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South Burnett Mayor Keith Campbell, SunPork managing director and CEO Prof Robert van Barneveld, State Development Minister Cameron Dick and SunPork chairman Enzo Allara. Photo: South Burnett Online

SunPork and Swickers rebuilding, expanding and looking to the future

FOLLOWING an exceptional effort, the SunPork Group has been able to reopen its boning, chilling and export distribution facilities at the Swickers Kingaroy Bacon Factory within 352 days of a fire that destroyed

these assets in November 2016.

To coincide with the restoration of damaged facilities, SunPork also announced expansion of its business with the construction of a new \$60 million abattoir on the site with more than dou-

ble the current processing capacity.

The new abattoir will be complete in early 2019.

A special event was held on site at Swickers on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 to mark the opening of the restored facilities and the com-

mencement of construction of the new abattoir.

Member for Maranoa and the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud opened the renewed boning room, chillers and export distribution centre while Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Cameron Dick performed a sod-turning ceremony to mark the start of construction of the new abattoir.

Group CEO and managing director of the SunPork Group Dr Robert van Barneveld said the fire in 2016 reinforced just how important Swickers is to the South Burnett region and the local community.

"Ensuring Swickers has been restored to full operational status in such a short time has meant all jobs and customers have been maintained, despite



Working hard behind the scenes were Bree Hofman, Brisbane; Amy Langley, Kingaroy; Belinda Calvert, Nanango; Tash Barnett, Brisbane; and Michelle Black, Kingaroy. Photo: South Burnett Online

continued P19

Pigs, processors and politicians

IN late January I was lucky enough to be invited to the official opening of the new Swickers export boning room in Kingaroy, Queensland, after fire destroyed the previous facility in November 2016.

It was a very impressively run event, with an appropriate amount of ceremony celebrating what has been an amazing effort in getting the facility back to more or less full operations in less than 14 months.

Also appropriate was the attendance of the new Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, who also happens to be the local member for Maranoa, David Littleproud, who officially opened the new facilities.

In addition, Queensland Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Cameron Dick was in attendance to perform a sod-turning ceremony for the new abattoir to commence in the next month as well as the Member for Nanango and Queensland Opposition Leader Deb Frecklington.

An impressive array of politicians supporting this event demonstrates the importance and significance of this investment into the pork industry and regional Australia.

Our recently published Economic Impact Report shows the pork industry and its flow-on economic effects really do make a difference for regional Australia.

Admittedly, the report was based on the 2015/16 year when our farm gate prices were much higher than they are now but the



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



contribution of \$5.2 billion to our gross domestic product by our industry is nevertheless noteworthy, as is the more than 36,000 jobs the industry supports.

Despite the difficulties we are presently having with pig prices ex-farm gate, it's great to see a level of confidence in the wider pork business that can underpin an investment of this scale into its future.

The new abattoir at the Swickers facility will increase its potential throughput, contributing to a higher level of security around industry processing capacity that will have broader impacts across the industry.

While no one's fault, there is a broad opinion that the Swickers fire in 2016 contributed to pig price erosion due to issues around boning and kill capacity.

These capacity issues 'dominoed' into pigs being held back on farm, continuing to grow, becoming outside specifications in some cases and putting more pork onto the market than was anticipated.

The latest official statistics in hand for pig production levels are from

November last year and show a continued increase in pig numbers year on year of between 3 and 4 percent and continued pork volume growth of between 5 and 6 percent.

Unofficial statistics gained through the export processors show a similar trend continuing up until the end of January – last month as you are reading this.

The question on a lot of people's lips is to what extent will we be getting extra pigs over last year during the growth spurt that traditionally happens as hotter temperatures cool and pigs start to eat more freely.

These animals are likely to flow through in April and May.

Our latest Production Survey, which many of you contribute to and will have already seen, shows numbers peaking in April 2018 at around 5.33 million pigs on a moving annual total basis.

This is about 60,000 pigs – another 1 percent or so – more than where this figure sits as of the end of November 2017.

There's not long to go now before we'll have an idea as to how accurate this number turns out to be.

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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2018

MAR 3 - 6 – Annual Meeting of the American Association of Swine, San Diego, California, US www.aasv.org/annmtg

MAR 20 - 23 – Anuga FoodTec, Colonia, Germany www.anugafoodtec.com

MAR 21 - 23 – Pig Focus Asia, Bangkok, Thailand

MAR 21 – World Butchers' Challenge, Belfast, Ireland www.facebook.com/events/1038188022980633

MAR 27 - 28 – London Swine Conference, Ontario Canada www.londonwineconference.ca

APR 19 - 21 – Livestock Asia, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia, www.livestockasia.com

MAY 15 - 16 – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, UK www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

MAY 30 - 31 – Pan Pacific Pork Expo, Gold Coast, Queensland www.pppe.com.au

JUN 20 - 22 – VIV Europe 2018, Utrecht, The Netherlands www.viveurope.nl/en/Bezoeker.aspx

SEP 17 - 19 – VIV China, Nanjing International Exhibition Centre (NIEC), China www.vivchina.nl/en/Bezoeker.aspx

SEP 25 - 27 – PorkExpo 2018 Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil www.porkexpo.com.br

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, call 07 3286 1833 fax: 07 3821 2637, email: ben@porknews.com.au

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Farrowing management – fostering know-how

MAKING sure every pig is well looked after in a farrowing house can take a special kind of dedication as well as specialised management. Why is that?

Because there are different groups of pigs that have different requirements and it's not only the differences in requirements that you would expect between adults and their offspring – the ages of piglets in the farrowing area can vary from newborn to four weeks-plus and the needs of piglets change as they grow.

Pre-weaning mortality is the major cause of production loss in the farrowing area and it can vary greatly from farm to farm.

About 80 percent of piglet losses occur in the first 72 hours of a piglet's life and mortality also increases with increasing litter size.

Good farrowing stock-people look after large and varying populations of pigs while still managing to see and treat each pig as an individual.

Getting the 'one percenters' right and showing careful attention to detail is what is needed to care for all ages of pigs in farrowing accommodation.

This sets up the health of the herd and safeguards the robustness of replacement breeders.

In the farrowing shed, one of the most important tasks is fostering piglets.

The major reason for fostering is to improve a piglet's chances of getting adequate nourishment and thriving.

You have to work out a system that provides the best results and is the most suitable for your farm.

This system should be developed in consultation with your veterinarian and farm manager.

Fostering works better when carried out earlier during lactation, that is, in the first 24 hours.

Piglet movement after 24 hours results in reduced suckling success, more frequent vocalisations and receiving more sow aggression than those piglets moved at less than 24 hours of age.



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



There are several types of fostering methods.

The ones that work most effectively are: fostering to make sure piglets from big litters all have a teat; and back fostering – creation of nurse sows.

Piglet fostering depends on the results of many animal husbandry tasks that must be performed well to provide the tools to guarantee fostering success.

There are a number of key principles important to consider when fostering piglets.

These are:

- Colostrum gives piglets energy and warmth, as well as immunity. It is best accessed in the first 12 hours after farrowing from the birth sow. Therefore, no piglet fostering should occur before the piglets are 12 hours old.

- Colostrum intake impacts on the lifetime performance of the pig. Management techniques, such as split suckling, can achieve a more even intake of birth sow colostrum. These techniques must be used before pigs are moved.

- The piglet's ability to absorb immunoglobulins in colostrum falls rapidly and gut closure is usually complete by 24-36 hours. The control of this gut closure is directly linked to the non-specific absorption of nutrients such as glucose, lactose as well as artificial and natural colostrum.

- Piglet fostering should occur when the pigs are between 12 and 24 hours of age, but movement should be minimal to reduce disease spread.

- Foster piglets to equalise the number of piglets per litter only within the first 24 hours of age

(load sows with only the number of pigs they can successfully nurse plus one additional pig based upon their past weaning performance and udder condition).

- Just because a pig is small doesn't mean it's a runt or even that it won't thrive when left with larger litter mates – being small is not a reason to move a pig. A small piglet that has attached to a good teat and kept its place by the end of 24-48 hours of age will continue to thrive – missing out on a drink is the only reason to foster a piglet.

- Do not foster piglets for grading, sexing or saving sick pigs, fall-behinds and runts.

- Piglets should not be fostered after 24 hours of age and alternate strategies, such as setting up nurse sows, should be used when piglets need to be moved later in lactation.

- Udder assessment should occur as close to farrowing as possible for the number of functional teats as well as teat accessibility.

- Gilts should receive as many piglets as the udder allows but older parities (>P6) should be carefully assessed for rearing ability.

If these principles are followed, piglet survival and growth should be maximised.

Over the past few years, APL has commissioned a number of projects that have really centred on management during the farrowing/lactation period, specifically fostering management.

Though it seems quite simple, effective fostering is really a bit of an art and it's not simply just moving

piglets around.

The outcomes of these projects have been combined with actual farm standard operating procedures to produce a fostering manual "Guidelines for Fostering – Getting the 'One-percenters' right".

A pocket book summary listing SOPs as well as a USB with a PowerPoint presentation to assist with training and understanding will accompany this manual.

This fostering package will be available shortly from APL.

For more information, please contact either Rebecca Athorn (0436 655 015, rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au) or Ashley Norval (0437 177 527, ashley.norval@australianpork.com.au)

Leading sustainability

As the new Manager Environment (Research & Innovation) at APL, Denise Woods has hit the deck running... almost literally!

Specialist Group 3 – Environment is meeting in February and time is fast running out to ensure a smooth transition.

Information from this meeting of producers and researchers will form the basis of the business plan for the following 12 months.

To this end, Denise been reading everything she can get her hands on regarding pork production and sustainability and has determined that the Australian pork industry is in the fortunate position of being able to access some of the best researchers in the country.

These researchers provide the pork industry with the most recent information, advances in technology and scientific data in order to position the industry to best advantage.

There are currently a number of activities that address previously identified information gaps.

These are new and emerging technologies, innovation and uptake of best management practices, validation of industry environmental data and on farm greenhouse gas

mitigation strategies.

Our team is hard at work.

Some of the current projects in development include: investigating sensor technology to improve effluent management decisions, developing soil sustainability information materials, extracting effluent nutrients for use as potential commercial grade fertiliser, working on a series of videos to explain piggery planning requirements, updating the national environmental guidelines for piggeries and assisting in the update of the Emissions Reduction Fund methodologies.

Australia is fortunate to have a relatively clean and healthy environment and has an enviable reputation for the health of its product.

With continued pressure from community groups and regulatory agencies, we need to continually work to get the message out that the pork industry is one of the cleanest methods of animal protein production in terms of emissions.

APL feels the best way to achieve this is through the development of factual case studies backed by scientific rigour.

The development of best management practices provides the producer with easy to use guides to reduce environmental impacts associated with the operation of piggeries.

The National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries (Third Edition) is in the process of being finalised and all producers will be advised as soon as it is available.

In closing, I extend my sincere thanks to Mark Hogan, who has retired as Chair of Specialist Group 3 – Environment, for his leadership and contributions during 2017/18 as well as being a member of Specialist Group 3 for many years.

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

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THEME: DRIVING EFFICIENCY TOGETHER

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CRC looks up genes to see what it can see

THIS month I will update you on three recently completed Pork CRC projects.

Two attempted to develop traits and techniques for disease resilience and progeny survival and one compared how swing-sided farrowing pens and farrowing crates impact piglet survival and performance.

Fitting genes

There has been a chase globally for means of selecting pigs that are genetically more resilient to variation in the environment and disease challenge.

Progress has been slow because of the difficulty in measuring the relevant traits in enough pigs and getting adequate numbers across environments.

We know that more feed-efficient pigs seem to have greater resilience to disease challenge and that genomics is likely to help identify the relevant animals and progress a potentially big advance in disease management.

However, geneticists at AGBU, Armidale, NSW, have recently made good progress.

Resilience measure

First, AGBU Assoc Prof Susanne Hermesch and her colleagues globally reported in their results from Pork CRC Project 2B-105 'Genetic parameters for health, survival, immune competence, post-weaning growth and disease resilience of pigs' that answers may lie in haematological traits and performance of pigs immediately after weaning (to five weeks of age).

The two are related and the researchers suggest the main haematological traits are haemoglobin and white blood cell count.

It appears they have some-

thing here and need more information linking these traits (haematological measure and performance to five weeks) to survival and performance to sale.

Immune tests

Second, Dr Kim Bunter from AGBU, working with scientists at CSIRO and Rivalea Australia within Pork CRC Project 2B-106 'Simple tests for immune responsiveness of sires and the association with piglet mortality' developed some simple tests that identified sires with significantly higher estimated breeding values for pre-weaning survival.

The project aimed to develop a testing procedure to obtain immune competence phenotypes for mature boars and to subsequently investigate if sire variation in immune competence was reflected by differences in the survival of their offspring (pre and post-weaning) and/or potentially other performance attributes.

The researchers developed a commercially practical procedure to obtain immune competence phenotypes for mature boars.

Boars were allocated into immune competence groups based on their relative rankings for humoral immunity (antibody production) and cell-

mediated immunity (delayed-type hypersensitivity skin test).

Great outcome

The researchers found that immune grouping of boars was significantly ($p=0.004$) associated with EBVs for pre-weaning survival of piglets, suggesting variation in immune competence of sires was transmitted to offspring, with impact on survival outcomes for piglets.

There was no evidence for antagonistic associations between immune competence grouping of boars and genetic merit for other economically important traits.

They concluded that immune competence testing, using the testing procedure developed, was feasible in the Australian pig industry.

Results from similar test procedures applied in other industries have demonstrated reduced incidence and severity of disease, as well as cost savings and production benefits for genotypes with high immune responsiveness.

I think it's an important outcome and combined with the results of Pork CRC Project 2B-105 suggests we may be getting closer to genetic means of improving animal health and reducing our reliance on antibiotics.

Details of both projects are included in the final reports on Pork CRC's website – both represent excellence in science and have commercial implications.

Well worth reading.

To discuss the implications further, contact Kim Bunter (2B-106) or Susanne Hermesch (2B-105).

Reducing confinement

The most recent research report on alternatives to farrowing crates is Pork CRC Project 1A-110.

In 1A-110, Dr William van Wettere from the University of Adelaide and his colleagues from SunPork Farms SA investigated the survival and performance of piglets under different management systems in swing-sided farrowing pens.

They compared these with moving sows and litters from farrowing crates to single litter pens at day seven and with sows and litters housed in farrowing crates throughout lactation.

Swing-sided pens, which enable one side to be opened at any time, giving the sow and litter more freedom, have been promoted by the Danes and others during the past three years, although their practicality and welfare implications remain questionable.

The three swing-sided pen treatments investigated in the study were: pens closed from



Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL
CEO



AGBU Assoc Prof Susanne Hermesch is a consistent contributor and questioner at Pork CRC's annual Stakeholders' Day. Last year in Melbourne she confirmed how her work on genetic parameters may positively impact disease resilience in pigs.



Dr Kim Bunter (left) from AGBU chatted about disease resilience in pigs with Dr Alison Collins of NSW DPI during a break at the 2017 Pork CRC Stakeholders' Meeting in Melbourne. Both receive project support from Pork CRC and are breaking new ground.

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continued P4

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FARM MACHINERY

Treatment	Crate	Crate to Pen	SSP closed to day 7	SSP closed day 1 to 7	SSP open
Replicates	145	121	118	112	112
Born alive	11.2	11.5	11.3	10.9	10.8
Piglet losses (n/litter)	1.19 ^a	1.33 ^{ab}	1.73 ^b	1.71 ^b	3.46 ^c
Number weaned	9.8 ^a	9.4 ^{ab}	9.2 ^b	9.3 ^b	7.9 ^c

Table 1: Effects of housing during farrowing and lactation on piglet losses to weaning (day 26). SSP – swing-sided farrowing pen, abc treatment means with different superscript letters are significantly different (P<0.05).

Performance indicator/Season	Winter	Summer
Experimental period		
Total born	12.16	12.15
Born alive	11.05	11.28
Piglet losses to weaning (n/litter)	2.03 ^b	1.63 ^a
Weaned	9.0	9.3
Subsequent		
Weaned sows mated (%)	84	90
Farrowing rate of those mated (%)	85	85
Sows farrowing a second litter	71 ^b	76 ^a
Total born	13.57 ^a	12.43 ^b
Born alive	12.54	11.62

Table 2: Experimental period and subsequent reproduction of sows that farrowed and lactated during summer or winter. A,b means with a different superscript letter are significantly different (P<0.05).

CRC looks up genes to see what it can see

from P3

entry to farrowing house to day seven; pens closed from day before farrowing to day seven; and pens remained open to day seven and throughout lactation.

The work was conducted in commercial research facilities and was one of the largest-scale studies of its type ever conducted.

Weaning age averaged 26 days and average sow parity was 3.3.

In summary (Table 1), leaving the swing-sided pens open through lactation resulted in significantly higher pre-weaning mortality than all other treatments, with farrowing crates having the lowest mortality.

Piglet losses in the open pen system were three times higher than in farrowing crates.

Results are similar to those of previous stud-

ies in the same farrowing pens, clearly showing that leaving pens open during farrowing can result in extremely high piglet losses.

In this study, piglet losses were higher in the open system throughout lactation.

The higher mortality in the swing-sided pens closed to day seven suggests there may be a design fault, which is common with any of these types of systems.

The results confirm freedom-type farrowing pens, especially if left open in early lactation, can have severe adverse effects on piglet welfare and sow productivity.

Details of the pens and other outcomes are included in the report on Pork CRC's website – well worth reading – and it also covers the effects of systems/treatments on piglet

growth performance and subsequent reproduction and how all are affected by season (summer and winter).

Piglet mortality across the housing treatments was not affected by season, but aspects of reproduction were.

Some of the seasonal effects are shown in Table 2.

Next month I will cover where we sit globally on cost and productivity and where we need to improve to become a force in the

global pork industry.

I think we're getting closer, but let's see if you agree.

To give you a taste of what's to come, I can tell you I believe we are globally competitive in herd feed efficiency, measured as total feed used divided by total carcass weight produced/sold.

The bad news is it might be difficult to tease out the cause of high HFC (a value above 3.8).

www.porkcrc.com.au



Pork CRC Program One leader Will van Weterre reported on his program's progress to the 2017 Pork CRC Stakeholders' Day, including Pork CRC Project 1A-110.

Raids hit QLD farmers

pork
QUEENSLAND INC.

President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



PORK Queensland Inc recommends all pork producers should consider their farm could be next after activists were recently arrested for illegally breaking and entering farms in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

Two neighbouring farms, a pig and a poultry farm, were targeted by local animal activists who disregarded signs and breached the biosecurity of the properties with the intent to 'free' a number of animals that were to be transported interstate to a 'refuge'.

The local couple were assisted by members of a southern activist group that recently conducted a demonstration at the gates to the properties in an attempt to gain public support.

However, their misguided thoughts and activities actually led to the injury of a number of livestock on each of the properties as a result of the midnight raid upsetting the livestock, let alone the financial impost of breached biosecurity.

All the activists' claims of mistreatment were dismissed through good on-farm QA records and observed practices.

PQI supported the farmers and contacted Queensland Police who were very supportive of investigating the alleged offence, which

resulted in the arrest.

While some may say they will not get the punishment they deserve and as such why bother engaging the police, if we don't, they will get away with it and it encourages them to continue to the next farm.

With activists seeking more and more attention, producers are urged to review their own farm security measures, including cameras, signs and fencing.

Having prior contact with the local police station raises their awareness of the risks to the livestock, let alone the breach of trespass laws.

Producers should utilise Australian Pork Limited's 'Tool Kit' available online at australianpork.com.au to provide the greatest protection and a plan of defence prior to an invasion.

In this recent case, talking to neighbouring farms and being aware of such activities and sharing information of suspect activities helped in arresting the culprits.

Remember, most farmers say after the raid that they didn't think it would happen on their farm!

PQI continues to represent Queensland pig farmers on a number of industry and government working groups targeting on-farm biosecurity issues.

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Strengthening demand with a focus on the future

FOR the pig industry, the new year couldn't come soon enough, with pricing a major cause of anxiety in 2017.

It wasn't just the decrease but the unexpected nature of it.

Fortunately, the year ended with a great Christmas and fresh pork volume growing fast at 12.1 percent ahead of Christmas 2016.

Of this growth, about half was driven by decreased prices at retail and about half by pork becoming increasingly popular.

Bone-in ham also grew again last Christmas by 3.1 percent (roughly twice population growth) and our consumer media coverage over Christmas went up from an audience of 26.4 million circulation for all articles to 42.4 million.



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



That 60 percent increase is estimated to be worth an additional \$7.9 million according to Isentia estimates.

The new year offers a chance to reflect on what we've learnt and reset for the year ahead.

Last year's challenges meant priorities were reassessed and some new activities were added to our calendar to continue to drive demand and address the supply issues ex-

perienced by the industry. And so, we start 2018 in a good place.

Our 'Get some Pork on your fork' consumer advertising campaign continued during January and focused on health and 'How to cook' (6-2-2), in line with the nation's post-Christmas attention on both health and summer barbecues.

We've also had the new line-up of PorkStar influencer chefs unveiled in

Gourmet Traveller magazine, featuring faces from across the country.

One of the new activities for 2018 is Chinese New Year.

The messaging of this activity ties into the ongoing versatility campaign, providing recipe inspiration and encouraging all Australians to get on board with celebrations and preparing dishes utilising pork mince, scotch and belly.

Radio ads will be aired on metropolitan stations from February 11 to 26, with retail, butcher and volume foodservice activity also locked in.

Butchers will also have their 'Butcher's Battle

Plan' program relaunched and revamped, with the new 'Butcher's Hook' program launched in the next month.

This will continue to provide butchers with practical tips and suggestions to help them boost their sales and profitability.

Our PorkStar and volume foodservice programs are driving 11 percent sales growth in out-of-home sales for the quarter to November 2017.

We are of course hopeful that this momentum ahead of supply growth has positive impacts on both Australian diets and returns to pig producers.

THE LIONS WON'T BE THE ONLY ONES DANCING THIS NEW YEAR.

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Deb Hoffrichter at her display stand at 'Taste of Esperance', held over a weekend in 2015. She explained to members of the public why and how farrowing crates were used and fielded numerous 'curly' questions, all answered with aplomb and a refreshing honesty, according to bystanders.



Selling about 25 pigs per sow, per year and weaning an average of 11 piglets per litter, the Hoffrichters' 'girls' are doing the job, for sure, sometimes achieving 16 parities. She's pictured with seven-week-old weaners.

Magnificent seven in the wild west

TEN years is a long time in the life of any column, or columnist for that matter, and this column and columnist go a long way further back than 10 years.

Anyway, in the process of creating this month's Cant Comment column, I turned back a few pages to what I wrote about in February 2008 and noted, with some amusement, that I flew the flag, or lowered it in some cases, for some WA pig personalities.

So, I thought I'd have another crack at creating commentary on several WA characters of interest to me.

To refresh, 10 years ago I covered (not necessarily in glory) Rob Wilson, Reg Maddock, Graham Smythe, Lou Giglia, Neil Ferguson, Kim Nairn, Errol Howard, Darryl D'Souza, David Chown and Richard Evison.

We'll leave the above 'top 10' alone this year, other than to say that Lou Giglia, a very close friend of mine is unwell, so my warm thoughts are with him and his devoted, lovely wife Maria.

By way of reminder,



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

back in February 2008, when Lou Giglia AM was Westpork chairman, I wrote: "Although low key in WA pig 'circles', he has the key to doors that could open opportunities for WA's pig industry. Well respected in Australian farming and agribusiness circles, the former North Dandalup dairy farmer was a director on

the Board of Wesfarmers for 35 years and is a former president of the Royal Agricultural Society of WA."

This month I'm limiting my commentary to a 'magnificent seven', rather than a top 10.

Deb Hoffrichter, Shark Lake pig farmer

Deb and husband Steve run a sharp ship on WA's far east coast, not far out of Esperance.

English raised but Australian born (Waratah, NSW), Deb met Steve at the end of 2006 in the UK and although she had no working knowledge of pigs before the couple partnered, she now commits her boundless energy to promoting the industry and is an advocate unafraid to speak her mind, whether that's at a closed industry forum or in a public place.

She's a ripper.

Roseanne Thomas, D'Orsogna financial controller

A quiet achiever and the financial wicket keeper behind opener Brad Thomason in his time running D'Orsogna and in earlier days running Watsonia.

Fine with figures and

wonderful with wit, Roseanne has a PhD, but working alongside the ultimate pragmatist, she rarely has the time or opportunity to draw too deeply on her academic addiction.

Diana Turpin, veterinarian and researcher

A veterinarian who completed a Pork CRC supported PhD, Diana these days splits her time between Portec, working as a vet, and Murdoch University, working as a research fellow with support from PIWA.

She was awarded Pork CRC's best oral presentation at APSA in Melbourne last year.

Very bright, very personable and with an infectious smile, Diana has been a breath of fresh air since moving west from South Australia.

Linton Batt

Linton Batt runs black Berkshire pigs on his small farm at Beverley, 130km southeast of Perth.

He also owns and runs an abattoir 100km down the track at Corrigin.

His Berkshire pork took out top honours at the 2017 Sydney Fine Food Awards.

I was pleased that Linton flagged his interest in making a wider contribution to WA's pig and pork industry last year by nominating for WAPPA's executive.

He didn't get up, but I suspect will one day.

Megan Trezona

Formerly with DAFWA

and these days armed with a PhD, Megan continues to make a positive impact on enhancing the eating quality of WA pork while working at the home of fresh WA pork (Linley Valley).

A regular attendee at industry forums and workshops in the west and the east, Megan's modest demeanour disguises a strong will and an innate ability to get her own way when necessary.

Torben Soerenson, GD Pork

WAPPA treasurer and one of WA's biggest pork producers.

A Dane who effectively got his WA start in pig production in 2007 when he bought the Pinjarra piggery once owned and run by Roy Christmass, who just happens to own Great Danes!

The ever-churning rumour mill has it that Torben is now looking to build an abattoir at the site of his Kojonup piggery.

Jan Cooper, WAPPA EO

Although she fronts two high-profile WAPPA events each year, Jan, born and bred on a Kojonup farm, prefers to stay out of the spotlight and let WAPPA president Dawson Bradford do the spruiking on and off stage.

Sometimes this doesn't quite work well for WAPPA because Dawson has somewhat similar traits, albeit he's a big player in WA's pork industry.



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With a nursing background, Deb prides herself on the importance she places on good mothering capacities with the Shark Lake Piggery's sow herd. She's pictured with hand-selected gilts.



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Dale Pemberton

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Dale Pemberton accepts seat on APIQ✓ Panel

MR Dale Pemberton has been appointed to the APIQ✓ Panel as the specialist supply chain representative.

Dale is the National Livestock Manager for Coles Supermarkets.

Dale's role includes managing Coles' livestock procurement for the Coles pork and lamb species.

The vacancy on the APIQ✓ Panel came with the resignation of Mr Rob Cumine, who returned to Wales for family and to manage his growing high-quality Wagyu beef business.

The APIQ✓ Panel was first established in 2007 as a panel of experts independent of the APL Board, the APL Board Quality Assurance and Animal Welfare Commit-

tee, APIQ auditors and APIQ Management.

This allows it to make assessments and rulings in regard to an individual or organisation's performance against the prescribed standards and performance indicators in the APIQ✓ program.

The Panel:

- Routinely reviews the program, standards and policies and recommends improvements for industry consideration.

- Determines courses of action where incidences of misconduct, non-performance of duties or conflict of interest are alleged, or where other unidentified events of a critical nature occur.

- Makes decisions on incidences and situations that are outside the scope

of APIQM and when decisions need to be at arm's length to APIQM.

The Panel consists of five or six specialists:

- An intensive livestock veterinarian.

- An independent specialist auditor (preferably with an intensive farming background).

- One or two independent producers (but not APL producer-elected Board directors).

- A representative nominated by the APL Board, who serves as chair.

- An individual from the supply chain (such as a customer representative).

Panel members serve a two or three-year term with options for continued service where they're available and invited by the APL Board.

Since inception there has been an informal rotation of Panel members as life circumstances for individuals change.

When a vacancy opens, APIQ Management, under the direction of the APL Board, calls for applications from across industry to fill the specific role vacated.

Applications and resumes are received, interviews conducted and a suitable candidate nominated by a selection committee to the APL Board for approval.

As of January 2018, Panel members are as follows. **Mrs Sharon Starrick – Panel chair**

Sharon is a mixed farmer, including pigs, from South Australia.

She has been the Panel

chair since October 2013 and has served as the producer representative since establishment of the Panel in 2010.

Sharon serves rural industry in several capacities including as a Board member of Animal Health Australia and as the chair of the Rural Business Support Organisation in South Australia.

Dr Eric Thornton – intensive livestock veterinarian

Eric is a Victorian-based veterinarian, viticulturist and livestock producer with many years' experience in intensive agriculture as well as in the processing sector.

Eric has served on the Panel since its establishment in 2010.

Mrs Helen Fletcher – independent specialist auditor

Helen has worked as a quality systems manager and consultant for several organisations, including pig producers.

Helen has managed internal audit processes for ISO, APIQ, HACCP, SQF and Yum.

She has covered a range of agricultural industries including piggeries, eggs, feed mills, poultry and egg processing.

Helen has served on the Panel since 2010.

Mr Jeremy Whitby – pig producer

Jeremy is an owner in Queensland National Pork Holdings, a multi-site pork production operation.

Jeremy believes quality assurance programs are essential tools in manag-

ing production systems and that they will become more important in future.

Jeremy has served on the Panel since 2013.

Mr Tim Kingma – pig producer

Tim is a Victorian pig producer who owns and manages a 1400-sow farrow to finish operation on two sites.

Tim oversees and implements the business quality assurance program.

He is passionate about the pig industry and is involved in the industry at a state and national level.

Tim is also the president of the VFF Pig Group and has served on the Panel since 2013.

Mr Dale Pemberton – supply chain specialist

Dale joined the Panel in January 2018.

Dale is the National Livestock Manager for Coles Supermarkets.

His role includes managing livestock procurement for the Coles pork and lamb species and he has been involved in the livestock supply chain for over 30 years.

Dale's appointment continues to demonstrate Coles' commitment to the pig industry and the APIQ✓ program.

The Panel has proven its value over time as it has dealt with situations, reviewed policies and standards and made recommendations for improvement to APIQ✓.

Past and present Panel members are thanked for their committed and valued service to the industry. 🐷

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Future of agriculture takes shape in Berlin

STRONG and demonstrable sustainability and welfare credentials will be critical to Australia's world-leading livestock and meat industries in the future.

Livestock was the theme of the 10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture held over the weekend in Berlin and Australia's representative Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Anne Ruston said discussions left no doubt about the increasing demand for more sustainable use of natural resources in livestock production and higher animal welfare standards.

"Australia is a world leader in livestock farming," Minister Ruston said.

"Our livestock industries are productive, profitable, sustainable and subject to some of

the highest animal health and welfare standards in the world.

"Our farmers are great innovators, and our livestock and livestock products are in considerable demand all over the world.

"Australia's edge in competitiveness rests with the high quality of our livestock and livestock products and our unrivalled biosecurity status.

"Farmers will also need to be able to demonstrate the strongest possible environmental sustainability and animal welfare credentials to ensure future market access – industry must develop effective and unique ways to do this, and innovation will be critical here too."

Minister Ruston also represented Australia at the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference

as part of the GFFA.

"It was an invaluable opportunity for Australia to play its role in shaping the future of global agriculture," Minister Ruston said.

"The conference is the largest of its type in the world, this year attended by more than 80 agricultural ministers.

"Australia has much expertise and experience to offer, but there's much we can learn as well – we must continue to innovate and improve.

"The event was also an opportunity for Australia's world-leading agriculture sector to take the international centre stage and demonstrate how we're ideally placed to help meet challenges such as feeding a growing world population and the increased movement of people, animals and products around the globe." 🐷

Pork CRC ponders pig feed efficiency flaws

IN his latest report to stakeholders, CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork CEO Roger Campbell said Australian pork producers were making good progress in reproduction and matched their overseas competitors for herd feed efficiency, but came a long way last in volume, or kilogram carcass weight sold per sow, per year.

“The latter is reflected in Australia’s much higher costs, other than feed, than our global competi-

tors and this must be addressed through better sow productivity and potentially heavier carcass weights,” he said.

Dr Campbell acknowledged the issue of heavier weights was market driven and largely up to individual businesses working with their customers.

While Pork CRC research had positively impacted born alive and number weaned, he expected further enhancements through Australasian Pork Research Insti-

tute Limited, which had now called for research proposals to markedly enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australasian pork industry.

That APRIL call closes February 16, with successful projects expected to begin July 1.

Dr Campbell said Australian pork producers were competitive for feed efficiency, but it was a key performance indicator that unfortunately had remained static for some time and was well below the capability of available genetics.

For example, the average feed: gain between weaning and sale for producers in Pork CRC’s benchmarking project was 2.4.

The desired target was two from wean to sale.

In a commercial study

on grind size (Pork CRC Project 4B-121), nutritionist Tony Edwards reported an average feed: gain of 2.38 across three studies, using female pigs between 38kg and 97kg.

In earlier work on lysine requirements of modern genotypes at WA’s Medina Research Station, Dr Bruce Mullan and his DAFWA colleagues reported feed: gain values for 50-100kg group housed female and male pigs of 2.55 and 2.25, respectively.

“Recognising we are missing out on a lot of the pig’s potential, we need to determine the major factors robbing us of feed efficiency in commercial herds,” Dr Campbell said.

“That could be what’s fed and how it’s fed, or pigs per unit of air space.”

www.porkcrc.com.au



Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell.



Revived TPP agreement spells important progress for farmers

THE National Farmers’ Federation has welcomed news that a deal has been reached between Trans-Pacific Partnership nations, with the exception of the US.

NFF chief executive Tony Mahar said this new agreement – now known as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership – contains several important gains for Australia’s farm sector.

“While the exact details are still being examined, it’s envisaged the CPTPP will see significant reduction and elimination of tariffs on a range of agricultural products including red meat, cereals, dairy and wine,” Mr Mahar said.

“Ultimately, this will make Australian food and fibre products more competitive in the global market.

“The NFF has been a staunch advocate for the TPP since its inception, and this agreement is an important show of support for free trade by participating nations.

“The CPTPP is a regional free trade agreement of unprecedented scope and ambition.

“It has great potential to drive job-creating growth across the Australian economy.

“The CPTPP promises far greater access to some of the world’s largest and fastest-growing markets – including three G20 nations.”

The agreement opens up new opportunities in these markets, over and above Australia’s existing bilateral trade arrangements.

Mr Mahar reinforced the economic importance of this kind of trade liberalisation.

“As an exporting nation, access to new markets for our agricultural commod-

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ities and other products and services is central to Australia’s economic success,” he said.

“New opportunities for our farmers, manufacturers and exporters underpin job creation and economic growth right across our economy.

“On the whole, there is no doubt the CPTPP will improve trading conditions for Australia’s farm sector.

“Advancements like this are critical if we are to reach our vision of a \$100 billion farm sector by 2030.”

The NFF also paid tribute to the work of the Australian Government in advocating for the CPTPP.

“Reaching consensus with 10 other nations on such a game-changing deal for regional trade is no small achievement,” Mr Mahar said.

“We must acknowledge Minister for Trade and Investment Steven Ciobo and our trade officials for their work in securing this outcome.”

Once signed, the CPTPP will be subject to a parliamentary review process before being voted on.

“It is critical that all parties and politicians stand behind Australia’s efforts to open new markets,” Mr Mahar said.

“We ask all sides of politics to review the CPTPP on its merits and resist the temptation to politicise the review and ratification process.”

The TPP is a multi-country trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Japan, Vietnam, Mexico and Canada.

The US chose to withdraw from negotiations following the election of President Donald Trump.

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It's official: Australian pork industry's contribution to the economy exceeds \$5 billion and 36,000 jobs

WORKING in the pork industry, we all know how important it is.

After all, pork is the second-most consumed meat in Australia (behind chicken), with 100 percent of fresh pork being supplied by Australian producers.

In this respect, the pork industry plays a vital role in assuring Australia's food security and standard of living.

Unfortunately, our industry doesn't always occupy the same space in the national psyche as Australia's iconic beef and sheepmeat industries.

Despite the successful efforts of our marketing team to lift consumption of Australian pork, not all consumers are aware of the economic importance of the Australian pork industry.

That is why Australian Pork Limited commissioned an updated economic analysis of our industry to better illustrate its sizeable economic contribution.

The information contained in the report not only helps to educate policy-makers and regulators of our significance, it reminds all of us in the pork industry that we are part of a sector that every day brings a range of benefits to ordinary Australians.

The report, completed by economic consultancy group ACIL Allen, describes the shape of the Australian pig industry in 2015-2016.



Policy Points

by **DEB KERR**
General Manager Policy



It covers the national and state-level contributions of the pork industry in terms of revenue, employment and household income.

It also shows the impact of pork imports and explores opportunities for exports.

We encourage anyone with an interest in the Australian pork industry to read the full report online at australianpork.com.au

The key findings include:

- The pork industry contributed more than \$5.2 billion in added value to the Australian economy for 2015-16;
- The industry supports more than 36,000 full-time equivalent jobs across Australia;
- The industry contributed \$2.6 billion in direct household income in 2015-16;
- Revenue from pig production was highest in Victoria at \$480 million; and
- In proportion to the overall state economy,

pig production had the biggest impact in South Australia with revenues of \$385 million representing 0.4 percent of gross state product.

The report also models the contribution of new or expanded pig production businesses to regional communities.

This is particularly important as producers and processors seek to justify their development plans to local councils.

APL hopes the findings will provide robust economic data to back up development applications for new and expanded facilities.

The report shows that in a 'typical' regional community (defined as an area comprising one major town of 8000-15,000 inhabitants and its surrounding 60km radius) pig production makes an economic contribution of \$3406 per sow.

This amount includes the direct contribution of the piggery and also supply chain workers

spending their after-tax incomes on other local goods or services (such as local hairdressers, restaurants, retail traders and so on).

If the regional community also contains a primary processing facility, then the economic contribution made per sow rises to \$5416 for each animal.

For every 1000 sows, 21.4 jobs are created, and this number rises to 37 jobs per 1000 sows in areas that also have a primary processing facility.

These are meaningful benefits, and should make planners think twice before they reject development applications out-of-hand.

It's important to note the report does not encompass the impact of the severe price drops experienced over the past year or so.

This is because at the time of commissioning the report, APL did not have access to full economic data for that period and was only able to cover 2015-16.

Since launching the report in mid-January, APL has been promoting the results through national media outlets, reaching an estimated audience of more than 2.7 million people and including flagship radio and print coverage across the country.

There has been a good level of community interest in these findings, and we hope all parts of the Australian pork supply chain will proudly help us spread the good news.

Time is up – travelling pigs need a PigPass

AS of February 1, 2018, all states and territories are introducing the mandatory reporting of all pig movements via PigPass.

Australian Pork Limited general manager Policy Deb Kerr said pigs require a PigPass whenever they are transported.

"A pig may have a number of different types of journeys and several parts to that journey," she said.

"Movements to and from other farms, saleyards, abattoirs and knackeries, schools, shows and events must all be reported via PigPass."

PigPass links pigs to a property of origin using a Property Identification Code, registered pig identification (ear tags or tattoos) and PigPass movement documentation.

PigPass is a traceability system that can be used to try to reduce the impact of a disease outbreak or food safety issue.

Failure to comply with the reporting requirements may result in a penalty notice.

"PigPass is a legal declaration and includes critical information to ensure food safety and traceability," Ms Kerr said.

"Processing any pigs that do not have a completed PigPass is in breach of Australian state and territory laws and could result in a penalty notice."

When transporting pigs off the property, owners must complete a PigPass National Vendor Declaration that will accompany the pigs on their journey.

The new owner of the pigs must report the movement via PigPass within two days, ensuring all information has been completed in full, including the destination PIC.

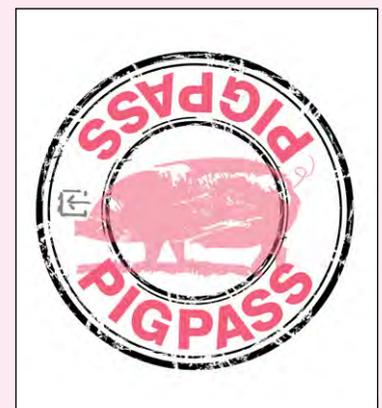
The receiver must also 'close the loop' online using the originating sender's serial number from the PigPass NVD.

If the receiver is an abattoir, they must 'close the loop' by the close of business the day after the pigs are slaughtered.

For meat processors, this means ensuring all pigs received have a completed PigPass and traceability is maintained by entering the originating sender's serial number from the PigPass NVD in the online portal along with all other necessary information.

PigPass was designed in consultation with the industry to give a clear picture of all pig movements, which enables authorities to quickly determine the source of a disease outbreak and notify pig owners in the affected area to protect the animals and stop the spread of disease.

If you have any questions about PigPass, your reporting obligations or how to use the system, visit pigpass.com.au or call the PigPass Helpdesk on 1800 001 458.



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Budget roadmap charts course for \$100 billion in farm production by 2030

THE National Farmers' Federation has outlined a list of the key ingredients needed to take agriculture to a \$100 billion industry by 2030, in its Federal Budget roadmap.

NFF's comprehensive Pre-Budget Submission continues the call for: trade liberalisation; significant investments in transport and telecommunications infrastructure; improvements to the tax system; investments to attract the right skills to regional areas; and meaningful cuts to the business compliance burden.

The peak body has also recommended funding to: unleash on-farm technology; better promote Australia's agriculture exports; and educate school students on where their food and fibre comes from.

NFF president Fiona Simson said the NFF's 'bold but achievable' goal for agriculture to increase its production value by 67 percent between now and 2030 required a clear roadmap.

"Agriculture is one of Australia's fastest-growing sectors," she said.

"In 2016-2017, production was valued at \$63 billion.

"To turn this into a 12-digit figure there must be investment across the board."

Ms Simson said Australian agriculture was a vibrant, innovative and entrepreneurial sector, a significant export earner and a cornerstone of the national economy.

"Investing in agriculture benefits all Australians, in particular regional communities, and this should always be taken into account when assessing the value of measures to support agriculture," she said.

"Agriculture also adds value in other industries such as manufacturing by providing opportunities for food processing, transport, storage and logistics. "Agriculture is key to Australia's future prosperity.

"Our vision of a \$100 billion industry is within reach if we get the economic, social and environmental policy settings right.

"Australia's next wave of prosperity depends on the Federal Government continuing to back Australian agriculture and our regions with sensible, evidence-based policies."

The NFF's Pre-Budget Submission centres on seven key themes and makes 60 detailed recommendations.

See a summary of these recommendations below.

Accelerated productivity

Seed funding of at least \$250,000 to establish a voluntary Agricultural Data Code of Practice.

The establishment of a Chief Digital Agriculture Officer to assist farmers to best take advantage of new technologies.

Five million dollars over three years for a Telecommunications Innovation Pilot Project to grow

digital literacy and foster technology applications in rural and remote Australia.

Connectivity

\$180 million (\$60 million per round) to rounds four, five and six of the Mobile Black Spot Program, consistent with the funding for previous rounds.

The establishment of a Rural Regional and Remote Telecommunications Research Fund as a long-term outcome of Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation reform.

Trade liberalisation and market access

The expansion of the Agricultural Counsellor network as new trade agreements are negotiated.

The establishment of a 'Special Trade Envoy' to provide a farmer's perspective to international trade negotiations, to advocate for trade liberalisation domestically and to build partnerships with other farming groups across the globe.

World-class infrastructure

A minimum of \$1 billion to establish an infrastructure fund to improve regional roads and rail in a bid to make export pathways more efficient.

Adequate resources to facilitate consultation with landowners about route selection, land acquisition and construction regarding the development of the Brisbane to Melbourne Inland Rail.

Five million dollars for a full feasibility study and a go-to-market investment strategy for the Food Precinct to be developed around the Western Sydney Airport.

Sustainable stewardship

A commitment to genuine EPBC Act reform and the exploration of the potential for the greater use of non-regulatory approaches that recognise the contributions farmers make towards meeting biodiversity objectives.

The acceleration of a national system of innovation in biosecurity by committing to Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity recommendations including: a \$25 million National Biosecurity Innovation Program and the increasing of funding appropriation for research and development corporations by \$2 million annually for a new cross-sectoral biosecurity R&I coordination and investment function for the RDCs.

The NFF's Pre-Budget Submission centres on seven key themes and makes 60 detailed recommendations.

Human talent

Funding for a comprehensive and regular analysis of the persistent labour shortages in the sector with a view to framing a dedicated agricultural visa that will address those needs.

Investment in a number of initiatives to better educate school children about where their food and fibre comes from, including \$100,000 per year for the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia.

Seed funding to cover the initial year of operation of a Seasonal Worker Program Administration Fund, of which employees could access to fund their travel to Australia.

Employers would then deduct periodic amounts from employees' wages to cover the cost of travel and pay these amounts back into the SWP Administration Fund.

Flexible business tools

A commitment to work with the states and territories to abolish stamp duties on crop and livestock insurance products.

#SaveTheWriteOff: End the yearly budget uncertainty for small business and extend the current instant asset write-off for small businesses in perpetuity.

Currently this arrange-

ment expires on June 30, 2018.

The retention of fuel tax credits across all sectors.

Reforms to make farm management deposits more effective: incentives to improve the availability of FMD interest offset facilities; allow FMDs to be held at the business level rather than just the individual level; and permit FMDs to be brought back into a business over time or be taxed at average rates in the event of unexpected cessation or death.

A review of tax zone rebates and remote area fringe benefit tax concessions: Investigate whether current arrangements to compensate individuals for the disadvantages of living in remote areas can be made more effective.

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EVERYONE needs a treat sometimes – there's more to life than eat, sleep and work!

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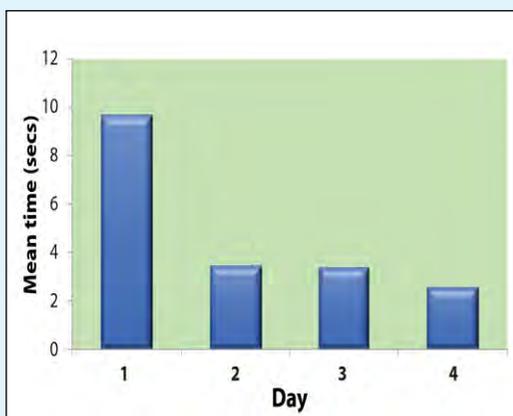
By supporting the natural foraging tendencies of pregnant sows, it has proven to reduce

stress-related harmful behaviours on farm.

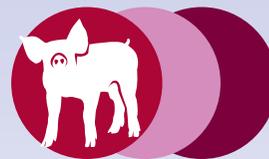
As trial results show, you can expect to see fewer scratches, more time spent resting and less time spent chasing each other with a Sow

Block in the mix.

To find out more about Sow Block and other enrichment options for your pigs, contact your local Ridley representative on 1300 666 657.

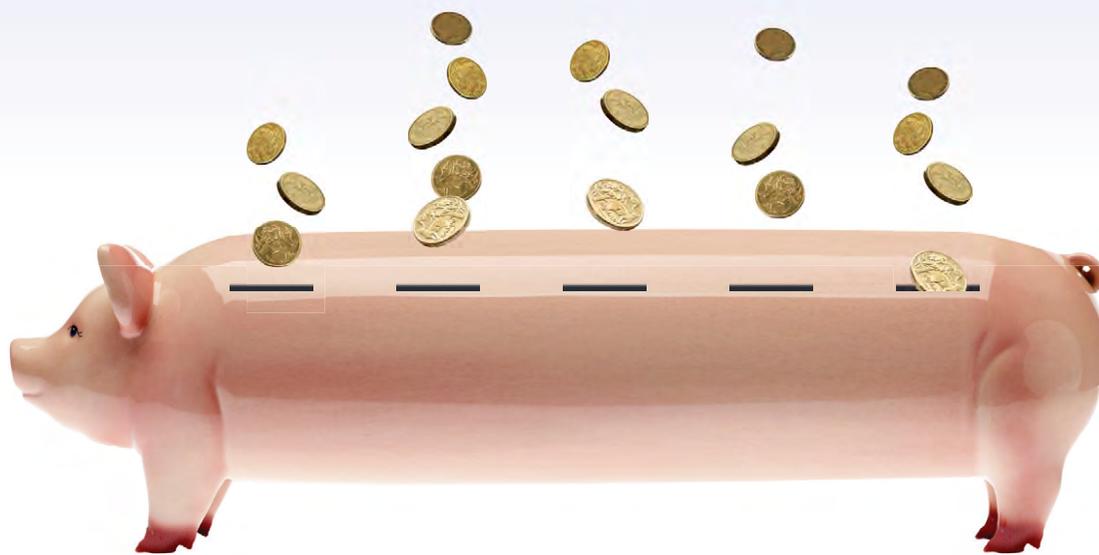


Mean time (secs) individual sows spent engaged in a fight 60 minutes after feeding; measured over four days, from the day of mixing (Pork CRC funded Project 1C-115).



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BlockGrain raises \$1 million from the NEM blockchain fund

BLOCKGRAIN, an Australian agriculture supply chain tracking startup, has announced it has successfully raised 800,000 XEMs, equivalent to \$1 million, through the NEM blockchain investment fund (cryptocurrency).

The startup, which was founded in 2014, is the first major Australian blockchain project to take advantage of NEM's \$90 million global investment fund.

An initiative by not-for-profit organisation NEM.io Foundation, the fund is available to startups and businesses interested in developing NEM blockchain technology-based products or services.

BlockGrain is a platform that allows farmers, brokers and logistic companies to track grain at harvest, through the supply

chain to consumers.

It also enables farmers to provide the ability to create, manage and track commodity contracts.

BlockGrain co-founder and CEO Caile Ditterich said the funds will be used to integrate its current platform with NEM's blockchain technology.

"BlockGrain was created with the mission to solve real-life problems faced by the agriculture industry today," he said.

"We know the complexity of the supply chain coupled with lack of meaningful information and data results in major efficiency and productivity issues for our farmers, brokers and logistic companies.

"We're at a stage now where we're ready to investigate the potential application of blockchain into our platform.

"We're looking at NEM's technology to help us automate and provide greater visibility within the agriculture supply chain."

Unlike other blockchains or digital ledgers, NEM's 'plug and play' approach is designed to offer startups and businesses a customisable, easy and secure method of making transactions and storing digital assets.

NEM.io Foundation director for Australia and New Zealand Jason Lee said BlockGrain is an exciting example of potential real use cases of blockchain.

"For the past few months, we have been looking for companies in Australia that have been developed to either improve the way companies do business or are aiming to make a societal differ-

ence," he said.

"BlockGrain is on a clear path to making this a reality and partnering with them is a natural fit for NEM.

"They understand how they can benefit from blockchain and how it works, and we're confident we will be able to integrate their current business into our platform."

Nelson Valero, council member for NEM.io Foundation, said BlockGrain will add tremendous credibility to NEM as a technology platform.

"BlockGrain is well positioned to go international and scale very quickly due to the large number of adopters that are either testing the beta system or already contracted to use the new BlockGrain platform.

"They are an established business with great potential."

BlockGrain already has an established network of clients ready to use its platform as soon as it becomes available in Q2 2018.

This includes Rise Agri, Australia's largest independent grain brokerage group and responsible for managing 1000 farmers nationally.

It looks to integrate NEM's blockchain technology by Q4 2018.

The NEM blockchain investment fund is decided through community voting, with companies posting the concept for their startup or business on NEM community forums, which are then voted on by users.

Successful companies are then presented to the NEM.io Foundation, which carries out due diligence before issuing the funding.

Effluent pump to cut clogs

HANDLING livestock effluent is an issue faced by both pork and dairy producers. Traditionally, vertical column pumps have been used, but there's a trend in the market to switch to Tsurumi cutter pumps to eliminate clogs.

Ashley Mezenberg manages a 400-head dairy herd south of Traralgon, Victoria.

The effluent collected from his herringbone feed pad is laden with solids material.

He recently swapped over to a Tsurumi submersible cutter pump supplied by Aussie Pumps Gold Distributor Rodwells.

Tsurumi, the world leader in submersible pump development, has produced a range of cutter pumps called the C Series that are designed

to handle effluent efficiently.

The cutter pumps incorporate a large open-channel impeller with a cutter mechanism.

A sintered tungsten carbide-alloy tip is brazed on the impeller vane.

As the impeller rotates, the vane tip cuts against the serrated edge of the suction cover.

This slices waste material, thus allowing free passage through the pump without clogging.

Tsurumi cast iron cutter pumps are available in single and three-phase and range from 50-100mm bore.

The largest pump in the range has an enormous capacity of 2750l/pm and a max head of 26m.

A guide rail option is available to enable easy

service of the pump without the need to remove pipework or drain the collection pit.

Like all Tsurumi submersible pumps, the C Series include features that extend the life and enhance reliability of the pump.

Significant design details make a big difference.

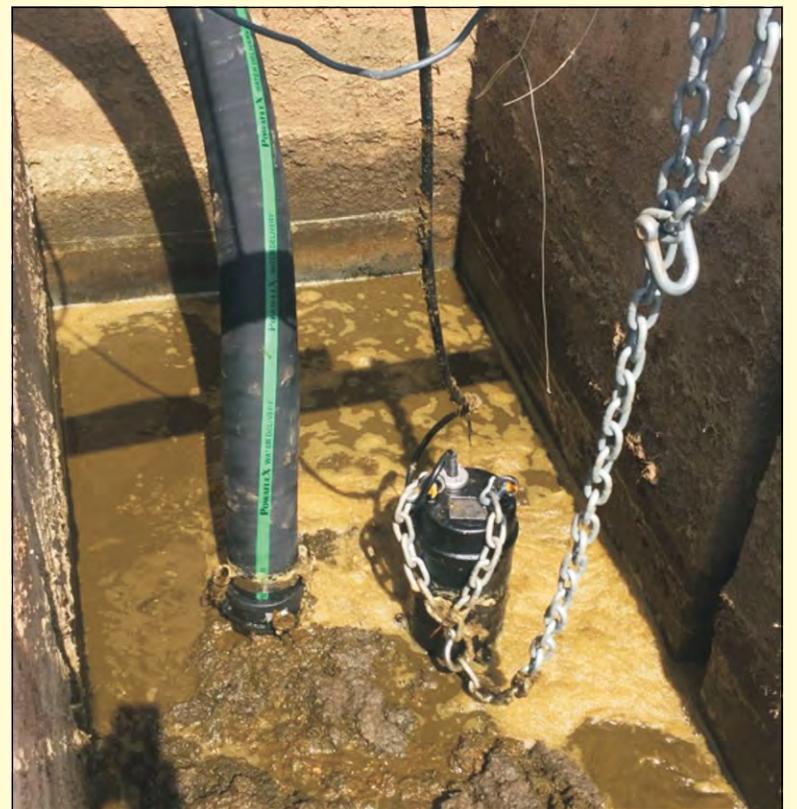
These include an anti-wicking cable entry and silicon carbide seals.

Ashley has reported the new cutter pump is working really well and he is happy with the pump selection and performance.

Further information on the complete range of Tsurumi cutter pumps is available on aussiepumps.com.au and from Aussie Pumps Gold Distributors such as Rodwells.



Jason Lee (NEM), Sam Webb (BlockGrain) and Cale Ditterich (BlockGrain).



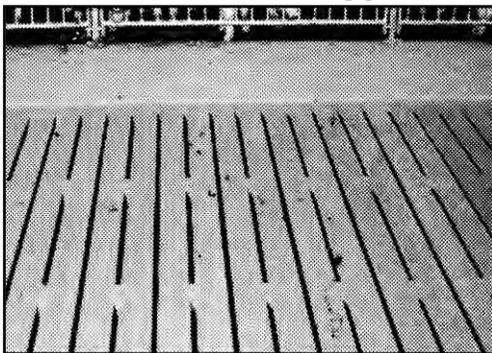
The Tsurumi cutter pump handles the contaminated effluent from a herringbone feed pad at a dairy farm near Traralgon.

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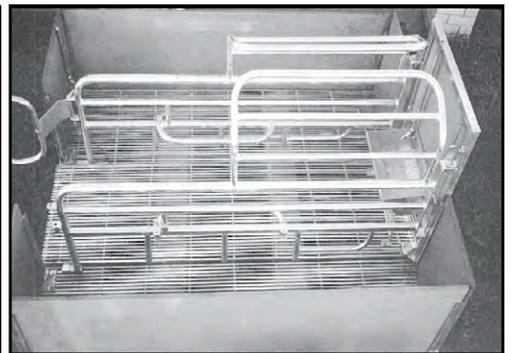
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2018 Alltech Global Feed Survey estimates world feed production in excess of one billion metric tonnes for second consecutive year

THE 2018 Alltech Global Feed Survey estimates international feed tonnage has exceeded one billion metric tonnes for the second consecutive year, with a total of 1.07 billion metric tonnes of feed produced in 2017.

Growth in 2017 was strong, at 2.57 percent over the year before.

The feed industry, valued at \$430 billion, has seen 13 percent growth over the past five years, equating to an average of 2.49 percent per annum.

This substantial growth is supported by the higher reported consumption of meat, milk and eggs.

The seventh edition of the annual survey is the most comprehensive ever, now covering 144 countries and more than 30,000 feed mills.

The results show that China and the US remain the top two countries, producing one-third of all animal feed, and that predominant growth came from the pig, broiler and dairy feed sectors as well as the European and Asia-Pacific regions.

Alltech chief innovation officer and vice president of corporate accounts Aidan Connolly said, "Now in its seventh year of analysis, the Alltech Global Feed Survey continues to serve as a valuable report on the state of the global feed industry."

"In addition to its insights into the feed industry, it serves as a barometer for agriculture as a whole and often demonstrates the economic strength of the countries included in the survey."

The Alltech Global Feed Survey assesses compound feed production and prices through information collected by Alltech's global sales team and in partnership with local feed associations in the last quarter of 2017.

It is intended to serve as an information resource for policy-makers, decision-makers and industry stakeholders.

The top seven feed-producing countries in 2017, in order of production output importance, were China, the US, Brazil, Russia, Mexico, India and Spain.

These countries contain about 54 percent of the world's feed mills and account for 53 percent of total production.

They can be viewed as an indicator of the trends in agriculture.

Regional results – Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region accounts for more than 35 percent of the world's feed tonnage.

China remained the top feed-producing country in the world with 186.86 million metric tonnes, a slight decline in overall feed production compared to last year.

Asia-Pacific increased by 3 percent over the 2017 survey results, primarily due to increases in pig and pet food production.

Increased production for Asia-Pacific also came from India with 7 percent



and Thailand with 8 percent growth.

Vietnam grew 4 percent over the past year and is the second-highest producer of pig and aqua feed in the Asia-Pacific region.

Seventy percent of all aqua feed and 44 percent of all layer feed is produced in Asia-Pacific countries.

Europe

Tied with Asia-Pacific for the fastest-growing region, Europe saw a 3 percent feed tonnage growth, resulting from increases in pig, broiler and aqua feed production.

The region was led by Russia with 37.6 million tonnes produced in 2017, moving up in the country rankings from seven to four.

Russia increased its estimated pig feed, including more private production.

Russian broiler feed production also increased by 3 percent, while Ukraine,

Romania, the UK and Belgium also reported higher numbers, supporting growth in the European region.

Europe is the top pet food-producing region.

Africa

Africa remains the fastest-growing region in the world for dairy and broiler feeds.

With a regional average growth rate of nearly 30 percent over the past five years, it did not show growth in 2017.

Pig, dairy, layer and broiler feed production increased, while decreases occurred in beef and aquaculture.

Also, on average, Africa is the most expensive region for feeding pigs, layers and broilers.

Smaller countries such as Botswana and Mozambique led the growth for pig, dairy, layer and broiler feeds.

Beef feed production de-

creases were reflected in countries such as Zambia and Morocco.

While many African nations showed a small increase in aquaculture feed production, the region as a whole was down primarily because of lower reported feed production in Egypt, which has now been surpassed by Nigeria.

North America

The US remains the second-largest feed-producing country globally, behind China.

North America produces one-third of global beef feed, five times that of the next-largest producer.

The US and Canada are

two of the top horse feed-producing countries.

Feed prices in North America are lower when compared to other regions.

Latin America

Brazil remained the leader in feed production for the region and third overall globally.

Brazil, Mexico and Argentina account for almost 75 percent of regional feed production.

Mexico leads the region in beef and layer feed production.

Latin America as a region has had the third-highest growth rate over five years, seen primarily in aqua, horses and pets.

Notable species results

Global leaders in pork production, China and Russia, led the way in pig feed production in 2017.

Many smaller African countries, particularly Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda and Namibia, also showed increases.

In the poultry industry, broiler feed production increased across all regions, with the largest growth found in Africa with 10 percent and Europe with 7 percent.

Romania, Russia and Ukraine all reported steady growth, contributing to Europe's overall production, while Africa's

growth came primarily from Egypt, Uganda and Mozambique.

Global dairy feed production saw growth across all regions.

Europe, a global leader in dairy production, grew on average by about 2 percent.

Africa as a region saw the largest dairy feed production increase of 10 percent, with countries such as South Africa, Morocco and Zimbabwe showing significant increases from their reported 2017 dairy feed production.

Beef feed production reported an overall global decline of about 1 percent,

continued P14



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Vital support for drought-ready farmers

NSW Department of Primary Industries is committed to working closely with farmers, industry and stakeholders in delivering a \$300 million drought package to ensure NSW is better prepared for future drought conditions.

DPI's Rural Assistance Authority director John Newcombe said the department has a range of services available to help NSW farmers better prepare for adverse conditions.

"Planning for the long-term and adapting to change is an effective way farmers can prepare for drought and other downturns, Mr Newcombe said.

"Some of the DPI services include the Farm Innovation Fund, Farm Business Skills Program, fodder transport subsidies and a Rural Resil-

ience Program.

"The Rural Resilience Program provides permanent support workers contracted to meet specific farming community needs related to adverse events.

"The Farm Innovation Fund provides long-term, low-interest loans up to \$250,000 for permanent on-farm infrastructure including drought preparation measures.

"In the last financial year alone, RAA approved 331 loans totalling over \$53 million."

Mark and Mischelle Schiller, producers from the Hay region, have invested in a pipeline and stock watering system utilising a loan from the Farm Innovation Fund.

Mr Schiller, who runs Merinos and Dorpers on 12,000ha, said after 10 years of drought, two floods and another drought their wool enterprise now has greater water security.

"It's a very reassuring feeling and means we don't have to move or sell stock because of a lack of stock water in a paddock anymore," Mr Schiller said.

"Access to the pipeline will more than pay for itself through improved farm efficiency."

The Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program offers a 50 percent subsidy for up to \$9000 per farm busi-

ness for vocational training, farm business planning and risk management skills.

With 118 registered courses, the program approved more than 420 applications to the value of \$850,000 in the 2016/17 financial year.

Mr Newcombe said these educational programs help farmers learn to manage their business more effectively – working with

nature, not against it.

"Partnering with farming communities to strengthen networks, share information and increase resilience is a priority in rural NSW as farmers continue to manage seasonal conditions," he said.

For more information on services, subsidies and assistance measures, visit dpi.nsw.gov.au/client-and-emergencies/droughthub



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DESIGNING SEPARATION SYSTEMS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

2018 Alltech Global Feed Survey – world feed production over one billion metric tonnes

from P13

primarily in regions such as Latin America, Africa and Europe.

This global downward trend has generally been felt by the industry for some time as more consumers turn to white meats such as pork, chicken and fish.

Overall aquaculture feeds showed a slight increase, particularly in the European and Asia-Pacific regions.

China reported a decline of 5 percent this year and in 2016, which could be linked to government controls on feeding practices and food safety, such as the

administration of antibiotics.

Brazil, Chile and Peru led the increase in production in Latin America, as did Iran in the Middle East.

Carp leads the production of aquaculture feed, followed by shrimp/prawns and tilapia.

Catfish, salmon and trout also ranked on the species feed indicator, though to lesser degrees.

The pet food sector had a strong year across all regions.

Asia-Pacific's pet food production increased by 13 percent, with China, Thailand and Taiwan as the primary contributors to the increase.

Europe increased by 17 percent, with Russia, the Czech Republic, Romania, Poland and Hungary producing over 580,000 metric tonnes of additional pet food.

Uruguay, Ecuador, El Salvador, Chile and Argentina represent almost all the pet food production growth in Latin America, combining for 725,000 more tonnes.

"The Alltech Global Feed Survey provides valuable data and insights on the health of the feed industry and agriculture as a whole," Connolly said.

"As such, we will continue to offer the findings of the feed survey

freely in an effort to demonstrate the significance of the animal feed industry in feeding a growing global population, sustainably and affordably."

The Alltech Global Feed Survey has illuminated some intriguing points that can play a role in analysing the economies of agribusiness and indeed of the world.

To discover more data from the 2018 Alltech Global Feed Survey, including the results booklet, an interactive global map and a presentation of the results, please visit go.alltech.com/alltech-feed-survey

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Pig Farm Perspective

by Bruce the brainy pig



WHAT is the ideal parity at which to replace my sows?

Of late, low sow prices, in conjunction with high feed prices (particularly in northern Australia) have led to many producers inquiring about the ideal age to replace sows.

An interesting study out of Iowa State University was published in the Journal of Swine Health and Production in 2017 assessing the economic effect of sow retention in a US breed-to-wean system.

This study used data collected from 2001-2014 from 17 breed-to-wean farms in the US Midwest and included both purebred and crossbred sows.

Economic analysis

differed slightly to most Australian systems, with the price per weaned pig sold being the key driver of cash flow.

Both fixed and variable costs were taken into account.

A short summary of the key results is outlined below:

- Pigs born alive increased until parity 3 and then decreased until parity 10.

- Systems where sows were replaced after parity 4 were shown to produce the most saleable weaned pigs, however this was not the parity distribution that had the lowest cost per weaned pig.

- The parity distribution that most cost-effectively produced weaned pigs and produced the greatest return over to-

tal costs was when sows were replaced after parity 6.

- Interestingly, pre-weaning mortality was lowest in this study for older sows (parity 6-10). This is different to what is seen in many Australian herds, where older sows tend to have increased pre-weaning mortality due to overlays.

- Although older sows produced and sold slightly fewer pigs per year than the younger sows, the cost of producing weaned pigs was lowest when sows were replaced between parities 5 and 9.

Interestingly, at the time of this study, the industry average replacement parity for sows in the US was 3.1-3.7.

Using the costs pro-

vided with the study, this indicated producers could be losing between \$US0.42 per weaned pig when replacing sows at industry averages rather than replacing sows where the return over costs was higher.

In situations where feed prices were low, replacing sows between parities 6 and 9 showed the greatest return on investment.

However, in situations where feed prices were high, replacing sows between parities 5 and 6 was the most profitable option.

Given the current Australian industry situation, this study can provide some assistance to producers as to when sows should be replaced.

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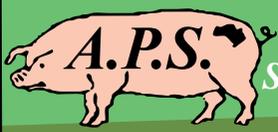


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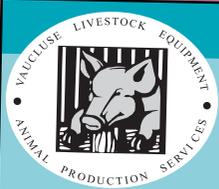


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Proteins for pigs derived from the sea

IN the search for alternative protein sources, it may be a very good idea to look towards the sea for inspiration.

What are the opportunities for ingredients such as blue mussels, starfish and seaweed?

Here's an overview.

Everybody agrees it is likely that someday there will be a shortage of protein to feed livestock in order to fulfil the expected big increase in the demand for meat for human consumption.

In Europe, there is also a general agreement that land for agriculture at the expense of the rainforest in South America is not the way forward to produce soy protein to feed livestock.

A prevailing opinion is also that fish caught with only the purpose of going into feed is not a sustainable way to produce meat.

These issues create a need to search for new sustainable protein sources, which can lead to local or at least European self-sufficiency.

From early 2018, organic pig and poultry producers will face the challenge of having insufficient amounts of organic protein.

In this context, blue protein such as blue mussels, starfish and seaweed may fit well as future feedstuffs because they solve important challenges for the industry and society.

Production of mussel meal

Blue mussels can be grown on lines where the naturally occurring mussel larvae colonise ropes, plastic tubes or nets.

They filter the seawater for algae and can be harvested year round.

When mussels are harvested, they need to be processed to allow storage.

The production of mussel meal in the Danish fjords is potentially

15,000 tonnes of de-shelled dry mussel meal per year.

Placement of mussel farms should be in nutrient-rich water of good enough quality to meet regulations for mussel farming.

An experiment in a Danish inland fjord using a mussel farm on 18ha showed an annual production of 61 tonnes of fresh mussels per hectare.

The harvest of these mussels removed 600-900kg of nitrogen and 30-40kg of phosphorus from the water per hectare of mussel farm.

When mussels are cultivated with the purpose to remove especially nitrogen and phosphorus from sea water, they are termed mitigation mussels and are expected to play a major role in reducing eutrophication problems.

Nutritional content of mussels

Mussel meal is characterised by a crude protein content of 58-66 percent in dry matter, a low mineral concentration, and for pigs and poultry, a balanced amino acid profile.

The crude fat content of 12-16 percent in dry matter includes a relatively large amount of polyunsaturated fatty acids and especially the omega-3 fatty acids eicosapentaenoic and docosahexaenoic.

Mussels also contain carotenoids such as β -caroten, lutein A, zeaxanthin and xanthofyls such as astaxanthin.

The ileal digestibility of crude protein in pigs is 0.83.

The use of starfish for livestock is not new

During the shortage of feedstuffs during and after World War II, starfish was included in feed for livestock and a few experiments were carried out to document the effect in poultry especially.

In the Danish fjords,

starfish were caught as feedstuff until the mid-1980s when the problems with transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and the following restrictions of feeding fish to ruminants forced the fishing of starfish to cease.

Starfish as a feed ingredient

Starfish feed on mussels, and this became a problem for the mussel industry who found great populations of starfish throughout the mussel farms.

In 2013, the Danish authorities approved starfish being caught in certain areas with production of mussels in amounts corresponding to 3000 tonnes of dry starfish meal per year.

At that time, starfish could only be fed in aquaculture.

As of July 2017, starfish was approved in the EU as a feed ingredient in diets for pigs and poultry.

Starfish meal is categorised in a group along with fish.

This is unfortunate because of restrictions in the TSE legislation, making it difficult for the feed industry to handle starfish meal because it cannot be located in connection with manufacture of feed for ruminants, though starfish are invertebrates and thus safe products.

Nutritional content of starfish

Starfish are characterised by a crude protein concentration in the range of 38-70 percent and an ash concentration of 20-42 percent in dry matter depending on season.

In Denmark, the highest concentration of crude

protein and lowest concentration of ash is found in February.

This ash is not sand but a high concentration of calcium.

The concentration of fat is 9-11 percent in dry matter and polyunsaturated fatty acids are found.

The standardised ileal

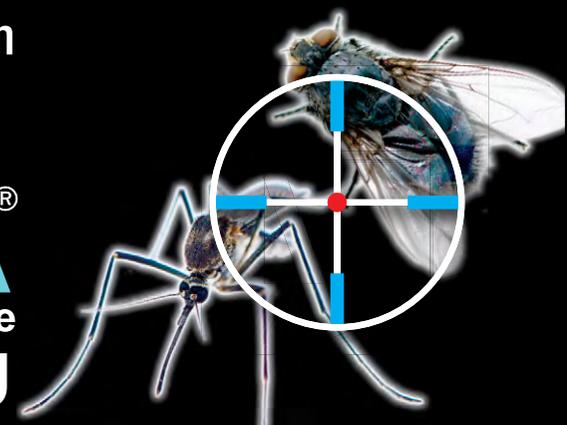
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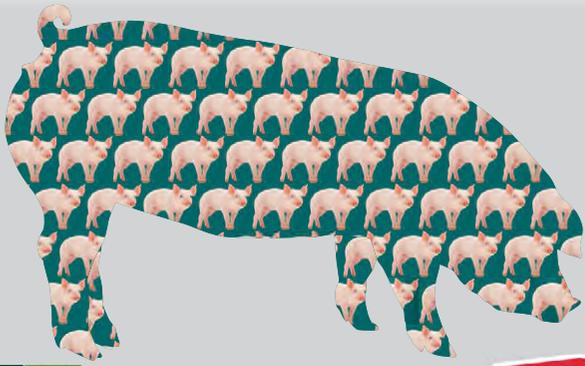
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Proteins for pigs derived from the sea

from P17

digestibility of crude protein in starfish meal is 0.80.

Two growth performance experiments have been conducted on starfish for pigs.

The first showed 5 percent but not 10 percent starfish meal could be fed to piglets, which were individually housed under experimental conditions; and the second confirmed that 5 percent but not 7.5 percent starfish meal could be fed to piglets housed under commercial conditions.

Seaweed

Asia produces 99 percent of the 25 million tonnes of fresh seaweed

produced annually worldwide.

In Europe, the greatest production is in Norway and France.

European seaweed is often collected manually from natural habitats but can also be cultivated on farms in a laborious rope-based facility.

The use of seaweed is primarily for human consumption, either as intact seaweed or as extracts.

The potential of seaweed production is very dependent on the quality of sea water, which should have high salinity, low temperature and low nutrient concentration to allow clear water for sunlight.

These environmental conditions determine the annual production in the range from three to 30 tonnes fresh weight per hectare of seaweed farm.

Nutritional content of different seaweed species

The concentration of nutrients varies according to species.

Sugar kelp and sea lettuce are considered to have the greatest production potential in Danish waters.

Sugar kelp is a brown algae that is characterised to contain 14-38 percent ash in dry matter and a crude protein concentration of 7-13 percent in dry matter.

The concentration of sodium, potassium and iodine is high.

Sea lettuce is a green algae with typically more than 15 percent crude protein and an amino acid profile close to that of soybean meal.

Sea lettuce has high concentrations of sulphur, calcium, magnesium, sodium and chloride.

Based on these key figures of nutrient content, it's obvious that seaweed in general can barely be termed a protein source.

The content of the algi-

nates, fucoidans and laminarins and polyphenols in brown algae and the galactans and xylans in green algae displays some interesting bioactive properties, which can be utilised in maintaining good health status in livestock.

It is therefore of great importance that the bioactive compounds are taken into account when processing seaweed into their final products.

Find out more about some of the protein alternatives for soy that are currently seen as promising for livestock and fish diets.

Processing into feed-stuffs

Mussels, starfish and seaweed need to be processed before they can be stored.

Production into dry meal is a well-known preserving method, but also making the products into acidic silage may be interesting.

There are, however, great challenges.

Starfish and seaweed are fairly simple to dry when using existing industrial technologies.

Drying and grinding starfish at a fishmeal factory is a well-known process to produce starfish meal.

Blue mussels are more difficult to handle because of their shells.

When used for pig feed, the meat should be separated from the shell fraction, but there may be a potential use of a shell-containing mussel product for poultry.

Removal of shells can efficiently be done by boiling, which is a well-known process with mussels for human consumption.

In the boiling process, there is risk of losing both protein and lipids.

Other processing methods to remove shells can be based on physical separation by, for example, sedimentation of crushed fresh mussels or screw pressing of the fresh mussels, enzymatic processes, or dry fractionation.

In Sweden, work on processing blue mussels into meal has resulted in a patent on separation of meat and shells by a tempera-

ture-mediated hydrolysis. **Not drying, but presenting it wet**

An alternative to a dry mussel meal product can be a wet silage product stabilised by organic acids, also known from salmon-based products.

Experiences from drying starfish show the product is sensitive to temperature and the starfish meal becomes very dark at too-high temperatures, indicating Maillard reactions, in which especially lysine becomes unavailable to the animal.

Addition of organic acids to the fresh and minced mussels and a following stirring process results in a silage with a part hydrolysis of the protein fraction into free amino acids and peptides.

This has in blue mussels increased the standardised ileal digestibility of crude protein to 0.86 in mussel silage compared to 0.83 in mussel meal.

Starfish are not suitable for acid hydrolysis because of their high content of calcium carbonate.

Making silage by lactic acid bacteria fermentation may result in positive effects on the composition of gut microbiota.

Seaweed is relatively easy to ferment because of its high concentration of carbohydrates.

The fermentation of intact sugar kelp into pig feed has been commercialised by the Danish company Fermentation Experts.

Starfish are easy to handle at fish meal factories but it may be difficult to process starfish at such facilities because of low tonnage and a fishing season overlapping with the traditional fishery.

Therefore, alternative processing methods may be relevant.

It appears, however, that the physical characteristics of starfish makes them difficult to handle when they are minced using a screw press, which would otherwise produce a protein-rich liquid fraction for use in liquid pig feeding and a dry pulp fraction to be used as fertiliser.

Jan V. Nørgaard
Assoc Prof, Aarhus University, Denmark

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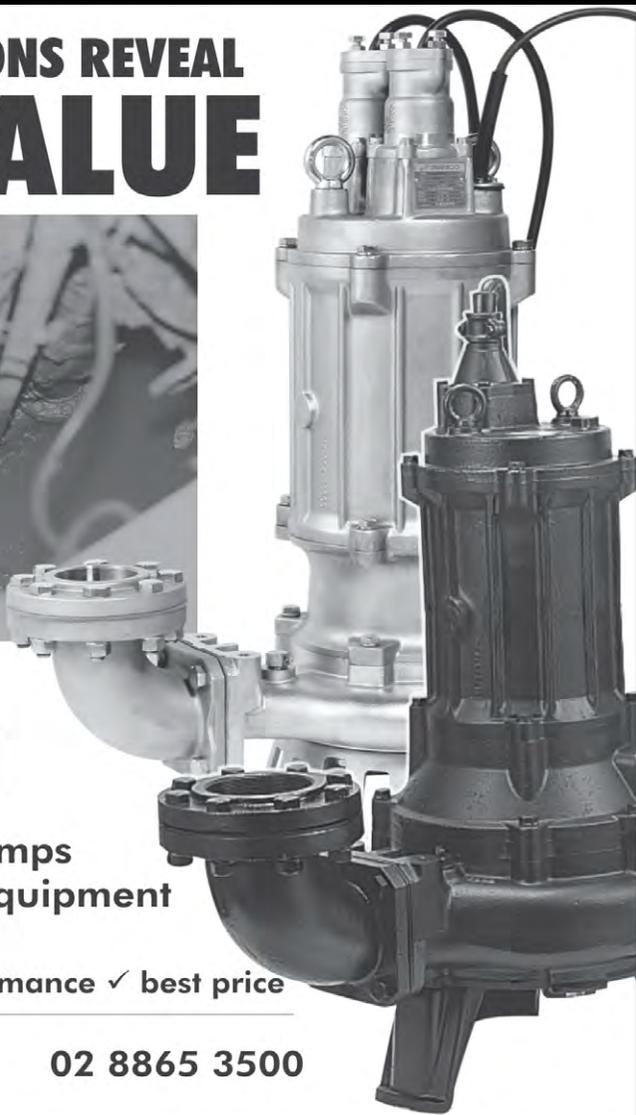
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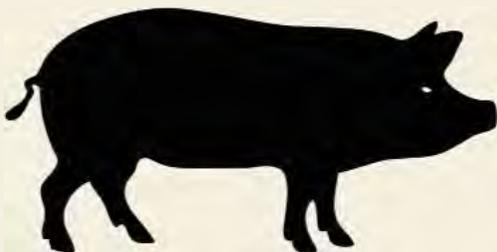
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Workers were primed for production to begin at the new export boning room.

SunPork and Swickers rebuilding, expanding and looking to the future

from P1

a very challenging operating environment," he said. "As the only export-accredited pork abattoir in Queensland, we have an obligation to ensure the facility is well placed to support the Queensland

pork industry for many years to come.

"The decision to invest another \$60 million in facilities so soon after a devastating fire demonstrates this commitment."

"We are pleased to be able to celebrate these

milestones with our staff, customers and the local community.

"By early 2019, Swickers will be one of the most advanced pork processing plants in the world and will support long-term growth and employment stability for the region and the pork industry."

SunPork has included as many redundancies in the restored facilities and new abattoir as possible to limit exposure to fire and other risks in the future.

The company wants all Queensland pork producers to have ongoing access to uninterrupted processing capacity at Swickers and customers can expect exceptional carcass quality and shelf life from the new facilities. ☺



SunPork MD and CEO Prof Robert van Barneveld addressed attendees at the opening ceremony.

Grants to grow trade with China

AUSTRALIAN agricultural businesses can apply for funding for projects that grow agricultural trade co-operation between Australia and China.

The \$50,000 is provided under the Australia – China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement program.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud said this year's program will focus on advanced agriculture technologies, water in agriculture, eCommerce innovation, science and technology, food safety, animal husbandry, farming sustainably and exploring niche markets.

"These grants fund projects including technical exchanges, staff secondments, working groups, training programs, research and development, feasibility studies and information exchanges," Minister Littleproud said.

"It gives businesses the chance to network in China and create new custom-

ers over there.

"Previously, these grants helped grow the market for Australian raisins and sultanas by funding Dried Fruit Australia's trade mission to China, it helped to establish the Australia-China Sustainable Agricultural Technology Forum in Tasmania and gave funding to the ABC's Landline program to promote opportunities and benefits under ChAFTA."

China is Australia's largest export market for agricultural, fisheries and forestry products, worth almost \$11.5 billion in 2016-17.

The ACACA has been a key part of Australia's bilateral trade relationship for more than three decades.

Applications open February 13, 2018 and close on March 13, 2018. To apply for funding and for more information on the ACACA program, visit agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/acaca ☺

AUSTRALIAN
Pork

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 tablespoons Moroccan seasoning
- 4 (about 250g each) pork loin chops, rind off
- 1 large red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 large carrots, trimmed and diced
- 400g can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup salt reduced chicken stock
- 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 60g baby spinach leaves
- 75g feta, crumbled
- Couscous and lemon wedges, to serve

Prep time 35 min

Cook time 50 min

Serves 4



Spiced pork chops with tomato and chickpeas

METHOD

1. Combine 2 tablespoons oil, garlic and Moroccan seasoning in a large snap-lock bag. Add pork chops, seal bag and rub to coat chops with seasoning mixture. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or longer, if time permits.
2. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add pork chops and cook for 4 minutes on each side or until browned. Transfer to a plate. Set aside.
3. Add onion and carrots to the pan and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until onion is tender. Pour tomatoes and stock into pan, stir to combine, cover and bring to the boil.
4. Add pork chops to pan. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes until chops are cooked through and carrots are tender. Stir in chickpeas. Toss through the spinach and cook until just wilted. Sprinkle with feta. Serve with couscous and lemon wedges.

For more pork recipes, visit pork.com.au

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1. Mean number of fresh scratch injuries scored on Day 3 after mixing control sows and sows treated with SOWBLOCK (Pork CRC funded Commercialisation Project).



*"In test pens, sows spent 46% more time laying down and 72% less time chasing."*²

2. Effect of higher feed levels or addition of SOWBLOCK to group housed gestational sows behaviour in the first four days post mixing (Pork CRC Project 1C-115).

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