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Applications open for John Riley Memorial Travel Award

APPLICATIONS are now open for the John Riley Memorial Travel Award, proudly sponsored and supported by the Queensland Pig Consultancy Group.

Valued at up to \$10,000, the award offers a unique opportunity for a member of an Australian family pork business to travel overseas and investigate innovative ideas, technologies or practices that will benefit both their own operation and the wider pork industry.

The inaugural recipient, Jeroen Beijnsens of Bellgrove Pork, used the award to spend a month in Europe learning from pork producers and industry experts, bringing valuable insights back to Australia.

Honouring a legacy of commitment to family pork businesses

The award commemorates

John Riley, a highly respected advocate for the pork industry, renowned for his knowledge, mentorship and commitment to family businesses.

John began his career in the United Kingdom in 1960 and continued his influential work in Australia from 1993, working closely with pork producers across Queensland and interstate.

A strong believer in lifelong learning, John championed the value of travel to broaden perspectives, expand knowledge and promote personal and professional growth.

Following his passing in 2023 on his eighty-fourth birthday, this award was established to honour his legacy.

The award is offered biennially, commencing in 2024.

About the award

The John Riley Memorial

Travel Award supports overseas travel to explore innovative and practical topics relevant to the Australian pork industry.

Applicants are encouraged to design their own study tour, with clear potential for local application.

Eligible expenses include airfares, accommodation, in-country transport, registration fees and meals.

The award may fully or partially fund travel and can be combined with other sources of support.

Who can apply

Applicants must:

- Be an individual from a family pork business in Australia

- Have at least two years' on-farm experience (with employer endorsement)

- Propose a topic relevant to the pork industry, such as production, biosecurity, environmental or waste management, or animal welfare

- Demonstrate clear benefits to both their business and the broader industry

- Commit to sharing learnings at producer meetings and a QPCG meeting.

Applications close

For an application form or further information, contact Sara Willis at sara.willis@dpi.qld.gov.au

Applications close Friday March 6, 2026.

Sara Willis
QPCG Chair



Jeroen Beijnsens collecting digestion samples at Cargill's Veldriel site in the Netherlands for Horizon AI.

BACON & HAM MYTHS vs. REALITY

The kangaroo only means it was processed/packaged here. The bar chart under the logo shows if the pork is Aussie-grown



BACON & HAM MYTHS vs. REALITY

"The kangaroo logo means Aussie Pork"



Australia's current labelling system is confusing, sometimes misleading.

Country of origin labelling

■ A national conversation we can't afford to ignore

LAST December you may have seen News Corp's 'Back Australia' campaign in its print and online publications, celebrating Australia's homegrown talents, innovations, local businesses and products.

Supporting Australian agriculture and products is a cause close to us at Australian Pork Limited.

We were proud to take up the rallying cry on behalf of Aussie pork and tap into this national conversation, reminding consumers of the challenges when choosing Australian ham and bacon at the checkout due to unclear country of origin labelling.

In just over one



week, we secured more than 70 pieces of coverage and reached more than one million Australians across the country.

These results show Australians want transparency.

They want confidence that the products carrying the green and gold logo are genuinely Australian.

Unfortunately, Australia's existing

labelling system is confusing and, in many cases, misleading.

That's why we've been reminding consumers to be extra careful when checking the label on ham and bacon products.

I'm aware that this isn't a new issue for our industry and that supply continues to impact our ability to stock more Australian smallgoods

on supermarket shelves.

Meanwhile, in 2025, pork imports were at a two-year high, with the volume of imported bacon and ham having quadrupled since the early 2000s and up to 70 per cent of the bacon and ham on our shelves made from imported pork.

Supply can only grow as a result of customer demand, which is why national conversations such as this are so vital and why we'll continue urging Aussie shoppers to demand Australian-made ham and bacon from their retailers.

APL's own research shows that most Australians do want to

continued P2



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2026

JAN 28-30 – XXVIII Jornadas de Porcino de la UAB y la AVPC – Barcelona, Spain. <https://webs.uab.cat/porcino/>

FEB 3-4 – Journées de la Recherche Porcine – Saint-Malo, France. <https://www.journees-recherche-porcine.com/accueil>

MAR 2-4 – Animal Health, Nutrition and Technology Innovation 2026 – London, United Kingdom. <https://ahnti-eu.com/events/ahnti-eu>

MAY 12-14 – Food with Purpose – Gold Coast, Queensland. <https://www.pix.au/conf26>

JUN 2-4 – VIV Europe 2026 – Utrecht, The Netherlands. <https://www.viveurope.nl>

JUN 16-19 – IPVS 2026 – Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. <https://ipvs2026.vn/>

SEP 22-24 – Expomeat 2026 – Sao Paulo, Brazil. <https://www.expomeat.com.br/>

OCT 6-8 – International PRRS Symposium 2026 – Spain.

OCT 21-23 – Pork Expo Mexico – Aguascalientes, Mexico. <http://pork-expo.org/>

How to supply event details:
Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 0450 672 553 or email design@collins.media

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APL reminds consumers of the challenges when choosing Australian ham and bacon at the checkout due to unclear country of origin labelling.

National country of origin labelling conversation

from P1

support Aussie pork producers by buying Australian small-goods.

Our research shows that as many as 87 percent of shoppers want clearer country of origin labelling so they can confidently choose local produce and that even if Aussie ham and bacon cost \$1 more than the imported product, most people would still probably choose the local product.

This is especially important, considering the price gap between Australian and imported product is now sitting at around \$1 per kilo.

It has never been more important to make sure customers can put their money where their mouths are.

Clear honest labelling would empower consumers to make informed choices and shop in line with their values.

This issue goes far beyond the pork industry.

Country of origin labelling affects every agricultural sector in Australia.

Following last year's media coverage on this matter, I've had conversations with people from across Australian agriculture who are facing sim-

ilar challenges in their own industries.

This is a national conversation about food sovereignty and supporting Team Australia – particularly our Australian farmers – that we need to keep having until we see results.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences latest outlook states Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry production is expected to hit a record combined value of \$101.6 billion in 2025-2026.

This is an outstanding contribution to Australia's economy

and should be enough incentive for the Australian Government to look after Team Australia.

That's why this issue will continue to be a key priority for us in 2026.

We will persist with calling on the Australian Government for two practical changes to the current system:

- Stop using 'Made in Australia' with the kangaroo logo on processed meat packaging

- Allow 'Product of Australia' with the kangaroo logo only if at least 80 percent of the ingredients are Australian grown (excluding water).

This adjustment would ensure transparency and help consumers make informed choices that support local farmers.

It could also be extended to other food and beverage categories facing similar issues.

With national campaigns such as 'Back Australia' gaining momentum, there's never been a better time to align labelling standards with consumer expectations.

Clearer rules will protect trust in the kangaroo logo and strengthen the connection between shoppers and Australian agriculture. 🐷

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ExoFlare supporting smarter biosecurity for Australia's pork industry

MANAGING biosecurity is critical for protecting animal health and maintaining business continuity for the Australian pork industry.

As on-farm processes are becoming increasingly digitised, Australian Pork Limited has partnered with ExoFlare to help Australian producers and processors take control of biosecurity with one integrated digital platform that manages visitors, transport and quarantine protocols in real time.

ExoFlare's Dynamic Quarantine Controls replaces manual systems with digital precision.

Quarantine matrices and stand-down periods are now centrally managed and updated instantly in the event of a biosecurity incursion.

This ensures exclusion zones and on-farm protocols activate immediately, minimising disruption and reducing risk

across operations.

Transport movements pose a major biosecurity risk in the pork supply chain and can be managed more efficiently through digital scheduling, route confirmation and real-time transport updates.

Processors gain full visibility while maintaining privacy and compliance, supported by automated alerts and digital logs for rapid response and business continuity.

The platform's interactive dashboards provide real-time insight into all biosecurity activity, from visitor sign-ins to vehicle movements and quarantine status.

This level of transparency turns biosecurity management into an intelligent proactive system that strengthens decision-making and compliance.

Supporting on-farm implementation, ExoFlare also offers biosecurity signage that meets state-specific legislation and clearly

communicates entry requirements at the farm gate.

Protecting your farm isn't only about meeting regulations but protecting your animals, your livelihood and your future.

ExoFlare helps you stay one step ahead by turning biosecurity from a burden into a strategic advantage.

ExoFlare is offering a 10 percent discount on the 12-month subscription list price for the first 50 APIQ-certified customers who book a consultation, for the first 12 months.

Book a free consultation with the ExoFlare team by scanning the QR code below.

Australian Pork Limited and ExoFlare



APL appoints new marketing agency Enigma.

Enigma wins Australian Pork media account

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has appointed Enigma to handle domestic fresh pork marketing after a statutory review, run by consultancy Mad-clarity.



APL chief marketing officer Rob Farmer.

The agency takes over the media account in the new year, replacing Slingshot after eight years on the account.

The remit includes the long-running 'Get some pork on your fork' campaign.

Enigma chief media officer and partner Justin Ladmore said the brand's ambition appealed to the team.

"It's a bold creative brand with a clear ambition to make pork famous in Australian kitchens and we can't wait to get started," Mr Ladmore said.

"We're grateful for the trust Rob and his team have placed in

us and we would also like to thank them for inspiring the agency to level up our pork stir fry cooking skills."

APL chief marketing officer Rob Farmer thanked the outgoing agency and acknowledged the incoming one.

"We extend our big thanks to Slingshot for everything the team has contributed to the Australian pork industry's growth over the past eight years," Mr Farmer said.

"And a warm welcome to Enigma and our new partnership."

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Improved Nutrient Absorption due to Increased Villi Height



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For further information about Tonistry Px, please contact **CCD Animal Health**.

Rebecca Jamieson, CCD Animal Health. National Key Account Manager – Swine

M: 0400 392 111 E: rebecca@ccdanimalhealth.com.au



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Investments reinforce JBS Pork Australia's broader commitment to investing in its assets and in regional communities.



A visit to JBS Pork Australia's Huntly farm by Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan and Federal Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters.

JBS Pork Australia invests \$38 million at Huntly Victoria

PREMIER of Victoria Jacinta Allan and Federal Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters visited JBS Pork Australia's Huntly farm site in mid-December to see first-hand the results of a \$38 million investment in the heartland of their electorates.

JBS Pork Australia timed the visit to officially announce the completion of a two-year project to build brand-new housing for their breeding herd with the sheds measuring 25,000sq m total in size.

The new facility represents a significant expansion of JBS Pork Australia's farming capability and delivers a range of benefits that improve animal welfare outcomes,

strengthen biosecurity and support growth across domestic and global markets hungry for high-quality Australian pork.

It's the largest upgrade in the history of the site, which was established in 1963 and is one of the country's most important pork producers, contributing 5 percent of Australia's fresh pork supply.

The state-of-the-art climate-controlled features of the new facility enhance the safety and wellbeing of the 57 staff employed at the site, while the ventilation infrastructure and modern housing and animal handling facilities ensure pig welfare and care is optimised.

Environmental stewardship was also cen-

tral to the facility design, with upgraded systems for effluent, water and air quality management that will reduce odour, improve nutrient recycling and minimise environmental impacts.

Looking ahead, JBS Pork Australia is planning to invest a further \$50 million to replace older sheds, upgrade effluent systems and explore the potential use of biogas systems to generate renewable energy, reduce odour and cut carbon dioxide emissions.

In addition, JBS Pork Australia is investing \$58 million at its Laverton Pork Processing Facility in Melbourne to build a state-of-the-art value-added room and a porcine rendering plant.

continued P7






PREMI-BOOST+ PIGLETS

Vetsense Premi-Boost+ is a specialised nutritional paste designed to support the health and vitality of weak, underweight and premature piglets.

Formulated with a precise blend of essential vitamins, minerals and amino acids, Premi-Boost+ provides comprehensive support for the early development and growth of piglets.

- ✓ Supports growth, development and vitality
- ✓ Boosts energy in weak and underweight newborns
- ✓ Promotes immune function, digestive health and overall wellbeing
- ✓ Aids in the prevention of nutritional deficiencies and supports optimal growth trajectories
- ✓ Easy-to-administer paste formulation ensures accurate dosing and maximum effectiveness.

CONVENIENT DOSING APPLICATOR

Premi-Boost+ 250mL comes with a separate dosing applicator that delivers precisely 2mL per dose. This ensures accurate and convenient administration to newborn, underweight and premature piglets.

The applicator simplifies the dosing process, making it easy for caregivers to provide the necessary nutritional support to young animals.



DOSE RATE **PACK SIZE: 250ML**

ONE PUMP = 2ML

2mL: Newborn, underweight and premature piglets soon after birth.
Repeat the following day if necessary.

For any remaining product, reapply the original bottle cap and store in a cool/dry place for up to 3 months.
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JBS Pork Australia invests \$38 million at Huntly Victoria

from P6

These investments reinforce JBS Pork Australia's broader commitment to investing in its assets and in regional communities, complementing the company's extensive investment program across Victoria and NSW, including the \$400 million Corowa Grower Farm development that is currently in progress.

JBS Pork Australia chief operating officer Edison Alvares said this investment is about future-proofing Australia's pork supply, while delivering real and lasting benefits for regional communities.

"We're delivering

a cleaner, safer and more sustainable operation that improves the way we care for our people, our animals and the environment around us," Mr Alvares said.

"This project also demonstrates our commitment to working with local farmers, contractors and suppliers, and to continuing to operate as part of the wonderful Bendigo community.

"We remain committed to ongoing investment, innovation and continuous improvement right here in the Bendigo region.

"Our focus is on building a modern, resilient and responsible pork farming busi-

ness that continues to create value and make a difference for regional communities and for Australia."

Premier Jacinta Allan said the Victorian Government welcomed this investment from JBS Pork Australia as a vote of confidence in the region and the state's diverse and dynamic agricultural sector.

"This project shows what's possible when industry backs regional Victoria," Premier Allan said.

"JBS Pork Australia's investment is supporting local jobs, strengthening the Bendigo region's economy and positioning our state as a leader in sus-

tainable high-quality pork production."

Federal Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters said the expansion reinforced the region's role in national food production and it was pleasing to see JBS invest in sustainable growth in its own pork farming operations.

Adding that for more than six decades Huntly farms had contributed to Australia's food security, and the announcement from JBS Pork Australia ensured it would continue to play that role well into the future.

"The investment is also helping to create and secure local jobs," Ms Chesters said.  **JBS Pork Australia**

Gorman-Rupp quality wastewater pump for Southern Meats

SOUTHERN Meats is a high-tech sheep and lamb processing facility strategically located slightly south of Sydney, where it has access to sheep grown in the healthy environment of NSW's Southern Highlands region.

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

The problem

In line with its quality approach to processing, the plant did not want its operators spending needless time attending to unreliable equipment in its wastewater treatment systems.

So when looking for a dependable and reliable wastewater pump to deliver 50L/s plus to its treatment area, Southern Meats looked no further than Gorman-Rupp.

The solution

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

Being able to mount the pump at ground

level – and not in the wet well – means the pumps are safer and more conveniently accessed by operators.

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

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

And because wet well lids remain closed, the need to have fall protection equipment such as anchorage points, body support, connectors and descent/rescue equipment is greatly reduced – some of these items requiring annual trips back to the manufacturer for service/inspection.

The results

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

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



The Gorman-Rupp T2A3 B wastewater pump on site.

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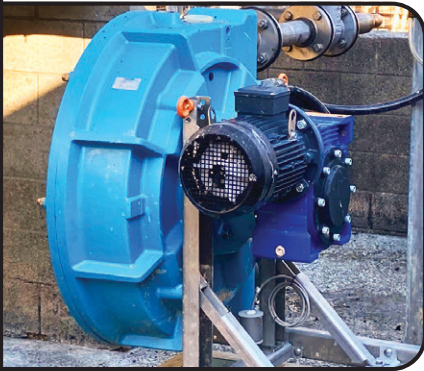
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At any level, these Chinese high-rise pig farms are unacceptable.

Pigs deserve better from us humans

PIGS are truly amazing animals.

While they exhibit some amazing behaviours, are blessed with considerable intelligence and have effectively co-habited with humans for maybe 10,000 years, we still struggle to treat them humanely.

Surely we can do better and indeed should do better when it comes to how we

treat these sentient beings.

While I love eating pork and therefore

**Cant
Comment**
by BRENDON CANT



by definition approve of their deliberate demise at our hands, I do have a problem with how they are often handled and treated before birth, after birth, during their maturation to slaughter age and their treatment in between all of those phases.

A civilised society – such as ours supposedly is in 2026 – needs to place the care for all animals as a very high priority, especially those we keep to eat.

Animal welfare matters.

It's that simple.

Anyway, having declared my hand above, I thought I'd let another body specify what it sees as the amazing traits of these remarkable animals that we sometimes blindly farm and eat in unmentionable and unimaginable ways.

RSPCA Australia wrote the below in a recent online newsletter – edited for this publication – and I think it's full of reminders worth contemplating for all in the industry, from pig farmers to pig processors to industry bodies.

Pigs are remarkable animals.

Curious, intelligent and social, they possess some truly unique characteristics and abilities.

However, the systems pigs are farmed in often mean that these are overlooked or misunderstood.

There are around 2.5 million pigs

• continued P9

A healthy pig, it's visible!



Even under heat stress, **LEVUCCELL SB** (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* var. *boulardii* CNCM I-1079) can help keep your pigs healthy by enhancing feeding behaviour, feed efficiency and pig resilience for optimal farm profitability and overall performance.



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Pigs deserve better from us humans

from P8
farmed in Australia at any one time and around 90 percent of those pigs are housed in intensive farming systems.

They are a significant portion of our agricultural industry, yet how much does the average person know about these animals?

Pigs possess highly developed sensory abilities.

They're able to de-

tect high frequency sounds and have an exceptional sense of smell which is enabled by their sensitive snouts.

A pig's snout contains a high density of tactile receptors and an olfactory sense around 2000 times more sensitive than a human.

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 a valuable provision for pigs reared outdoors and provide another form of social enrichment, as they will often wallow in groups.

There's a reason we have the saying 'as happy as a pig in mud'.

Most Australian-farmed pigs spend their entire lives in barren intensive farming systems that offer minimal opportunity to engage in natural behaviours, little to no enrichment or creature comforts and fundamentally fail to meet their psychological needs.

Curious by nature, pigs have the ability to solve complex problems, learn from one another and demonstrate emotional awareness.

This intelligence means pigs require more than basic physical care – they need a variety of mental stimulation to keep their minds and bodies active.

Including opportunities for social interaction and play and an environment that allows natural behaviours such as rooting, exploring and nesting.

Without these provisions, pigs can quickly become bored and frustrated and develop abnormal behaviours such as bar biting.

Pigs deserve better than a barren life of confinement and significant improvements are urgently needed to the way pigs are farmed to ensure these intelligent and socially complex animals have a good quality life.

The Australian pig industry has made good progress in transitioning away from sow stalls but we cannot become complacent.

Now is the time to extend this leadership through innovation and reform, to show that Australian pig producers truly prioritise the welfare of their pigs.

It is time the industry commits to fully transition away from inadequate and outdated systems to make higher welfare farming the norm rather than the exception.



Why not wallow?



Happy home, happy sow, happy piglets.



Lairage 'layabouts' resting up before facing the inevitable, which should always be as stress free and pain free as possible.

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Selontra® is powered by Cholecalciferol, a non-anticoagulant. The freedom to use it off-building and along perimeter fence lines makes it a valuable new option for any rodent control program.

Storm® Soft Bait

Storm® Soft Bait is the only rodent soft bait that has the same concentration of active ingredient as its equivalent wax block, Storm Secure. It has an excellent palatability due to high oil formulation which offers proven performance in cold environments and with populations exhibiting reluctant feeding habits.

Storm® Secure Wax Block

Storm® Secure is a powerful anticoagulant rodenticide that is formulated with BASF Fortec™ Technology into a compressed cereal grain block. Its low wax content allows it to be a highly palatable and durable bait which can resist extreme temperatures.

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APL welcomes Dr Mandy Bowling to new role

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited is delighted to announce that former Program Manager - Extension Dr Mandy Bowling has been appointed APL's Research and Innovation Program Manager - Health and Biosecurity.

Mandy brings over 10 years' worth of experience in health and biosecurity, a deep understanding of our community and a has a strong passion for innovation and meaningful engagement.

Prior to working at APL, Mandy worked at Biosecurity Tasmania, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and Livestock

SA where she gained extensive technical and practical expertise across livestock industries.

Mandy holds a PhD in veterinary science and a Bachelor of Animal Science (Honours) from the University of Adelaide.

Her research background and industry experience equip her with the ability to translate complex scientific information into practical, actionable advice for pork producers and industry stakeholders.

Mandy replaces Dr Raymond Chia in this role, who served as R&I Program Manager - Health and Biosecurity with

APL for over four years.

During his time in the role, Ray has made a lasting impact through his leadership, collaboration and commitment to strengthening our health and biosecurity programs in the Australian pork industry.

Ray has always engaged in a posi-

tive manner and we thank him for his many contributions and wish him all the best in his next chapter.

For all technical matters relating to health and biosecurity, contact Dr Mandy Bowling at mandy.bowling@australianpork.com.au

Australian Pork Limited



Sara Willis, Tanya Pittard, Roger Campbell and Dr Mandy Bowling.



A collaborative APL project to create a set of integrated tools that align food safety and animal welfare auditing systems. Photo: Hayana Fernanda

Working towards one integrated process for pig abattoirs

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has taken a significant step in improving food safety and animal welfare standards compliance in pig abattoirs, thanks to the development of a nationally consistent verification system.

Pig abattoirs operate under a range of regulations, including Australian standards, state licencing requirements and federal export rules.

While these frameworks are robust, the absence of a single auditable system tailored to domestic and export pig abattoirs has led to fragmented practices, inconsistent audits and challenges for both regulators and industry in demonstrating compliance.

Recognising this gap, APL initiated a project in collaboration with the Pork Processors Referral Group – which represents 90 percent of pork processing in Australia – to create a set of integrated tools that align food safety and animal welfare auditing systems.

Led by Dr Sam Allan, this project developed a set of auditable checklists designed for self-assessment, third-party audits and regulatory certification.

The project produced

four complementary tools – two covering animal welfare and two covering food safety – each developed in 'desk audit' and 'surveillance audit' formats.

Each checklist includes consistent columns for 'Verification Question', 'Guidance/Intent', 'Suggested Evidence', 'Findings' and an open 'Outcome' field to record audit results using either an internal or jurisdictional rating system.

The checklists allow for traceability to source standards and are supported by user guides to ensure consistent scoring, interpretation and corrective action tracking.

These tools are intended to complement and strengthen existing verification processes already used by the industry.

As part of the document development, checklists underwent independent review and testing by Aus-Meat to confirm practicality and compatibility.

In addition, consultation with the Australian Meat Regulators Working Group sought to ensure regulatory alignment and lay the groundwork for ongoing collaboration.

AMRG is a collaboration of state, territory

and federal meat safety authorities, plus Food Standards Australia New Zealand, that work to ensure consistency in meat safety regulations, develop guidelines and align standards (such as AS 4696) for domestic processing, aiming to bridge industry and regulators for consistent science-based rules.

This system will deliver significant benefits for industry.

For abattoirs, it provides a structured approach to internal verification, enabling early identification of non-conformances.

For auditors and regulators, it offers a transparent clause-referenced system that reduces subjectivity and standardises compliance checks.

APL believes this initiative will not only strengthen compliance but also support continuous improvement across the industry, creating a benchmark for future training and best practices in Australian pig domestic and export abattoirs.

These resources will soon be available for processors within APL's members portal.

For more information contact Vaibhav Gole at APL.

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Managing larger litters

SHOULD farrowing be timed to allow better supervision?

As high litter sizes are a common breeding target in pig production, producers are under growing pressure to balance productivity, labour efficiency and animal welfare.

One of the most critical challenges remains piglet survival in the first hours after birth, particularly when farrowing occurs overnight and supervision is limited.

New research from the University of Adelaide is highlighting how better control over farrowing timing could be a way to support both larger litters and increase on-farm efficiency into the future.

AHM Musleh Uddin (a PhD candidate for the University of Adelaide) has been named the winner of the 2025 Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited Enterprise Award for his project 'Shifting farrowing to working hours enhances neonatal supervision and viability'.

The idea was to de-



**Australasian
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APRIL

velop a non-injectable method that allows farrowing to be reliably triggered within 24 hours of treatment and so birth during working hours.

Any inducing method would require knowledge of sow due dates, so that induction is not performed any earlier than two days before the intended date.

The project was supervised by Associate Professor Roy Kirkwood and Professor Sanjay Garg, both from the University of Adelaide.

Prof Garg oversees the Pharmaceutical Innovation and Development Group and is a specialist in translational drug delivery systems in both human and animal medicine.

By timing farrowing towards working hours, staff would be better positioned to intervene early, assist piglets onto

the udder, turn heat lamps on and make timely decisions that could save piglets in the litter from an early mortality.

Rather than accepting higher losses as an unavoidable consequence of increased litter size, producers may be better equipped to protect the survival and viability of more piglets, while also supporting improved sow welfare through better pain management and calmer farrowing conditions.

The APRIL Enterprise Award was selected by an industry-based panel and announced at the APRIL Stakeholders Forum on November 20, 2025.

Producers interested in learning more about the type of research and innovation being supported through APRIL and Australian Pork Limited will have the op-

portunity to engage at the upcoming APL 'Pork and Talk' roadshow events.

These will feature a segment for research and innovation under the theme 'Farrowing house successes', which gives opportunity to reflect on management practices and have a say on the type of research being supported in this area.

These roadshow events are set to take place from early February to March 2026 across Toowoomba in Queensland, Perth in Western Australia, Cootamundra in NSW, Bendigo in Victoria and South Australia.

Further information on dates and venues will be shared through producer communications.

In the meantime, for more details, producers can contact either APRIL science extension officer Sophie Ward via sophie.s.ward@april.org.au or Ashlee Adams at Australian Pork Limited via ashlee.adams@australianpork.com.au

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Second largest winter crop on record expected in 2025-26

A USTRALIAN winter crop production is forecast to increase by 10 percent to 66.3Mt in 2025-26 (see Figure 1).

This is 35 percent above the 10-year average of 49.2Mt to 2024-25 and, if realised, will be the second highest result on record.

National winter crop production is forecast to increase despite significant variation in growing conditions across states during the winter cropping season.

Area planted to winter crops in 2025-26 is estimated to have been just below last year's record at 25.1 million hectares.

A 3 percent increase in area planted in Western Australia is estimated to have been offset by a 3 percent decrease in NSW. Area planted in Queensland is estimated to have decreased by 1 percent from the previous year's record.

Total winter crop area planted in South Australia and Victoria is estimated to have been largely unchanged.

The Western Australian winter crop production is forecast to be the second highest on record due to timely rainfall and a mild spring in most cropping regions.

Similarly seasonal conditions in Queensland and northern NSW have been favourable, with the winter crop production in Queensland expected to be the second highest on record.

Whereas below average spring rainfall across southern NSW during the critical grain fill periods impacted yields, which are expected to be down 10 percent year-on-year.

South Australia and Victoria had a poor start to the winter cropping season, however timely winter and spring rainfall and mild spring temperatures have enabled production to rebound and winter crop production in South Australia is expected to increase by 63 percent year-on-year, while Victorian production is expected to be up 17 percent.

Wheat production is forecast to increase by 4 percent to 35.6Mt in 2025-26 with WA's forecast to increase by 6 percent to be the second largest wheat crop on record.

Wheat crop production in both South Australia and Victoria is expected to increase significantly from the previous years' drought-affected levels.

However, a 14 percent reduction in southern NSW has weighed in to offset the total wheat production.

Barley production is forecast to increase by 18 percent to a record 15.7Mt in 2025-26, this reflects an estimated 3 percent increase in area and national average barley yields around 29 percent above the 10-year average to 2024-25.

Canola production is forecast to increase by 13 percent to 7.2Mt in 2025-26, due to a 6 percent increase in total area planted and higher yields with improved conditions in South Australia and Victoria, and excellent conditions in Western Australia where a significant proportion of the national canola crop is grown.

Total canola production is expected to be 50 percent above the 10-year average to 2024-25.

AusScan and APRIL

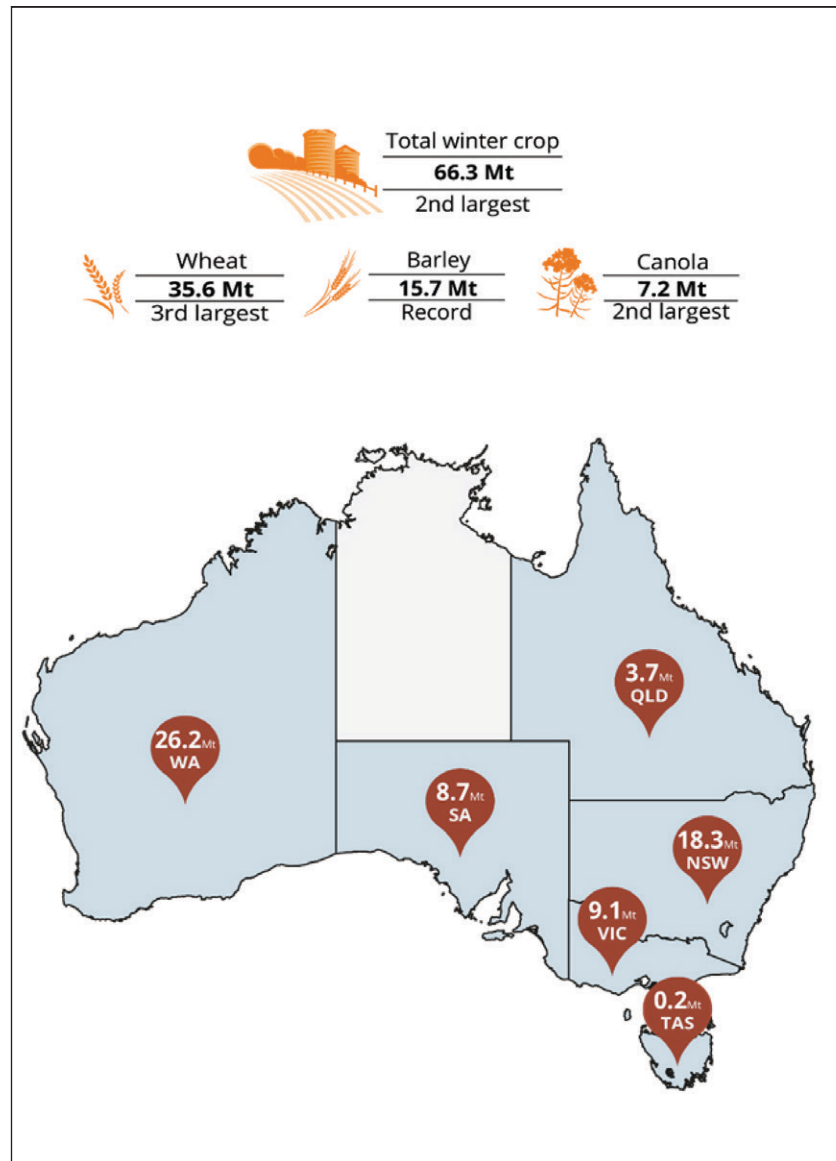




Figure 1: Australian winter crop production 2025-26. (Abridged version taken from ABARES Australian Crop Report December 2025.) Source: ABARES

		 Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd APRIL																									
TABLE 1. AusScan Early Harvest Report																											
November2025																											
Protein Moisture and Energy Values for Cereal Grains																											
Barley																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	10.5	1.39	7.7	14.8	11.4	0.59	10.0	12.8	13.3	0.11	13.0	13.7	10.4	0.24	10.0	11.4	0.78	0.77	0.83	11.9	0.25	11.1	12.6	68.5	2.6	60.9	76.3
QLD	9.1	1.45	6.6	12.2	11.4	0.81	9.2	13.2	12.6	0.31	12.0	13.8	10.1	0.40	9.5	11.7	0.81	0.79	0.85	12.0	0.33	11.3	12.7				
QLD1	9.7	1.47	6.6	12.1	10.7	0.87	8.5	12.1	12.5	0.14	12.2	12.7	10.1	0.35	9.4	10.8	0.81	0.77	0.86	11.5	0.38	10.7	12.2				
SA1	9.6	1.50	6.4	13.0	12.0	0.84	10.2	13.6	13.4	0.21	13.0	13.9	11.2	0.16	10.7	11.5	0.83	0.82	0.82								
SA2	8.0	1.54	5.7	11.7	12.7	0.66	11.5	14.2	13.4	0.15	13.2	13.7	11.2	0.11	11.0	11.4	0.83	0.83	0.83								
VIC	11.5	1.41	8.6	13.8	10.4	0.87	9.2	12.7	12.5	0.20	12.0	12.8	10.3	0.30	9.8	10.9	0.83	0.81	0.85	11.3	0.39	10.6	12.3				
VIC 1	10.4	1.62	8.2	13.1	11.0	0.89	9.5	13.1	12.5	0.19	12.0	12.8	10.5	0.29	9.7	11.0	0.84	0.81	0.86	11.9	0.34	11.3	12.6				
VIC 2	10.9	0.91	7.9	12.8	10.8	0.68	9.3	12.4	12.6	0.14	12.2	12.9	10.4	0.31	9.8	11.5	0.83	0.80	0.89	11.7	0.26	11.2	12.2				
VIC 3	9.6	1.12	7.5	11.5	10.5	0.81	9.3	12.3	12.6	0.14	12.4	13.0	10.5	0.23	10.1	11.1	0.83	0.82	0.86	11.4	0.40	10.8	12.2				
Wheat																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	12.7	1.30	10.7	16.9	11.0	0.44	9.6	11.6	14.0	0.18	13.1	14.3	12.1	0.35	10.3	12.8	0.86	0.79	0.90	12.8	0.21	11.9	13.3	76.9	2.1	69.1	80.5
QLD	12.3	1.46	9.3	16.3	10.8	0.89	8.9	13.1	13.7	0.20	12.7	14.0	11.7	0.28	10.3	12.3	0.85	0.81	0.88	12.8	0.45	11.0	13.6	77.3	3.3	63.1	83.1
QLD1	12.0	1.15	9.5	15.3	11.0	1.13	9.0	13.9	13.8	0.07	13.7	14.0	11.9	0.25	11.5	12.4	0.86	0.84	0.89	12.8	0.32	12.2	13.5	77.6	1.1	75.5	79.8
VIC	11.9	1.26	8.6	16.4	11.2	0.85	9.3	13.5	13.8	0.05	13.6	13.9	11.7	0.14	11.3	12.2	0.85	0.83	0.87	12.8	0.25	12.3	13.6	78.5	1.2	75.6	84.0
VIC 1	11.9	1.36	9.1	16.6	11.0	0.83	8.3	13.2	13.7	0.08	13.5	13.9	12.0	0.19	11.6	12.9	0.88	0.86	0.92	13.0	0.27	12.0	13.5	79.2	1.4	74.7	85.1
VIC 2	12.7	1.42	9.2	15.8	10.7	1.10	8.8	12.7	13.8	0.08	13.5	13.9	11.9	0.16	11.4	12.3	0.86	0.85	0.89	12.6	0.34	11.5	13.4	77.8	1.8	71.0	81.2
VIC 3	11.8	0.91	9.3	15.2	10.5	0.74	8.6	12.9	13.7	0.08	13.1	13.8	11.9	0.16	11.2	12.3	0.87	0.85	0.89	12.6	0.29	11.5	13.3	77.5	1.6	66.5	81.5
* Each row represents a Feed Mill in the Region, for example QLD and QLD1 represent different feed mill companies within the state.																											

PigBal 5 validated for greenhouse gas emissions calculations

PIGBAL, the nutrient and mass balance tool that has supported piggery planning and environmental management for nearly 30 years, has reached a major milestone with the independent validation of its Scope 1 and 2 emissions calculator.

This confirmation of accuracy and reliability strengthens PigBal's role as a trusted resource for environmental planning and regulatory compliance across Australian piggeries.

Released earlier last year, PigBal 5 introduced a significant enhancement – the inclusion of Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions calculations.

This update addresses the growing need for reliable and consistent GHG measurement methods in develop-

ment applications.

To ensure regulator confidence and accuracy, Australian Pork Limited supported a project to validate the new emissions calculator.

The validation assessed PigBal 5's calculations against standards outlined in the National Inventory Report and National Greenhouse Accounts Factors.

An independent reviewer from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development conducted a comprehensive audit.

The review confirmed PigBal 5 as a reputable source for Scope 1 and 2 GHG reporting.

Minor adjustments were made to improve calculation accuracy, further strengthening the tool's reliability.

This outcome will support regulator and government endorsement of PigBal 5.

The latest version of PigBal 5, along with user guides and step-by-step videos, is available on APL's website australianpork.com.au

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Clean up with Aussie Pumps Muck Off series

PORK and livestock waste problem solved.

Aussie Pumps, Australia's most innovative pressure-cleaner manufacturer, has launched a new high-flow high-pressure product designed for moving large volumes of effluent.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "We developed the 'Aussie Muck Off' to provide up to 125LPM flow at 40 bar pressure."

"Not only that, but we drive it with a Honda 13hp electric start petrol engine and encapsulate the whole thing in an elegant stainless steel trolley frame."

The design of the machine started with farmers wanting to blast mud off tractors and other farm equipment before moving the equipment from one paddock to the other.

The Aussie Muck Off was first used for cleaning cotton harvesters to prevent soil contamination.

"We didn't realise that there was a massive requirement for machines like this in cleaning chicken sheds, stock crates and other applications, including dairy waste and large piggery

operations, where there is loads of excrement to be moved efficiently and safely," Mr Hales said.

The Aussie Muck Off comes with a Udor heavy-duty diaphragm pump, gearbox driven from either a Honda 13hp electric-start engine or optional diesel drive.

The diesel is a 10hp Yanmar electric start, providing loads of power.

"The machines are built with operator safety and convenience in mind," Mr Hales said.

"A galvanised steel hose reel with 30m of high pressure 3/4" single-wire braid hose matched to an Aussie turbine 'Tommy gun' makes the job easy and reduces operator fatigue."

As Australia's major pressure-cleaner manufacturer, Aussie Pumps moves to change direction.

"However, for agricultural applications, we know that high flow can be significantly more efficient than super high-pressure machines," Mr Hales said.

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and even poultry shed washdown applications too.

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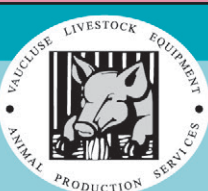
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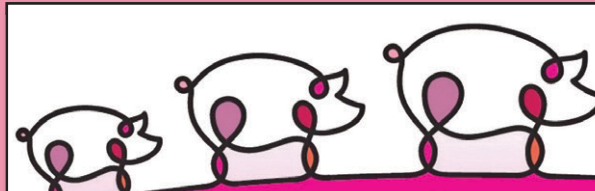
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