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State and national livestock organisations attended the Liaison-Livestock Industry training in Perth, Western Australia, hosted by Animal Health Australia.

Liaison-livestock industry training

LAST month, Animal Health Australia hosted Liaison-Livestock Industry training in Perth, Western Australia.

State and national livestock organisations attended the event, with the pork industry well represented.

Pork sector attendees included Craig Mostyn Group, Linley Valley Pork, Westpork, West Australian Pork Producers Association, Apiam Animal Health, private consultants and Australian Pork Limited.

It was a great day, learning

the important role LLI individuals play in emergency animal disease response.

LLI training is targeted at personnel who have been nominated by their peak industry body and are likely to represent their sector under the LLI function during an EAD incident.

LLI individuals are responsible for reporting and communicating with their peak industry body on events that are occurring on the ground.


Playing a key role in incident response – LLI personnel liaise with incident management and coordination teams in incident control centres.

LLI training is available in each state and includes nominated representatives from various peak industry bodies.

Training is inclusive of all livestock sectors that may be affected by EAD.

If you are interested in becoming an LLI for the pork industry or registering for future LLI training, visit animalhealthaustralia.com.au/liaison-livestock-industry-role/ or contact jess.vandeweyer@australianpork.com.au

Dr Jess van de Weyer
APL EAD Policy Analyst



LIAISON — LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY INFORMATION GUIDE

LLI training is available in each state and includes nominated representatives from various peak industry bodies.

A year of challenge and resilience

AS we head into the final month of 2022, it's a time to reflect on what has been a remarkable year.

With many ups and unfortunate downs, we've navigated our way through times of ongoing uncertainty and come out the other side stronger and better prepared.

We've had our fair share of hurdles this year.

Aside from enduring almost everything Mother Nature could throw our way – devastating fires, floods and damaging storms to name a few – we've also faced a major biosecurity incursion that we didn't see coming – Japanese encephalitis virus.

Fortunately, our diligent planning for African swine fever meant we were able to speedily respond, and our pork producing industry is to be applauded.

Industry has worked with the Federal Government, states and territories, and various agricultural and health departments to grasp the spread of the virus and put measures in place so industry could adapt quickly and accordingly.

A few months later, as the threat of foot and mouth disease in Indonesia caused widespread concern for agricultural sectors, the pork industry was able to provide valuable first-hand experience from our management in dealing with JEV.

Because of this, other sectors looked to us for support.

Our biosecurity preparedness and response efforts confirmed the industry's leadership in emergency animal disease management.

The way the industry was able to mobilise



Point of View

by **MARGO ANDRAE**
CEO



realigned our shared vision for the future of our industry.

Coming together with pork industry leaders at APL's November delegates meeting reconfirmed our key focus areas for 2023.

These include promoting home-grown Australian pork, animal welfare priorities, biosecurity and ensuring we continue to listen to industry.

These areas build and support APL's strategic themes, bolstering our industry objectives.

Within the APL team, 2022 was a year of development and transformation for our staff, with some great talent leaving to take on new opportunities.

While it's always hard to say goodbye when team members are approached by other organisations, it's reassuring to know that their career at APL had a positive impact on their professional growth, and their contribution to our industry is absolutely recognised.

In the last half of the year, we have welcomed new faces and valuable expertise to the team, with a few more changes to be announced.

We hope that travel remains unrestricted in 2023, giving us the opportunity to get on the road to meet with you in person.

As the year comes to an end, 2023 offers us continued learning from you all and the opportunity to work together to support and create value for our sector.

Thank you for your valuable contribution to the industry in 2022.

I wish you all a safe and happy festive season with family and friends, and an abundant 2023.

technical and specialist representatives, navigate the unknowns and learn from our response efforts highlighted that when the going gets tough, the tough get going – the Australian pork industry is resilient, and we continue to grow stronger.

With every experience comes valuable learnings.

We now look to bolster our preparedness, identifying areas for improvement as we move into the new year, preparing for any challenges in the coming months.

While Australia reopened to the world in early 2022, Australia's foodservice industry is continuing to return to a new level of normal.

It's fantastic to see the foodservice industry once again embracing our beloved product and putting pork back on the menu across the country.

This year, we've seen retailers introduce new innovative pork products for a delicious twist on Christmas.

While Australian ham remains a festive favourite year after year, our strong focus on marketing pork's versatility continues to demonstrate that pork isn't only a 'special occasion' protein but an excellent choice for everyday meals.

The post-pandemic world in which we operate continues to high-

light markets that are still recovering from pre-pandemic levels.

For our exports, several factors – including global supply chains and container disruptions – are still returning to normality after COVID-19.

This has resulted in our exports softening in both value and volume.

Additionally, China has reduced its imports, leaving countries such as Brazil and Spain with excess supply, which has seen pork prices rise more slowly than beef and poultry.

While exports are down 11 percent in volume for the year to September 2022 versus the previous year – and prices are down 9.1 percent for total exports from \$4.01/kg last year to \$3.64/kg this year – we hope to see exports return to pre-COVID figures in 2023 and beyond as global supply chains recover.

A key focus is on easing workforce labour shortages through policy support, industry representation and peak body collaboration.

We have forged new relationships with the change of Federal Government.

We've also seen that changes at state level have both positive and not so positive impacts on our industry.

These changes have



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all our valued customers from the Stockyard Industries team



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**Pork Industry
Calendar of Events**

2022

DEC 6 – Midwest Pork Conference - Lebanon, Indiana. <https://www.midwestporkconference.com/>

2023

JAN 10-12 – Banff Pork Seminar - Banff, Canada. <https://www.banffpork.ca/>

FEB 14-15 – Dutch Pork Expo - Netherlands. <https://www.dutchporkexpo.nl/>

JUN 4-7 – International Symposium on Emerging and Re-emerging Pig Diseases – IMPACT Forum - Bangkok, Thailand. <https://iserpd2023bangkok.com/>

JUN 7-9 – World Pork Expo - Iowa State Fairgrounds, US. <https://worldpork.org/>

NOV 13-16 – Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) Conference - Brisbane, Australia. www.apsa.asn.au

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

porknews.com.au
07 3286 1833



Adult culex annulirostris. Photos: Stephen Doggett



Eggs culex annulirostris.

Controlling mosquitoes around piggeries

MANAGEMENT of mosquitoes is required because they bite and transmit viruses that cause diseases.

Japanese encephalitis virus was detected for the first time in domestic pigs in Australia in February 2022.

It was recognised that more detailed information was needed to enable the pig industry to effectively manage mosquitoes at piggeries to support public and pig health outcomes.

The National Vector Management Group was formed in March 2022 to develop a guide for mosquito management for piggeries.

The group included representatives from the pig industry, state control-of-use regulators, medical entomologists, health departments and agricultural departments.

In developing the content for the guide, the group considered the following risk factors:

- Environmental conditions of a piggery including sources of standing water
- Mosquito life cycle and ecology
- Non-chemical alternatives for mosquito control
- Effectiveness of chemicals against target mosquitoes
- Pig health
- Worker health and safety
- Non-target species
- Food residues

• Ease and availability of proposed interventions.

Based on consideration of these factors, the first version of 'Integrated mosquito management principles for piggeries' was published on 15 March 2022.

Subsequently, assessment of additional chemicals was undertaken by the control-of-use experts in the group and where sufficient evidence was available, emergency permit applications were submitted to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

The second edition of the 'Integrated mosquito management principles for piggeries' document includes chemicals that are now available for use at piggeries under emergency use permits.

The second edition can be obtained by visiting farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/IntegratedMosquitoManagementPrinciplesforPiggeries_v2.pdf

Adult mosquitoes lay eggs on or around fresh, waste or stagnant standing water in natural or constructed places, including ponds, dams, rainwater or septic tanks, scrap metal piles, old drums, farm equipment, roof gutters, buckets, troughs, puddles, creeks, ditches and marshy areas.

Only the adult female bites people and animals,

as she requires blood to produce eggs.

A single female mosquito can lay hundreds of eggs.

When they hatch, larval mosquitoes – known as wrigglers – live in the water and can complete their development and emerge as adults within seven to 10 days.

Adult mosquitoes prefer sheltered, cool and dark places to rest, and tend to be on the underside of objects or plant foliage to avoid getting wet.

Adult mosquitoes generally don't live longer than three weeks but will bite and blood feed every three to four days.

During their life, adult mosquitoes may travel up to 5km from where they hatched.

Adult mosquitoes are most active at dawn, dusk and into the evening, but can also be active during day.

Protect yourself

Wear a loose-fitting long-sleeved shirt with long pants and covered shoes.

Use repellents that contain diethyltoluamide, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Apply insect repellent to all exposed skin during your workday.

Read the repellent label for reapplication times and re-apply accordingly.

A range of repellents and insect sprays are also available.

Control mosquitoes

Mosquito management

that relies on only controlling adults is not effective.

Integrated mosquito management that targets all stages of the mosquito life cycle, using a combination of non-chemical and chemical methods, is most effective.

Monitor mosquito numbers daily.

Visually inspect water bodies and water-filled containers for wrigglers and facilities for resting adult mosquitoes – for example ceilings and walls.

If mosquitoes remain abundant, consider additional mosquito control.

Non-chemical control

Reduce mosquito breeding on your property by removing anything in the open that is filled with water or has the potential to hold water:

- Filling potholes or other areas around the piggery that collect water
- Ensuring gutters, downpipes and drains around buildings are free of debris that creates pooling water, and trimming overhanging branches
- Ensuring effluent drainage is free flowing, flushed regularly and does not pool
- Ensuring all tanks, wells or other large water containers are sealed or screened with 1mm mesh
- Reducing vegetation around the piggery will minimise areas where adult mosquitoes can rest
- Ensure all windows and doors are covered by

well-maintained mosquito proof screens.

Chemical control

Chemical residues in pork are a trade and food quality risk.

Do not apply chemicals that are not registered for use on pigs to pigs, pig feed, surfaces pigs may contact or in a way that might result in chemical drifting onto pigs.

Only use chemicals approved for use against mosquitoes and strictly follow the directions for use on the label.

Chemical use for mosquito control should be conducted by people authorised to use chemicals in accordance with state and territory training and licensing requirements.

Preferably use a licensed pest control operator.

Seek professional advice if you are unsure about how to use a chemical.

Chemical control can be applied to water sources, the outside of sheds and buildings, effluent ponds, staff facilities and pigs.

Restrict chemical use to areas required to be treated. Keep records of all pest control activities.

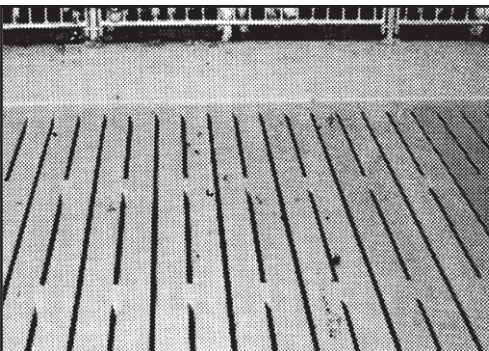
Be aware that misuse of chemicals can create environmental risks to bees, wildlife and aquatic life.

For more information, visit farmbiosecurity.com.au and if any sign of disease, call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch hotline on 1800 675 888.

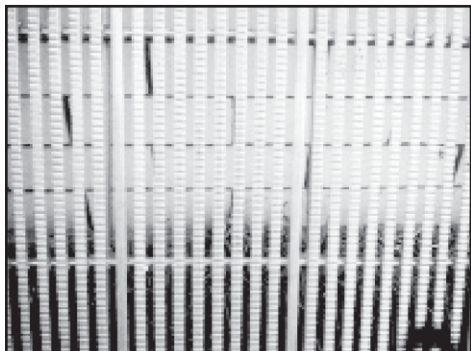
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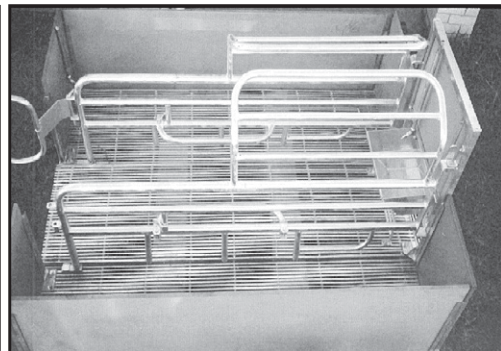
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Getting animal rights right

MY, maybe not so mythical, 'United Poignant Porcines', introduced to you last month, have been contemplating how, and why, to infiltrate producer and industry bodies to solicit better outcomes for their fellow pigs.

In among some very robust discussions – and notwithstanding, some rather 'pigheaded' and conservative views expressed by those pigs joining the chat group from the well-known handful of big corporate piggeries – some worthwhile ideas did come forward.

Let us now consider a few. Top of the agenda was a view that those pigs carefully cared for and nurtured by smaller producers – an increasing number of whom have recently transitioned proactively from free range to pasture raised systems – should enjoy a bigger seat at the table.

Indeed, some simply want any seat at the table, having been denied one by inherent voting rights based on numbers of pigs kept and, for that matter, killed.

This struck them as wrong.

Why should their views be ignored or, at best, not heard as loudly as their bigger counterparts?

Also strongly expressed was the need for stronger

**Cant
Comment**
by BRENDON CANT



with the inevitable shackles of bureaucracy and the possibility of factions – both of which have long featured unfavourably in all discussions around the worth or otherwise of the big traditional bodies and how they go about representing all players.

At a consumer level – and that's where the real buck stops – United Poignant Porcines unanimously declared that the public would back any calls for greater industry transparency and would welcome the opportunity to support real proven higher-welfare pork.

Industrial scale intensive farming of pigs, they agreed, was generally on the nose.

For some, a recited quote from George Orwell's *Animal Farm* summed it up:

Man is the only creature that consumes without producing.

He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits.

Yet he is lord of all the animals.

He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself.

Man serves the interests of no creature except himself.

accountability, by producers and industry bodies at federal and state levels, for the welfare of their constituents – both pigs and people.

On the pig front, the free-thinking free-ranging United Poignant Porcines insisted that producer bodies take stronger more public stances when breaches of animal welfare codes and outright disdain for reasonable animal welfare practices are exposed.

Some went even further, proposing that such supposedly industry representative bodies should proactively seek out those people who breach codes, rather than simply trotting out politically limp responses, as has been the case in the dim distant past and, sadly, recently.

One was even heard to squeal, "We're all in this together, we were all created equal, so if some of

our mob are being cruelly treated and forced to live in squalid conditions, surely our supposedly representative bodies should strongly and very publicly call it out for what it is – that is, animal cruelty, and something that has to be stamped out whenever revealed."

As for how the likes of individuals aligned with United Poignant Porcines might infiltrate existing producer and industry bodies, there was no clear pathway identified, let alone agreed.

However, there was a sentiment expressed that if control remained a numbers game, then perhaps a new body was needed which could and would lobby hard for the needs and rights of the smaller players currently being fenced off from the decision-making tables.

Of course, such a move would very likely come



Pasture raised pigs and their committed producers need a voice too. Size is not everything.



Tamworth sow and litter pictured in August 1931 on 'Tipperary', a 2500ha farm at York, WA, then owned by WG Burges. While the clock can't be wound back, alarm bells are ringing almost 100 years down the track, as intensive industrial scale pig farming dominates the production landscape at a recognised cost to animal welfare.

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Congratulations to 2023 Nuffield Scholar recipient Dr Regan Lynch

CONGRATULATIONS to Queensland-based veterinarian Dr Regan Lynch, who won a 2023 Nuffield Scholarship sponsored by the Farm Biosecurity program.

Regan will use her scholarship to explore the cultural changes and attitudes to farm biosecurity in Australia and in countries undergoing or having undergone significant disease eradication programs.

Regan is a senior veterinarian and provides mixed animal veterinary services to northwest Queensland.

Her work is primarily focused on production and producer consultation and services.

This includes pregnancy diagnosis in cattle, sheep

and other large animals, artificial breeding services, surgical procedures and preventative care programs.

She also provides small animal veterinary services and client education in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, school visits for primary schools and clinic-based client education events and disease surveillance.

When possible, she is involved with Indigenous veterinary visits to remote communities.

Regan is also part of the Northern Australian Biosecurity Surveillance Network, which focuses on disease surveillance and communication with producers and other in-

volved veterinarians.

"The current incursions of Japanese encephalitis virus and the increasing risk of incursion of lumpy skin disease and foot and mouth disease highlight the need to understand producers' attitudes to biosecurity," Regan said.

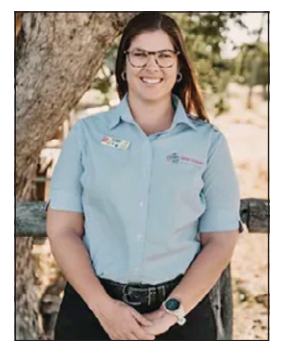
She said there are many tensions to explore in biosecurity, as an example, the possible financial impacts of diseases of importance can lead to a reluctance to report possible unusual disease cases.

As part of her Nuffield Scholarship, Regan plans to travel to Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Brazil and countries in Africa.

This study aligns with a number of industry

strategic plans including Meat and Livestock Australia's Strategic Plan 2025, Red Meat 2030 and 2030 Northern Australia Biosecurity Strategy.

Regan can be contacted on 0411 594 532 or regan@greatartesianvets.net



2023 Nuffield Scholar Dr Regan Lynch.

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There are many parameters to determine the impact of heat stress. For example, feed and water intake, panting score and feed conversion rate. Photo: Phytobiotics

APRIL seasonal infertility and heat stress webinar



**Australasian
Pork Research
Institute Ltd
APRIL**

WITH the 2022-23 summer approaching, a timely webinar on heat stress and seasonal infertility was held by Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd on October 19 to review current research and APRIL-funded projects to date.

The webinar was well attended with over 100 registrants and consisted of two one-hour sessions with a final question and answer session.

Dr Rebecca Athorn from Australian Pork Limited opened the first session with a review on 'What we have learnt about the effects of heat stress and seasonal fertility in the Australian pig industry'.

The impacts of heat stress on lactating sows reduces farrowing rate, increases herd feed conversion and non-reproductive days and, with early gestating sows, heat stress can impair foetal development, which can increase carcass fatness and reduced growth rate in the litter.

Australian research indicates that sows bred during summer months have reduced litter sizes and increased birthweight variation with a higher percentage of lightweight pigs (<1.1kg).

The causative factors of seasonal infertility include the severity of season, mating parity and previous performance.

Farrowing rate was the trait most affected by these factors, whereas litter size was not affected in older parity sows (parity three onwards).

Additionally, if a sow has weaned greater than 10 pigs in a previous litter, high temperature and reducing daylight length had a significant effect on farrowing rate.

Strategies to reduce the impact of heat stress involve targeting lactation, ovulation and gestation using nutritional supplementations.

Dr Athorn cited examples – including supplementation of 1.0 percent l-citrulline, a precursor to nitric oxide (vasodilator), to lactating sow diets reduced the respiration rate and preweaning mortality, while the addition of 5 percent dextrose to the wean to mate diet increased the number born alive by 1.4 piglet.

The first APRIL project presented was 'Hot and bothered! Long term impacts of late pregnancy heat stress on sows and progeny'.

Final year PhD student

Weicheng Zhao, from the University of Melbourne, presented results on the impact of heat stress during the transition period on sow farrowing physiology.

The experiment was conducted in climate-controlled chambers at the University of Melbourne, in which pregnant gilts in late gestation (day 110) experienced either thermoneutral (20C) or heat stress (cyclic 28 to 30C) conditions.

The results indicated that the heat stress sows had reduced average daily feed intake by 58 percent and farrowed more stillborn and fewer liveborn piglets.

Interestingly, there was reduced umbilical oxygen supply to piglets from heat stress sows and an increase in live born mortality.

Dr Rebecca Morrison from Rivalea Australia provided an update on 'Novel aspirin supplementation during gestation to improve farrowing rate and piglet birth weight of sows mated in summer'.

It was identified that sows mated in summer have an increase in returns to service at day 35 (irregular) and this was linked with low embryo survival during early gestation rather than conception failure.

Prostaglandin F2 alpha levels can increase as a result of heat stress and interrupt progesterone concentration, causing early pregnancy failure.

Aspirin can reduce prostaglandin synthesis and therefore may support progesterone dependent pregnancy.

The project aims are to determine whether aspirin supplementation from day 0 to 80 of gestation will improve the farrowing rate of sows mated in summer, as well as reduce the proportion of lightweight piglets.

Dr Kate Plush of Sun-Pork Group described results for the APRIL study comparing post cervical artificial insemination as a method to alleviate seasonal infertility in sows with conventional AI.

Research indicates that PCAI increases litter size by 0.5-0.8 pigs and requires a lower semen volume, and less skill is needed to apply the method.

Results indicated that farrowing rate and litter size were not improved using PCAI, however there were

observed increases in piglet viability, indicated by the number of pigs weaned both in spring and summer autumn matings.

It was hypothesised that PCAI deposits semen at the site of fertilisation, providing more quality semen and competition, ultimately improving embryo, piglet quality and subsequent number of pigs weaned.

Professor Frank Dunshea from the University of Melbourne reviewed 'Dietary strategies to ameliorate the physiological effects of heat stress in pigs'.

To increase thermal dissipation during heat stress, pigs reduce activities that produce metabolic heat – such as eating, lactating or movement – and increase radiant and evaporative heat loss.

Radiant heat loss is increased by diverting blood flow from the gastrointestinal tract to the periphery and evaporative heat loss is increased by an increased respiration rate.

The cost of these heat managing strategies may cause oxidative damage and reduce GIT permeability.

Professor Dunshea presented research that showed supplementation with antioxidants such as vitamin E and selenium during heat stress is a strategy used to mitigate oxidative stress and can counteract the effects of heat stress.

For example, supra-nutritional levels of selenium (1.0ppm) reduces rectal temperature in pigs.

Similarly, other dietary strategies including supplementation of betaine, sanguinarine, chromium and polyphenols are also known to reduce rectal temperature as well as the respiration rate of pigs during heat stress.

Professor Dunshea showed that the severe effects on gut integrity by heat stress can be reversed by supplementation of diets with selenium and vitamin E, betaine, sanguinarine, chromium and polyphenols.

Professor Eugeni Roura from the University of Queensland provided an update on the APRIL project 'Heat tolerance (HT) in lactating sows: dietary strategies, metabolic biomarkers and microbiome signature'.

continued P8

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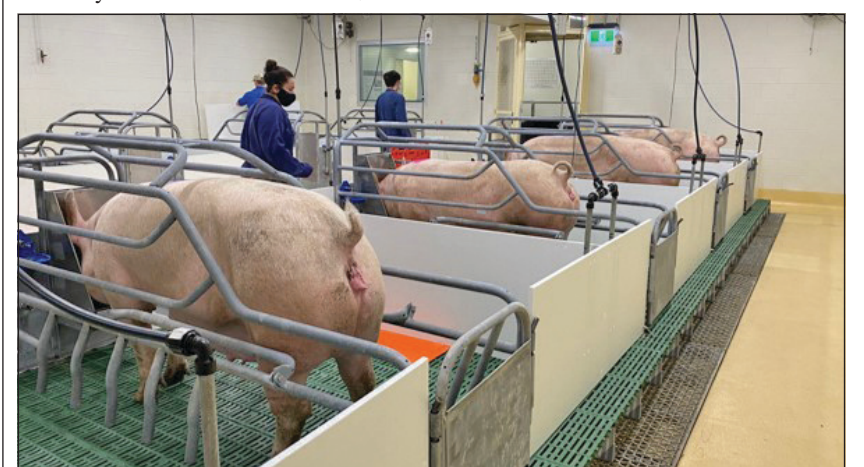
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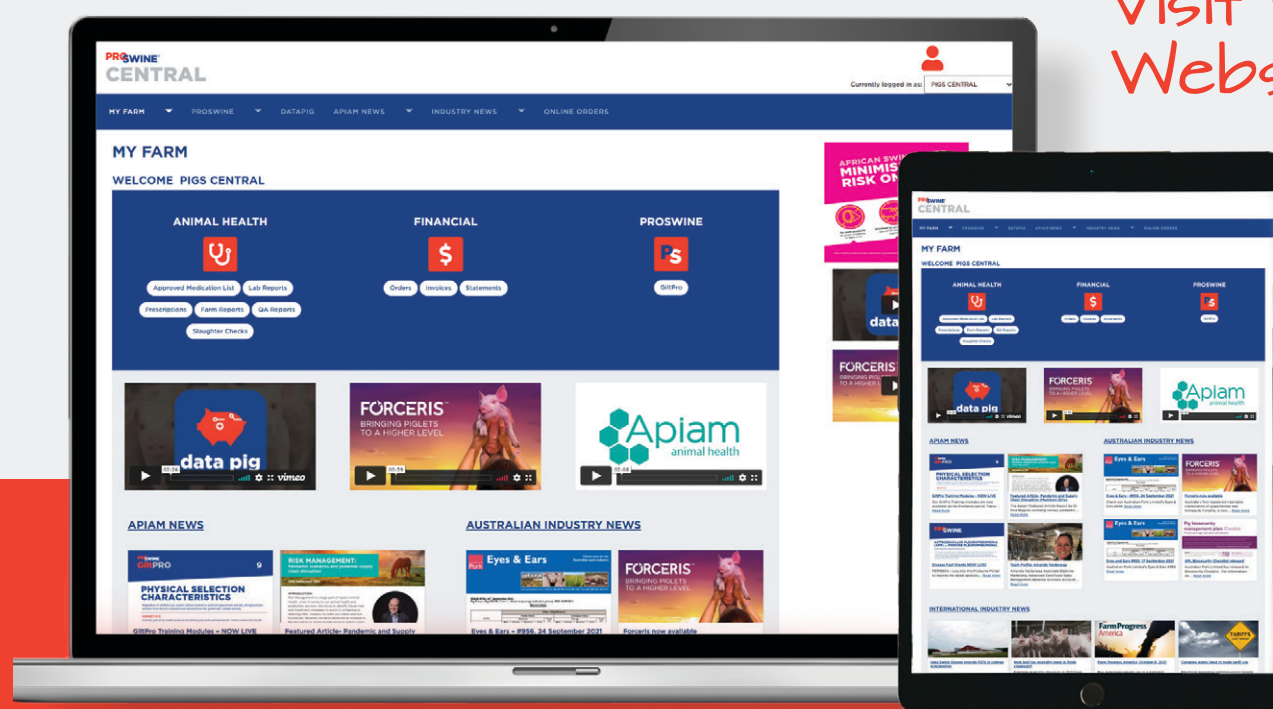
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The climate control room at the University of Queensland. Photo: Dr Marta Navarro

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Protecting Australians from antimicrobial resistance in food

THE Federal Government has begun a nationwide survey of antimicrobial resistance in Australia's food supply to protect Australians against the threat of antimicrobial resistance.

November 18 marked the start of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week.

Antimicrobial resistance is the resistance of bacteria, viruses and fungi to antimicrobial or antibiotic medicines.

Described as a 'silent pandemic', antimicrobial resistance is one of the World Health Organisation's top 10 global public health threats.

Common infections can become untreatable, leading to longer hospital stays and higher death rates.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand, together with state and territory regulators, has begun sampling of retail beef, pork and poultry products as part of a national strategy to minimise the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance.

This is the first national surveillance of antimicrobial resistant bacteria in retail food since 2007.

It will help to gauge the scale of antimicrobial resistant bacteria in select retail foods, while also identifying emerging threats to our medicine cabinet of antimicrobials.

The survey will run until mid-2023, supporting Australia's National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy – 2020 and beyond.

The strategy provides a national approach to protecting Australian health and our environment through minimising the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance, while also ensuring that effective antimicrobials are available or in development.

Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said, "This is about reducing the risk of people being sicker for longer, the pressure that creates on our health system and the increased risk of dying from an infection that has tragically turned untreatable."

"We know this is becoming an increasing global problem, with antibiotics losing their effectiveness and new solutions not being developed

fast enough," Assistant Minister Kearney said.

"This is a part of the puzzle to ensure we're prepared to protect the health of Australians now and into the future."



Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney.

Seasonal infertility and heat stress

from P6

The objective of this study was to test dietary interventions to increase the heat tolerance of the lactating sow.

The first experiment was a two times two factorial design, with two levels of crude protein – standard protein 19 percent and low protein 16 percent – with and without umami flavours fed to lactating sows.

The second experiment examined a low protein diet compared to a standard protein diet fed to lactating sows.

The thermal program applied to both experiments involved each lactating sow undergoing four temperature periods, consisting of three heat stress days and three thermoneutral days.

Between each temperature period were washout periods of two days.

All physiological parameters evaluated were significantly increased in lactating sows during heat stress compared to thermoneutral conditions.

In addition, average daily feed intake was significantly reduced in both experiments during the heat stress periods.

Piglet growth was increased in sows fed the low protein diet compared to the standard protein group in experiment 1.

Similarly, sows fed the flavoured diets had litters with higher growth than the unflavoured group.

In experiment 2, sows fed the low protein diet had lower respiration rates and rectal temperatures under heat stress and thermoneutral conditions when compared to the standard protein treatment.

Finally, Associate Professor Will van Wettere from the University of Adelaide presented results from APRIL project 'Nutritional supplementation to increase the number of pigs weaned

and fertility of sows which farrow and are mated during summer and early autumn'.

The project assessed 1.0 percent arginine and 0.2 percent betaine supplementation to a standard diet fed five days pre-farrow to the first post-weaning oestrous.

Arginine improves blood flow to reproductive tissues and betaine promotes intestinal function and increases lactation performance and subsequent reproductive performance.

During heat stress, the sow redistributes blood flow to facilitate cooling – effectively decreasing endocrine and nutritional support to the uterus and ovaries – which may impair the number of quality oocytes and the capacity of the uterus to support fertilisation.

Additionally, decreased blood flow to the uterus prior to, during and after farrowing increases farrowing duration, reduces oxygen supply to the foetus and increases the severity of hypoxia.

This study showed that during summer 1.0 percent arginine supplementation improved piglet survival to weaning by 0.47 piglet per sow.

The combination of 1.0 percent arginine and 0.2 percent betaine supplementation resulted in a shorter weaning to first mating interval of 5.1 day, compared to 5.6 days for standard diet, and 0.6 more live born piglets in the subsequent litter.

The presentations attracted a series of questions and comments, providing all presenters an opportunity to further elucidate.

APRIL would like to thank the reviewers and project presenters for their time taken to prepare presentations, as well as the audience who logged in and participated.

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The Australian Bacon and Ham Traceback Project will verify country-of-origin labelling claims for bacon and ham.

Keeping CoOL claims honest

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited are working in the best interest of Australian pork producers by undertaking a bacon and ham traceback project with Oritain – an industry leader in using forensic science and data to truly verify origin.

Since early 2020, Oritain and APL have been engaged in conversations to identify how Oritain can support and improve the current product traceability systems that APL have in place.

In 2021-22, a review of Physi-Trace program was completed by Oritain.

This involved a detailed comparison of the sampling, analytical and statistical methodologies between Oritain's traceability program and Physi-Trace.

There were significant similarities observed in both programs.

This review indicated that Oritain's traceability program could be cost effective for the Australian pork industry in verifying the country-of-origin labelling claims for bacon and ham.

A robust sample library and dataset trace element fingerprint of Australian and non-Australian pork are essential in successful traceback of the processed pork.

Since 2015, Oritain has been building up an extensive global library of meat trace element profiles – including pork.

Use of Oritain and Physi-Trace historical datasets will result in a significant traceback cost reduction – six times.

Both parties have come to agreeance in the proposed scope and objectives for the Australian Bacon and Ham Traceback Project.

This APL-funded commissioned project will conduct 72 trackbacks of bacon and ham – collected from Australian retail locations in the 2022-23 financial year.

The first quarterly trace-

back audit program has been completed.

Random samples were collected from supermarket retailers in major Australian cities for this traceback event.

The products sampled were bacon or ham, listed as minimum 95 percent Australian origin.

The traceback results indicated that 16 collected samples were consistent with the known chemical fingerprint for Australian ham and bacon.

Therefore, these samples have accurate country of origin claims.

The remaining 56 Australian bacon and ham trackbacks will be conducted over the next three quarters.

For further information on this report, contact Dr Vaibhav Gole on 0436 934 763 or email vaibhav.gole@australianpork.com.au

Dr Vaibhav Gole
APL Manager Integrity Systems

Nipah virus is on Australia's doorstep

NIPAH virus left a million pigs and a hundred people dead in Malaysia in a 1999 outbreak, and it is currently on Australia's doorstep.

Carried by bats, the virus is fatal for 40 to 75 percent of humans and about 40 percent of pigs.

While the risk is considered to be low, it could have devastating impacts if it reached Australia.

Nipah virus is currently found in fruit bat populations in mainland Asia, with past outbreaks in Malaysia and Singapore.

Bangladesh and India are known to have Nipah outbreaks almost annually.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry veterinary epidemiologist Dr Andrew Breed said changes to bat habitats due to human encroachment was pushing them into new territories, both in Asia and within Australia.

"In various parts of the world, some of these large fruit bat species are finding urban and rural areas they can adapt to survive in," Dr Breed said.

Within Australia over the past century, big changes in fruit bat distributions have been observed due to changes in land use.

"In the 1930s, the black flying fox didn't occur any further south in Queensland than the Maryborough region, but by the 1960s there was clear evidence of it

in Brisbane," he said.

And in the 2000s, it was found as far south as Sydney.

A virus similar to Nipah had already been found in bat populations in Papua New Guinea, with evidence the bats could migrate from Papua through Torres Strait to Australia.

"We know that fruit bats can fly across Torres Strait, we've observed this using satellite transmitters," Dr Breed said.

The spill over of diseases from bats to livestock or humans occurs when the systems they live in are disrupted by human activity, causing stress.

"We need to find ways of minimising and avoiding that stress on wild animal populations," he said.

"They play an important role in our ecosystems – they control insect populations, including agricultural pests, and they're important for pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds, so we do need them."

Limited research

While Nipah has a high mortality rate in humans, it was not considered as much of a biosecurity threat as diseases such as foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease.

Dr Breed said there were two reasons for that. First, Nipah wouldn't have as big an impact on the livestock sector.

"FMD and LSD affect livestock and, if they

were to enter Australian populations, there would be severe economic impacts in terms of trade," he said.

Second, FMD and LSD were moving across Asia and closer to Australia, but there was no evidence as yet of a similar movement for Nipah.

However, the regions of Indonesia, Malaysia and the nearby islands close to Australia had not been well-studied.

Dr Breed said that the research was limited if talking about Nipah and where it occurs in Indonesia and that the pattern of spread in humans had been sporadic, with no clear trend.

"We don't know how well surveillance for Nipah virus in humans works across the areas that it could be present, so we're not in a position to monitor incidence very accurately," he said.

Low risk, high impact

For Australian pig farmers, the outbreak in Malaysia was a blessing – coming at a time when pig farmers were doing it tough.

"It actually helped the Australian pig industry because they took over supplying the Singapore market," Edwina Beveridge said, the Young based NSW Farmers Pork Committee chair and pork producer.

"But it is on the list of diseases we don't want in this country."

That outbreak in Asia may have come as a relief to producers, but biosecurity threats were increasing, and their patterns becoming more unpredictable.

"It's one of those events that probably has low likelihood, but potentially high impacts," Dr Breed said.

ABC News Online



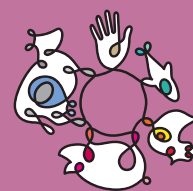
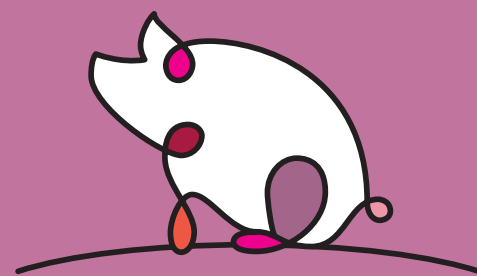
Bats act as hosts to a range of viruses and diseases, but it is human intervention that is causing the illnesses to spill over into domestic animals and humans. Photo: René Riegald



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Pigs enjoy muddy wallows, which they use to help regulate their body temperature in warmer weather and protect themselves from sunburn, flies and external parasites. Photo: Crispin Jones



In farrowing crates, a sow is confined to a small pen, unable to turn around, freely interact with her piglets or perform natural behaviours such as nest building. Photo: Matthieu Pétiard

From snout to tail - what to know about pig welfare

CURIOUS and clever, pigs are certainly remarkable animals.

Many Australians appear to agree, taking an interest in pig welfare by choosing to look for higher welfare pork products, for example.

But what does a pig actually need for good welfare and a good life?

Here are a few interesting facts about pigs and their needs on farm.

Pigs need adequate housing with room to roam

Pigs love to forage and explore their environment, and having adequate space is important so that pigs can be active and express these natural behaviours.

In Australia, pigs may be housed in intensive indoor, semi-indoor outdoor-bred or outdoor free-range farming systems.

Intensive farming systems often keep pigs closely confined in barren environments, limiting their movement and ability to carry out natural behaviours, which can lead to pigs experiencing both physical and psychological stress.

While the majority of pork producers in Australia have voluntarily phased out the use of sow stalls, in intensive indoor housing systems, sows are still commonly confined to farrowing crates prior to giving birth and until her piglets are weaned.

In farrowing crates, a sow is confined to a small pen, unable to turn around, freely interact with her piglets or perform natural behaviours such as nest building.

For good welfare, sows should be housed in appropriate groups and, when close to giving birth, moved to individual housing with nesting material where they can move freely, comfortably rest and nurse their piglets.

Pigs are intelligent and social

Pigs are very social, forming strong bonds with one another and becoming stressed when alone.

For this reason, housing pigs in groups is a key factor in providing a positive environment for them.

Being able to socially interact is important enrichment for pigs and, like us,

each pig has unique personality traits, with some more vocal and rambunctious and others more laid-back in nature.

Social interaction however is only one of the enrichment provisions these intelligent creatures need.

Pigs are incredibly clever and need a variety of stimulation to keep active, otherwise they can become bored and aggressive towards other pigs.

As an example, pigs enjoy foraging and so it's very important that they're provided with the right materials to engage in this natural behaviour.

Foraging materials need to have certain qualities to satisfy pigs – they need to be safe to ingest, destructible, manipulable and chewable.

New and different materials should be provided regularly to keep pigs interested and to make sure their foraging needs are being met.

And pigs enjoy playing. Play is important for piglet development and includes energetic running or hopping, social play and play fighting.

Even once they're adults, pigs enjoy playing with each other and with items such as straw or chewable toys.

Pigs are clean animals

Pigs like to keep themselves clean and, when given the option, they will not soil the areas where they eat or sleep.

They do however enjoy muddy wallows, which they use to help regulate their body temperature in warmer weather and protect themselves from sunburn, flies and external parasites.

Wallows are an important provision for pigs reared outdoors and provide another form of social enrichment, as pigs will often wallow in groups.

There's a reason we have the saying 'as happy as a pig in mud' because being able to wallow in mud is an important part of pig welfare.

The RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme for pigs

Pig farms with the RSPCA Approved certification focus on providing for the pig's welfare, with 322 requirements under

the RSPCA Standard that must be met to achieve certification.

RSPCA Approved pigs are raised with space to roam and move freely so they can exercise, socialise and forage.

Good quality bedding is provided so that all pigs have a comfortable area to rest and allows sows to build nests for their piglets.

Sow stalls, boar stalls and farrowing crates are not permitted under the RSPCA Standard for pigs.

Procedures such as teeth clipping, tail docking and castration are also not allowed.

The RSPCA Standard for pigs takes into account the natural behaviours of pigs and ensures that housing and husbandry practices on-farm enhance pig welfare.

Achieving RSPCA Approved certification also means regular on-farm and abattoir assessments by specially trained RSPCA assessors, who visit farms twice a year and abattoirs annually to verify the standard is being maintained.

RSPCA Australia

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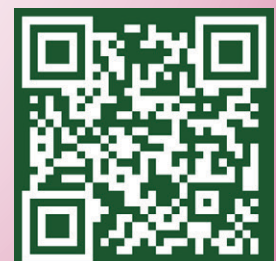
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Industrial Relations Reforms Bill one to watch

IN the run-up to the end of the year and final weeks of the Federal Government's 2022 sitting calendar, industrial relations has been a large focus following the introduction of a Secure Jobs, Better Pay Bill 2022 to Parliament on October 27.

Pre and post-election, Labor flagged its intention to implement measures to boost productivity, job security and wage growth for Australians.

This Bill provides the detail on how Labor plans to achieve this through legislative changes.

However, there are concerns with the Bill as it is currently drafted particularly around multi-employer bargaining and flexible work rights.

Currently, there is strong opposition from many small and large businesses



Policy Article

by MARGO ANDRAE
CEO



and peak industry bodies, with agriculture's response being led by the National Farmers' Federation and the Australian Meat Industry Council.

At the time of writing, the Bill hadn't completed its passage through Parliament and required the support of some independents to pass through the Senate.

The government is intent on seeing the substantial Bill passed by the end of

the year, despite few sitting week's remaining.

The national employer associations and the NFF are concerned the proposed laws may fail to deliver productivity improvements, which they believe underpin sustainable wage growth.

They are particularly concerned that the Bill:

- Unjustifiably expands the scope for multi-employer bargaining

- Fails to articulate clear parameters around where multi-employer bargaining would be available in either the supported bargaining or single-interest streams

- Undermines the system of enterprising bargaining that has delivered many significant benefits to Australia over several decades and currently operates effectively in many sectors.

As drafted, the Bill also potentially gives the green light to the Fair Work Commission to get involved when employees and businesses can't agree on flexible working arrangements.

Peak business and industry groups are aligned and coordinated on their positions and response to the Bill.

Last month, the NFF, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

Australian Industry Group, Business Council of Australia, Minerals Council of Australia and the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia requested that government abandon or amend elements of the Bill – particularly those relating to multi-employer bargaining.

Wage growth is a highly complex space and these sectors have warned that the reform timeframes are too short.

Put simply, we are all

concerned about the potential ramifications of the Bill and are asking for more time to understand the proposed changes and impacts on businesses.

As a member of the NFF and AMIC – both of whom represent agriculture and meat processing on federal industrial relations matters – Australian Pork Limited are following the progress of the Bill and industrial relations reforms closely.

We don't want to see businesses negatively impacted by the reforms.

It remains to be seen whether the Bill will pass, be delayed or further amended.

We continue to work with the government, the NFF and other industry bodies to understand this proposed reform and ensure the best possible outcome for our sector.

We will keep stakeholders informed of any substantial developments.

For any businesses that wish to raise views or concerns, you are welcomed to reach out to APL team. 📧

Scientific collaboration on pig and bird disease prevention

THE World Organisation for Animal Health is holding an expert meeting on African swine fever, avian influenza and other avian diseases in the Asia-Pacific region for the first time in three years, according to a press release from the Australian government.

Australian chief veterinary officer Dr Mark

Schipp said the five-day in-person event will see international experts share scientific information and discuss new diagnostic and vaccine technology.

"Australia is proud to be hosting this meeting as a country free of the world's worst animal diseases, such as ASF and avian influenza H5N1," Dr Schipp said.

"ASF and avian influenza are highly contagious viral diseases affecting wild and domestic pigs and birds."

"Animal pests and diseases are a major threat to Australia's livestock and poultry industries and an outbreak could impact on our access to export markets, undermining livelihoods."

"Along with strong na-

tional surveillance, biosecurity and preparedness measures, international collaboration is essential in preventing the spread of these diseases and sharing global expertise.

"Australia is a strong contributor to WOH processes to protect our animal health status and substantial trade in animals and animal products." 📧

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Gone for a... pig? Photo: Yogendra Singh

If pork cuts were a cricket team

FOR many, the summer cricket season is symbolic of a period of rest.

The tribulations of the year are momentarily forgotten as we watch athletes throw hard leather balls at speeds of up to 150km/h at their opponents.

There's something cathartic about the pointless joy of it all.

I hope that no matter what hardships you faced this year, you will be able to find at least a moment of solace in watching it.

If you're like me – someone who struggles to stop thinking about work long enough to enjoy some form of leisure – here is something that might help you blur the line between the two.

Wide awake in the early hours of a sultry November morning, the thought occurred to me... "What if pork cuts were in a cricket team?"

Without further ado, I present to you, the 'Pork Cuts First XI'.

Pork Cuts First XI

Boston butt
A reliable opening bat who takes a while to get going but is worth the wait and always turns it up at the end for a charging finish.

Only works out shoulders at the gym.

Ribs
Aggressive left-hander who is less substantial than his opening partner but is nevertheless a crowd favourite.

Covers everything in heinous amounts of barbecue sauce and is so messy that they need a new pair of gloves each innings.

Loin chop
Backbone of the middle order.

Been at the club longer than most people can remember.

Always turns up as the guest of honour when you have dinner at Nan's house.

Shoulder chop
Younger sibling of loin chop, much more down-to-earth and arguably as flavoursome but will never be as popular with the traditionalists.

Also, a part-time leggy who is surprisingly economical with ball in hand.

Bacon – C
Easily the most popular player in the team.

Quick to get going and always exciting to watch.

Loves the morning session but can be as equally sizzling in the afternoon.

Can get a bit on the saltier side if they are at the crease too long.

Mince
Incredibly versatile all-rounder.

One of the younger players in the team and

is tipped to have a very exciting future.

Cooks an incredible spag bol.

Fillet – Wk
Health freak with a dry sense of humour.

Can be relied upon every day of the week to be safe hands behind the stumps.

Ham
Consistent new-ball bowler with enormous legs and a tiny upper body.

A staple throughout the year but elevates to a new level during the Boxing Day Test.

Maintains their hydration with a technique called 'moisture infusion'.

Hock
Incredibly underrated and economical medium pacer.

Loves playing in the subcontinent where the humid conditions can be described as 'soupy'.

Belly
Can send the Kooka-

burra down the pitch at frightening speed, despite having a relatively hefty build.

For best results, you need to leave them uncovered in the fridge for at least 12 hours before the match.

Sausages
Eccentric but loveable leg spinner.

Like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get – one day they turn up the spice and another they're sweet as honey.

Nevertheless, they can always be relied upon to relieve the fast bowlers at a moment's notice.

Jowl – Twelfth
Popular with a niche audience but still waiting for their breakthrough into the mainstream.

Very cheeky sense of humour. 🐷

Jack Nicoll
APL Marketing Administrator Category

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Choose Wisely to find higher welfare pork

ACCORDING to the RSPCA, most pigs in Australia are raised on farms where they can't root in the dirt or wallow in the mud.

There are more humane pork choices.

By using the RSPCA Choose Wisely online directory, which makes it easy to find cafes and restaurants that are putting higher welfare food on the menu, you can help encourage an end to outdated pork production systems.

By using Choose Wisely before you eat out, you can find out which restaurants and cafes near you are serving higher welfare pork.

Choose Wisely is easy to use – simply add your location and you can find a higher welfare pork establishment.

Conventional pork comes from farms where the sows are confined for all or part of their pregnancy in a sow stall – a barren metal crate usually with a concrete floor.

With only enough space to stand up, she can't turn around and can only take a short step forward and back.

After the birth of their piglets, sows are moved to an even smaller farrowing crate until their piglets are weaned.

Pigs farmed in these systems suffer enormously, through a continuous cycle of chronic frustration and discomfort.

Bred free-range pork comes from pigs that are born in a free-range environment but are raised indoors.

This could mean they are raised in large open sheds with straw bedding or in pens with concrete floors.

The sows always have

access to the outdoors.

Free-range pork comes from pigs that were born and raised with free access to the outdoors.

This means that the sows and growing piglets have access to paddocks as well as huts or other forms of housing for shelter and are not confined to sow stalls or farrowing crates.

RSPCA Approved pork comes from pigs reared in a well-managed outdoor system, in an enhanced indoor environment or a combination of both.

The production system caters for pig's behavioural and physiological needs by providing environmental enrichment, including straw for rooting and nest building and sufficient space to move freely.

The RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme standard does not allow for sow stalls or traditional farrowing crates.

Choose Wisely is proud to celebrate food-service outlets that serve higher welfare food.

So, if you have a business or know a business that is taking the right steps for better farm animal welfare, the RSPCA want to know.

RSPCA Approved farms are visited regularly by RSPCA assessors to make sure the standards are being met and there's always a focus on providing for the pigs behavioural and physical wellbeing.

Your choices at home and when dining out can help make a better world for pigs into the future, so choose wisely.

For more information, visit choosewisely.org.au

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APL AGM 2022

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday November 17.

As required by the director retirement rotation rules in APL's Constitution, three 'producer-elected' directors – Edwina Beveridge, Richard Horsham and Mark McLean – retired at the AGM, creating three vacancies.

While each of the retiring producer-elected directors were eligible for re-election, after six years serving the Australian pork industry as a Board and APL committee member, Edwina Beveridge decided she would not stand for re-election and instead chose to continue serving the Australian pork industry as an APL delegate and as chair of the NSW Farmers Pork Committee.

APL and the industry thanked Ms Beveridge for her significant contribution to the Australian pork industry through her role as a director of APL.

Both Richard Horsham and Mark McLean were re-appointed as directors and will continue as APL Board and committee members.

The delegates also elected a new producer director, Tim Kingma.

Tim also serves the Australian pork industry as the current president of the Victorian Farmers Federation Pig Group, a member of the Swine Industry Projects Advisory Committee and as an APL delegate.

In addition to the election of Messrs Horsham, Kingma and McLean, the delegates also ratified the appointment of specialist directors Professor Bronwyn Harch and Mr Tony Lowings.

The APL Board appoints specialist directors to ensure that APL maintains a Board that has the appropriate balance of skills and experience to effectively deliver to the Australian pork industry.

Professor Harch has had academic and executive careers and was recently appointed as the interim Queensland chief scientist.

Mr Lowings has recently retired from a long executive career, most recently as global chief executive officer of KFC.

APL looks forward to leveraging the collective experiences and skills of the new, returning and current Board members.

Damien Howse
APL Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary

APRIL announces call for applications for education and training awards

THE Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd is seeking applications for education and training awards for commencement in 2023.

Independent member-based research entity APRIL seeks to enhance the Australian pork industry by investing in research and development, education and training, and commercialisation activities focused on priorities and deliverables that ensure the sustainability of pork production, and to generate optimal returns for its stakeholders.

Education awards

APRIL is seeking applications to support its education program and assist in further building human capacity for the industry.

A number of different opportunities exist for undergraduate, postgraduate and potential students, as follows:

- Scholarship awards for Honours students
- 'Top-ups' for postgraduate research students – PhD, MS/MSc/MPhil – in an APRIL-funded research project or related

- Support for DVM/undergraduate veterinary science projects
- Support for MS/MSc/MPhil students where a research project is an incorporated component of the program of study in an APRIL-funded re-



search project or related

- Part-support for PhD students.

Applications are also sought from potential research students wishing to be involved in a current three-year CRC-Project, 'Eliminating Pig Tail Removal to Improve Welfare and Industry Sustainability'.

A number of different opportunities exist for undergraduate, postgraduate and potential students interested in pursuing this opportunity, as follows:

- Scholarship awards for Honours students
- Support for DVM/undergraduate veterinary science projects
- Support for MS/MSc/MPhil students where a research project is an incorporated component of the program of study.

Information concerning these different education opportunities, including guidelines and application forms, can be found at apri.com.au/education-and-training-opportunities/

Industry Placement Program award

APRIL is continuing to assist with human capacity building in the

Australasian pork industry through the IPP Award scheme.

A successful business applicant will receive \$75,000 over the first two years of a three-year agreement with APRIL to help cover salary and other costs associated with training an awardee for the three years.

The overall aims of the IPP scheme are to:

- To retain graduates trained by APRIL, the Pork CRC, APL and other relevant organisations at the Honours and postgraduate level, and attract others by sponsoring their placement in a commercial pork production organisation or an affiliated business within the pork industry in a structured and enhanced development program
- To attract and stimulate graduates into the industry with a career interest in pork production, while continuing their development and understanding of how research and development, education and training, technology, and extension and adoption can enhance industry competitiveness and success.

Visit apri.com.au for further information and the application form.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme

The APRIL Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme provides an opportunity for further career development for an individual on a full-time or part-time basis who has completed their research doctorate – PhD or will shortly satisfy the requirements of a PhD – and has less than three years of relevant post-doctoral work experience or pro-rata equivalent.

APRIL will provide to the host institution a maximum of \$37,500 per annum exclusive of GST for the first two years of the three-year fellowship, as well as \$7500 per annum exclusive of GST for project costs, travel and conference support associated with the fellowship during the first two years on a pro-rata basis, depending on the full-time employment equivalence of the recipient.

The Scheme's main objectives are to:

- Attract and retain high calibre early career researchers for the benefit of the pork industry
- Provide a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the time and support to develop their demonstrated research potential and track record
- Assist in establishing a Post-Doctoral Fellow

with a successful career trajectory.

How to apply

For Education Awards, completed applications must reach APRIL by the closing date and be lodged electronically to Dr Charles Rikard-Bell at c.rikardbell@april.org.au

For the Industry Placement Program and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme, completed applications must reach APRIL by the closing date and be lodged electronically by the applying organisation, including the name and qualifications of the proposed candidate, to the APRIL chief scientist and chief executive officer Dr John Pluske at j.pluske@april.org.au

Questions on either of these schemes can be directed to either Dr Charles Rikard-Bell at c.rikardbell@april.org.au or Dr John Pluske at j.pluske@april.org.au

Important dates

Applications for all schemes open November 21, 2022.

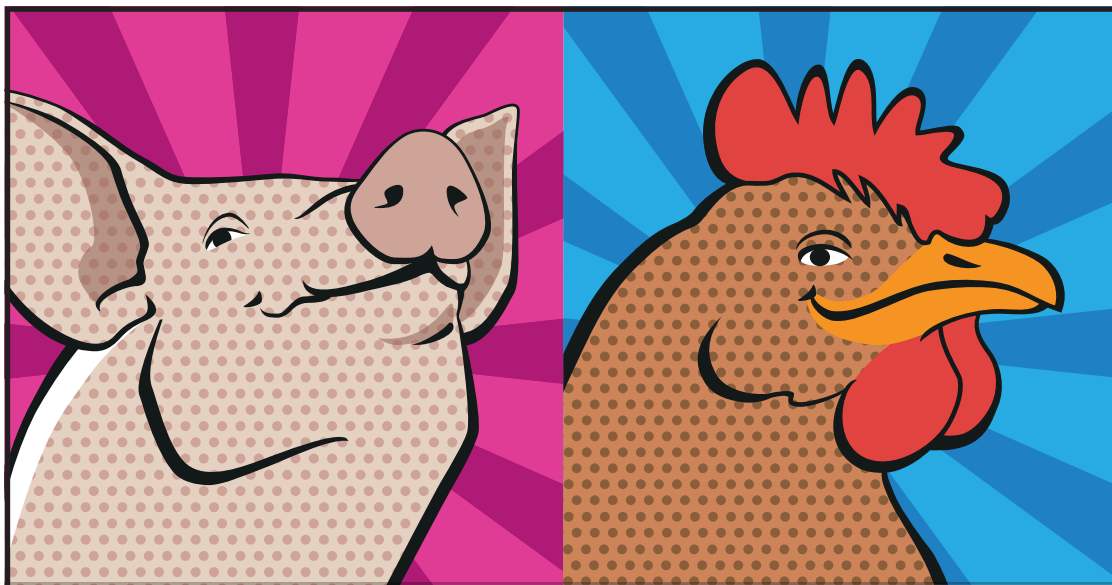
Applications for all schemes close January 20, 2023.

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The Havito birth-to-finish pig housing concept has been named DLG Agrifuture Concept Winner 2022 during the EuroTier show.

Big Dutchman and Bröring receive award at EuroTier 2022 for Havito birth to finish pig housing concept

THE Havito birth-to-finish pig housing concept has been named DLG Agrifuture Concept Winner 2022 during the EuroTier show.

In the Havito system, a joint development of Big Dutchman and Bröring Pig Partner, the pigs remain in the same structured pen in which they were born for the entire

rearing and finishing period without being relocated.

With its future award, the German Agricultural Society honours visionary and pioneering agriculture concepts that have good chances of being realised.

Expressing his happiness about the award, Big Dutchman chief executive officer Bernd Meer-

pohl said, "We have been working very hard on combining animal welfare with practicality in our products."

"Havito birth-to-finish is a smart response to the challenges of pig production that takes animal and common welfare into account while also being a working solution for the industry."

"I would like to thank everyone who worked on this project," he said.

Heiner Bröring Sr, who significantly contributed to the system's idea and development, said: "We want the Havito concept to be a feasible alternative for farmers who are looking for the future of pig farming."

The Havito birth-to-finish housing concept's starting point is the PigT pig toilet, which was introduced in 2018 for rearing and finishing and which has now been extended to include sow management.

Since the entire surface of the pen is closed and urine and faeces are separated continuously, the whole pen can be covered with organic bedding material.

The pigs structure the pen themselves, creating a lying area, an activity area and an area for defecating.

Havito birth-to-finish is designed for a 21-week production rhythm, comprising farrowing, a five-week or six-week suckling period and 15 weeks of rearing and finishing, followed by slaughter.

The piglets born in the pen remain there throughout their entire lives – their increasing space requirements are accounted for.

The sow always gives birth in the same barn.

The piglets learn from their mother how to find feed, and the eating space does not change.

Elements that are required for the piglets' birth in the open farrowing pens can be folded up during rearing.

The planned production rhythm reduces the time required for a batch.

This compensates the additional space necessary for the concept, so the farmer is still able to produce profitably.

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Food Safety Week focus on raw and risky food

AUSTRALIA Food Safety Week highlighted raw and risky food with a call to buy and use a meat thermometer.

The focus was on the risk of food poisoning from raw or minimally cooked meat, poultry, fish, eggs and vegetables as well as possible infections by parasites such as toxoplasma gondii.

The Food Safety Information Council also marked its 25th anniversary this year.

A study by Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Australian National University found

that an estimated 4.67 million cases of food poisoning each year result in 47,900 hospitalisations, 38 deaths and a cost of more than \$2 billion.

Visual checks don't work

FSIC chair Cathy Moir said a recent survey found only 29 percent of Australian households owned a meat thermometer and only 14 percent have used it in the past month.

"You can't tell if your food is cooked safely just by looking at it," Ms Moir said.

"The only way to ensure your meat or poultry is cooked correctly is to

purchase and use a meat thermometer.

"We are urging people to get that meat thermometer out of the drawer or purchase one if you don't have one already.

"Most supermarkets, barbecue outlets and kitchenware shops stock them," she said.

The charity recommended using a digital meat thermometer and listed temperatures foods should reach when measured in the centre.

Beef, lamb, kangaroo in whole cuts such as chops, steaks, pieces and roasts need to be at least 63C and left to rest three to five minutes after removing them from the heat.

Pork whole cuts and pieces to 70C and roasts to between 70-75C and left to rest for the same time.

Beef, lamb, kangaroo or pork made into sausages, hamburgers or mince as well as rolled roasts, liver

and other offal plus all poultry should be cooked to at least 75C.

Eggs and egg dishes such as quiche should be cooked to 72C in the centre.

Advice from local councils

"Remember to always clean and sanitise your meat thermometer between uses," Ms Moir said.

"Hygiene is critical to food safety, so always wash your hands before handling food and after handling raw meat, chicken and eggs.

"Raw fruit and vegetables such as salad veggies can also be a food poisoning risk, so make sure you always wash them under running water before eating," she said.

This year's theme warned of the risks of eating raw or minimally cooked foods, which can increase the chances of food poisoning.

Rockhampton Queensland region councillor Grant Mathers said: "These types of foods can also increase your chances of getting parasite infections, such as toxoplasmosis."

Byron Shire Council in NSW requires all permanent, temporary and mobile food businesses go through an approval process before they can operate.

BSC public and environmental services manager Sarah Nagel said, "The objective is to ensure that people aren't exposed to unnecessary risks caused by the mishandling of food."

"What people might not be aware of is that food poisoning can lead to some nasty illnesses.

"The advice around eating raw meat, such as sashimi, is to ensure it's kept at 5C or under that temperature." 🐷



Food Safety Information Council urges people to get their meat thermometer out of the drawer and use it or purchase one if you don't have one.

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Raising farm safety awareness for National Agriculture Day

SAFEWORK NSW focused on safety on farms and agricultural business across regional NSW as part of National Agriculture Day by providing education on how workplaces can prevent risks specific to the farming industry.

Head of SafeWork NSW Natasha Mann said it was an important time for agricultural businesses to celebrate agricultural industry and ensure they were meeting their safety obligations.

"Tragically, farming incidents account for one in every five worker deaths nationally."

"SafeWork NSW wants to get this down to zero by working with farmers to improve safety practices related to farm vehicles, machinery and manual handling," Ms Mann said.

"Recently 580 farmers gathered in the small rural community of Grenfell to attend a SafeWork NSW event, discussing farm safety after a young farmer was involved in a fatal incident while attempting to recover

bogged farm machinery.

"The 33-year-old farmer sustained fatal head injuries during the extraction of a bogged bulldozer when one of the two D-shackles connecting the recovery strap failed and was propelled through the glass door of the bulldozer," Ms Mann said.

"As part of our Fair and Safe Together roadshow, SafeWork NSW visited Dubbo and Ballina to provide vital safety advice on working safely around farm vehicles, preventing musculoskeletal disorders and keeping mentally healthy.

"We're also encouraging eligible farmers and businesses to access the safety rebates we have on offer, enrol in free quad bike and side-by-side vehicle training or request a free advisory visit or workshop.

"I encourage everyone to have a chat with a SafeWork NSW inspector to learn more about safe farming practices – getting home safe at the end of the day is what matters most." 🐷



An example of bogged farm machinery.

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Dresden expands through Stockyard Industries

VICTORIAN-based producer Grant Kelly and his family have been involved in the pig industry for over 50 years, providing them with an understanding of how important it is to have high quality durable equipment and housing for their pigs.

That's why, when looking to expand, they turned to the well experienced and respected team at Stockyard Industries, which

recently completed their new turnkey 168-place dry sow mating shed, and they couldn't be more impressed with the results.

The new shed is naturally ventilated using Big Dutchman rolling curtains and utilising four stir fans to maximise airflow – all controlled by a Big Dutchman Vento climate computer.

Stockyard Industries also supplied and installed 168

freedom-style mating stalls with lifting back gates, plus a Big Dutchman automatic feedline and six-tonne silo.

The shed also incorporates a small 800mm concrete slatted flush drain behind the stalls to allow for misting over the sows without wetting the open straw-based area at the rear.

When asked of his experience with Stockyard Industries, Grant was pleased to share.

"The team have a vast understanding of everything, from design at the beginning, planning approvals and permits, all the way through to commissioning the equipment at the end of the build," Grant said.

"With construction starting through the middle stages of the COVID pandemic, there were minor challenges along the way – as you'd expect during those conditions.

"But Cam Ross – Stock-

yard Industries pig sales manager – and everyone involved went above and beyond to ensure all issues were resolved as promptly as possible and provided us with a smooth and stress-free build, allowing us to focus on our business.

"Given the long cold winter we've endured, we've seen some great evidence of how well the shed is performing.

"Our sows are now maintaining far better health due to no extreme fluctuations in temperature, as previously experienced when housing in eco shelters.

"We've also seen that through winter, the sows are staying a lot warmer compared to previous years, so we've had to cut back their feed consumption by an average of 1kg per sow each day, to ensure they stay within an optimal weight range for their gestation period."

As well as cost reductions in feed, Grant said they were able to reduce their overheads by saving labour requirements through automation, which they can now rely on to feed their pigs and keep the shed at a consistent temperature all year round.

"With everything performing exactly as it should, we couldn't be more impressed," Grant said.

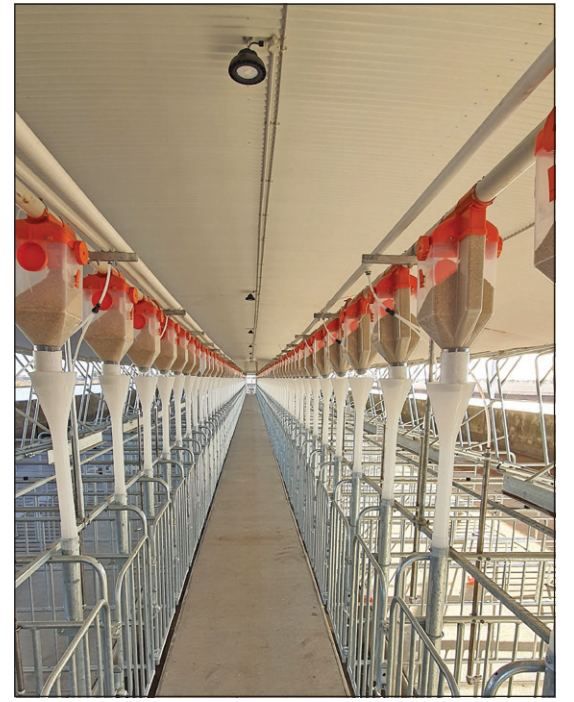
"The experience and knowledge Stockyard Industries possesses is second to none.

"That's why we've recently engaged them to get our next project underway, which we can do with full confidence, knowing they will achieve our desired results."

When considering new, refurbished or extensions to production facilities, contact Stockyard Industries today – stockyardindustries.com



Stockyard Industries supplied and installed 168 freedom-style mating stalls with lifting back gates, plus a Big Dutchman automatic feedline and six-tonne silo.



Stockyard Industries recently completed a new turnkey 168-place dry sow mating shed for pig producer Grant Kelly.

Aussie Pumps solution to effluent challenge

UNSEASONAL rains, devastating floods and the need to move piggery effluent can create real challenges.

Operators know that the effluent itself is a resource that should not be wasted.

The challenge is how to move effluent from where it is to where it needs to be – even in the face of floods that can potentially create real problems, not only in a piggery but in pollution of streams, rivers or dams.

Aussie Pumps is focused on portable engine drive pumps for dealing with this type of flood emergency.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said: "Though our range of 2-6" self-priming engine-driven trash pumps originally started as construction tools, we find increasingly they are being applied to livestock liquid waste as a way of efficiently moving material with a high content of solids in suspension."

Aussie Pumps is famous for its world's best practice and innovative pressure cleaner and fire pump designs – the trash pumps also have special properties that are designed specifically with Australian users in mind.

As an example, the 2" pump – capable of handling up to 3/4" spherical solids – will move 630LPM and can be powered by a Honda petrol engine or Yanmar 4.8hp diesel drive.

Options also include electric start with recoil back up both in diesel and petrol configuration.

From there, the company goes through a range of 3" pumps that

are both lightweight but robust.

The bigger pumps can weigh as much as 150kg, depending on the configuration, and have frames built with integrated lift bars for ease of movement.

These will move more liquid fast!

Trash pump convenience

The reason trash pumps are so suitable for any form of livestock effluent is because of the design of the pump itself.

The pumps self-prime – so never need priming devices such as hand pumps or vacuum assist – and will raise water through a vertical lift up to 7.6m.

Other major features include a front-opening port that enables the big high SG cast-iron non-clog style impeller to be cleared of blockages easily.

Silicon carbide mechanical seals and flanged suction and discharge ports enable easy access to the pump bowl.

The priming process is aided by the design of the pump itself.

That innovative concept of incorporating a large tank cavity above the impeller chamber is the secret.

"The pumps have been sold to piggeries, abattoirs and anywhere where livestock wastewater has to be disposed of," Mr Hales said.

"Users love our QP range because of the five-year warranty on the pump end."

Further information on Aussie Pumps trash pumps is readily available from aussiepumps.com.au or distributors throughout Australia.



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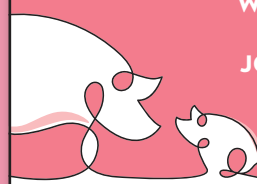


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Domestic pork shortfall to push exports to China

■ Hog head reduction appears larger than official data suggests

CHINA is set to increase pork imports in coming months, after losses for farmers last year in the world's top pork producer caused a reduction in hog output that appears larger than official data suggests.

Pork is by far China's favourite meat and surging prices have driven inflation up in the world's second-largest economy at a time of slowing growth.

The country produces about half of the world's output and fluctuations there influence hog and meat prices globally.

Chinese pork prices surged in October by 51.8 percent from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said, even as third-quarter output rose by 0.7 percent from a year earlier.

Pork prices will stay high in 2023 because of the lower supply, according to 10 industry analysts, farmers and feed and genetics suppliers, though they cautioned demand may be impacted by China's COVID measures.

In a note recently, Canada's Genesis Inc chief executive Jim Long said: "We all need to watch China – we expect increased sales due to their pork shortfall."

Live hog prices rallied about 78 percent from June to \$A28.50 per kg on October 19, the most since March 2021, according to data from Shanghai JC Intelligence Co Ltd, and while dropping since then, they remain above historical averages.

The government has blamed farmers holding pigs back from slaughter to fatten them up more for the higher prices, but

analysts and experts said there was a substantial supply reduction since last winter.

However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has repeatedly said breeding capacity is sufficient.

Cofco Futures analyst Guan Yilin said: "The elimination of sow production capacity may be larger than the current market imagined."

Plunging pork demand and high feed costs from June 2021 until July this year caused farmers to incur losses of as much as \$A126.11 per hog.

Farmers sold off herds, culled more sows than normal or slowed production by not mating females to curb their losses.

Genesis believes the sow liquidation is greater than reported, estimating the sow herd shrank by between 6 million and 8 million heads.

An executive at one of China's top producers said, with fewer pigs born at the end of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, the number of slaughter-ready hogs dropped by this summer.

The agriculture ministry said China had 44.6 million sows in September 2021, declining to 41.85 million by March 2022, before rising to more than 43 million by September.

US farm equipment supplier Hog Slat Inc China manager Zou Zhihong said, "The reported total number of sows is inflated."

"A lot of barns are still empty," he said.

Neither the agriculture ministry nor the statistics bureau responded to requests for comment on their data.

The agriculture ministry has said that information on key indicators, such as breeding sows, should be released more often to better guide production.

China has 20 million small farmers that frequently enter and exit the pig-raising business, depending on market conditions, making it challenging to compile accurate data.

Farms also do not report deaths from diseases such as African swine fever.

Still, analysts said only a supply shortfall could trigger such high prices.

Huachuang Securities analyst Xiao Lin said: "If there were so many pigs, the price couldn't reach this year's dramatic level."

Feed suppliers also noted the production drop.

Pig feed output fell 8 percent in the first eight months of 2022, compared with a year ago, according to the China Feed Industry Association.

A manager at a feed producer that supplies more than 100 mid-sized pig producers across China said, "We see there are not enough fatteners." "I think there's 25-30 percent less fatteners than a year ago."

The US Department of Agriculture reported 39,500 tonnes of pork exported to China in the week ending November 3, up from an average 24,120 so far this year.

Rabobank senior analyst Pan Chenjun said: "I expect more shipments to arrive in Q4."

Adding that 2023 imports will be higher than 2022.



China has 20 million small farmers that frequently enter and exit the pig-raising business, depending on market conditions, making it challenging to compile accurate data. Photo: Henk Riswick

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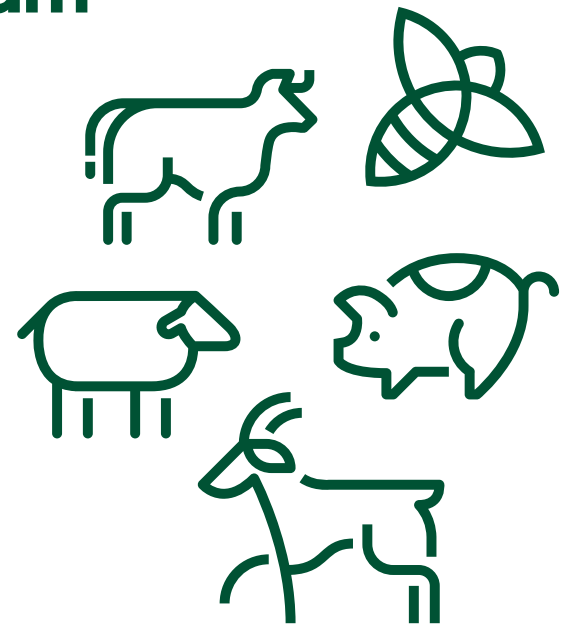
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