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The Ridley Sow Enrichment Block was developed out of Pork CRC Program One research into how nutritional strategies could reduce aggression in group housed sows.

Commercialised Pork CRC research delivered

ADDRESSING the 2019 'Pig Production – Science into Practice' course at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus, Pork CRC Commercialisation and Research Impact manager Charles Rikard-Bell explained how early Pork CRC research generated commercial products to provide income to Pork CRC going forward.

Dr Rikard-Bell delivered two case studies to the audience of 45 undergraduates and industry participants, including pork producers from across Australia and New Zealand.

He explained how early Pork CRC research into near infrared spectrometry calibrations and sow enrichment blocks had been commercialised with partners Aunir and Ridley Agriproducts to provide an income stream to Pork CRC.

Dr Rikard-Bell said AusScan's unique NIR calibrations provided invaluable informa-

tion for nutritionists and producers.

"The calibrations enable nutritionists to accurately predict the digestible energy of cereal grains to more precisely formulate pig diets and producers now have a measure to help them assess parcels of grain for their digestible energy levels before purchase," he said.

Reactive lysine calibrations provided nutritionists with an assessment of available lysine, which can be destroyed in the by-product due to processing procedures.

These calibrations, developed by Pork CRC, are now being used by feed mills, nutritionists and producers around the world.

"AusScan global NIR scan numbers are increasing every year as the value of the calibration is realised," Dr Rikard-Bell said.

The sow enrichment block was developed out of Pork CRC Program One research

into how nutritional strategies could reduce aggression in group housed sows.

"The enrichment block changed the behaviour of newly mixed, unfamiliar sows by minimising harmful behaviour and increasing contentment," Dr Rikard-Bell said.

The sow enrichment block offers an outlet for the sow to naturally forage and suits a range of housing systems, including fully and partially slatted systems, unlike other forms of enrichment such as straw, which blocks drains.

"The Ridley Sow Enrichment Block is now successfully marketed in Australia, with the US, Canada and Europe currently being investigated for distribution opportunities, while an international patent is pending," Dr Rikard-Bell said.

Piglet Buddy, an appetite and feed intake enhancer developed out of Pork CRC Program Two and marketed by BEC, is achieving excellent sales in the Korean market.

BEC will register Piglet Buddy for distribution in Vietnam later this year.

According to Dr Rikard-Bell, early Pork CRC-supported research indicated adding Piglet Buddy reduced feed costs.

"Simple weaner diets containing Piglet Buddy performed similarly for growth and feed efficiency to more complex and expensive commercial diets," he said.

www.porkcrc.com.au



Piglet Buddy is an appetite and feed intake enhancer developed out of Pork CRC Program Two and now marketed by BEC.

ASF continues its sinister spread

IT seems the threat to the Australian pork industry from African swine fever, now endemic in China, will not be abating any time soon.

It began with the introduction of domestic pigs into Africa in the early 1900s.

While native African species, like the warthog, appear unaffected by the virus, domestic pigs are very susceptible to the ancient hardy virus.

During the mid-1900s, cases were reported in some European, Central and South American countries but the virus was brought under control and largely eradicated.

It is considered these incursions as well as the more recent incursions in Europe in 2007 were the result of swill feeding infected meat to domestic pigs and/or wild boars.

Roll forward to 2019 and the spread of African swine fever is like a pandemic, showing no signs of stopping any time soon.

EU countries which are positive to ASF continue to be challenged to control the disease, with the wild boar detections in Belgium recently expanding beyond the control zone.

This incursion is most likely to have resulted from hunters relocating ASF-positive wild boar from eastern Europe to Belgium for hunting, with two individuals recently arrested.

Interestingly, Russia's veterinary service is predicting France and Germany will have ASF during 2019 because the disease is spreading around 350km per year.

A Polish swine disease specialist recently observed that ASF is now endemic in Europe due to its presence in wild boars.

In the meantime, those countries in the EU that are ASF-free are working hard to keep the disease out – building fences and/or



by **DEB KERR**
 General Manager Policy



shooting wild boars.

In 2018, ASF spread to China, Mongolia and in the past two weeks was detected in pigs in Vietnam.

There have been over 100 incursions in China, including wild boars, affecting most of China's provinces and the culling of a million pigs.

This figure is very likely under-reported.

Most producers are acutely interested in how the virus is being spread.

The spread is a result of infected pork being sold, swill feeding (particularly by small holders), both inadvertent and deliberate feeding of infected pork to wild pigs, translocation of infected wild pigs to new regions and the movement of wild pigs, especially across Russia and the EU.

It has been estimated that 62 percent of the first 21 ASF incursions in China were a result of swill feeding.

A study assessing 68 outbreaks revealed the major causes of the virus's spread are 46 percent by vehicles and workers without disinfection, 34 percent by swill feeding and 19 percent by the transport of live pigs and pork products across regions.

Now to Australia – in this month's Australian Pork Newspaper the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has provided a summary of the key actions

that have been taken at the border.

While imports of pork are regulated, the unregulated pathways remain the biggest risks, i.e. incoming mail and international passenger luggage and personal effects, along with practices such as swill feeding, including feeding pet food to pigs, and some imported feed ingredients.

The detection of DNA fragments of ASF and foot and mouth disease in pork products that were seized or surrendered at the border between December 2018 and February 2019 has clearly demonstrated this risk.

The Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud has clearly outlined his expectations of higher and tougher application of fines, and is investigating deportation as an option.

Australian Pork Limited clearly supports these options, however APL is advocating a much tougher stance, including deportation on the first offence.

APL is working with governments and other key stakeholders to hold an ASF summit in early May.

The objectives are to share information and activities relating to ASF, and to identify any remaining gaps and how these should be actioned.

APL will report the outcomes of the summit at the

continued P2

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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2019

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

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

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

JUN 23-26 – International Symposium on Emerging and Re-emerging Pig Diseases, Santiago, Chile www.emerging2019.com/en

AUG 11 - 14 – The International Conference on Boar Semen Preservation, Hunter Valley, NSW www.boarsemen2019.com

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

AUG 26- 29 – SafePork Conference, Berlin, Germany www.safepork-conference.com

SEP 21- OCT 1 – Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne Showgrounds VIC royalshow.com.au

OCT 19 - 21 – Leman China Swine Conference, Zhengzhou, China www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference

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

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

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Producers evaluating our performance

AS many readers will be aware, Australian Pork Limited engaged Down to Earth Research in late 2018 to conduct a Monitoring and Evaluation survey to determine the effectiveness of APL's research and development outcomes and their delivery.

In order to ensure APL's R&D products and services are meeting the needs of our producer stakeholders, we regularly track awareness, adoption rates and stakeholder perception of our extension materials.

In previous surveys APL has commissioned, data has been collected via on-line and self-completion surveys.

This resulted in a relatively small (and arguably biased) sample that did not accurately represent the Australian pig industry's views on the effectiveness of APL's R&D outcomes.

Consequently, this latest survey was completed via computer-assisted telephone interviewing to provide more robust and accurate data to APL.

This is the first time this type of survey has been commissioned by APL R&I.

The data collected was based upon 301 interviews that were conducted with a random sample of pig producers, with the interview lasting between 10 and 20 minutes.

The sample represented all types of production and all farm sizes.

Excellent co-operation from the producers who were contacted resulted in a response rate of 89 percent (of interviews versus refusals).

To put this response rate into context, for the past few years we have had a response rate of around 13 percent from producers.

The APL products and services evaluated were:

- 'Pigs to Pork' quarterly publication;
- The Producers Guide to Production and Nutrition Manual;
- ProHand online training;
- Is it Fit for the Intended Journey Guide;
- Pig Manure and Effluent Re-Use Guidelines; and
- APL Guidelines for Fostering- Getting the One Percenters right.



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



Summary of key findings

• Without prompting, APL's website and publications were the most commonly nominated source of technical information, accessed by 76 percent of all respondents and 86 percent of producers with more than 500 sows. In addition to this, half of all respondents stated they source information through neighbours and other producers, pork industry media and/or general internet searches (which APL also contributes to).

• The awareness of at least one of APL's products and services was widespread (93 percent of all respondents); most commonly 'Pigs to Pork', the Manure and Effluent Re-use Guidelines and Is it Fit for the Intended Journey Guide.

• When calculated as a proportion of the total respondent sow herd, awareness of APL's Is It Fit for the Intended Journey, ProHand training and the Manure and Effluent Re-Use Guidelines extended to respondents responsible for greater than 90 percent of the total sow herd in Australia.

• On average, 81 percent of respondents accessed at least two of the APL products and services examined in the survey. However, this access varied significantly between herd sizes – 95 percent of producers with more than 500 sows accessed three resources on average, whereas 75 percent of producers with small herd sizes typically accessed a single product or service.

• As a result of more widespread usage by larger producers, 'Pigs to Pork', Is It Fit for the Intended Journey Guide and/or ProHand training were accessed by respondents representing a large proportion of the total sow herd.

Summarising the impact of APL products and services

• 'Pigs to Pork' is creating awareness of new or different farming ideas for 57 percent of readers, equating to 36 percent of all respondents.

• In total, it was found that APL's products and services resulted in 64 percent of all respondents making or planning practice changes and/or researching further into a particular subject.

• Is It Fit for the Intended Journey and/or the ProHand course are influencing a large proportion of producers with more than 500 sows. As a result, these two resources have the most widespread impact by total sow numbers.

Producer satisfaction with APL's products and services

• Each of APL's products and services were examined and rated higher than five points out of a possible 10 by those accessing them.

• In line with having the greatest impact on practice change, ProHand training and Is It Fit for the Intended Journey guide's usefulness was rated highest by users.

• The true value of these materials to producers was also measured. This was done by multiplying the average impact score by the rating score given by producers who use them, a total out of 10 points was calculated.

• From this, Is It Fit for the Intended Journey and ProHand training achieved the highest index score among producers with more than 500 sows.

Conclusions and recommendations resulting from the survey

• APL's products and services are a source of technical information for pork producers who access them. However, there is room to further increase producer awareness of the availability of specific products and services, particularly among smaller producers.

• Encouragingly, eight out of 10 respondents have accessed at least one of APL's products and services, with an average of two being used. Awareness and usage of 'Pigs to Pork', Is It Fit for the Intended Journey and ProHand training are the most widespread. The latter two are used widely by those responsible for the majority of the national herd.

• While Pigs to Pork is raising awareness and knowledge of new technical outcomes and ideas among producers, the survey highlighted there is scope to improve this result through consideration of the relevance of some articles included in it (which could be examined in greater detail in future surveys). The provision of this publication in both electronic and hard-copy was viewed positively.

• Is It Fit for the Intended Journey and ProHand have the greatest impact on practice change, resulting in their usefulness rated highest by users. Continuing communication with producers to increase their awareness of these materials was recommended to further increase awareness and usage by producers and greater industry.

• The impact of other publications to producers was shown to be less widespread. Despite being considered as sources of valued and relevant information, both the Fostering Guidelines and Producer Guidelines to Production and Nutrition were found to impact considerably fewer producers, mostly due to lower awareness and readership.

• While a large proportion of respondents were aware of the Manure and Effluent Re-Use Guidelines, its readership was lower than both 'Pigs to Pork' and Is It Fit for the Intended Journey. Reasons for this may be further explored in future surveys.

Thanks once again to all those who participated in this survey.

These outcomes provide us with valuable information to enable us to continuously improve our technical resources, developed as outputs from our R&D programs, to support producer decisions and management practices on farm.

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

ASF continues its sinister spread

from P1

May Delegates' Forum in Adelaide.

APL will be holding a producer webinar, primarily for smaller producers, on biosecurity and what producers can expect if a disease incursion occurs on March 14.

Details have been circulated in the APL Weekly Communique.

Please contact Dr Lechelle van Breda in

the APL office for more details.

Producers are reminded the key to prevention is biosecurity, biosecurity and more biosecurity.

Please review your on-farm biosecurity plans, tighten any possible gaps and prepare in the unfortunate event ASF makes it past the border.

Key areas to consider are outlined on the APL website australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/product-integrity/biosecurity

com.au/industry-focus/product-integrity/biosecurity

Consider additional training for your team.

Your veterinarian and Dr Lechelle van Breda in the APL office are good sources of information.

And finally, if you suspect any disease incursion, please phone the Emergence Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.



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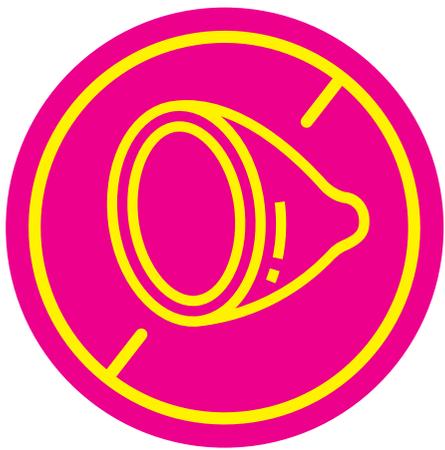


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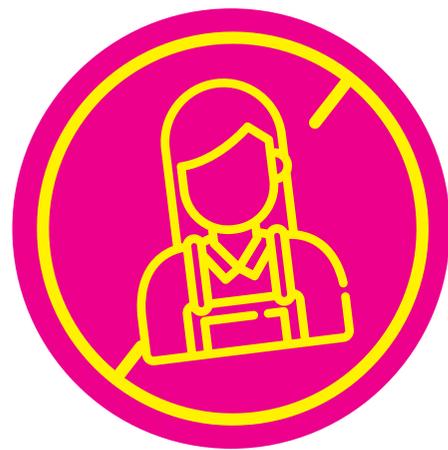
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*Allow a minimum 10 weeks from date of manufacture of feed ingredients
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Animal activism moves beyond animal welfare

WHILE I've always advised my many and varied pig industry clients over the years that "you can't defend the indefensible", it seems the stakes have been raised now, with animal activists provoking and poking livestock producers who are, seemingly, doing nothing wrong and therefore nothing they should have to defend.

Well, the reality in the year 2019 is that this is where the vexed issue now resides.

It has become a philosophical war, waged by the provocateurs, who are well organised, seemingly well-resourced networks of increasingly bold and radicalised animal activists hellbent on campaigning, by fair or foul means, for a world devoid of livestock farmers and meat eaters.

It really is clear that the issue has moved beyond welfare and into a realm where science and industry R&D will really struggle to fight the good fight and suppress the oppressors.

With a backdrop of a groundswell of community understanding, or perception, of the negative impact meat production and therefore meat consumption, might have on the environment, the climate and human health, the activists seemingly have something of a free kick up-front.

Activists have, to be fair, in the past exposed some obviously shameful, cruel animal handling and welfare standards in an isolated few piggeries in Australia, albeit by invasive, intrusive, illegal and clandestine means.

Typically, our industry bodies have usually come out on such occasions and strongly condemned any such proven poor practices, albeit some mud has always stuck to the backs of the vast majority of pork producers who do the right thing and care for their pigs, nurturing and managing them within and often beyond gazetted industry guidelines for acceptable care and welfare.

The activists, however, have now switched their attention to highlighting legal, coded, sanctioned, controlled industry practices which they choose to condemn based on their view that it is nothing more than animals being constrained, in the case of pigs in farrowing crates for example, for the selfish satiation of meat eaters.

One way to counter this paradigm shift, at least in my view, is to deprive the radical animal activists, especially when they operate under a group name, of any acknowledgement or recognition.

While many readers may recognise what a writer from Western Australia might be referring to in what has been a well-publicised night-time invasion of a WA piggery, with lengthy vision and commentary shared with the world on Facebook, I decline the temptation to name the alleged offend-



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

dustry leader Michael Partridge has a simple three-word message for his farming colleagues – 'calm the farm'.

"It's about minimising risk, calming your farm and not getting stirred up by activists," he was quoted in *The Countryman* as saying.

While not getting stirred up is a big ask, it's worth it.

Take a deep breath if confronted and if your privacy and livelihood has been threatened, engage the police at the first available opportunity.

As for the bigger picture of how livestock producers might best tackle (not literally) what appears to be a fast-moving tidal wave of dissidents, I simply put forward three points as food for thought:

- Don't try to defend the indefensible. If, as an industry, you recognise some historical farming practices no longer meet community expectations, acknowledge that and make moves to fix it.

- Wherever possible, sprout the health benefits of natural meat in a balanced diet and fight like hell to keep meat substitutes from the meat counters of our supermarkets. They don't belong there.

- Highlight heroes. Create every opportunity to promote livestock farmers who do the right thing.

ers or the group.

Besides which, those concerned are now before the courts, charged with trespass and possession of a controlled weapon.

Naming and shaming simply gives them the publicity and notoriety they seek, and don't deserve.

In terms of how our hard-working farmers should handle the threats of invasions and other divisive actions of the animal activist renegades, I quite like the approach taken by a group of farmers in WA's southwest.

Dairy farmer and in-



Animal activists are on the road across Australia and watching your every move.



Just how far extreme animal activism might go is anyone's guess.



Ultimately, extreme animal activists driven by vegan agendas are really all about stopping people like the author enjoying a delicious dish of pork belly.

www.porknews.com.au

Queensland ravaged by cyclones, floods and drought

JUST when you thought it couldn't get any tougher, Queenslanders were hit with another blow below the belt.

Faced with the downturn in prices over the past two years, many pig producers either reduced stocking or exited the industry.

The result has seen some recovery of prices but as the pig price went up, so did the price of grain.

With the majority of Queensland experiencing drought conditions, grain was scarce and transfers from WA have become the norm.

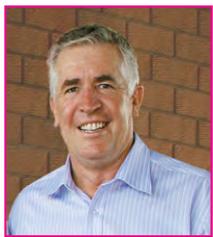
While high-\$400 to early-\$500/tonne was the norm before Christmas, high-\$500 is now common, with north Queensland facing at least another \$150 freight and handling over these prices.

One producer was quoted prices as high as \$700s.

pork
QUEENSLAND INC.

President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



Then as we all know, along came the tropical low that sat over Townsville, which brought floods not seen for hundreds of years, with rainfall measured in metres.

The rain that fell on the Great Divide saw coastal towns lose houses and farms destroyed.

The water directed westwards saw livestock properties that were in drought for up to five years go under water for kilometres in every direction.

Reported losses of up to 500,000 head of cattle

in northwestern Queensland have left the region and farming communities devastated.

In the south of the state, the drought remains, with long-range forecasts not looking favourable.

Grain supplies from Western Australia and pockets within eastern states will get us through to 2020, but something needs to happen to pig prices to support a sustainable production base.

Pork Queensland Inc and Queensland Farmers' Federation have met with

the Queensland Minister of Agriculture to provide regular updates.

Discussions with the Department of Agriculture can offer little support to the current situation, other than direction to the various farm subsidies and review of financial support through agencies such as Queensland Rural Financial Services and Queensland Rural Industry and Development Authority.

PQI urges any farmers in financial difficulty to approach these entities to assist in their situations.

Unfortunately, it is a slow process and quite convoluted, but the sooner you approach these agencies the better.

Don't try to complete the applications without their help!

While sales figures provided by APL show good demand, it is the price that

needs to rise to support a normally sustainable production base.

Talk to your pig buyers and wholesalers who in turn need to gain the support of the retailers including the supermarkets.

The ASF outbreaks in Asia and now western Europe will bring about increases in prices of global pork supplies, which should flow through to increases in imported prices

of processing pork coming into Australia.

This can only help with the price point of domestic pork in Australia.

Major world lending institutes view the ASF outbreaks as the most significant interruption ever seen to the global protein supply chain.

PQI will meet with government during March to provide an update on the dire situation.

The discussions are also focusing on the impacts of farm raids and potential biosecurity breaches.

Penalties, while higher in Queensland than other states, need reviewing and pressure applied to the application of them with offenders who break the law time and time again.

If you need help in contacting any of the support agencies, please call 0407 622 166.



Photo: Townsville Bulletin

Changes to Korean and Japanese maximum residue limits

AUSTRALIAN
Pork

Policy

by ALISTER OULTON
Policy Analyst



KOREA and Japan are currently going through a major review of their residues policy, which is likely to see changes to the maximum residue limits permitted for pork products.

This is very relevant particularly for those selling pigs to an export abattoir.

A MRL is the maximum concentration of chemical residue that can be accepted in animal tissue.

They are often set for particular chemicals and particular meat cuts.

For example, the level of ractopamine in pig liver may be set at a rate per kilogram for some countries.

In the event that samples are found which are higher than that level, exports may be temporarily suspended.

Some countries may not have a MRL at all for certain chemicals, meaning any quantifiable amount found in a sample may lead to a partial ban on Australian pork exports.

For Korea, MRLs are being reviewed for chemicals that are not registered for their domestic market.

This process is currently under way in plant products and is expected to start for meat products by 2021.

This means any chemical Australia uses and Korea doesn't may be subject to scrutiny.

If a MRL is removed it will then be up to the chemical registrant or company to request the establishment of an import tolerance MRL,

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which may or may not be granted.

The changes to Japanese MRLs are more specific.

Japan is proposing MRL changes to: difenoconazole, flupyrimin, flutriafol, spirotetramat, tetraconazole, triforine and fenitrothion.

If you use products containing these chemicals anywhere on your farm, please speak to your veterinarian about an appropriate treatment plan to ensure these new MRLs are not exceeded.

Always follow the directions on the label.

What does this mean for you?

It is important the industry works together to minimise risks to export markets and maintain our reputation as suppliers of safe, high-quality pork.

For producers that send pigs through an export abattoir, any contact with veterinary medicines, pesticides and other chemicals must be managed to meet the requirements of this market.

Following export slaughter intervals and withholding periods on your PigPass NVD will assist with managing these risks.

Producers need to be aware that changes to MRLs occur regularly.

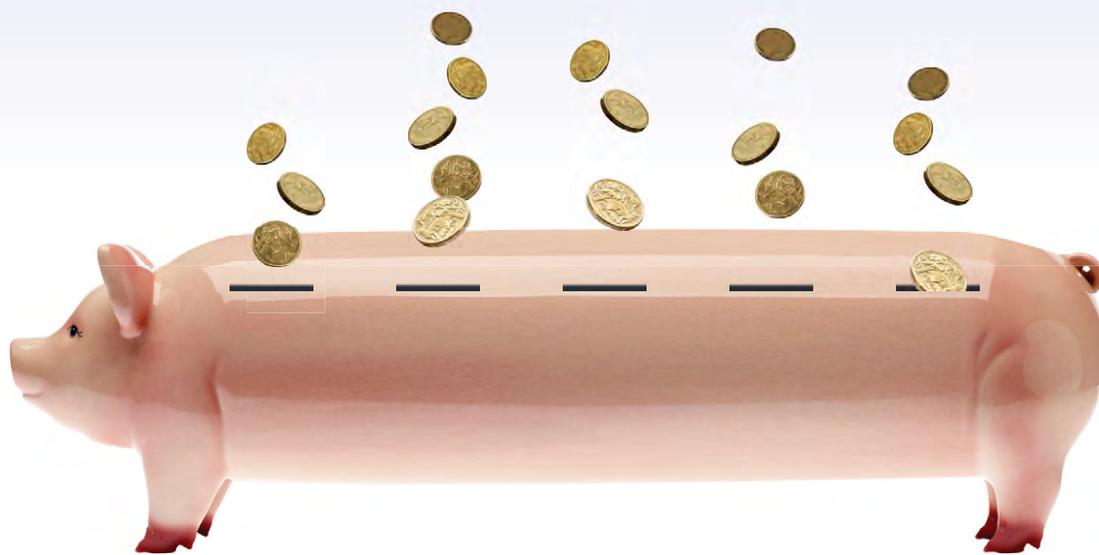
APL communicates these changes to Australian pig vets.

Please keep in contact with your veterinarian to ensure you are aware of and are meeting the requirements of the markets you supply.



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NSW Government to review penalties for activism offences

THE NSW Government is establishing a working group to consider the adequacy of penalties for offences relating to unauthorised entry onto enclosed lands and unauthorised filming.

They will also investigate whether there are any barriers to successful prosecution for offences by activists against farmers.

This decision was made following a Parliamentary Inquiry into unauthorised filming or surveillance, which was held in August 2018.

APL was called as a witness to the Inquiry, where CEO Andrew Spencer and Policy Analyst/In-house Counsel Alister Oulton provided evidence on the damaging effects of animal activism to the pig industry.

APL also provided an extensive submission that outlined the problems with existing legislation, inadequacy of penalties and clear lack of deterrence for activists who trespass upon private property in order to express a political view.

Present on the Inquiry panel was Shooters, Fishers and Farmers MP Robert Borsak as well as animal activist turned politician Mark Pearson.

APL CEO Andrew Spencer made it clear to the Inquiry that the activism movement had a broader philosophical objection to all livestock industries and arguments about 'exposing cruelty' were used to subvert their real objective of closing down all livestock industries.

APL welcomed any attempt by the government

to reduce the threat activists pose to pig producers and specifically encouraged a review of the way existing legislation is being applied.

The Inquiry noted through a submission from NSW Farmers that no conviction had been recorded under the Surveillance Devices Act in its 11 years of operation.

This is despite numerous cases of trespass and filming by activists in NSW, clearly showing there is a need to look into the effectiveness of the legislation.

In addition to the trivial penalties being enforced on trespassers who are convicted, this shows a direct need for a review of the legislative framework.

APL is pleased the NSW government has committed to reviewing

these serious issues.

The recent publication of producer details on the 'Aussie Farms' map (APN February 2019) is presenting as a catalyst for producer groups, state and federal governments and the NFF to step up action against illegal animal activism.

This work is ongoing.

For further details about the Inquiry and APL's measures in protecting producers from activists, please contact General Manager Policy Deb Kerr on 02 6270 8803 or deb.kerr@australianpork.com.au

The long and the short of it



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



A COUPLE of marketing writers have recently published updated findings on marketing effectiveness.

Basically, their work says if marketers focus about 60 percent of their activity on long-term branding and 40 percent on short-term sales drivers, that is about the ideal balance. Individual producers have exactly the same decisions to make, and Australian Pork Limited wants to make sure we keep producers aware of possible future plans as they evolve.

The production survey's forecast by week and the feedback from industry both appear to suggest that between now and June 2019, production numbers will remain below last year.

It appears the oversupply crisis (at least since the price low point in August last year) may be abating.

It is possible the full effect of the increased sow slaughters last year has not been fully felt yet.

The production survey suggests by June the weekly slaughter rate will be about 94,000-96,000 pigs per week.

In the pig cycle, when producers move from a loss into a profit they tend to enjoy that profitability for a while.

This was evident after the 2007-8 crisis where once the high pig prices were over in late-2010, pork production grew at about 2 percent per year for the next five years as producers recovered their financial positions.

However, recovery from the oversupply of 2017 and 2018 is slightly different.

The price peak and the rapid expansion of production was the result of the industry's success and investment, resulting in higher productivity.

Now that production

is running below last year, if there is higher productivity that must mean there is spare capacity not being used.

This results in the possibility that as soon as pigs become profitable, the spare capacity will be very tempting to those who have it.

However, grain price uncertainty may well act as a deterrent against that temptation in the short term.

Obviously, every producer makes their own commercial decisions based upon their own circumstances and judgements.

At a meeting of industry marketing folk recently, there was a high degree of support for the idea of spending less on 'get some pork on your fork' and trying to create new levels of demand in Australian ham and bacon as well as export.

In the short term, this will decrease the return on investment of our marketing.

But we hope to learn how we can contribute to lower volatility and more certainty if the seven-year cycle persists.

This was still supported, even though lower slaughters means APL will have fewer levies to support demand in 2019 and 2020.

While the final decisions are not made, the marketing people in the room estimated demand for fresh pork may increase by as little as 1 percent in the coming 15 months.

If that is the case, APL will have little capacity to help demand in the short term while we are trying to learn how to avoid future volatility.

We are contemplating focusing more than 60 percent on the long of it and intend to work more closely with the whole supply chains to maintain the short of it.

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Strategically driven RDE for the Australian pork supply chain

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited recently completed a review of its Research Development and Extension investment model against current and future industry needs.

It explored new ways of investing in innovation for the benefit of the industry.

For the industry to gain competitive advantage, significant and transformational innovation is needed.

Engaging with these forms of innovation requires an entrepreneurial culture, aligned skills and capacity and an investment model that is agile, fast, flexible and leverages collaborative value within the pork sector and beyond its boundaries to include other sectors and international opportunities.

The review asked:

- Is APL's current RDE model fit for purpose given the rapid changes and advancements in industry such as digital, bio and ag tech, which is occurring worldwide?

- Is APL missing opportunities due to its current approach to investment?

- Where and what are the opportunities to invite in new players?

- How does APL increase the impact of its investments through partnerships and leverage?

A new RDE investment model, 'Industry Solutions and Horizons', was recently approved by the APL Board.

The Solutions portfolio will focus on responding to the immediate needs of industry, be open for proposals all year and will have streamlined management and approvals.

The Horizons portfolio will focus investment through a small number of key strategic programs (or Strategic Intents) that are considered to offer the potential for transformational outcomes for the industry in terms of cost, revenue and/or risk.

These key programs will be developed

through a process of engagement and prioritisation with all members of the supply chain and other key stakeholders.

This engagement process will involve extensive consultation with producers, research providers, veterinarians, consultants, processors, farm staff, government and other industry stakeholders.

This will include the release of a consultation paper requesting written submissions from all industry stakeholders, APL communications, industry newsletters and notices and discussions at targeted producer meetings around Australia.

More details about outcomes of the review and its implementation will be provided over coming weeks.

If you would like to further discuss, please feel free to contact Heather Channon (heather.channon@australianpork.com.au) or Andrew Spencer (andrew.spencer@australianpork.com.au).

Aussie Farms online attack map used for break-in

MINISTER for Agriculture David Littleproud has again called on animal activist group Aussie Farms to pull down its map of Australian farms after a business on the map was broken into.

"I said the Aussie Farms map was an attack map for activists and I was right," Minister Littleproud said.

"A piggery on the map has now been broken into by animal activists who have broadcast their illegal activities on Facebook.

"The safety of farming families and their children is at risk here.

"If this activist attack map remains online, I fear someone will be seriously hurt or worse.

"Nobody would like their family home address being broadcast to the world and especially not next to information that is wrong in many cases.

"I think the truth is the Aussie Farms organisation knows full well its map is being used to plan attacks on farming family

businesses and the group is fine with that.

"They've lost sight of their cause and lost community support and must stop intimidating farming families."

Minister Littleproud said Aussie Farms should stop being so reckless and pull the farm map down before someone is killed.

"Bill Shorten must condemn this group and this map," he said.

"Bill Shorten must call this out before the worst happens.

"Labor voting against drought support is one thing but saying nothing about a map which displays the addresses of Australian farming families – often with incorrect information about the farm – is something else.

"Following a recent Queensland case in which a trespassing animal activist got a \$350 fine for her third offence, I also call on the states to beef up their trespass laws."

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Pork producers under threat

AFRICAN swine fever is a hot topic, with authorities recently discovering the contagious virus in samples of pork products at Australian airports and mail centres.

Farmers should be proactive in protecting their animals from this devastating virus.

One Australian company with in-field decontamination experience has produced equipment to protect against this threat.

Aussie Pumps is Australia's leading producer of high-pressure water blasters.

The company has developed a range of hot water steam cleaners for fast decontamination and hygienic cleaning.

Using Aussie Pumps' steam pressure cleaners decreases cleaning time by up to 40 percent, with the steam also reducing drying time after cleaning.

These machines are designed particularly with primary producers in mind.

The Aussie Super Indy range includes single and three-phase steamers with pressures as high as 4000psi.

Aussie Pumps' Super Indy series are built tough, featuring heavy-duty impact-resistant stainless steel covers.

The cover is mounted on a robust steel chassis with integrated front-mounted bumper.

Aussie Pumps product manager Mal Patel said, "We decided to move away from European-style machines with their traditional poly or plastic components."

"The machines are loaded with features to

make it easy and safe to use but provide plenty of capability for fast, effective cleaning and sanitising.

"The option of high-pressure detergent injection adds another level of efficiency.

These pumps are a heavy-duty Italian triple design, running at 1450rpm for long and continuous trouble-free life.

The range starts with a 240V single-phase machine delivering 1500psi and 12l/pm flow.

The machine reaches 120C, providing loads of steam power.

Three-phase machines are also available in a powerful 3000psi configuration with big flows of 19l/pm.

"We developed a 3000psi unit with the ability to 'wash and flush', delivering high flow and pressure," Patel said.

"This lifts productivity

and reduces downtime."

The mild steel burner coils are covered by a free extended warranty of up to two years.

A stainless steel burner coil option comes with a three-year warranty.

The new Aussie Super Indy range offers timed 'Total Stop' designed to shut the machine off after the operator releases the trigger of the gun.

This not only reduces wear on the machine but saves power.

"We learnt what works when a similar disease threat struck the cotton industry over a decade ago," Patel said.

Our Aussie 'Muck-off' cold water blaster worked to prevent contamination on big in-field equipment."

Further information and a free booklet on how to protect your farm is available from Aussie Pumps distributors and aussiepumps.com.au



In-field decontamination with Aussie's Super Indy prevents harmful disease from spreading.



Boehringer celebrates Lunar New Year

CELEBRATED across many Asian countries, Lunar New Year took place in early February and marks the first full moon of the lunar calendar.

Traditionally celebrated with family, the festive event is marked with feasts, firecrackers, lanterns and the colour red.

2019 heralds the Year of the Pig, one of the

12 signs of the Chinese Zodiac, and an animal that symbolises luck, optimism, wealth and good fortune.

On February 5, 2019, the swine team at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health celebrated the Lunar New Year by giving pork crackling, cupcakes and a fun flyer to each of its 200 employees in the Sydney head office.

The fact sheet was aimed at supporting the Australian pork industry by promoting the 'Win Big in the Year of the Pig' competition held by Australian Pork Limited as well as providing a great pork skewer recipe and fun pig and pork 'crackling' facts.

The desk drop was well received by all recipients, and increased awareness

and created conversation around APL's \$60,000 worth of prizes up for grabs for those buying fresh pork in Australia.

Boehringer Ingelheim would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Year of the Pig and all the best in 2019.

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Farm production expected to fall due to drought

IN 2018-19 the value of farm production is expected to decline by 4 percent to \$58 billion, according to the latest Agricultural Commodities report launched recently at the Outlook 2019 conference in Canberra.

ABARES' chief commodity analyst Peter Gooday said the main driver of the drop was poor eastern winter crops, but high prices and the near-record crops in Western Australia provided a significant buffer.

"Many would have predicted a greater fall in agricultural production given the significance of the drought along the east coast," Mr Gooday said.

"Western Australia is forecast to have produced its second-largest grain crop – nearly 60 percent of the Australian winter crop this year – which has helped make this the sixth-straight year of above-average performance.

"It is clear the ongoing drought in the eastern states and Queensland floods have devastated those affected.

"Improved commodity prices have helped, with grain prices expected to increase 11 percent in 2018-19 and contribute to a 3 percent rise in farmgate prices.

"Wheat prices rose by 5 percent and barley prices by 16 percent.

"Agricultural production is forecast to recover in 2019-20 and then grow slowly over the medium term, assuming a return to average seasonal conditions in coming years."

In 2019-20 the value of farm production is forecast to increase by 2 percent to \$59 billion and grow to \$61 billion by 2023-24.

"Farm profitability is expected to be lower in 2018-19 compared with the previous two years, but remain comparatively high," Mr Gooday said.

"The average farm cash income for all broadacre farms is projected to fall by 18 percent to \$173,000 per farm in 2018-19 – still well above the 10-year average of \$140,000.

"There is substantial regional variation though, with average incomes down by an average of 51 percent on NSW broadacre farms and 21 percent on Queensland farms.

"In Western Australia, farm incomes are projected to increase by 33 percent to \$490,000 per farm in 2018-19.

"Production falls are expected to impact export earnings, which are forecast to decline to \$45 billion in 2019-20 due to falling livestock exports, after an expected 6 percent decline in 2018-19 due to falling crop exports.

"This will be partially offset by an expected 4 percent increase to export prices.

"Export earnings are then projected to increase to \$47 billion by 2023-24."

The report is available at agriculture.gov.au/ag-commodities-report

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A timeline of department responses to the spread of ASF

September 14, 2018:	Notification from the European Commission of an outbreak of ASF in wild boar in Belgium.
September 18, 2018:	Changes in import conditions for pig meat and goods with pig material sourced from Belgium.
The department announces pig meat and goods containing or potentially contaminated with pig material sourced from Belgium are no longer permitted to be imported to Australia. These goods include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncooked pig meat for human consumption; • Laboratory goods containing pig material (such as animal fluids and tissues, culture media); and • Pet food containing pig meat from Belgium. 	
November 2018:	Ongoing spread of ASF overseas.
November 6, 2018:	Revised import conditions for jerky and biltong for personal use.
The department announces jerky and biltong (a product similar to jerky) derived from pig meat brought in for personal use will no longer be permitted entry to Australia.	
November 14, 2018:	Changes to the import requirements for baked pig ears.
The department announces that – in addition to requiring an import permit and undergoing significant thermal processing – baked pig ears sourced from countries affected by foot and mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever, African swine fever and/or swine vesicular disease will now require gamma irradiation to 50k gray upon arrival in Australia. This change applies to all baked pig ears and replaced the condition for pig ears to either be processed in an establishment approved by the department or gamma irradiated on arrival.	
December 15, 2018:	Revised import conditions for rawhide chews for pet food.
The department announces conditions for the importation of rawhide chews derived from pig hide or skin have been changed. If treatment and sourcing information is not confirmed in official health certification then the products also require gamma irradiation to 50k gray. In addition, importers of chews derived from bovine material will be required to provide evidence that the goods are not made of pig meat.	

Keeping African swine fever out of Australia

AFRICAN swine fever is a highly contagious and often fatal viral disease of pigs not present in Australia.

If introduced, ASF would have a serious impact on Australia's pork industry.

Humans are not susceptible to ASF.

Recent outbreaks of ASF in China, Vietnam and parts of Europe increase the risk of the disease entering Australia.

This risk was confirmed by testing of pork products seized at international airports and mail centres.

Testing revealed a number of these products were contaminated with ASF virus fragments.

This does not necessarily mean these products would have caused infection of pigs in Australia.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has increased its screening of passengers, international mail

and cargo to reduce the risk of ASF entering Australia.

The department has also placed a ban on the non-commercial import of high-risk pork products.

The ban was put in place on November 6, 2018 and applies to products for personal use and arrive with international passengers or are sent to Australia in the mail.

The department has targeted:

International travellers to Australia, with more inspections of passengers' carry-on and stowed luggage.

New airport signage in English and simplified Chinese has been installed to alert travellers to the ASF risk.

Biosecurity officers are performing manual inspections, looking for contamination on footwear and equipment that has been in contact with animals or worn in a rural area in countries affected

by ASF. The department is issuing infringement notices to those travellers who fail to declare or provide false or misleading information about any food, animal products or other risk items they're carrying. Travellers may also face possible criminal prosecution.

International mail with increased screening and subsequent inspections at international mail centres. The department has also been working directly with importers, postal agencies and overseas senders of international mail, including e-commerce merchants, to raise awareness about the risk of ASF and reinforce Australia's biosecurity requirements relating to porcine products. High-risk product intercepted in international mail is seized and destroyed.

The commercial importation of certain pig products to Australia, with tighter restrictions in place on the import of pet food and suspension of meat products from countries that no longer meet the import conditions. Commercially imported pig meat products must be retorted or cured under very specific conditions to inactivate viruses, or be sourced from disease-free countries that have been approved by the department. As an example, following the recent outbreak of ASF in Belgium, the department suspended trade in uncooked pig meat from this market. Likewise, the department has introduced additional controls (such as irradiation treatment) for pet treats of porcine origin, including pig ears and rawhide.

The department continues to monitor the ASF situation abroad and responds accordingly to any change in risk. To find changes to import conditions made by the department in response to ASF, search the Alerts and Changes section of BICON at agriculture.gov.au/bicon

In addition, the department's website alerts the public and travellers to the risks associated with ASF and appropriate actions to take or avoid.

To find out more about ASF, including what signs to look for in pigs, visit the department's webpage at agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/asf

Importantly, if your pigs show signs of ASF or any other unusual disease, report it immediately to your local vet or phone the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888, which will connect you with your local animal health authority.

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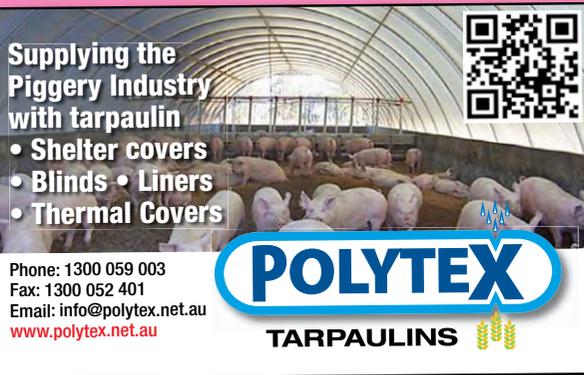
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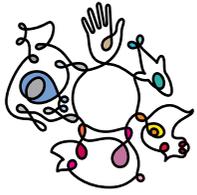
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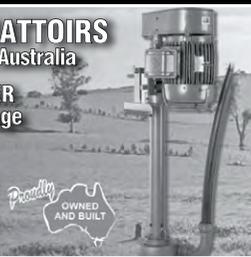
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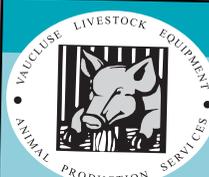
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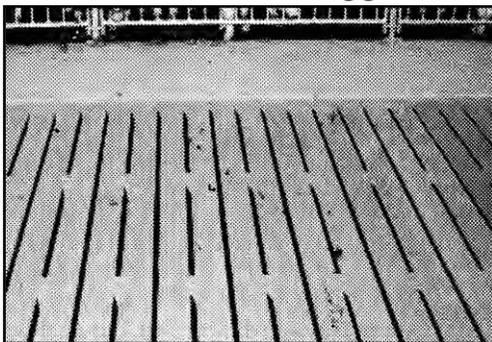
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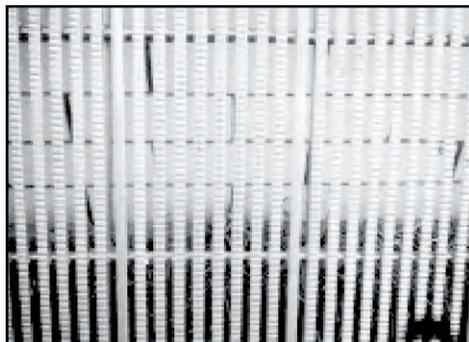
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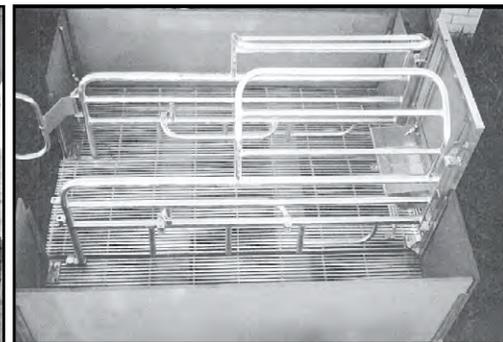
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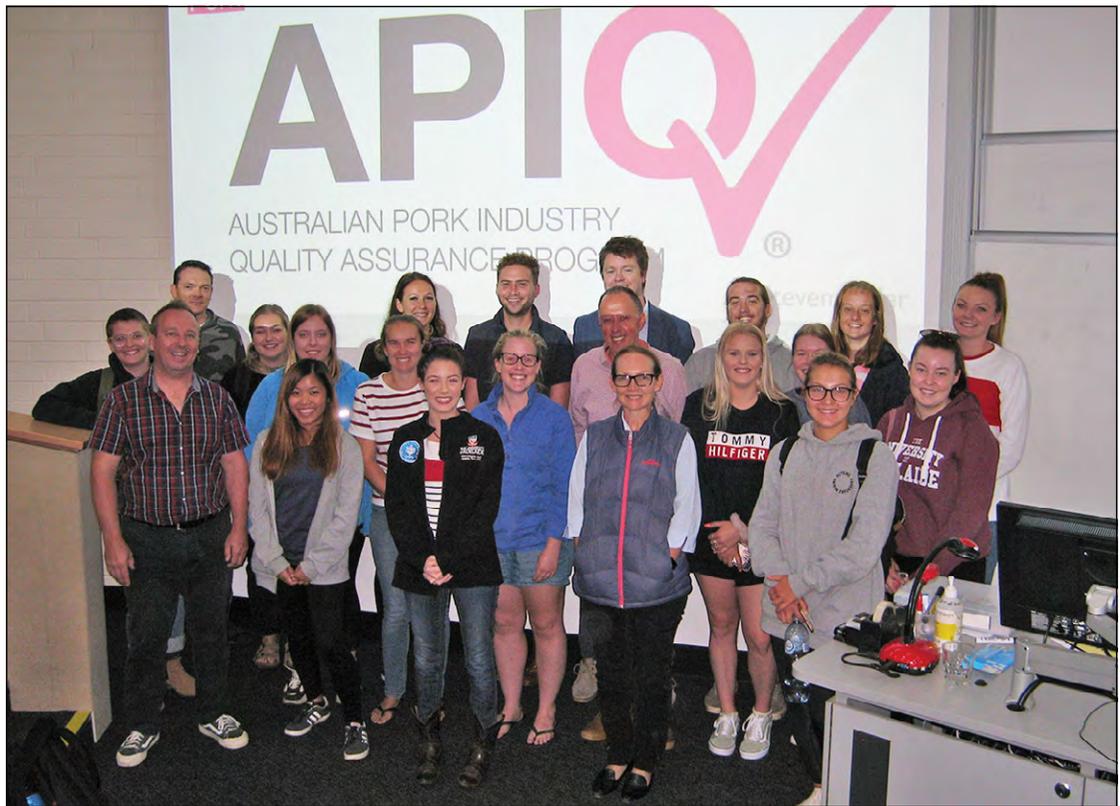
17th - 20th November 2019

The Australasian Pig Science Association is pleased to announce that the 2019 APSA Biennial Conference will be held at the Hilton Adelaide, SA, Australia from 17th to 20th November 2019.

Submissions for the
Extended Abstracts
close 26th April 2019

International Travel Scholarship
close 10th May 2019

Visit the website for more details
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Participants at the 2019 Roseworthy course after the APIQ session delivered by APL.

Roseworthy pig production course serves up a taste of science

'PIG Production - Science into Practice', an annual course designed to raise understanding of pig production, from conception through to processing and the management required in between, was held at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus from February 4 to 14.

Supported by Pork CRC and Australian Pork Limited, the course was co-ordinated and taught by the University's senior lecturer (pigs) Dr Will van Wettere and attended by 45 people, comprising 21 University of Adelaide undergraduates and 24 industry representatives, including producers from South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, NSW, Victoria and New Zealand.

The course covered topics as varied as reproductive physiology, breeding herd management, effluent management, nutrition, health, behaviour and welfare and included visits to a piggery, abattoir and artificial insemination centre and practical demonstrations on AI, heat detection, sample collection and disease diagnosis.

Dr van Wettere said new content for this year included a special session

from APL guest speakers Andrew Robertson, Steve Miller, Denise Woods and Grantley Butterfield, which focused on environmental management of piggeries, APIQ, product marketing, domestic and international pig markets and other legislative issues.

Pork CRC Commercialisation and Research Impact manager Dr Charles Rikard-Bell provided two case studies to explain how early Pork CRC research into NIRS calibrations and sow enrichment blocks had been commercialised with

partners Aunir and Ridley Agriproducts to provide income to Pork CRC.

In addition to APL and Pork CRC presenters, valuable contributions were made by Tony Edwards and his ACE Livestock Consulting team, as well as Drs Alice Weaver, Kate Plush, Emma Greenwood and Stephan Tait and Profs Paul Hughes and Frank Dunshea.

Dr van Wettere also noted and thanked Graham Reu of Sabor and also Big River Pork for allowing students to visit their facilities and learn the latest in AI and processing.

"On a learning level, particular highlights of this year's course were seeing how well the undergraduate students and industry participants interacted and worked together to solve pig production-related problems, with some of their discoveries and the outcomes very likely to make their way back into herds at various levels," Dr van Wettere said.

"Socially, the highlight was the Pork CRC barbecue on the final evening, which showcased sensational Gumshire pork from the Barossa Valley." www.porkcrc.com.au



At the 2019 Roseworthy course were Pork CRC Commercialisation and Research Impact manager Dr Charles Rikard-Bell, course co-ordinator and teacher Dr Will van Wettere, University of Adelaide and participants Dr Valentina Alexa and Valentin Cusnir, both of Alexa Piggery, Tara, Queensland.



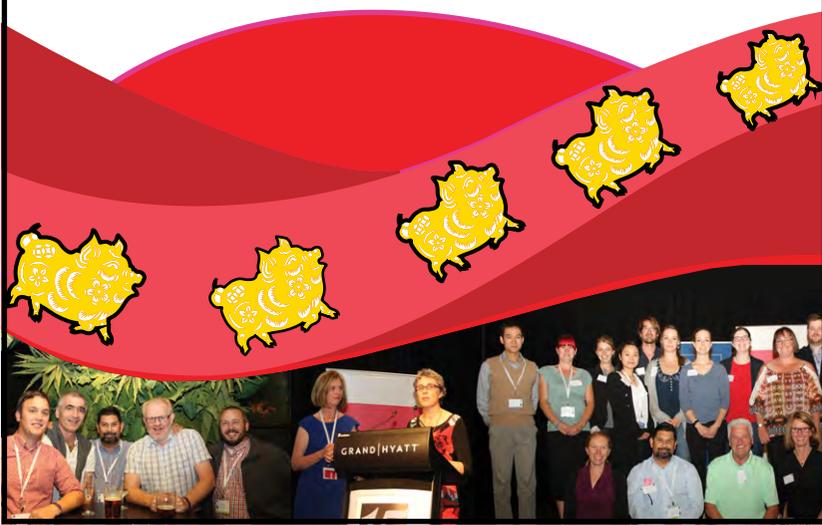
Dr Charles Rikard-Bell and graduating participant Andrew Taylor, Clarenbrook Pigs, Queensland.



Dr Charles Rikard-Bell and graduating participant Milian Vladislavjevic, Patoa Farms, Canterbury, New Zealand.



Dr Charles Rikard-Bell and graduating participant Juan Diaz, Alltech Lienert, South Australia.



China predicts limited impact from ASF

IN an interview with Reuters, New Hope Group, owner of China's largest animal feed business New Hope Liuhe, said it does not see a major impact from the African swine fever epidemic sweeping through the country's hog herd, group chairman Liu Yonghao said on Sunday, March 3.

The company's feed-to-meat business is benefiting from higher chicken prices resulting from the outbreak of disease in pigs, Liu told reporters ahead of the opening of the annual parliament meeting.

He also said he hoped the US and China would soon reach a deal on trade, with tariffs currently hurting farmers in both countries.

On March 1, US President Donald Trump said he had asked China to immediately remove all tariffs on US agricultural products because trade talks were progressing well.

Trump also delayed plans to hike tariffs on Chinese goods to 25 percent as pre-

viously scheduled.

Beijing currently imposes 25 percent import duty on soybeans from the US, China's second-largest soybean supplier, with shipments making up a third of China's total imports.

New Hope said last year it would diversify its soybean sourcing, buying from Brazil, Argentina, the Middle East, Russia, India and South Africa.

On its animal feed business, Liu said his company is actually benefitting from the pig disease as some farmers are now buying more feed from New Hope because they are confident the company's feed is not contaminated with ASF.

ASF is an incurable pig disease that has been confirmed in 28 Chinese provinces and regions.

Liu called on Beijing to increase corn import quotas to private firms and grant the permits based on companies' output and demand. 🐷



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Tough choices to reach \$100 billion by 2030

MAKING tough choices will be central to Australian agriculture's continued success, according to ABARES executive director Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds' opening address at the 2019 ABARES Outlook Conference in Canberra recently.

Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds listed five key areas vital to meeting the National Farmers' Federation's goal of lifting the value of Australian agricultural production to \$100 billion by 2030.

"We must recognise that achieving the best outcomes for agriculture, our rural communities and the national economy will require some tough choices," Dr Hatfield-Dodds said.

Examples include ensuring agriculture is attractive to workers and investors; harnessing innovation to boost performance; promoting on-farm resilience and risk management; persisting with water reforms and respecting and responding to evolving consumer expectations.

"We should be mindful of the substantial and sometimes painful reforms that underpinned the growth achieved in recent decades – and that favourable global prices account for 90 percent of past trend growth.

"Each of the five areas bring both opportunities and threats, but support the theme of enhancing the wellbeing of producers, consumers, regions and the nation to increase prosperity.

"The sector is well aware of the need to attract workers, but actions are always going to speak louder than words in ensuring a positive experience for farm workers.

"We need to continue to harness innovation."

Priorities include reducing fragmentation and improving collaboration on 'whole of sector' challenges, greater clarity and consistency around contributions and benefit

www.porknews.com.au

sharing as well as achieving faster adoption and commercialisation of successful research.

"Our farms must remain resilient and manage risk effectively," Dr Hatfield-Dodds said.

"Australian farmers manage very significant variability, including variable climate and volatile commodity prices.

"We must persist with water reforms.

"The view that healthy industries require healthy catchments has not always been visible in recent debate and finger pointing, which is often framed in terms of trade-offs between 'industry' or 'development' versus the 'environment'.

"It is evident that achieving the NFF aspirations for agriculture requires sustainable management of Australia's scarce water resources.

"Respecting and responding to evolving consumer expectations may well be both the greatest opportunity, and threat, facing Australian agriculture."

Producers are particularly exposed where real or perceived poor behaviour by a few players can tarnish the reputation or market access of an entire sector.

"Assessing these risks and opportunities requires industry to understand how consumers think and feel, even when this is confronting," Dr Hatfield-Dodds said.

"Australian agriculture has many advantages, and a track record of good performance, underpinned by tough choices.

"But to thrive and grow – to meet \$100 billion – some difficult decisions will need to be made."

Read the 'Tough choices for Australian agriculture to reach \$100b target' article published in *The Conversation* at theconversation.com/au

All ABARES Outlook 2019 presentations will be published progressively on the ABARES website at agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook 🐷



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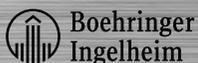
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