportunity to hear from Paul Ridgewell (Westpork Pty Ltd) and Robert Hewitt (SunPork Solutions), two of the six Course 1 graduates.

continued P3



The author as well as Laura Latimer-Marsh and Weicheng Zhao attended the Red Meat Postgrad Conference.



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Showcasing our new and upcoming industry leaders

from P2

ates of the Australian Pork Industry Leadership Program.

Paul and Robert each spoke about their differing careers working in the Australian pork industry.

Paul provided an extensive background of his career, including his initial involvement in the pig industry in Zimbabwe where he worked on a multi-site, 1000-sow conventional piggery employing 50 piggery staff, where all pigs were bag fed by hand.

In 2001, Paul emigrated to Australia and has worked in a number of piggeries in Western Australia, Queensland and NSW as well as having a brief stint in a cattle stud in Queensland.

Overall, Paul emphasised the importance of investing in people to enable them to thrive and positively, and successfully, contribute to the Australian pig industry, including the value he has personally obtained from his involvement in the APILP.

Paul quoted one of the Danish farmers whose property he visited in October 2018 during the second workshop of Course 1 APILP that pertinently highlighted his point: "Having the best technology in the world is meaningless to improving work performance and efficiency, if those using it don't have the right attitude (Claus - Denmark)".

Robert also focused in on people during his presentation with the five Ps - people, people, people, pigs and people.

While the very different career paths of Robert and Paul and what has shaped them was presented to the students, both Robert and Paul stressed the importance of having committed, enthusiastic, ambitious, intuitive, trained and passionate people working with pigs and in the industry to support its future.

On this note, I'd like to congratulate Robert as he takes the reins as the new APSA president!

Honing presentation skills of two APL post-grad students

Each year, APL provides the opportunity for two of our postgraduate students to attend the Red Meat Postgrad Conference supported through Meat and Livestock Australia and the Sheep CRC.

For 2019, Laura Latimer-Marsh (University of Adelaide) and Weicheng Zhao (University of Melbourne) were fortunate to attend this conference held at Q-Station, Manly, NSW from November 4-8.

Laura is undertaking her PhD on the APL-funded project 'Novel biomarkers of animal welfare' to identify biomarkers to be able to measure positive emotional/affective state of the pig.

Measuring circulating cortisol as a marker of effective delivery of a se-

lective serotonin uptake inhibitor to the brain of the pig was assessed in the study that Laura presented at this conference.

Weicheng's study aimed to determine whether heat stress experienced by gilts can affect placental function.

He reported that cyclical heat stress (eight hours/day, 28-33C) between 40-60 days of gestation (compared with constant temperature of 20C) may reduce both the capacity for glucose transport in the placenta and result in an adaptive response of placentas to compensate for placental insufficiency.

A total of 23 PhD students from around Australia attended this meeting.

The conference comprised two days of student presentations formally judged by Prof James Rowe (ex-Sheep CRC CEO), Assoc Prof Caroline Jacobsen (Murdoch University), Prof Frank Dunshea (University of Melbourne), Dr Jane Weatherley (Meat and Livestock Australia), Dr Doug McNicholl (Meat and Livestock Australia), Dr Daniel Brown (Animal Breeding and Genetics Unit, University of New England) and myself (for the first time).

For me, it was a great opportunity to learn more about research areas being investigated in the red meat sector as well as extend my learning and professional network.

Following the presentations, the students attended professional development workshops based on adoption methodology to enhance the uptake of research and put economic, social and environmental values on the impact of research.

These learnings are also directly applicable to APL - it was highlighted as part of the Innovation and R&D Review that we need to get better at how outcomes from industry funded research are more widely known by producers.

Overall, both Laura and Weicheng considered this training fantastic and are very grateful for the opportunity to participate.

Farewell to Ashley Norval

It's with much regret I inform you all that Ashley Norval leaves APL (and Australia) at the end of November after five years with us to enable her to focus on her Masters and PhD studies she has commenced through the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

On behalf of APL, thanks so much Ashley for your significant contributions during your time at APL.

In particular, your development, nurturing and management of the industry's leadership program, the APILP, has been fabulous - this has been strongly echoed by all 12 participants to date.

I look forward to keeping in touch and wish you eve-

ry success in your future.

For all those who are interested in applying for Course 3 of the APILP, details will become available in early 2020.

It was great to formally acknowledge the Course 1 graduates of the APILP and provide a brief opportunity for Rebecca Wicks, David Lines and Steve Smith, on behalf of Course 2 APILP participants, to present their key learnings to date during the recent Delegates' Forum in Melbourne.

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

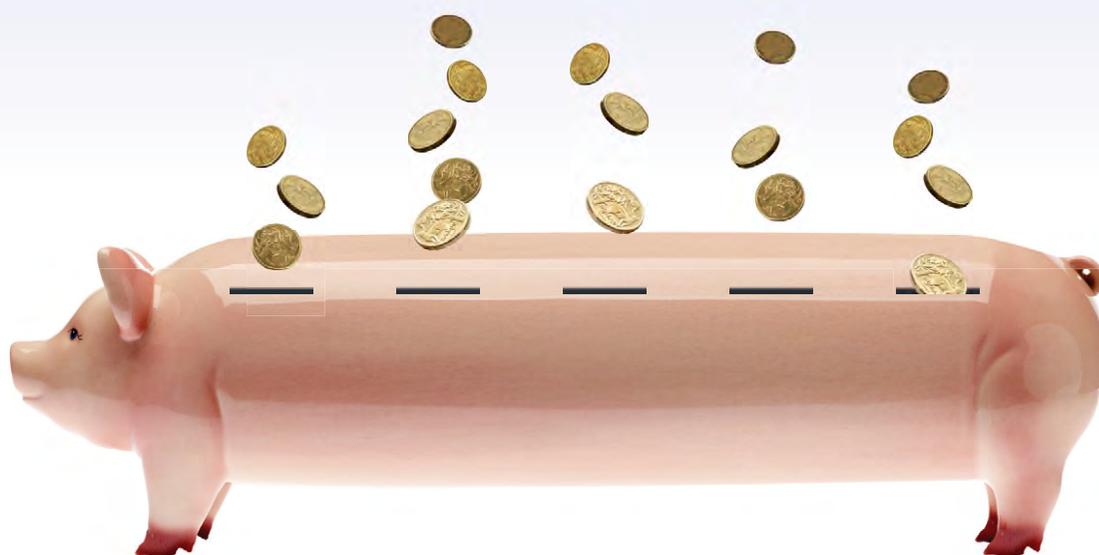


APSA student workshop attendees. Photo: Pat Mitchell



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Is the pig cycle changing gear?



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing

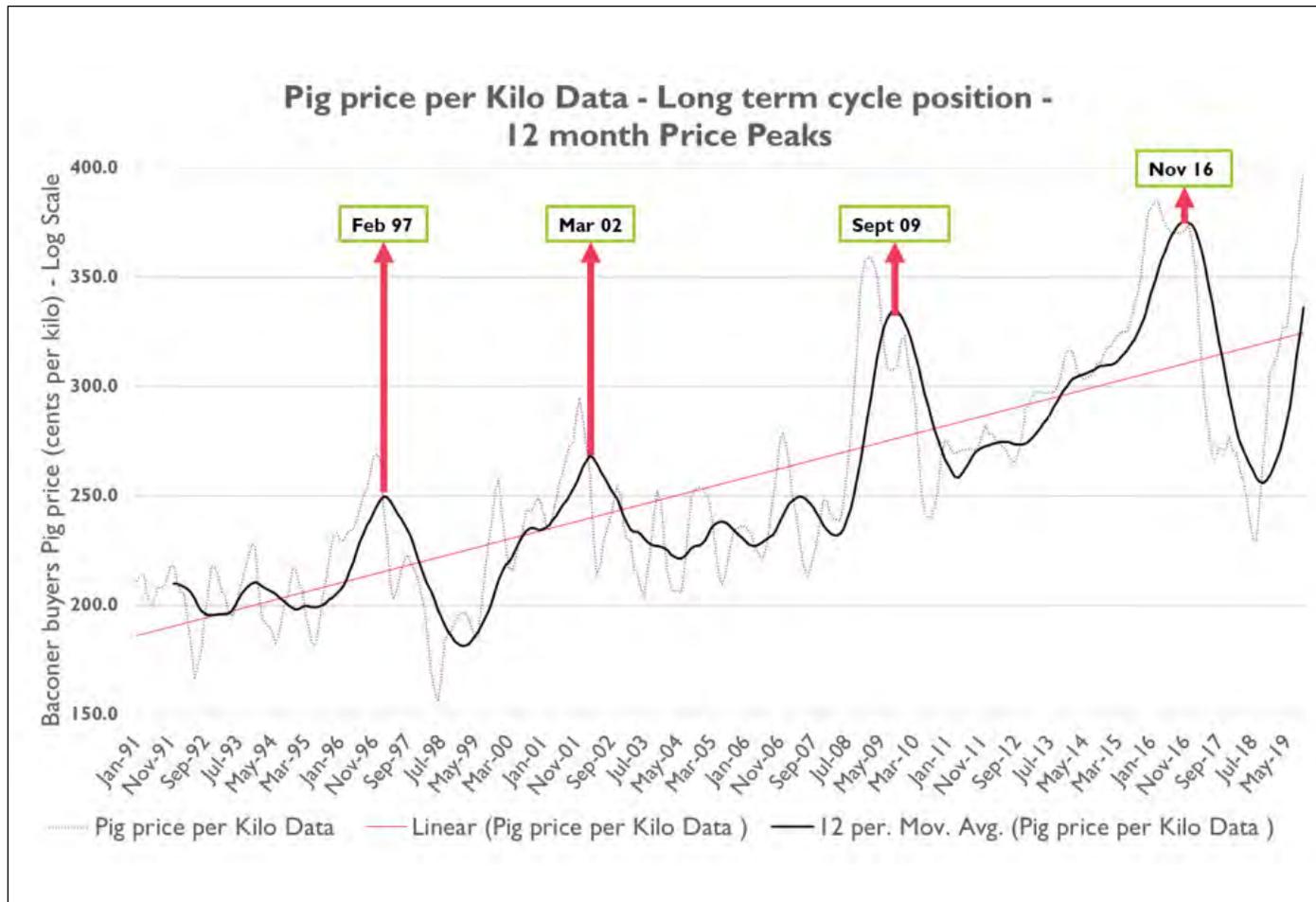


Figure 1

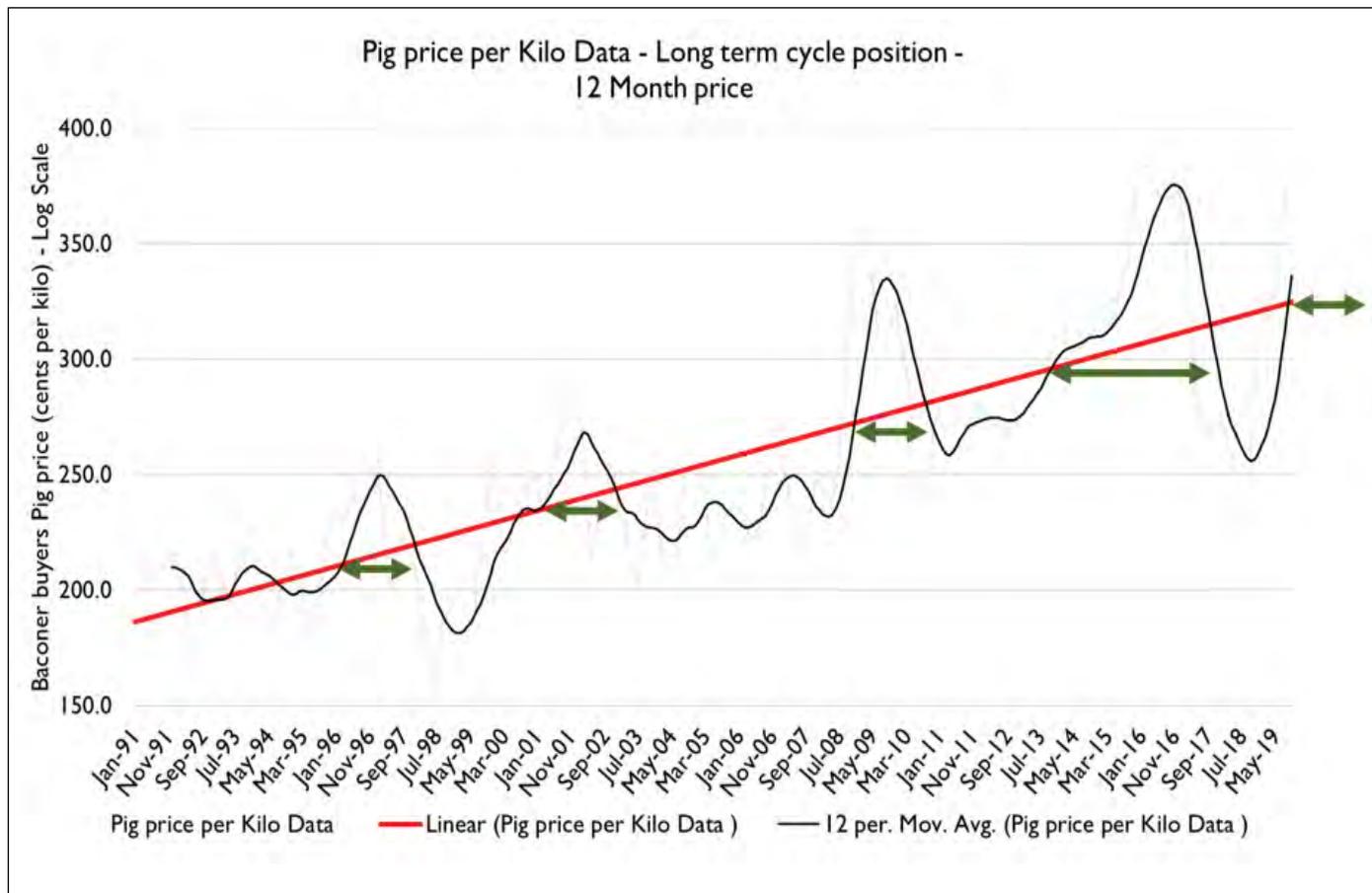


Figure 2

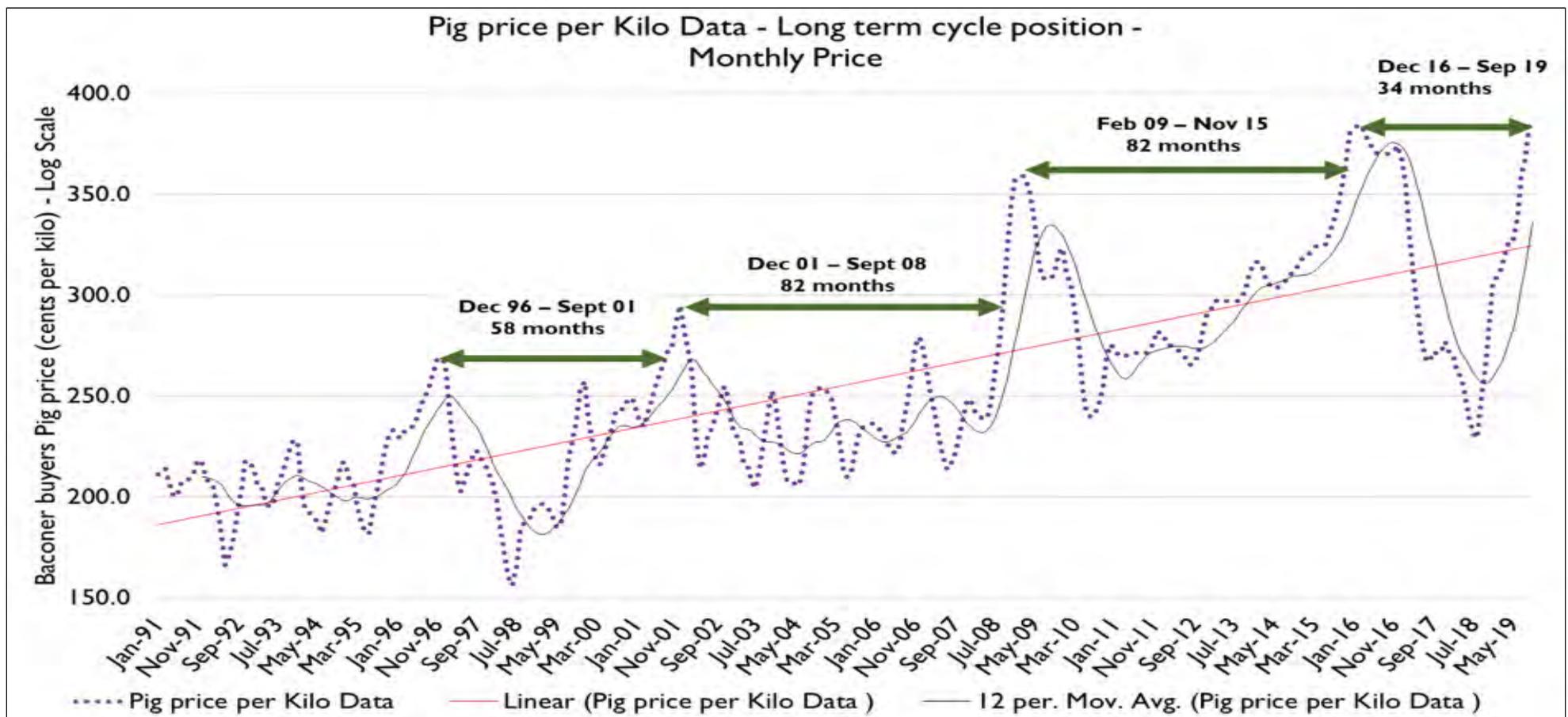


Figure 3

ONE of the things we identified to watch after the 2017 price downturn was the long-term pig price trend: both the trend for a full year (in black in the figures) and the trend in months (in purple).

When we looked at the long-term trend, it appeared to take between about five and seven years between peaks in the 12-month price trend (shown by the wide black line in Figure 1).

That would suggest the next 12-month price peak might occur in late-2023 and, in that scenario, prices might start dropping in mid-2024.

It appeared the cycle could possibly be used as an advanced warning or leading indicator.

However, if you look at the 12-month pig price trend line (in red) in comparison to the 12-month pig price line, we see mostly, the period the black line stays above the red line is two years.

The exception to that is the period between spring 2013 and spring 2017.

This obviously means market conditions were different in 2013-2017 than they were in previous price peaks.

We can speculate on what the causes of the prolonged peak were, but we don't really know.

However, we can see the black line went above the red trend line again in spring 2019.

Based on history, this might mean that from August 2019 we have price declines that take the 12-month price back to the red trend line.

If that recurs, then pig prices may start dropping around July or August 2020.

If the market conditions are similar to those in the 2013-2017 peak, then pig prices might start to decline two years later in July or August 2022.

So, based on history and if we do nothing different, prices might start dropping in either spring 2020, spring 2022 or mid-2024.

The question for producers is, how would you manage and protect your business in each scenario?

Of course, there are an infinite number of options in the future, however, there is one more thing we might be able to read from this chart.

If we focus on the monthly price (in purple), rather than the 12-month price, we can see that from one monthly price peak to the next takes between 58 and 82 months.

The most recent pig price recovery has taken only 34 months.

So, the pig cycle does appear to have sped up.

That might be because of higher levels of industry marketing.

It will probably have been affected by high beef and lamb prices.

It may be because there is increased demand from ham and bacon value-adders.

Whatever the cause, we have all seen predictions of new normals.

However, market conditions both globally and domestically have rarely been this uncertain.

It is likely to pay to prepare for more than one scenario. 🐷

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The author enjoyed this pork offal hotpot two years ago while visiting Chengdu, the capital of southwestern China's Sichuan province. China's pig herd has been at least halved since ASF struck in August last year. Sichuan is one of the provinces impacted.

ASF messaging needs massaging

OUR defences against African swine fever are seemingly being cranked up at last.

Federal Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie reported on November 25 that what she calls 'Operation Conway' was a month-long saturation exercise that screened all passengers and crew from identified flights for pork products and other bio-security risk material.

More than 1000 passengers and crew were screened using X-ray, manual inspection and detector dogs across five flights originating from countries with confirmed cases of ASF.

Twenty-eight infringements and 17 written warnings were issued during the operation, with 44kg of risk products seized, including 12kg of pork, chicken and beef products.

Of pork products seized and sent for ASF testing, 22 percent returned posi-



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

itive results.

While Operation Conway is a step in the right direction, with the sheer volume of illegally imported pork coming into Australia it is but a short step when hard, fast

yards are needed.

Australian Government border interception statistics between November 5, 2018 and August 31, 2019 make for truly frightening reading, with more than 27 tonnes of pork intercepted on air travellers entering Australia, as follows:

- 11 tonnes at Sydney Airport;
- 7.7 tonnes at Melbourne Airport;
- 3.9 tonnes at Brisbane Airport;
- 2.7 tonnes at Perth Airport; and
- 1.3 tonnes at Adelaide Airport.

While the above is alarming and indicates the Australian Government needs to step up its resources and messaging targeting inbound tourists, I have of late been banging on about local consumer messaging that I think needs to get out there at every opportunity.

The message is that ASF is not a threat to human health as it is a non-zoonotic disease.

This is, it is a disease of animals that does not infect humans.

I believe this is especially important as we head into Christmas, as it seems every story in the media about Christmas ham prices heading north mentions the global impact of ASF on pork supply and demand.

An appropriate food safety qualifier needs to

be injected into all such coverage, whether that be from the journalists or by the organisation messenger or those being interviewed.

It's particularly incumbent on organisations such as Australian Pork Limited nationally and state bodies such as West Australian Pork Producers' Association here in the west, to ensure its spokespersons always add the 'no food fear' rider when talking ASF.

Critically, it also needs to be pointed out that Denmark, Canada and the US, countries we import frozen pork from and some of which goes into Christmas hams, do not have ASF.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation just happens to agree, listing the following as one of its 10 recommendations regarding ASF for countries of the region: 'Communication to public is to be in place to avoid the rumours leading to food safety perceptions and consumption disruption'.

While all efforts and resources need to be on preventing ASF from reaching Australia, it must be acknowledged there is already potential damage being done to our industry, especially pork processors and small-goods businesses, simply

continued P8



Though the author travels regularly to Bali, spending time with partner and yoga teacher Maree dining vegetarian in Ubud, he was as happy as a pig in you know what when he came across this quirky little butcher shop in Ubud. Unconfirmed information about swine deaths continues in Indonesia, with the FAO reporting more than 9000 pigs were said to have died in North Sumatra.

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Overseas market access update

LAST month I provided an update on some of Australian Pork Limited's work towards opening the mainland China market, including our new Cooperation Agreement with the China Meat Association.

This time, I'll give a quick update on some other ongoing market access challenges and victories.

First, the good stuff! The US Food Safety and Inspection Service has concluded that Pork AEMIS (with a slight twist) meets the requirements for export of Australian pork to the US.

What's the twist? FSIS requires a government inspector on the processing chain to carry out post-mortem inspections.

This is not currently required under the Pork AEMIS system.

Any plant that wishes to be eligible for export

by **ANDREW ROBERTSON**
Policy Manager - Trade and Workforce

to the US will need to implement this change to qualify.

After individual establishment audits and listing, Australian pork will be ready to return to the US market.

Of course, the US is a very competitive place to sell pork and local production costs are significantly lower than in Australia.

Competing on price will be a tricky proposition.

However, there are a variety of niche, premium opportunities for the right product.

Sustainability credentials, provenance stories and 'natural' and organic production methods will be a huge advantage for any producer looking to make their mark in the US.

APL is working closely with governments in Australia and Singapore to explore a Biosecurity Zoning Agreement.

This means Singapore would recognise areas of Australia as distinct and separate regions (or zones) for biosecurity purposes.

Under the current export arrangement with Singapore, a disease outbreak in one part of the country means no Australian farms can send pigs or pork to export markets.

Australia as a country is considered to be a single biosecurity zone.

But the bilateral zoning agreement can change that.

So, for example, a simple zoning arrangement might split Australia into the western and eastern halves.

Each is relatively isolated from the other in terms of the potential for disease to spread.

Just because a farm in the west suffers an outbreak, that doesn't mean farms in the east are automatically at risk.

Therefore, an outbreak in one zone does not necessarily prevent exports from another, disease-free zone.

APL is pursuing this work at the request of the Australian pork export industry.

It is an important means by which we can help mitigate the impact on industry revenues of an ASF outbreak in Australia.

Our modelling of the economic impact of an ASF outbreak on the Australian pig production and processing industry (available on APL's website) revealed a large portion of lost revenue would come from the automatic closure of export markets following an outbreak.

Anything we can do to reduce the impact on farmers is smart policy.

Progress with the US and Singapore is good, but South Africa and New Zealand have been posing problems for some exporters.

South African authorities have indicated to the Australian Department of Agriculture for some time that they are dissatisfied with Australia's export health certificates for pork.

South Africa has now

made the decision to no longer accept Australian health certificates on consignments of imported pork, meaning Australia can no longer send pork products to that market.

This situation will persist until the issue is resolved.

The Department of Agriculture is working on it, but progress has been very slow and APL's repeated offers to assist have been rebuffed.

In fact, the Department is not revealing why the process is taking so long.

Sometimes this is necessary to prevent a small issue from becoming larger, or spreading to other export markets.

New Zealand has taken the step of halting all imports of processed pork products manufactured in Australia using pork imported from third countries.

Prior to the suspension, exporters of these products to New Zealand were not required to state the country of origin of the pork or provide the relevant health certificates.

It's not clear why New Zealand has taken this step.

Officials at the Department of Agriculture in Canberra have speculated that New Zealand is spooked by the possibility of ASF incursion and simply wants assurances that Australia's biosecurity for imported pork is robust.

Of course, Australia's biosecurity import conditions for pork are stricter than New Zealand's own arrangements, which allow for the importation and direct sale of uncooked pig meat from some countries.

Australia does not allow this.

Officials believe once New Zealand is educated and assured of our biosecurity processes, they may require the country of origin of the pork to be provided, but will otherwise allow trade in these processed products to resume.

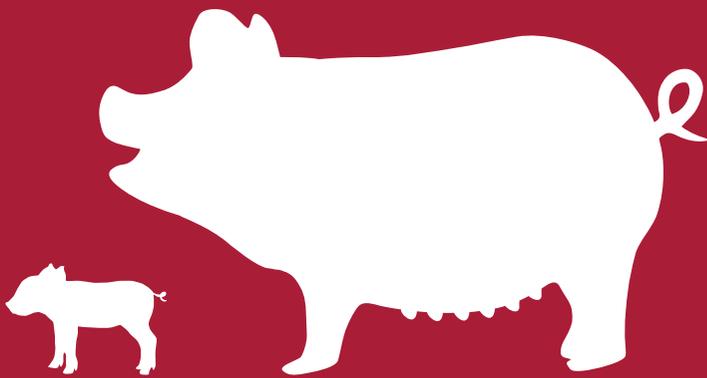
It's important to note exports of processed products made from Australian pork are not affected by the ban.

Another reason to use Aussie pork in smallgoods – at least for the next little while. 🐷

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ASF messaging needs massaging

from P6 by association.

Let's not forget consumers have frighteningly good memories when it comes to food safety and protecting their families and they readily recall the global disaster that was swine flu.

The 2009 swine flu epidemic, which spread across the world in a matter of months, killed thousands of people.

It is not hard to imagine today's consumers confusing African swine fever with swine flu, despite one

being a health issue for them and the other simply affecting pigs.

As if that's not enough, back in October, the CEO of a major WA pig abattoir was quoted (or, to be fair, maybe misquoted) in the *West Australian* referring to "the heightened intensity around biosecurity with African swine flu" when discussing his company's response to a disruptive on-site protest by Direct Action Everywhere.

Enough said. 🐷

The greatest gift you can give an Aussie pig farmer this Christmas is to buy Australian

SPEED dating with a difference hit Sydney recently, to help bridge the rural-urban divide and support Aussie farmers.

Thirty influential voices and members of the pork industry came together in the iconic Strand Arcade for a festive lunch with a twist.

The quick-fire conversations were a chance to highlight a fact many Aussies don't know: the majority of ham sold in this country is made from imported pork.

Chef and food personality Manu Feildel attended the event and said it was an opportunity to hear how imported pork was affecting our farmers' livelihoods, but also celebrate Australian product and producers.

"The problem is consumers will not actively look for hams made from Australian pork if they aren't aware of the massive amounts of imported pork coming into this country," Mr Feildel said.

"Our job – as foodies, chefs, industry and media – is to educate them.

"Then it's up to Australians to seek out the high-quality local product.

"Especially so on an occasion such as Christmas, when it's about sharing food with those we love most."

Australian Pork Limited Marketing Communications Manager Mitch Edwards said Christmas and ham went hand in hand and there were some simple tips to ensure the ham on your Christmas table was 100 percent Australian pork.

"The greatest gift you can give an Aussie pig farmer this Christmas is to buy Australian," he said.

"When it comes to ham, if it's on the bone, then it's one of our own.

"However, if you're buying a boneless ham, look for an almost full bar chart on the packaging to be sure your ham is made from 100 percent Australian pork."

The event was also a chance to showcase excellence, with the winner of the 2019 Australian PorkMark Ham Awards revealed as the bone-in ham from Noosa Meat Centre in Queensland, which beat more than 140 entries.

Steve and Stacey Young who created the artisan bone-in ham, made with 100 percent Australian pork, credited their team for the winning ham.

"I'm a huge believer in championing Australian and this shows in the final product," Mr Young said. "Buying Australian

keeps my staff in a job, our farmers in production and to be honest, the pork raised here is perfect – I will always support local breeders."

D'Orsogna's Australian Jarrah Honey Ham took out the awards' nationally available category, with the product available in Woolworths year-round.

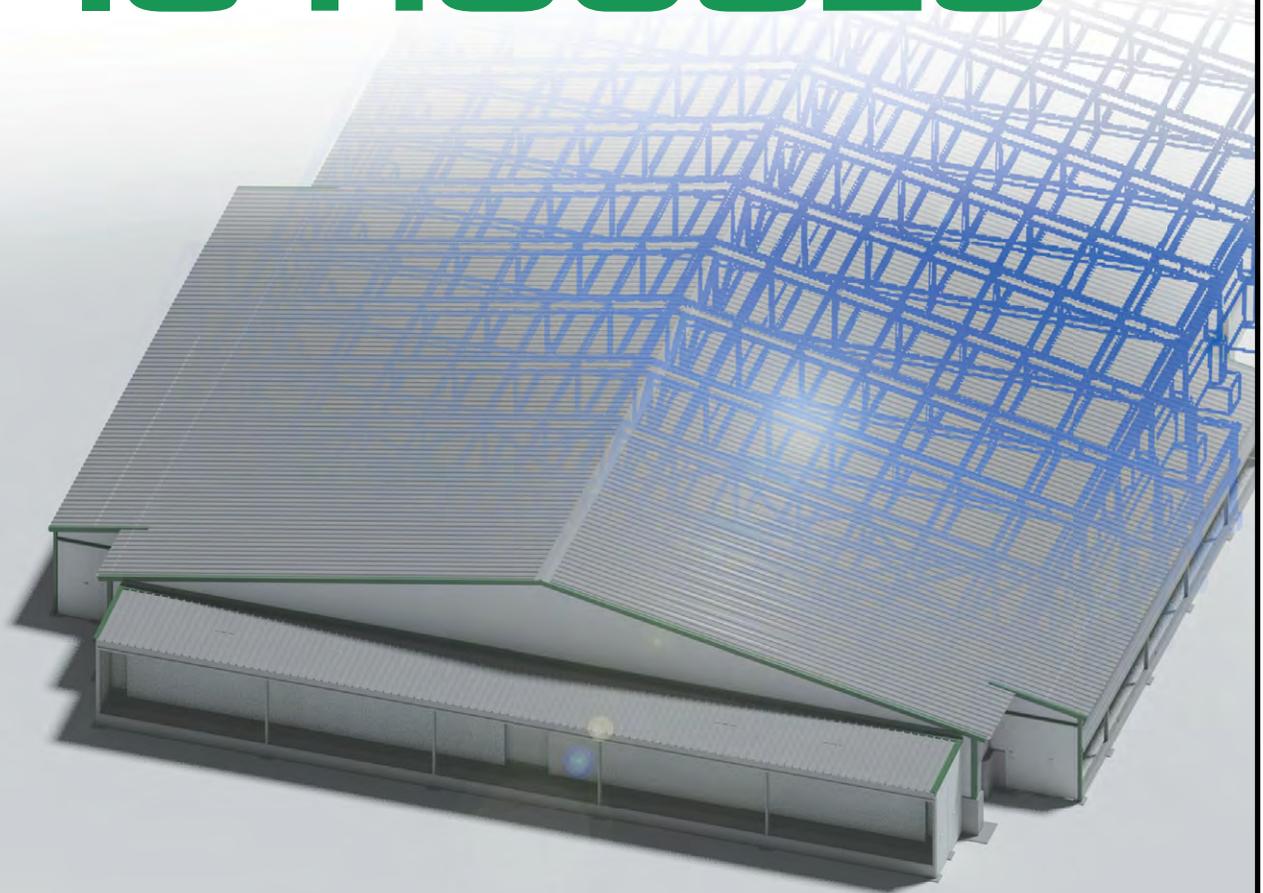
To ensure this important discussion continues, Australian Pork Limited has launched a social media campaign #TheGreatestGift to encourage Australians to support our local pig producers.

For more information, recipe inspiration and full PorkMark Awards results, including state winners, please visit pork.com.au



Australian Porkmark Ham Awards overall winners Stacey and Steve Young, Noosa Meat Centre.

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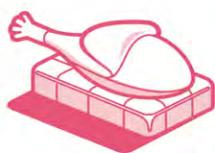
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GRAIN & PROTEIN

AUSTRALIAN PORKMARK HAM AWARDS 2019	
Overall winner:	
Noosa Meat Centre	Noosa, QLD
Bone in:	
1	Noosa Meat Centre, Noosa, QLD
2	Andrew's Choice Smokehouse, Laverton North, VIC
3	Gray's Modern Meat Mart, Toowoomba, QLD
Boneless:	
1	Griffin & Morris Village Butchers, Berwick, VIC
2	Premier Meats, Tenterfield, NSW
3	Hunter Valley Meat Emporium, Pitnacree, NSW
Nationally available	
1	D'Orsogna, Australian Jarrah Honey Ham, Available in all Woolworths stores
2	IGA Naturally Smoked Leg Ham, Available in all IGA stores



Place ham skin side up. Then run a small, sharp knife under the rind around the bottom (opposite end to hock) and each side of the ham to about halfway up towards the hock. Peel the rind back.



Run the tip of the knife around the bone, on the underside of the ham. Begin to slice on a slight angle down to the bone.



Run your knife lengthways along the bone to remove slices. Continue to slice towards the hock.



Continue slicing down to the bone, working your way around the ham. When you've reached about a third of the way up, you can remove the bone by making a few short cuts at the joint.



To keep your ham fresh, fold rind back over exposed surface, place in Ham Bag and store in the fridge. For more slices, simply carve ham down to the bone, working your way around.

How to carve your ham.

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New Chair for Australian Pork Limited

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited recently announced Mr Andrew Baxter has been appointed Chair of the company, after being elected to the position at the Board's November meeting in Melbourne.

Mr Baxter brings a rich depth of expertise to the role, having led major professional services firms for more than a decade, working with some of Australia's largest companies and brands, along with state and federal governments.

He was formerly Chairman of Publicis Communications, one of Australia's largest communications agency groups, and is recognised as one Australia's preeminent leaders in marketing.

Mr Baxter has more than 30 years of combined non-executive experience.

He is currently Chair of Tjapukai, and until recently was Chair of both the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and Deakin School of Business.

Mr Baxter also sits on the Board of the Sydney



Mr Andrew Baxter



Symphony Orchestra and is a Board member of the NBL.

APL CEO Margo Andrae said Mr Baxter's diverse expertise will be critical in leading the organisation in the years to come.

"We need people of Andrew's expertise and calibre to drive the new strategic direction, currently under develop-

ment, for the Australian pork industry over the next five to 10 years," she said.

Mr Baxter said he looks forward to representing the best interests of Australian pork producers, overcoming current biosecurity challenges and producing quality pork that meets Australians' values and preferences.

"Australia's pig farmers produce a fantastic, premium product, whilst maintaining meticulous biosecurity and high-quality standards", Mr Baxter said.

"We must position our industry for the future by helping to make Australia's pork industry more resilient to the changing domestic and global landscapes in which our farmers and supply chains operate."

Mr Baxter has served on the APL Board for two years, was elected acting Chair in September 2019 and will maintain his role on APL's Market Development Committee and Quality Assurance and Animal Welfare Committee. 🐷

Case study: reducing trim loss without long term antimicrobial use

CONTROL of trimming losses at slaughter caused by bacterial infection of joints but with no observable symptoms on farm was achieved following lab tests on joint tissues and fluids, repairing damaged pen floors, using short-term medication and vaccinating against erysipelas.

The problem finishing site took 400 pigs per week from 10 weeks of age to sale.

All pigs were raised on bedding over dirt floors. The pigs were free of mycoplasma pneumonia pleuropneumonia, swine dysentery and internal and external parasites.

Feedback from the abattoir about the trimmed carcasses revealed an increase in trimming for swollen joints.

Up to 2 percent of pigs had some skin trimmed each week.

Leg and joint trimming rose to about 25 percent of slaughtered pigs, accounting for a loss of more than 1 percent in carcass weight

across sold batches.

The farm sheds were inspected for anything that might be causing an injury to the pigs' legs or feet.

The steps to the feed pad were in disrepair, so some groups of pigs had further than normal to step for feed and water, which could potentially cause a trip or fall leading to an injury.

Other than injury, the most likely cause of joint swelling is erysipelas.

The most obvious signs of this disease are diamond-shaped raised lumps on the skin.

The affected pigs have high temperatures, go off feed and can be a bit dopey but none of these symptoms were seen on farm.

Treatment records indicated there had been no recent change in the number or type of treatments for any group of pigs.

There had been no signs of lameness on farm either.

The guts of pigs inspected at slaughter looked normal but when the swollen joints were cut open a lot of fluid was found and the cartilage around the joints was much thicker than normal.

Samples from the affected joints were sent to the laboratory for testing.

At first no bacteria were found, but with further very sensitive tests that detect bacterial genes, erysipelas was identified.

By looking closely at the cells from the samples under a microscope, it was seen there were minute changes in the cells that would only occur if there had been an infection.

It was clear there was an erysipelas infection occurring at the farm, even though none of the normal symptoms had been observed.

It was decided to vaccinate against erysipelas.

The first dose was given at eight weeks of age (before the pigs were delivered to the grow-out site) and the second dose at 12 weeks of age to coincide with the movement of the pigs between sheds.

The finisher feed was medicated with tylosin (100ppm, with no withholding period) for the time until vaccinated pigs came through to sale.

The steps to the feed pads were repaired, allowing easy access to feed and water for all pigs.

Outcomes

Slaughter trimming for joint and skin conditions returned to normal levels as soon as the vaccinated pigs came through.

The farm continues to vaccinate against erysipelas.

No medications have been used for erysipelas control since vaccination commenced.

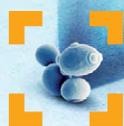
This case study is taken from the Antimicrobial Prescribing guidelines for Pigs. 🐷

Ross Cutler
www.porknews.com.au

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Alltech Lienert Australia shows the benefits of optimising gut health

BRIGHT and early on the Monday morning of the 2019 Australasian Pig Science Association's 17th biennial conference, Alltech Lienert Australia hosted a breakfast function at the Hilton Adelaide.

Renowned nutritionist, Alltech European business director and gut health platform director Dr Jules Taylor-Pickard presented to the assembled farmers, researchers and media on 'Gut health – shifting the balance: importance of microbial diversity'.

Dr Taylor-Pickard explained that good gut health within the pig drives superior performance, extolling the benefits of mannan-rich fractions in the gut to ensure optimum villi integrity and good caecum content among other things.

It became clear during the presentation that the more diverse the microbiome, the healthier the pig.

Reducing antibiotic use is a core concern of all intensive livestock industries, and a highly diverse microbiome or indeed microbial rehabilitation post-pathogen challenge results in improved pig health.

A wide range of gut health products are currently available, from probiotics to nutritional management programs, however Dr Taylor-Pickard's research saw impressive results through the use of mannan prebiotics in the form of mannanoligosaccharides and MRF.

Effects observed included increased weight gain, improved feed conversion

and decreased mortality – three things any farmer would be happy to hear.

Dr Taylor-Pickard found dietary MRF to consistently increase microfloral diversity, while MOS was typically associated with pathogen binding.

MRF's impact on antimicrobial resistance showed significantly reduced resistance among E. coli and enterococci in vivo, with the greater percentages of MRF further reducing resistance.

Such nutrigenomic advances are supporting the antibiotic-free programs many farmers are striving for.

Alltech's Actigen is a second-generation, unique bioactive product derived from *saccharomyces cerevisiae* and has been proven to increase microbial diversity, lower antimicrobial resistance and decrease pathogenesis.

Another product from Alltech's gut health platform is all-new Viligen, which Dr Taylor-Pickard showed prepares the immature gut for efficient nutrient absorption, rapid growth and encourages feed intake by providing fatty acids, prebiotic components and readily available mineral forms.

The enhanced gut health promoted by Viligen is achieved through targeting the gut mucosa and supporting the immature gut by providing fatty acids, prebiotic components and easily available mineral nutrients to maximise growth and health.

On-farm testing methods showed Viligen to significantly increase body weight and piglet surviv-

ability while improving all-value piglets.

Impressively, Viligen also lowered the number of treated pigs by 40.4 percent during the trial.

Viligen can be added directly to complete meals, pelleted feeds and wet diets via a premix at the recommended inclusion rate of 0.5-1.5kg/tonne in starter diets.

Dr Taylor-Pickard piqued the interest of a number of farmers present and some back and forth questions were answered promptly and with the backing of research and results.

If you're interested in improving the gut health, immunity and feed intake of your pigs, call Alltech Lienert Australia today on 1800 649 231 or visit alltechlienert.com.au



Dr Jules Taylor-Pickard engaged with the audience on pig gut health.



Monday at APSA 2019 kicked off with an Alltech Lienert breakfast seminar.



Dr Taylor-Pickard in full flight during her presentation. www.porknews.com.au

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A true industry stalwart retires

PORK Queensland Inc founding director John Riley is taking a well-deserved break from a lifetime of work with and for the pork industry.

John has been associated with the industry in Queensland for as long as I can remember as a consultant and since 2009 as a director with PQI.

He was one of the original directors who helped reform a Queensland representative organisation to provide a voice for pig farming and the pork industry, taking key issues to the government as well as providing a voice into Australian Pork Limited as a State Farming Organisation.

John has been a committee member of the Queensland Pig Consultancy Group in Toowoomba and since arriving in Australia 25 years ago has focused on supporting the industry.

He worked as an APIQ auditor and assisted many Queensland producers improve their production systems.

As a director of PQI, John has always provided valued contributions and robust debate on the core activities of our organisation and will be greatly missed.

The Pork Queensland Board thanks John for his service to our organisation and the Queensland pork industry and wish him the very best in his retirement.

PQI membership call

After providing members a break from the annual fee for the past



President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



two years, PQI is now calling on members to continue supporting the function of the organisation with ongoing or new membership and the annual fee.

- Members with more than 300 sows: \$300 per annum.

- Less than 300 sows: \$150 per annum.

- Associate members: \$200 per annum.

This fee goes towards any expenses incurred in attending meetings as well as supporting our membership with

Queensland Farmers' Federation.

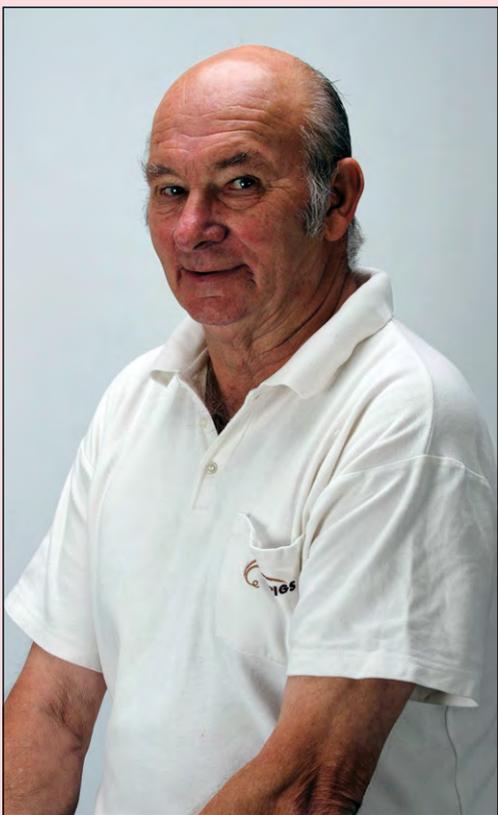
PQI directors give their time free to support the Queensland pork industry.

Call me on 0407 622 166 or any director for membership inquiries.

Best wishes for 2020

PQI would like to extend our best wishes to all producers and stakeholders and wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous 2020.

Thank you! 🐷



John Riley



Congratulations to Christmas Hills Brigade and Dianne Simmons (captain), Deirdre Lucas (secretary) and Veronica Holland (firefighter).

In the line of fire

EVERY year, thousands of volunteer firefighters give up their free time and risk their lives to help their fellow citizens.

Australia's leading specialist bushfire fighting pump company Australian Pump Industries decided to find out what makes a firefighting volunteer tick.

The company launched a program to pull entries from volunteer brigades in Victoria with a view to letting them have their say about what makes these folks put themselves in the line of fire.

According to the 'State of the Climate 2018' report, there has been a long-term increase in Australian fire conditions and the length of bushfire seasons.

This has been a constant trend since the 1950s and there's no denying the fact, even if the cause is open to question.

The concept of volunteer firefighting appears to be almost unique to Australia.

The idea is that citizens, most of whom already have a full-time job, give up their leisure time with family and friends to train

and educate people and raise funds, then in emergency situations, they don their gear and report for duty within community that needs them most.

Country Fire Authority volunteers respond

Aussie Pumps' Brad Farrugia said, "We started with the Country Fire Authority in Victoria because we know they have 50,000 volunteers and that is a mighty force."

Aussie Pumps builds high-pressure firefighting pumps used by farmers and home owners to protect their property.

They've supplied hundreds of pumps to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and to the Rural Fire Service in NSW.

The company believes if the volunteers are going to have to put themselves at risk, they should have the best equipment and get the credit they deserve.

"The more we get to understand the volunteers and the people who give up their free time, the more we realise what a huge debt we have," Farrugia said.

"We appreciate the overly selfless men and women who protect the lives

and properties of others." Here are some samples of the great responses the company received.

This is from Craig Warren from Wallington Fire Station.

He said a lot with his short sharp comment about volunteers giving up their time.

The question was 'what motivates a volunteer to join?'

"The only reward is feeling good about yourself by helping others," Craig said.

Carol Brislane from Anakie Fire Brigade came up with a good point.

"I hope I may inspire others to join," Carol said.

Aussie Pumps was flooded with entries but eventually Christmas Hills Fire Brigade won the prize of an Aussie Fire Red Brigade Fire Captain high-pressure firefighting pump based on this very lyrical entry from Liz Mildenhall.

"Motivated to learn about fire behaviour and suppression after the devastating Black Saturday bushfires, we women joined the Christmas Hills Brigade. Ten years later with more knowledge and

skills under our belts, we feel our efforts are valued, enjoy the teamwork and feel safer living in our beautiful bush," Liz said.

Christmas Hills typically has a history of active women firefighters going back to the 1970s.

Several of the female members are officers and hold important roles within the brigade.

The brigade often fields an all-female crew!

Aussie Pumps distributors around the country are getting behind this "appreciate the fire volunteers" campaign and doing their bit to help out as well.

Bushfire survival guide
Tens of thousands of Aussie Pumps' Bushfire Survival Guides are going out into the market, free of charge to help people prepare for the worst.

The guide helps to protect property, livestock, crops and human life.

For more info on the Aussie Pumps' product range, contact Aussie Pumps or dealers throughout Australia.

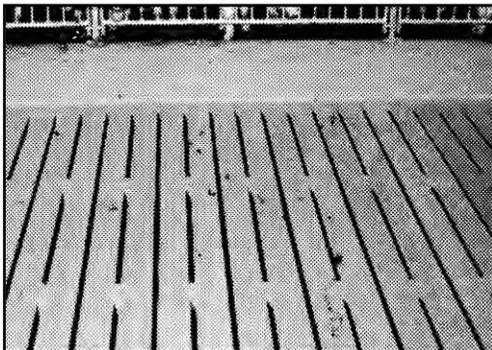
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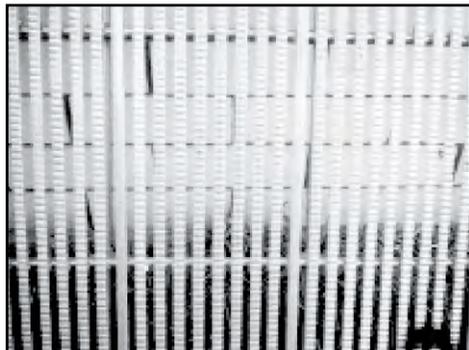


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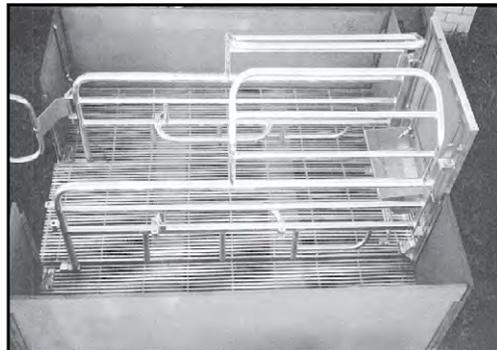
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Boehringer Ingelheim hosts biennial FLEX Event

IN October 2019, the Boehringer Ingelheim Swine team held the second biennial FLEX Event at the Gold Coast.

There were over 80 attendees from the Australian swine industry made up of both producers and veterinarians.

This year's FLEX 360 Event focused on introducing the whole herd health approach to Boehringer's customers.

The Boehringer Ingelheim team presented on a range of topics including the impact of biosecurity and environmental science on whole herd health



and production systems.

Guest speaker Gus Balcantini, the ex-executive director and CTO of Lonely Planet, concluded the daytime event by discussing how to unlock agility and adaptability in your business to succeed in a challenging and rapidly changing market.

Gus got many of our customers excited to think about innovation in

the swine industry.

Also at the event, the Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Academy was unveiled to Boehringer's swine customers with three African swine fever biosecurity modules available at launch.

These educational modules are part of a suite of six, with the remaining three being rolled out

later this year.

They are aimed at helping farm workers and their managers to look at different aspects of biosecurity that can affect their ASF risk.

In the evening, customers were given a networking opportunity at a pool-side dinner, where there were food stalls with flavours from around the world as well as a band and entertainers.

The FLEX 360 Event was a successful continuation from the first event in 2017, and the feedback has been extremely positive from participants.

Prepare now to save our bacon

MINISTER for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner is praising the pork industry for its preparations for a possible incursion of African swine fever in Australia or Queensland.

"During November we met for the second time with the African Swine Fever-Queensland Awareness and Action Forum members to review our preparedness effort," Mr Furner said.

"I first met with the forum members in October when I committed to continuing engagement on this emergent and critical biosecurity threat.

"To date, we have provided Queensland veterinarians, pig owners, pig farm workers, feral pig hunters, industry and the general community with information about African swine fever, the risks of introduction and how they can help prevent it as part of our shared approach to preparedness.

"All pig owners, whether they are commercial farmers, hobby farmers, pet owners or those who come into contact with pigs, including feral pigs, must also play their part.

"Pig owners must be registered as a biosecurity entity, which helps Biosecurity Queensland respond in the event of an emergency animal, pest or disease incident."

Producers can check their contact and registration details at www.porknews.com.au

tration details are up to date at qld.gov.au/BiosecurityRegistration

The Queensland Government has rapidly scaled up its efforts including:

- Increased education and awareness across potential pathways of introduction such as food outlets that may give leftovers to pig owners, people buying pork products from overseas and feral pig hunters who might see something unusual;
- Enhancing laboratory diagnostic capacity;
- Supporting industry to boost biosecurity measures; and
- Providing more than 4000 registered biosecurity entities in Queensland that keep at least one pig with information about prevention and preparedness.

Mr Furner said the greatest risk was from people illegally bringing pork or pork products into Australia from overseas and these being fed to or eaten by pigs.

"Recent detections of African swine fever virus fragments in meat confiscated at Australian airports and mail centres highlight the serious risk of entry through passenger movements and mail," he said.

"I urge everyone to make sure they know what can and can't be brought into Australia and comply with these requirements.

"While prevention is the key, we have to be ready in the event this disease does arrive.

"In its most severe form, up to 100 percent of pigs may be affected and die.

"It's estimated that by the end of 2019 up to a quarter of the world's pigs may be lost as a result of this disease.

"No treatment or vac-

cine is available, so if African swine fever became established in Queensland, it would be very difficult to eradicate."

Find out more at qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever or contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23, or listen to the podcast at daf.qld.gov.au/news-media/podcasts/africanswinefever

African swine fever would cost Aus \$2 billion: APL

THE national economic impact from an African swine fever incursion in Australia has been estimated to be up to \$2.03 billion for a larger, multi-point impact over five years.

APL CEO Margo Andrae said while there has been a significant increase in virus detection at our borders in recent months, it is crucial all participants in Australia's biosecurity system play their part in managing the threat.

"The threat of incursion from African swine fever is not one we can take lightly," Ms Andrae said.

"Not only is our pork

supply at stake but the jobs of 36,000 Australians are at risk.

The latest testing figures released by Australian Border Security found 48 percent of pork products seized at airports and in international mail during September 2019 were contaminated with fragments of the virus.

This was in addition to three samples that contained foot and mouth disease fragments, and which were immediately destroyed.

"Just recently, a second individual was deported and their Australian visa was cancelled at Sydney Air-

port when they failed to declare they were carrying pork products from Vietnam," Ms Andrae said.

"This is a clear signal to future travellers that Australia is taking this issue very seriously and I implore travellers to adhere to our laws.

"We are fully committed to working with the Australian Government to keep Australia free of ASF, maintaining our premium product status."

The APL-funded ACIL Allen report detailing the impacts of an ASF outbreak in Australia is now available at australianpork.com.au

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National Feral Pig Co-ordinator to tackle African swine fever

MINISTER for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie is establishing a National Feral Pig Co-ordinator to tackle Australia's feral pig population as the threat of African swine fever creeps closer to Australia.

"Feral pigs cost the national agricultural sector about \$14.5 million a year through production losses and that cost would balloon exponentially if African swine fever reached Australia," Minister McKenzie said.

"As a transmitter of deadly viruses like African swine fever, infected feral pigs could carry the disease into locations of critical risk for pork producers.

"There would be widespread ramifications for Australian agriculture if our hard-earned international reputation for producing safe, clean and green food and fibre was damaged by a disease outbreak.

"There are an estimated 25 million feral pigs roaming across 45 percent of Australia's landmass and the losses feral pigs cause farmers and pastoralists are even more acute during drought when water and feed are so precious.

"Now, with the heightened risk feral pigs present as a vector for disease means enough is enough."

Northern Territory Senator Sam McMahon has called for government action.

"We've listened to

industry's requests for more to be done on feral pig management and we're acting on it, investing \$1.4 million over the next three and half years to support a national feral pig co-ordinator," Senator McMahon said.

"I'm excited by the opportunity for our government to work alongside our state and territory counterparts, industry, researchers, natural resource management groups and the community to ensure this is a truly national effort that reduces feral pig numbers and lessens the African swine fever risk.

"I commend Australian Pork Limited and the National Farmers' Federation for their efforts in advocating for a nationally coordinated approach to feral pig management."

NSW Nationals Senator Perin Davey said feral pigs did not respect borders.

"NSW has more than its fair share of feral pigs," Senator Davey said.

"This initiative will co-ordinate efforts across the nation to eradicate this feral pest, which is so destructive to our agricultural enterprises and our natural fauna.

"We've seen the success of the National Wild Dog Action Plan – and we can mirror that with this feral pig role for the benefit of not just the pig industry but agriculture more broadly and our beautiful environment."

Australian Pork Limited chief executive Margo Andrae said the co-ordinator would be based with the producer-owned pig industry body.

"This is a crucial opportunity to get on the front foot nationally to better manage feral pig populations, both in the immediate context of protecting our industry from African swine fever and to reduce the agricultural and environmental damage feral pigs inflict across so much of the continent," Ms Andrae said.

"We estimate an incursion of African swine fever would cost Australia more than \$2 billion.

"Acting on behalf of Australia's 2700 pig producers and the 36,000 people employed in our supply chains, industry and government are determined to stop that happening.

"This role will ensure reliable feral pig control methods are understood and used, and strengthen the on-ground work carried out by the states.

"The co-ordination and support of industry, government and the community in developing more safeguards to stop African swine fever from reaching our shores is already helping to protect our industry and a National Feral Pig Co-ordinator is another important way to strengthen our defences." 🐷



Ian Prunell, Mark McKenzie and Ashley Hoffmann from Rivalea.

Responding to market drives success for award-winning pork producer

READY-to-eat roast pork complete with crunchy crackle has proved a market hit for a Riverina-based producer who has collected a swag of awards for the product, which has found its way onto millions of Aussie dinner plates since it was introduced last year.

Riverview Farms Pork Roast with Crackle recently scooped three major wins at the Australian Food Awards, including the Gold Medal in the Convenience Main Meals Category, Best Convenience Main Meal and the Champion Australian Convenience Food trophy.

It was also a finalist for Australian Product of the Year.

The product is sold cooked, hot and ready

to eat, much like the hot chickens so many consumers buy each week.

Riverview Farms brand manager Ashley Hoffmann says busy lifestyles, evolving consumer tastes and hesitation over how to cook the perfect pork roast are some of the reasons behind the boom in convenient options like this.

"Consumers are making more frequent, smaller trips to the supermarket each week and ready-made meals and pre-cooked products are high on the shopping list," he said.

"Hot convenience foods offer consumers inspiration for 'what will be for my dinner tonight' or 'my lunch right now'.

"We couldn't shut our eyes to this change in buying behaviour, so we chose to innovate to meet the needs of the modern consumer.

"It's been a huge success that has propelled Riverview Farms to a leadership position for pork in the 'grab and go' meals category, which we're very proud of.

"We focus on innovation, service and the very best-quality pork, and we are delighted by the way the market has embraced our

latest product offering."

Ashley said the success of the 'ready to go' Riverview Farms Pork Roast with Crackle shows consumers are excited about products that reduce the complexity and time required to prepare their favourite meals.

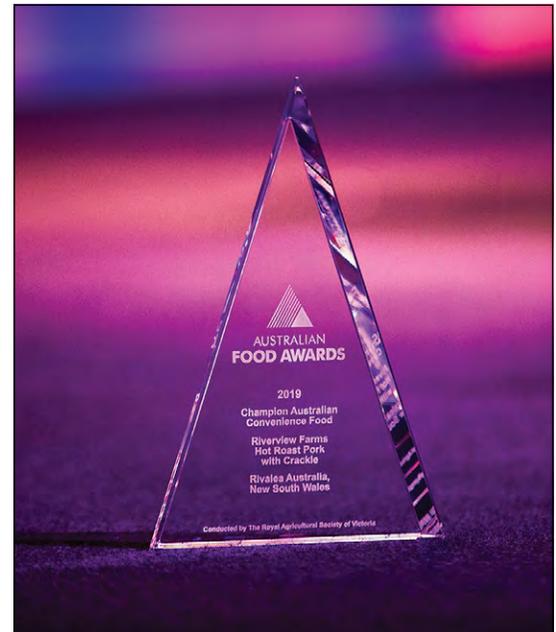
"Our research overwhelmingly shows consumers choose roast pork because of the crackle but a lot of us are too busy to prepare a roast on a regular basis," he said.

"The Riverview Farms Pork Roast with Crackle

is prepared and cooked in-store the traditional way, so consumers can now buy a pork roast they love and have it any day of the week."

Riverview Farms is part of the Rivalea brand family, which owns and manages the entire production cycle of its products, from raising pigs to processing to distribution, to ensure second-to-none quality.

For more information about Riverview Farms Pork Roast with Crackle, visit riverviewfarms.com.au 🐷



The Australian Food Awards trophy.

Littleproud welcomes Aussie Farms decision

FEDERAL Member for Maranoa David Littleproud has welcomed the decision of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission to strip Aussie Farms of its charitable status.

Aussie Farms runs a website listing the private details of thousands of Australian farming families and encouraging activists to take part in farm invasions.

"This is a win for common sense," Minister Littleproud said.

"As Agriculture Minister I wrote to the

Charities Commissioner asking him to review Aussie Farms' charitable status.

"Today he acted. I also worked with the Attorney-General to bring Aussie Farms under the Privacy Act with a maximum penalty of \$2.1 million for breaching the Act.

"Charities do not invade people's privacy and encourage illegal behaviour.

"Our farmers deserve respect for putting the best food in the world on our dinner tables.

"These activists put

farming families at risk by encouraging large-scale trespass.

"No one wants 50 strangers invading their backyard where their kids play.

"Aussie Farms will lose charity tax benefits after being exposed for what they are – militant activists.

"It's time Aussie Farms came to their senses and took their attack map down.

"We will always stand behind our farmers and farming families who have done nothing wrong." 🐷

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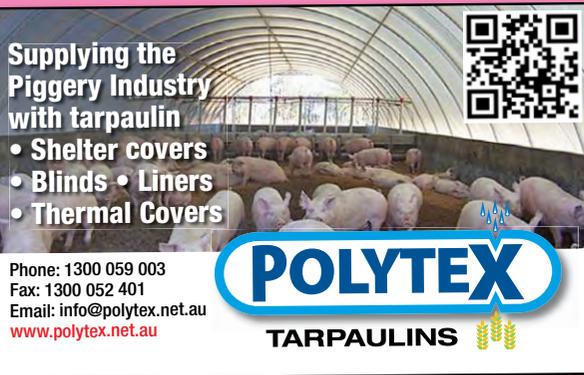
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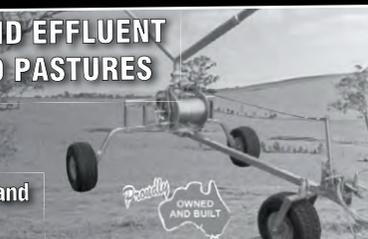
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Technical Service Team member Douglas Chadambuka.



Bendigo warehouse manager Paul Mckeon.

Stockyard Industries expands its Technical Service Team and welcomes new warehouse manager in Bendigo

STOCKYARD Industries would like to welcome Douglas Chadambuka to the Technical Service Team.

Douglas has a diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and a Cert IV in Electrical Instrumentation.

Douglas has more than 20 years' experience in installation, repair, maintenance and commissioning of machines

in various industrial manufacturing industries.

In his previous roles Douglas was responsible for installation, fault finding, servicing and maintenance and providing hands-on experience training to staff.

Douglas will be based in Toowoomba, Queensland for all your service needs and can be contacted on 0427 583 997 or doug

las@stockyardindustries.com

Stockyard would also like to welcome Paul Mckeon as the new warehouse manager at Bendigo.

Paul has more than 23 years' experience in warehousing in hardware and retail.

With the growing business, Stockyard has bought a larger delivery vehicle to service custom-

ers on delivery runs in southern NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

The larger vehicle allows the team to add more equipment onto the runs.

With the rakes, the drivers can now carry longer feedpipes.

After adding the soon-to-be-delivered aluminium trailer, Stockyard's new vehicle will be able to carry more than 4.5 tonnes of products.



Stockyard's new delivery vehicle.

100 percent inspections test African swine fever defences

AUSTRALIA'S defences against a potentially devastating African swine fever breach have been tested during a month-long operation by biosecurity officers targeting travellers from high-risk countries affected by the disease.

Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie said Operation Conway was a saturation exercise that involved the screening of all passengers and crew from identified flights for pork products and other biosecurity risk material.

"In all, 1021 passengers and crew were screened using a combination of X-ray, manual inspection and detector dogs across five flights originating from countries with confirmed cases of African swine fever," Minister McKenzie said.

"Twenty-eight infringements and 17 written warnings were issued during the operation, with 44kg of risk products seized, including 12kg of pork, chicken and beef products.

"A number of pork products seized were

sent for ASF testing, with 22 percent returning a positive result.

"African swine fever is not present in Australia and our government is determined to keep it that way, to protect our agriculture industries, our environment and our reputation as one of the world's most sought-after suppliers of safe, clean and green food and fibre.

"African swine fever would have a substantial impact on Australia's \$5.2 billion pork industry and the 34,000 jobs that depend on it in rural and regional communities.

"There's no vaccine and no cure and it kills about 80 percent of the pigs it infects, so this exercise aimed to test the performance of current controls to deter the illegal importation by travellers of African swine fever risk products."

During October, Operation Conway saw dedicated teams of biosecurity officers deployed across four states and locations – Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Darwin – supported at the

border by colleagues from Australian Border Force.

"The operation shows us that despite the risk to Australia, some people are still doing the wrong thing and bringing in products that could cause an outbreak here," Minister McKenzie said.

"The levels of non-compliance and other intelligence gathered in this operation are used to refine profiling as well as inform the sorts of screening activities we undertake so we can make sure we have the best measures in operation to protect Australia from this terrible disease.

"As well as heightened screening for pork products at airports and mail centres, our government has strengthened compliance action at the airport, which has resulted in a significant increase in the number of infringement notices issued.

"We have also redeployed detector dogs to Cairns and Darwin and placed ASF signage at international airports to ensure passengers declare all pork items."

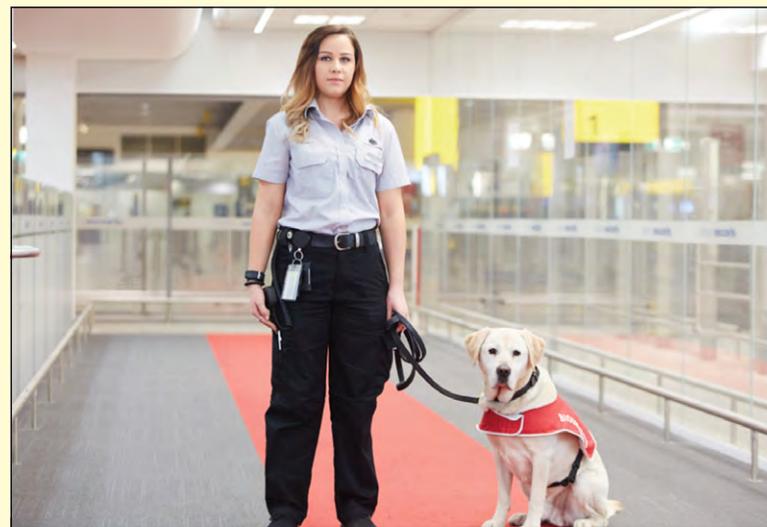


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Stuart Wilkinson presented the International APSA Travel Scholarships to Jamil Faccin and Kiah Gourley.



Rebecca Athorn of Australian Pork Limited, Pat Mitchell of PIC, Ashley Norval formerly of APL and now at DanBred and Lechelle van Breda of APL had a great time at the APSA conference dinner.



Stéphane Jonvel, Phatanee Lekrisompong and Roger Campbell caught up between scientific presentations.



The APSA Medal was presented to Megan Hayes by Darryl D'Souza of SunPork Solutions.

APSAlutely awesome conference in Adelaide

from P1

and implementation of cutting-edge technologies, with some game-changing discoveries and ideas revealed.

Following on from the keynote speakers in most sessions were dozens of shorter presentations from researchers, students and pork industry professionals, continuing with a similar topical theme to the foundation laid by the keynote speaker.

These short but sweet 10-minute presentations ensured research outcomes were delivered in a timely and easy to understand format, yet still with enough time for questions and interaction with the audience.

Highlights came from

everywhere and of particular note was the exceptionally high standard of research and forward thinking displayed by the students who show plenty of promise for the future of the pork industry.

Speaking of students, the APSA Medal is awarded based upon the best presentation given by a student or scientist with less than five years' industry experience at their first APSA conference.

This year's APSA Medal winner was Megan Hayes of the University of Melbourne for her flawless presentation on 'Positive human contact reduces avoidance behaviour of gestating sows during routine husbandry procedures'.

Students and research-

ers are also encouraged to submit an abstract of their research for the conference, either through an oral presentation or a poster.

The balance of abstracts submitted are presented in the form of posters.

APSA's Poster Award is presented to the creator of an engaging and eye-catching poster detailing relevant and interesting research.

This year saw an extremely high calibre of posters presented from across the industry, with the winner of the award being Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited Chief Scientist and CEO John Pluske's poster titled 'Feeding larger diameter rations does not improve the weaning weight of piglets

born to gilts but decreases the removal rate of pigs in the post-weaning period'.

While this is a potentially tumultuous time for industry, with pig prices still recovering and now the threat of ASF on our doorstep, a great many positive points for industry were presented during the conference thanks to world-leading science often being done right in our backyard.

You should save the date now for the 2021 conference as the week beginning on Sunday, November 14.

In coming months, we will be running coverage in APN on a number of presentations from APSA 2019, so stay tuned to see some of the event's highlights.

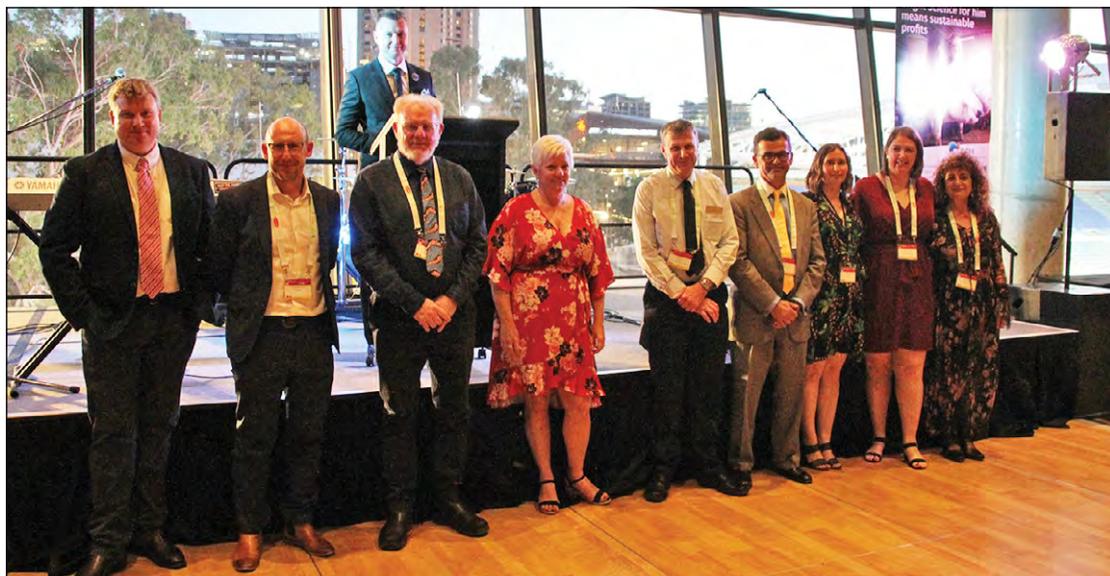
Daniel Tomlinson



The food on hand throughout APSA was a highlight for the author. The networking dinner at La Boca Argentinian restaurant comprised sublime cuts of Australian lamb, beef and pork.



The 2021 APSA committee, minus Stuart who snuck into the middle.



The 2019 APSA committee did a fantastic job organising and running a classic conference.



The APSA crew quickly overran the rooftop of 2KW Bar and Restaurant after the social functions.



With over 280 attendees, APSA 2019 provided the perfect platform for those in the pig industry to connect with and learn from one another.



Jefo's microphone 'throw boxes' certainly got a workout during conference proceedings, with dozens of attendees quizzing presenters during question time.



The APSA Poster Award for 2019 was presented to John Pluske by Rebecca Athorn.



Hanging out during the poster presentations were Laura Vargovic of the University of New England, Annika Bunz of Rivalea, Jo-Anne Harper of Rivalea and Susanne Hermesch of Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit.

www.porknews.com.au

BEC Feed Solutions reveals real dietary improvements

TO get the ball rolling on the final day of the 2019 Australasian Pig Science Association Conference, BEC Feed Solutions hosted a breakfast seminar at the Hilton Adelaide.

BEC prides itself on providing complete feed solutions to farmers, and as such we saw presentations from three different arms of the feed and nutrigenomics sectors.

First, those in attendance heard from Nuscience Global Category Manager Pigs & Cattle Kobe Lannoo who discussed C-Vita, a mixture of medium-chain fatty acids with a special focus on G-plus micro-organisms.

Kobe showed the benefits of adding C-Vita to both piglet and sow feeds, particularly in its ability to reduce the prevalence of streptococcus suis in piglets and sows.

Nusciences advises using C-Vita at dosage rates of 1-2kg/tonne in piglet feed, leading to less incoming strep suis, a better microbiome, increased immunity, less translocation of strep suis and lower incidences of meningitis and swollen joints in the nursery.

Adding 1kg/tonne of C-Vita to gestation and lactation feed for sows results in a healthier microbiome, better immunity for both sows and piglets, lower pre-weaning mortality and less streptococcus in the farrowing house and weaning stable.

Second, attendees were treated to a presentation from Adisseo Global Scientific & Technical Manager – Palatability Simon Eskinazi.

Simon discussed Nutriad (now Adisseo) product KRAVE AP and how adding it to feed enhances sow and litter performance.

Developed specifically to stimulate appetite and improve feed intake during lactation, KRAVE AP improves palatability of sow feed and results in sows that eat more readily, more often.

Simon showed through increasing their feed intake thanks to the taste of KRAVE AP, sows had reduced weight loss during lactation, better condition at weaning, shorter weaning-to-oestrus interval, higher farrowing rate, more piglets/sow/year and improved sow longevity.

Due to the improved condition and therefore milk production of the sow, trials showed heavier litter weights at weaning, with up to 500g of additional litter weight gain per day.

In a nutshell, the results showed optimal productivity and improved profits.

The third and final presentation came from swine nu-

tritionist and Adisseo Technical Manager Asia Pacific Luiz Souza.

Luiz disseminated results from swine trials with Selisseo, a pure source of hydroxy-selenomethionine antioxidant designed to help pigs fight oxidative stress.

It was proven through trial results that Selisseo included in the diet of sows and piglets under oxidative stress improves reproductive performance, piglet health and overall meat quality.

As the most efficient organic source of selenium, at its higher concentration it is recommended to feed Selisseo at 10-15g/tonne of feed to see optimum results.

Combining all three products showcased during the morning's presentations would result in pigs with above-average levels of health and therefore productivity.

For further information on any of the products discussed, call BEC Feed Solutions on 1300 884 593 or visit becfeedsolutions.com.au



Presenters at the BEC Feed Solutions breakfast seminar Luiz Souza, Simon Eskinazi and Kobe Lannoo.



WHEN YOU DEMAND PERFORMANCE,
TURN TO THE PRODUCTS YOU TRUST

 Ingelvac CircoFLEX® +  Ingelvac MycoFLEX® =  FLEXcombo®

Premium protection for your whole herd

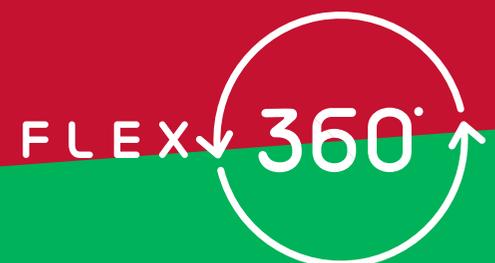
We help you develop a holistic approach to disease management in your business to achieve whole herd health by:

- Maximising immunity against PCV2 and *M.hyo* for all life stages of your herd - gilts, sows, and piglets
- Minimising disease exposure through best practice operations

**FLEXcombo can now be used for pregnant and lactating sows,
so you can protect your pigs in all life stages.**



WHOLE HERD HEALTH
WHOLE HERD PROTECTION



Please contact your consulting veterinarian or your Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health representative for more information.

PCV2 = Porcine circovirus type 2; *M. hyo* = *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*

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