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Edwina Beveridge, 2014 NSW-ACT RIRDC Rural Women's Award runner-up.

Edwina recognised for positive involvement in primary industries

EDWINA Beveridge, a high profile pig producer, was recently announced runner-up of the 2014 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation NSW-ACT Rural Women's Award.

The award was presented at a Parliament House gala dinner by NSW Primary Industries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson.

Edwina, her husband Michael and three young children own and run Blantyre Farms – a pig, sheep, cattle and cropping enterprise based at Young and Harden, in southwestern NSW.

Early adopters of technology, Edwina and Michael have invested millions of dollars in agriculture during the past few years – doubling the size of their pig farm and expanding their sheep, cattle and cropping enterprises.

Edwina has renovated all old sheds and removed dry sow stalls from their

property and is continually working to improve efficiency while maintaining sustainable environmental best-practice methods.

She leads a team of 30 people, including women, in this traditionally male-dominated industry and made history by becoming the first 'carbon' farm in Australia with the lowest carbon footprint of any pig farm in the country.

As the deputy chair of the NSW Farmers Pork Committee, Edwina is concerned about changes to the industry being made based on perceived rather than real welfare benefits and science.

She sees the award as an opportunity to advance her leadership and business management skills and have a stronger voice in primary industries.

Edwina said she is ready to step up and take on a greater leadership role in agriculture and is excited to expand her networks and meet and

gain inspiration from other great women who are active in their industry.

She plans to use the award bursary to further develop the science behind pig welfare in intensive farming and hopes to examine piglet and sow welfare in farrowing crates using existing trials, studies and research, and to promote the positive aspects of animal welfare.

Both Edwina and RIRDC Award winner Pip Job from Cumnock in Central West NSW will participate in the RIRDC Australia Institute of Company Directors Course.

The award is co-ordinated by the NSW Rural Women's Network through the Department of Primary Industries, and is sponsored by the Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Farmers, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and the Country Women's Association of NSW.

Pestilence, performance and predictions

THE value of Australia's robust biosecurity protocols and systems can't be any better demonstrated than through the observation of what is presently happening in North America and the US in particular.

Porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus is rampaging across the pig industry there causing enormous mortalities and horrific impacts on productivity.

One report predicted that before the herd immunity fully kicks in, the peak effects on the US pork industry will be seen in the coming September, when pig slaughters are expected to be only 75 percent of what they were for the same month a year earlier.

The way this disease has spread across pig producing states seems to indicate an industry and relevant government departments unable to implement the necessary biosecurity procedures to manage it.

It's a reminder to us not only of the asset we have in our herd health status and quarantine procedures, but also not to get too complacent and comfortable.

Thinking about what a disease outbreak like PEDv could do in our own industry forces us rightly to re-question all of our national, regional and on-farm practices designed to minimise the risks associated with a disease like this one.

In this edition of *Australian Pork Newspaper*, Dr Darryl D'Souza outlines the industry's actions around this specific threat as well as some of the things individual pig producers need to think about to keep the disease out.

Considering the shortage of pigs predicted in the world's biggest pork exporter, it's no surprise that pig prices are already shooting upwards there.

It's hard to imagine this shortage will not trickle through to other key global importers and exporters.

The silver lining for our industry might be higher local pork prices – we'll have to wait



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



and see whether this eventuates.

Pig producers should be reminded that as of July 1 this year, the pig industry levy (for the 'marketing' component) will rise by 30c a slaughter pig. This is the next scheduled tranche of the three-part levy increase decided a few years ago, with the first taking place July 1, 2012.

Another rise is due in mid-2016.

APL's income will be increased by slightly more than \$1 million in the 2014/15 year – as always, our challenge is to ensure the return on investment to industry is strong.

These increasing resources will be contributing to initiatives consistent with our new Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

The Strategic Plan development process continues with a workshop with the APL Board and a group of delegates early April.

Some of the emerging themes for the new industry strategy include: continuity of a priority to defend our biosecurity status and protocols; a stronger focus on export markets (China in particular); and continuing a strong differentiation focus for Australian pork.

The strategy is due for completion in the middle of the year and we'll be letting you know all about it once it is published.

You may have heard about the APL performance review presently under way through our consultants ACIL Allen.

Individual producers are hav-

ing their say about APL's performance through a number of focus groups happening over the phone.

This review will also be completed about mid-year and the report will be placed on APL's website for members to see the results.

A number of pig producers have expressed concerns about the forecasts for Australia's pork industry by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, published at the time of the Outlook Conference in Canberra.

In a nutshell, the forecasts were relatively negative for the industry with predictions of increased imports and reduced pig prices.

We don't agree with the forecasts and are contacting ABARES to arrange some sharing of our opinions with them.

At the time of publishing the next APL Strategic Plan mid this year, we'll be releasing some opinions and ideas about where we see key industry indices moving.

And last of all this month, a special congratulations to pig producer Edwina Beveridge from Blantyre Farms outside Young, NSW who was recently named runner-up in the NSW Rural Woman of the Year Awards.

Edwina was literally pipped at the post for the first place honour and she graciously accepted second place like a real winner.

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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2014

MAY 13 - 14 – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh, UK, www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

MAY 19 - 21 – Alltech Symposium, Kentucky, USA, www.alltech.com/symposium

MAY 20 - 22 – VIV Europe, Jaarbeurs Utrecht, The Netherlands, www.viveurope.nl

MAY 21 - 22 – Pan Pacific Pork Expo, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD P: APL 02 6285 2200

MAY 25 - 27 – 2014 Australasian Milling Conference, Feed & Food in the Asian Century, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD www.millingconference.com.au

JUN 4 - 6 – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, Iowa, USA www.worldpork.org

JUN 8 - 11 – International Pig Veterinary Society Congress (IPVS 2014), Cancun Mexico www.ipvs2014.org/

AUG 8 - 10 – The 9th Biennial Conference of AAA, Newcastle NSW E: androfest@newcastle.edu.au

AUG 10 - 14 – The 12th International Symposium on Spermatology, Newcastle NSW E: androfest@newcastle.edu.au

SEP 13 - 16 – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, Minnesota, USA www.cvm.umn.edu/vetmedce/events/adl/

SEP 13 - 16 – Joint ISNH/ISRP International Conference 'Harnessing the Ecology and Physiology of Herbivores', Canberra www.herbivores2014.com

SEP 20 – Code of Practice for On-Farm Biogas and Use (Piggeries) Consultation Workshop, Brisbane, QLD APL 02 6270 8827

OCT 10 – Code of Practice for On-Farm Biogas and Use (Piggeries) Consultation Workshop, Adelaide, SA APL 02 6270 8827

OCT 11 – Code of Practice for On-Farm Biogas and Use (Piggeries) Consultation Workshop, Southbank, VIC APL 02 6270 8827

OCT 15 - 17 – Vietstock 2014, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam www.vietstock.org

OCT 17 – Code of Practice for On-Farm Biogas and Use (Piggeries) Consultation Workshop, Perth, WA APL 02 6270 8827

NOV 11 - 14 – EuroTier 2014, Hanover, Germany www.eurotier.com/

NOV 14 – Code of Practice for On-Farm Biogas and Use (Piggeries) Consultation Workshop, Parramatta, NSW APL 02 6270 8827

2015

APR 23 - 25 – VIV India, Bangalore, India www.vivindia.nl

MAY 7 - 9 – 6th European Symposium of Procine Health Management, Sorrento, Italy www.esphm2014.org

SEP 16 - 19 – Space 2014, Rennes, France www.space.fr

SEP 23 - 25 – VIV China, New China International Exhibition Center, Beijing, China www.vivchina.nl

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

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APIQ✓ under review, as planned

I REMEMBER the early APIQ✓ days when the standards were first being compiled and needless to say, much water has flowed under the APIQ✓ bridge.

For starters, APIQ✓ adoption is close to 90 percent of pork production (refer Table 1), which in anyone's language is an extremely good adoption level.

A number of producers have indicated that APIQ✓ seems to be entering a period of refinement rather than continual development, which further emphasises the point that APIQ✓ is now a mature and robust quality assurance program.

The recent annual review of the APIQ✓ system and the witness audits are certainly helping to improve the integrity of the program and the quality of auditing services being provided.

The 2014/15 period sees a major review of APIQ✓, which is conducted every four years.

This review will include: (1) Technical Review; (2) Standards Review; (3) Policy Review; and (4) Auditing and Audit System Review of APIQ✓.

The items for the major review have been identified via a range of activities/stakeholders including:

- Annual producer working groups, which have identified several issues and opportunities for improvement related to standards and policies that need wider consultation than is possible through an annual working group.

- The annual system verification audit and witness audits as outlined above.

- The APIQ Panel, which has identified opportunities for improvement in standards, policies and processes as they have dealt with producer and auditor non-compliances and appeals.

- APIQ Management, as they have dealt with the day to day implementation and administration of APIQ✓.

- Auditors because they have used the APIQ✓ tools, audited against the standards and worked with producers.

- Producers, as additional types of production have emerged such as free range, outdoor bred and gestation stall free, and as their customers have sought verification of compliance to their specific expectations such as Customer Specifications Module 6 (CS6) available in APIQ✓ Standards Manual Version 3.4 1/2014.

- Regulators where regulations have also changed since implementation and a review is necessary to ensure that APIQ✓ is aligned to legislation where appropriate.

Australian Pork Limited is also about to commission a third party evaluation relating to the outsourcing management and administration of APIQ✓.

APIQ✓ is owned and governed by APL, with day to day management



by **DARRYL D'SOUZA PhD**
Research and Innovation
General Manager



and administration conducted by a small team called APIQ Management.

APIQM manages certification and re-certification processes, schedules and conducts routine reviews of APIQ✓, drafts policy and amendments to policy, engages stakeholder working groups to regularly review standards and performance indicators and implements revisions once amendments are approved by the APL Board.

APIQM manages auditor training activities and registrations and co-ordinates the work of the APIQ Panel; an independent panel of experts responsible for addressing issues that are outside the scope of APIQM and current policy.

The objective of this review is to:

- Identify and evaluate alternative external options for management and administration of APIQ✓;
- Identify the risks and benefits of external management and administration of APIQ✓;
- Compare these options to the existing internal and external systems and services provided by APIQM;
- Identify, analyse and compare systems for providing compliance auditing services;
- Outline baseline concepts for each option so that cost benefit analysis can be completed; and
- Provide recommendations on a suitable model for management, administration and provision of compliance auditing services for APIQ✓.

These recommendations will be considered by the APL Board.

Porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus North American update

The news around PED continues to go from bad to worse.

The number of positive cases continues to grow in North America, while a number of Latin American countries have also confirmed outbreaks.

Closer to home, Japan has recently confirmed a PED outbreak as well.

As expected, APL has been contacted by quite a number of supply chain partners in relation to what the Australian industry's efforts are for risk management of PEDv.

A list of frequently asked questions below has been compiled to answer queries associated with APL's activities around PEDv.

Is APL communicating with the Federal Government as regards PEDv? APL is in regular con-

tact with the Federal Department of Agriculture (previously called DAFF) via our Biosecurity Strategic Review Panel (chaired by Gardner Murray, ex-Australian chief veterinary officer), with representatives from Animal Health Australia (Duncan Rowland), APL, Australian Pig Vets (Chris Richards) and the DoA (Dr Jill Millan).

This group meets regularly, with the last meeting held late February 2014.

Discussions of PEDv dominated, and through the directives of the meeting a number of issues are being addressed.

APL has also met with the Australian chief veterinary officer Dr Mark Schipp.

Does the Federal Department of Agriculture have any planned actions?

Dr Mark Schipp would like to add PEDv to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement list.

APL has already started the process to do the risk analysis (an action required by the Federal Animal Health Committee).

Also, outcomes of risk review will be incorporated into an AUSVETPLAN for PEDv.

What measures has APL implemented to support industry's efforts as regards co-operating with the Federal Government?

APL has just commissioned a risk review into PEDv with Assoc Prof Eric Neumann from Massey University, New Zealand.

The Biosecurity Strategic Review Panel will also review the latest American Association of Swine Vets meeting papers provided by Dr Chris Richards.

Chris has indicated that discussions during this meeting reveal that PEDv in North America is behaving very differently to PEDv in Asia.

These findings will have implications for current biosecurity protocols and APL expects that the review will aid in tightening our biosecurity protocols.

What has APL done to inform industry?

PEDv has been widely discussed with industry via a range of channels.

APL's R&I team has also produced a producer

alert regarding PEDv.

This alert contains biosecurity recommendations for stock transporters and feed manufacturers.

At this stage we have Dr Chris Richards and Prof Eric Neumann providing us with field assessment, especially regarding what is happening in North America.

Has APL asked the producers of local plasma to outline what measures they are taking to prevent movement of disease via plasma here?

Feedworks has outlined its measures to industry via a newsletter.

Industry is probably more interested in imported feed ingredient products from markets where the disease is or has occurred, for example, parts of Asia.

Do we need to make any changes regarding our biosecurity protocols, particularly for vehicles?

Recommendations for biosecurity procedures for staff and visitors have been outlined in the producer alert and include:

1. Implement biosecurity for workers returning from international travel.

Consider implementing a down time of seven days for all workers that have travelled overseas to countries where PEDv has been reported.

2. Limit visitors to farms.

Maintain a visitor register that visitors have to sign indicating:

- They have showered and changed clothes since their last exposure to pigs;
- They have not returned from overseas travel (especially in countries where PEDv has been reported) within the last seven days; and
- Exactly where they were and on what dates they visited pigs.

Unnecessary visitors that will have contact with your pigs should be discouraged.

3. Follow other generally accepted biosecurity practices:

- Routinely clean clothing and footwear;
- Control entry to the farm;
- Implement a policy that does not permit staff to own or work with other pigs; and
- Keep non-farm vehicles outside of farm or at least their drivers inside their vehicles.

Stock transporters

Studies indicate that abattoirs or stock collection points have played a significant role in the spread of PEDv in the US.

A preliminary study conducted at six abattoirs that involved sample collection from stock trailers before and after un-

loading pigs showed that although 17.3 percent of trailers (with contamination rates varying between 2 and 70 percent) were contaminated before loading.

On average 11.4 percent of the trailers that were clean prior to unloading were contaminated after unloading.

The US pork industry has recommended a number of biosecurity procedures to try to reduce contamination of transport vehicles:

- Clean and disinfect pig stock trailers and trucks/prime movers after every movement of stock (sanitising and drying pig stock trailers is effective against PEDv);
- Use a 2 percent phenol-based disinfectant (phenols will work the best because they are the most active when there is some organic material present);
- Washing of trailers with clean water as opposed to recycled water has been shown to be more effective;
- Preliminary results suggest that it may be possible to inactivate PEDv in the presence of faeces by heating trailers to 72C for 10 minutes or by maintaining them at room temperature (20C) for at least seven days;
- Keeping trailers dry is the key to PEDv inactivation as the virus can survive in wet areas for at least 28 days; and
- All equipment, including sorting-boards and paddles need to be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and dried.

Biosecurity considerations – feed manufacturers

- Contaminated feed and/or feed ingredients have been suggested as possible causes for the outbreaks of PEDv in the US.
- Consider implementing a quarantine time of seven days for all imported goods and containers that have been imported from countries where PEDv is present.
- Feed samples from the first Canadian farm infected were PEDv positive.
- Although the heat generated through many processes used to prepare feed and various feed ingredients should inactivate the virus, the risk of cross contamination still exists.
- Biosecurity processes during feed manufacture should be re-examined to ensure the risk of re- or cross-contamination is significantly reduced.

For further information on any of the topics discussed in this column, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8804 or darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au

Table 1: February 1, 2014 industry uptake of APIQ✓

Category	APIQ✓ adoption
Sow herd coverage	89.1% of commercial sows
Sow site coverage	35% of commercial sites
Grower site coverage	84% of commercial sites
All sites coverage	22% of commercial sites

I ATTENDED the annual Midwest Animal Science meetings in Des Moines, Iowa, US on March 18 and 21 and I must say nothing had changed from last year – it was bitterly cold, the meals were large and I ate everything on the plate.

There was however, some interesting information presented at the meetings and conveyed by scientists and those attending from production businesses outside the meetings.

Power houses

Like ours, the US industry continues to change and the ownership of sows/production has certainly changed during the past 10 years.

The latter is evidenced in Table 1, which shows US sow ownership numbers in 2004 and 2013.

Big issue

The big issue at the meetings was the spread and impact of porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus.

As you're aware, PED is now widespread in the US and moving globally.

The disease initially caused nearly 100 percent piglet mortality and is something we can do without.

The problem at the moment is that veterinarians don't know how it entered the US or how it spreads.

They believe it came from China, but have no idea how.

They are checking all materials used in the industry sourced from China, of which there are a lot.



Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL
CEO



PED power

Veterinarians seemed much more concerned than producers, largely because PED is almost solely responsible for pork prices and lean pig futures reaching historical highs and those with pigs to sell will enjoy record margins in 2014 and maybe even 2015.

There have been various estimates regarding the impact of PED on pork supply in the US, but those producers I talked to, who know how their supply has been impacted, indicated that most previous estimates have been underestimates and the impact could be as high as 15 percent or more.

Globally, PED could seriously reduce the supply of pork in 2014-15.

PED is something we need to avoid, but the problem is we don't know how it is spreading.

Tech topics

I have briefly summarised the more interesting technical information presented at the meetings.

PCAI deposit

I was told that 30 percent of the US pork industry is using post cervi-

cal AI, meaning semen is deposited just beyond the cervix.

This technology has the potential to reduce sperm concentrations needed for successful reproduction, but in the short term its advantage is that it speeds up the AI process because semen can be squeezed into the reproductive tract rather than having to wait for it to be drawn in by the sow.

Catheters are available and seem to work.

Evidence that semen concentrations can be reduced by the technology was provided by researchers who reported on a study with 2000 sows.

They compared two AI methods (intra-cervical and post-cervical) and two semen dose volumes, 75ml (3 billion total sperm cells) and 40ml (1.6 billion total sperm cells).

There was no effect of treatment (AI method or sperm cells) on farrowing rate (90.5 percent), number live born (average -12.6) or any other measure of reproduction.

Single semen

There were also a number of papers on Ovugel and set time AI using only one semen dose.

As I've reported previously, reproduction didn't differ between the controls (detected in oestrus and mated every 24 hours until no longer exhibiting oestrus) and the set time AI treatment (sows mated 24 hours after Ovugel administration without oestrus detection and with a single dose of semen).

Pork CRC has similar results using other materials to synchronise ovulation, but combined we are finally seeing some real breakthroughs in AI, with technologies now available that reduce the need for specialised labour and the number of boars required.

Grouping gains

A number of papers at the meeting reported that sows housed in groups commencing 21 to 28 days after mating have more born alive and heavier birth weight piglets.

Canadian researchers compared the performance of sows housed in stalls throughout gestation with those mixed into groups 28 days after mating.

The group housed sows were kept in modified free access stalls in groups of 14 to 15.

Researchers reported group housed sows had

continued P4

Table 1: Top ranking US pork production businesses in 2004 and 2013					
Rank 2004	Company	Sows	Rank 2013	Company	Sows
1	Smithfield Foods	808,000	1	Smithfield Foods	868,000
2	Premium Standard Farms	225,000	2	Triumph Foods	381,000
3	Seaboard Foods	213,600	3	Seaboard Foods	217,000
4	Christensen Farms	144,000	4	The Maschoffs	208,000
5	Prestage Farms	130,000	5	Prestage Farms	170,000
6	Iowa Select Farms	130,000	6	Iowa Select Farms	160,000
7	Pipestone System	100,000	7	Pipestone System	160,000
8	Cargill	99,000	8	Cargill	155,000
9	Goldsboro Hog Farms	76,000	9	Carthage System	104,500
10	Hanor Company	73,500	10	AVMC	100,000
11	Tyson Foods	70,000	11	Goldsboro Hog Farms	90,000
12	The Maschoffs	52,500	12	Tyson Foods	60,000
13	AVMC	50,000	13	Hormel Foods	54,000
14	Progressive Swine Technologies	45,000	14	TriOak Foods	54,000
15	Nebraska Pork Partners	45,000	15	Pillen Family Farms	52,500
16	Hatfield Quality Meats	41,100	16	Hatfield Quality Meats	51,500
17	New Fashion Pork	37,500	17	Holden Farms	48,000
18	Wakefield Pork Inc	36,200	18	Wakefield Farms Inc	36,200
19	Whitestone Farms	31,000	19	Texas Farm	31,000
20	Hormel Foods	25,000	20	Schwartz Farms	32,500
Top 20 total		2,342,400	Top 20 total		3,044,700
% of US breeding herd		42%	% of US breeding herd		52%



Sow housing workshop presenter Prof Paul Hemsworth, leader Pork CRC Subprogram 1C, Management of sows in groups.



Dr Bernie Gleeson, Chris Richards & Associates, presented at the sow housing workshops.

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Reference: 1.Groth D, et al. Evaluation of the efficacy of M+Pac in one- and two-dose regimens against competitor one-dose *M. hyopneumoniae* bacterins. Allen D. Leman Swine Conference Recent Research Reports, 2001; 28 (suppl):41.

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Please apply by email initially to Dr Alan King a.k.ing@bigpond.com



Sow housing presenter Prof Paul Hughes, leader Pork CRC Project 1C-103, 'Optimising the management of group housed gestating sows'.



Workshop presenter Dr Ray King, leader Pork CRC Program 1, Reduced confinement of sows and piglets.

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It's all happening in the USA

from P3

significantly higher born alive (15 v 14.3) and significantly heavier piglets at birth (1.58 v 1.49kg).

In two other papers, researchers reported that parity 1 and parity 2 sows housed in groups from 21 days post-mating had higher born alive, higher piglet survival to weaning and lost less weight in lactation compared to sows housed in individual crates throughout gestation.

It was also reported indicators of stress (Cortisol – others) at day 50 and 108 of gestation were significantly lower in group housed sows.

The results may not directly apply to Australia, given we group sows at weaning or at five days after mating, but they suggest that providing

sows with more room and exercise has positive effects on born alive and lactation performance.

It'll be interesting to see what our producers say at the sow housing workshops in Toowoomba and Melbourne held on April 2 and 4.

Feed intake

A University of Minnesota experiment compared the performance of sows housed from mating to end of lactation in individual crates or in groups during gestation and the effect of four feeding levels, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 times maintenance (M), for seven-day periods beginning at days 28, 56, 84 and 98 of gestation.

During all other periods all sows were fed at 1.0M.

They found that sows housed in groups lost less

weight (15.7kg) in lactation than those in individual stalls during gestation (22.3kg).

They also found the feeding level didn't affect reproduction, but sows fed at 1.5 and 2.0M lost more weight (23.5kg) in lactation than those fed at 0.5M (11.7kg) or 1.0M (15.6kg).

Bottom line: there is little value in increasing the feed intake of gestating sows after day 28 post-mating, but even short periods of higher feeding can adversely affect sow weight loss in lactation.

It also appears that housing sows in groups during gestation has positive effects on reducing sow weight loss in lactation.

Unfortunately, the researchers did not measure or report the subsequent

reproductive performance of the sows used in the study.

Housing funding

The US National Pork Board seems to be funding more R&D on group housing sows during gestation, so change may be seen as inevitable, but luckily for us they are sticking to grouping after pregnancy is confirmed.

There is also plenty of excellent R&D in the area being conducted by the Canadians.

I will review the interesting outcomes from the meeting and provide a summary in the near future.

If there is any additional information you want on the matters raised, please let me know via email at Roger.Campbell@porkcrc.com.au

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Naturally ahead



APL embarks on three-year performance review

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has commissioned ACIL Allen Consulting to undertake an independent review of its performance over the past three years.

This review is required under the Statutory Funding Agreement between APL and the Commonwealth Government.

The intent of this performance review is to assess APL's efficiency and effectiveness, including accountability and transparency with government, levy payers and industry stakeholders.

It will also assess APL's responsiveness to the government's research and development priorities, meeting its SFA obligations, implementing its plans and the wider public good benefits of its activities.

This review is being conducted between March 1 and June 9, 2014.

Stakeholder involvement, particularly that



of APL members and non-member producers, is important to the success of this independent review.

ACIL Allen Consulting will be facilitating eight telephone-based focus groups, which APL members and non-member producers are invited to participate in.

The focus groups will be held for delegates and other members and non-members at the following times (all are Australian Eastern Daylight Time):

- Delegate members:
- Wednesday, March 19 – 10am
 - Thursday, March 27 – 2pm
 - Friday, March 28 – 10am.

Other members and non-members:

- Wednesday, March 19 – 2pm
- Thursday, March 27 – 10am
- Friday, March 28 – 2pm
- Tuesday, April 1 – 10am
- Tuesday, April 1 – 2pm.

Each telephone focus group will last about one hour and participation is free.

There is no travel required and producers will telephone in through a free-call facility.

If you would like to register to participate in a focus group, please send an email to porkreview@acilallen.com.au or phone Dr Alex Gash on 02 6103 8200.

You will need to provide your name, email, contact number and interest (APL member, delegate, non-member producer or other).

The number of participants in each focus group is limited, so please indicate at least two suitable times.



Forward Thinking: Creating Opportunities

21-22 May 2014

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre
Broadbeach QLD

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Information sessions for industry and producers

Wednesday 21 May 2014

9.00am – 12.00pm	Registration & exhibition hall open
12.00pm – 12.45pm	Lunch
12.45pm – 12.55pm	Chairman's welcome & official opening
12.55pm – 2.25pm	Plenary Session 1
	Topic 1: Where is Human Nutrition Heading and What Does it Mean for Meat Eating? – Prof Neil Mann, RMIT University
	Human Food Waste – Why We Must Use It – Prof Rob van Barneveld, Barneveld Nutrition
2.25pm – 3.10pm	Afternoon tea
3.10pm – 5.00pm	Plenary Session 2
	Australian Pork Future Challenges and Opportunities: A Small Producer's Story – Tim Kingma, Gunpork Joint Venture
	Australian Pork Future Challenges and Opportunities: A Large Producer's Story – Kenton Shaw, Rivalea Australia
5.00pm	Close
5.00pm – 8.00pm	Industry Cocktail Party

These sessions will cover:

- The future for pork production in Australia
- Human evolution, diet and the big role animal foods play in our development
- Utilising food waste to reduce costs and biosecurity risk
- Challenges and potential opportunities for Australian pork in local and international markets.

Limited sponsorship packages and exhibition trade booths remaining

Attendance assistance packages available for Australian Pork Limited members

To register or for more information please visit <http://australianpork.com.au/about-us/calendar-of-events/pan-pacific-pork-expo/>

Thursday 22 May 2014

8.30am – 9.30am	Exhibition hall open		
9.30am – 10.50am	Topic 1	Topic 2	Workshop
10.50am – 11.40am	Morning tea		
11.40am – 1.00pm	Topic 2	Topic 3	Workshop
1.00pm – 2.10pm	Lunch		
2.10pm – 3.30pm	Topic 3	Topic 1	Workshop
3.30pm – 5.30pm	Happy Two Hours		

Topic 1 – Sow Housing

- Prof Paul Hemsworth, University of Melbourne
- Prof Paul Hughes, SARDI
- Dr Roger Campbell, Pork CRC

Topic 2 – Enhancing Eating Quality of Pork

- Dr Darryl D'Souza, Australian Pork Limited
- Heather Channon, Australian Pork Limited
- Prof Frank Dunshea, University of Melbourne
- Peter Haydon, Australian Pork Limited

Topic 3 – Making More from Manure

- Dr Rob Wilson, Rob Wilson Consulting
- Dr Stephen Tait, University of Queensland
- Janine Price, Australian Pork Limited
- Dr Damien Batsone, University of Queensland

Workshop – Elanco Animal Health Workshop

- Facilitated by Chris Richards and Associates

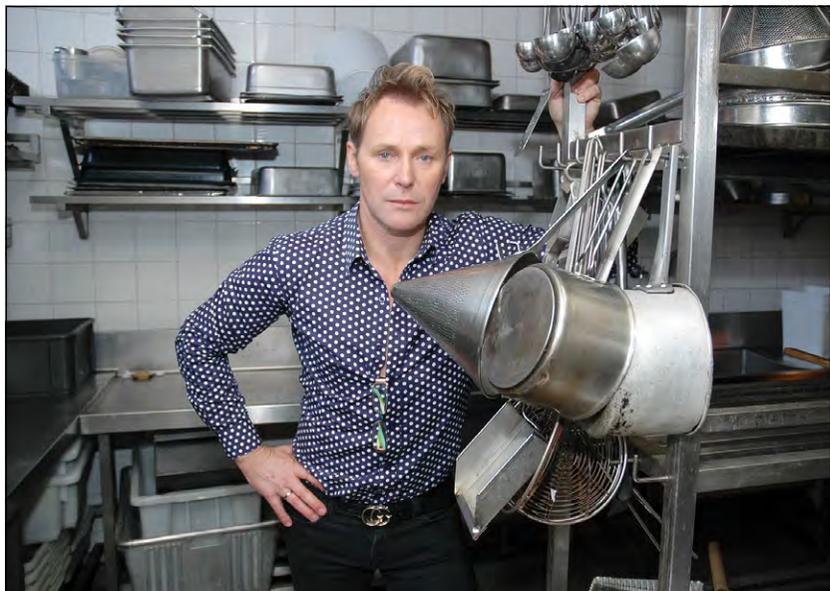
These sessions will cover:

- Research outcomes and topics with directly applicable take home messages
- Current and future approaches to sow housing in Australia and overseas
- Eating quality pathways and the differentiation strategy to deliver to market
- Addressing environmental challenges, driving sustainability and realising new opportunities.

Thank you to the PPPE 2014 Sponsors



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Banging the pork pans and the drum for pork is a job and a passion for APL's Mitch Edwards. He's deadly serious about putting more pork on people's plates.

Pork meeting markets while welfare wings flapping

WITH eager eagles circling the pig industry, all watching out for a supposed sign of welfare weakness before they swoop and carry their prey (the meat industry) off into the distance, it might just be the prime time to actively advocate plating plenty of pork, as I note the weak Meat Free Week (March 24-30) has passed with barely a whimper.

Pork CRC and for that

matter APL, as APN's pork producer readers well know, take a positively big picture view of pork production.

And rightly so. Pork CRC, for example, has four programs, which collectively encompass all that needs to be fairly and squarely considered when it comes to producing high integrity Australian pork in production environments that embrace all that high integrity represents.

For those who may need reminding, the four research programs of the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork are: Reduced confinement of sows and piglets; Herd health management; Healthy pork consumption; and Carbon-conscious nutrient inputs and outputs.

In Pork CRC Program 3 (Healthy pork consumption) clear evidence is emerging of the potentially positive health benefits of eating pork, all of course within a balanced diet regime and appropriate lifestyle habits (the same of which must be said of vegetarian and vegan diets too, which if not delicately and carefully balanced are likely to negatively impact on health).

Rather than me bang on about why pork is worth putting on your plate, take a moment to digest the views of three highly credentialed Pork CRC supported researchers.

Dr Karen Murphy, senior research fellow, School of Health Sciences, University of South Australia

"Lean pork is a rich source of protein, vitamins and minerals and recent research funded by the Pork CRC has shown that lean pork may provide cardiovascular and metabolic health benefits.



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

Overall, processed pork such as ham and bacon was the most frequently consumed type of pork – there is an important opportunity to encourage intakes of fresh pork within Australian children."

Assoc Prof Karen Charlton, School of Medicine, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health, University of Wollongong, NSW

"Let's face it, we all want to reduce our food intake to better meet our energy requirements.

There is some evidence that higher protein diets may be beneficial in satisfying appetite, enabling us to eat less.

In a Pork CRC funded project, researchers at the University of Wollongong investigated the effects of three different meat-containing breakfast meals (pork, beef and chicken) on acute feelings of satiety (feelings of fullness) and appetite hormones.

Thirty women attended a research centre on three test days to consume in random order one of three meat-containing meals that were identical in energy (kJ), protein content, palatability and appearance.

No difference was found between meat groups for either energy intake or macronutrient profile of food consumed at a subsequent 'ad lib' buffet lunch, or over the rest of the day.

Women did not differ in their ratings for hunger and satiety over a three-hour period after each of the breakfast meals.

The pork meal resulted in a greater secretion of a gut hormone that results in increased feelings of fullness.

This study positioned pork as similar to beef and chicken in its ability to satisfy hunger, thereby dispelling myths that red meat is more filling."

Two significant studies have shown that (1) regular pork is no different to lean beef or chicken in terms of its effect on body composition and (2) regular lean pork consumption as part of your diet may improve body composition through a loss of body fat without promoting any detrimental effects of CV risk factors."

Dr Deborah Nolan-Clark, director, Landmark Nutrition Pty Ltd

"In a recent survey of the eating habits of Australian children, those who reported eating pork were more likely to meet their nutritional requirements for protein, calcium, iron, thiamine, riboflavin, phosphorous, zinc and iodine than children who did not eat pork.

Despite finding that children who ate pork had a greater energy and fat intake than children who did not eat pork, there was no difference in the prevalence of overweight/obesity between children who ate pork and those that did not.

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Danish pig producers sign up for welfare plan

DANISH agriculture minister Dan Jorgensen has agreed to new pig welfare targets with producers, vets and animal welfare campaigners.

Some of the targets include:

- Improving survival rates among piglets;
- Encouraging uptake of free-farrowing systems for sows – at least 10 percent of sows by 2020;
- Finding alternatives to

castration without anaesthetic by 2018 latest;

- Reducing numbers of tail-docked piglets; and
- Lowering incidence of stomach ulcers in both sows and finishing pigs.

In addition, a project for new housing design will focus on welfare considerations, and the meat industry and retail trade will provide consumers with a greater choice of higher welfare products.

May 21-22



Online registration now open.

www.australianpork.com.au

Timing is everything

SINCE 2011, Australian Pork Limited has conducted a particular marketing activity in April.

The goal of this is to drive more sales at this time of year.

We all know that as we enter the cooler months, growth rates increase.

This comes, in the southern states at least, in a month when there are usually three processing days lost to public holidays.

Every year we try to learn from the year before.

So far we have learnt that the support of the supply chains is important.

The inclusion of all major sales channels is important and the amount of advertising and public relations is less important for short-term sales.

Our performance in volume sales over the last three years is shown in the graph.

Every year, sales have been higher than the last non-promoted April in 2010.

April 2013 was particularly pleasing.

The combination of cost management and additional sales meant that for the first time the April activity had a positive return to producers in autumn.

In 2012, we had the highest consumer awareness of our activity and yet lower sales.

If advertising works,

Online registration open for 2014 Pan Pacific Pork Expo

JOIN Australian Pork Limited at the 2014 Pan Pacific Pork Expo being held on Wednesday, May 21 and Thursday, May 22 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach, Queensland.

This year's theme is Forward Thinking: Creating Opportunities.

PPPE is a biennial event that combines a pork industry trade show and exhibition with information sessions supported by Australian Pork Ltd and Pork CRC Ltd to showcase and encourage Australian producers to discuss, debate and where suitable adopt new technologies and innovations.

Since its inception in 1998, the event has continued to grow, attracting both domestic and international participants.

Attending PPPE provides valuable opportunities to network with fellow producers and suppliers.

It also delivers a wonderful forum to gain further information around major industry issues, either at the Expo of Technologies trade fair or at the wide range of Uptake presentations by key speakers on topical issues, trials and world trends.

These presentations will include scientific research data and trials from Australia and around the world, the Pork CRC Ltd and APL Research and Innovation Division.

All the key decision

www.porknews.com.au



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



why would this be?

The answer is that consumers buy meat according to habit and habits take time to change.

So, if we look at pork or mince consumption over the long term we can see consistent growth in demand over time, yet if we just look at one four-week period we cannot correlate advertising with sales.

April 2014 will be supported with a similar plan to 2013 with one difference.

In the months of February to December 2013, APL ran mince advertising.

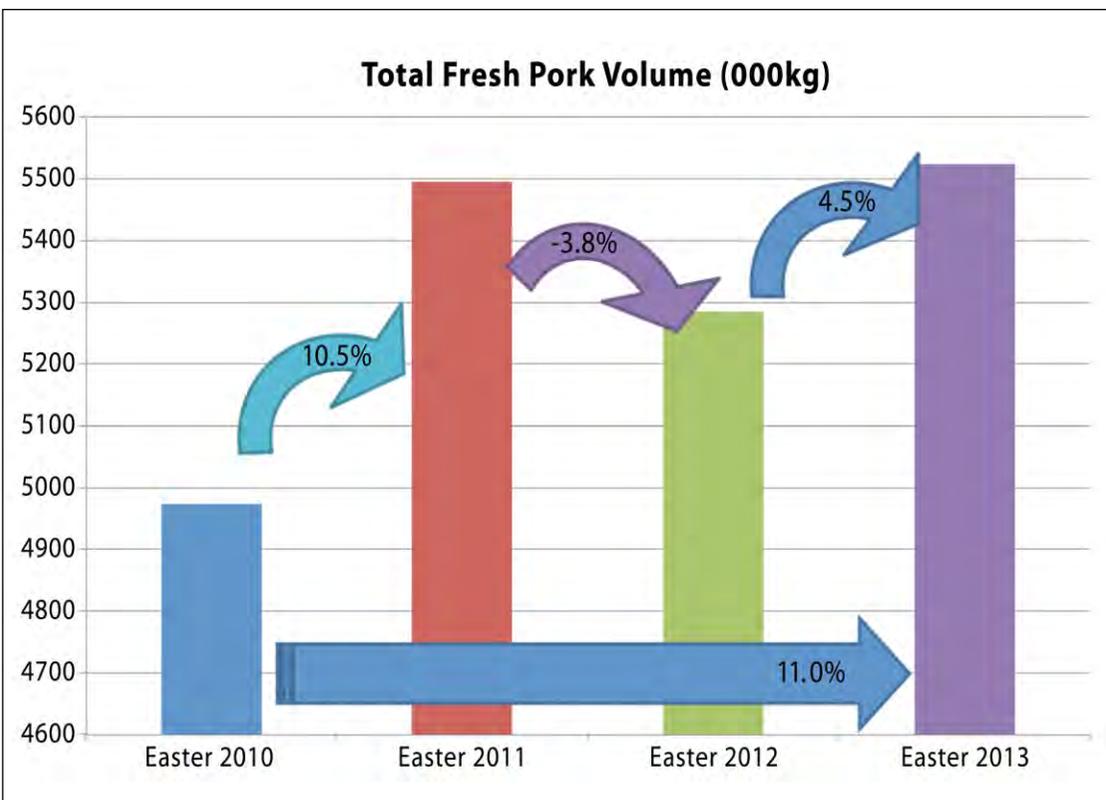
While the sales trend on mince is pleasing, we ran the advertising at lower levels than normal to make sure consumers didn't get annoyed by seeing the ad too often.

This has enabled the new health advertising to run almost twice as often for the period from early January to April.

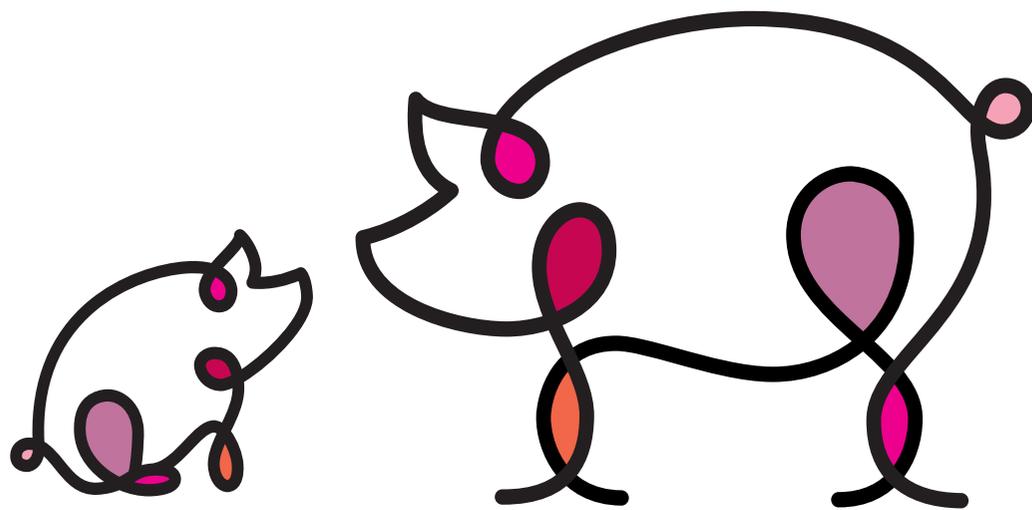
We hope that in addition to influencing consumers to think of pork fillets as healthy, this approach will further improve the return to producers during the April period.

The die is cast, now we will have to wait until we can measure the results.

Until then, we wish you all a happy Easter. 🐷



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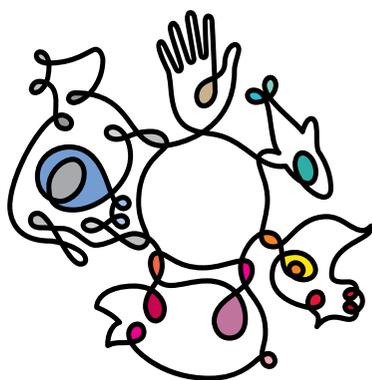
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Queensland pork industry takes part in FMD exercise

PORK Queensland Inc. and Swickers pork abattoir in Kingaroy are participating in Exercise Odysseus, a national livestock standstill exercise that will assess government and industry plans and procedures for implementing a national livestock standstill in response to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

Exercise Odysseus is a nationally coordinated series of discussion exercises and field activities that will be conducted in Australian states and territories throughout 2014.

The exercise will result in a better state of preparedness for the livestock industry including



pork
QUEENSLAND INC.

President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD

Queensland's pork industry, in the case of a FMD event.

FMD is quite possibly the most serious emergent animal disease that could affect Australia.

An outbreak of FMD has the potential for significant negative social and economic impacts.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Re-

source Economics and Sciences has estimated that revenue losses of between \$5.6 and \$5.9 billion (in present value terms) would be expected over 10 years for a small FMD outbreak in Queensland.

In the event of a large multistate FMD outbreak, ABARES estimates revenue losses of between

\$49.3 billion and \$51.8 billion (in present value terms) over 10 years.

Findings suggest that the socioeconomic impacts resulting from trade restrictions and disease control efforts can be reduced by minimising the time disease control measures are in place.

In the case of FMD, an effective disease control campaign begins with the implementation of a livestock standstill.

A livestock standstill is a disease control mechanism used to help control the spread of FMD by limiting movements of susceptible livestock.

The aim is to declare a standstill at the start of an

emergency response with the aim of stopping new movements of animals that might contribute to the spread of the disease, as well as allowing risk-based movements of animals in transit.

Several years ago Queensland had a Standstill Zone Management Group that provided policy and operational advice, which allowed Queensland to develop a Livestock Standstill Management Plan.

While elements of the plan are still appropriate, some aspects have been identified as being in need of review and updating.

A desired outcome of the Queensland component of

Exercise Odysseus is an updated and contemporary Queensland-focused Livestock Standstill Management Plan that clearly articulates an agreed livestock standstill policy.

To facilitate improvements to the plan, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has scheduled six activities to review and/or develop policies to enable a more effective livestock standstill.

Representatives from government, non-government organisations and industry groups that would be affected by a standstill are involved in the six activities.

These include transporters, saleyard operators, abattoir representatives, livestock producers, law enforcement, peak industry bodies, local governments, treasury and private veterinarians.

The focus will be on multi-agency and multi-industry coordination of the implementation and administration of a standstill across Queensland, while contributing to the concurrent implementation of the national standstill.

The first activity was a comprehensive review of previous exercises, the Queensland Livestock Standstill Management Plan and the AUSVETPLAN foot and mouth disease strategy, to determine policy areas requiring attention.

The second activity was used to familiarise stakeholders with a livestock

standstill and assess current arrangements with a view to exploring areas where policy can be improved.

Exercise participants were briefed on disease aspects of FMD, control measures and national policy.

Participants were divided into groups with similar interests and asked to discuss any issues that might need to be addressed throughout the exercise.

The third activity focused on financing a livestock standstill and the costs that may be incurred, as well as triggers for declaring, extending and revoking a livestock standstill.

In the next two activities, topics to be discussed include:

- Management of livestock in transit (examine movement controls)
- Legal implications (determine appropriate legal authorities of participating agencies)
- Communications (strategies, plans, messages, implementation).

The last activity (activity six) will be a discussion that will aim to confirm and ground truth policy discussions and outcomes from previous activities.

By being involved in Exercise Odysseus and with the use of trained Industry Liaison Officers, PQI can be more effective in assisting government and industry to deal with any FMD incident that may occur.



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NFF wants beneficial FTA for Australia

WITH discussions on the Australia-Japan Free Trade Agreement negotiations looking as though they will soon conclude, the National Farmers' Federation remains adamant that the agreement must deliver good outcomes for all Australian farmers and agribusinesses.

NFF and members recently met with Japan's political trade representative, Koya Nishikawa, who led a trade delegation in Canberra.

NFF president Brent Finlay conveyed a clear message that Australian agriculture would only accept a trade agreement that was beneficial for the entire sector.

"Our members are concerned that there will be potential carve-outs for certain commodities," Mr Finlay said.

"If it's not likely to be a good deal for all, it will not be supported by the industry.

"The tariff regime remains a significant point of conjecture within this agreement.

"All sectors — pork, beef, lamb, dairy, wool, cotton, sugar, grains, horticulture and rice — must get improved market access.

"If the government is serious about agriculture being a pillar of the Australian economy, there

needs to be a genuine commitment to deliver commercial results for our sector with trade deals."

Mr Nishikawa also met with Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb.

There is speculation an initial agreement will be struck when Prime Minister Tony Abbott meets his Japanese counterpart in Tokyo this month.

It is likely the agreement will be finalised later in the year, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits Australia.

Mr Finlay said, "We urge Minister Robb and government officials to stand up on behalf of the Australian industry and not give in to a poor deal that could set a precedent and compromise our farm and agribusiness sectors."

"The rhetoric has to stop.

"The NFF has been clear from the beginning, farmers' expectations are high and if results are not in line with the government's promise to be 'open for business', the agreement can't be supported.

"There is too much at stake.

"Too much time and too many resources have gone into these negotiations for it to result in a second-rate agreement.

"Farmers will not wear that."

America's love of pork continues to burn strong

RESULTS of a new consumer tracking study released by the Pork Checkoff found more American consumers are reporting an enduring love for pork.

Key research findings show more US consumers rate their enjoyment of pork higher than in previous studies.

Additionally, consumer buying habits measured by the US Department of Agriculture indicate more consumers are buying pork.

David Newman, Pork Checkoff domestic marketing committee chair said people are becoming more passionate about their consumption of pork.

"These two studies confirm that consumers are eating more in recipes and as a menu item because of its value, flavour and versatility."

Consumers taking part in the Pork Checkoff study were asked to rate pork cuts on a 10-point scale, resulting in a demonstrated increase in the volume of consumers who rank pork as an eight or higher.

This tracking study indicates the size of the Pork

Checkoff's consumer target has grown to 43 percent of US households, up seven points from 36 percent in May 2013, the last time the survey was fielded.

In 2010, the consumer target was just 27 percent of US households.

Growth in the target size is attributed to people both rating pork cuts higher and their confidence in cooking meat.

"We look at how much people enjoy pork and, through that experience, label consumers who love pork as pork champions," Mr Newman said.

"We have found a marked increase in the number of pork champions, with these consumers consistently rating pork higher."

The study also found that a majority of all fresh pork eaten – 84 percent at home and 80 percent away from home – is consumed by a Pork Checkoff target consumer.

The total percentage of pork eaten by these target consumers has grown significantly since the Pork Be Inspired campaign was introduced in 2011.

"We are beginning to see the impact of our

new marketing campaign, and we feel it is making a distinct difference in the marketplace and how American consumers view and buy pork," Mr Newman said.

"Across the board, consumers are buying more pork from stores and foodservice outlets."

The tracking study results are further reinforced by the Pork Checkoff's key measure of domestic marketing; real per capita consumer pork expenditures.

Using USDA data, consumer pork expenditures measure both the volume (in pounds) and value (in dollars) of pork sold in the US.

Data through December 2013 showed per capita pork expenditures grew by 5.6 percent from 2012 to 2013.

The consumer tracking study also asked pork eaters: Other than price, what most influences your meat-purchasing decisions?

The top three drivers of meat purchases are quality (63 percent), followed by appearance (50 percent) and convenience (32 percent).

The nationally fielded tracking study is conducted by the Pork Checkoff twice each calendar year and most recently in November 2013.

Respondents are representative of the US population for gender, age, ethnicity and income.

Pauline Mooney joins Pork CRC Board

PAULINE Mooney, executive director of the South Australian Research and Development Institute has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork.

Affiliate Prof Mooney replaces Simon Maddocks on the board, after Prof Maddocks resigned to accept a position as Vice-Chancellor at Charles Darwin University in the Northern Territory.

The Pork CRC Board comprises Dennis Mutton (chairman), Kathryn Adams, Sandra Di Blasio, Rod Hamann, Prof Pauline Mooney, Prof John Pluske, Kenton Shaw, Andrew Spencer, Chris Trengrove, Prof Robert van Barneveld and Dr Hugh Wirth.

The four research programs of the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork are:

1. Reduced confinement of sows and piglets;
2. Herd health management;
3. Healthy pork consumption; and
4. Carbon-conscious nutrient inputs and outputs.

Announcing the appointment, Pork CRC chairman Dennis Mutton welcomed Prof Mooney and paid tribute to the contribution of Prof Maddocks.

Mr Mutton said Simon not only represented SARDI, regarded as one

of the Pork CRC's most significant participants, but also contributed in his own right as a scientist and an administrator with substantial experience on the boards of CRC's.

"Pauline brings similar outstanding scientific and management rigour to the Pork CRC Board and we look forward to her contributions as we move deep into our second term," he said.

Despite 29 years in science, business and financial leadership, including extensive experience in strategy planning, research and project management for primary industries research across terrestrial, marine, livestock and food sectors, Prof Mooney admits to never having worked directly in the pig or pork industry.

"Although the drivers and science behind the Pork CRC's programs will be new to me, my research interests have always been eclectic, so the opportunities the industry has before it and the associated challenges certainly have sparked my interest," Prof Mooney said.

"I look forward to working with Pork CRC's Board of Directors, its highly motivated executive management team, fellow participants and research providers to address such topical issues

as animal welfare, pig health, meat quality and the environment."

Prof Mooney has broad knowledge across a range of science programs and related research activities, including breeding superior plants and developing sustainable production systems through novel processing techniques, post-harvest handling and storage systems, evaluating consumer preferences and natural resource management.

She holds a PhD (University of Sydney), MSc cum laude (University of Natal), BSc Hons cum laude (University of Natal), BSc (University

of Natal) and is an Affiliate Professor in the School of Agriculture Food and Wine at University of Adelaide.

A graduate and member of Australian Institute of Company Directors, Prof Mooney has extensive governance and corporate leadership experience, including 11 years as director on a range of boards and as a member of a number of committees.

She is currently a board member of Australian Grain Technologies and Australian Seafood CRC and a member and current chair of the AW Howard Memorial Trust.



Affiliate Prof Pauline Mooney, executive director of the South Australian Research and Development Institute, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork.

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Healthy interest in piglet guts

BETHANY Bowring received a Pork CRC Honours scholarship to study bacterial populations associated with piglet gut health in 2013, having completed her Bachelor of Science (Advanced Science) at the University of Western Sydney, graduating with distinction in 2012.

Based at the NSW Department of Primary Industries Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute on the outskirts of Sydney, Bethany developed four different molecular assays to measure the numbers of beneficial and detrimental bacteria commonly found in piglet intestines.

These assays were used to investigate relationships between groups of bacteria and scouring in piglets.

Assay aim

The ultimate aim of her research is to develop a gut health assay for producers to evaluate diets and management practices to control scouring.

The project is part of a bigger project funded by the Pork CRC to identify



Bethany Bowring

'Assays to measure gut health in order to identify risk factors and control strategies for *E. coli* scours in weaner pigs'



Bethany Bowring: Pork CRC Honours graduate, University of Western Sydney

Supervisors: Dr Alison Collins, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute and Dr Ming Wu, University of Western Sydney

risk factors for scouring and alternatives to antibiotics for prevention and control of scouring.

Following on from her earlier work, Bethany continues to investigate the impact of scouring on total numbers of bacteria and their diversity, working part time as a technical officer at EMAI.

Scouring options

The pig intestine contains an enormous number of bacteria (10^{14} or 100 million million) that are mostly beneficial to the pig, such as Lactobacilli.

They help digest nutrients and prevent infection by detrimental bacteria.

Sometimes however, these detrimental bacteria invade the gut and increase in number to cause disease.

Scouring, caused by bacteria such as *E. coli* and Clostridia, is most common in the first two weeks of life and after weaning.

At this time, piglet immune systems are not fully developed and piglets are adjusting to the stress of weaning and diet changes.

Alterations in the balance of beneficial to detrimental bacteria within the gastrointestinal tract may contribute to scouring.

Left untreated, scouring incurs a significant cost to producers by reducing piglet growth and increasing mortality.

Treatments including vaccination and antibiotics add to the cost of disease.

However, some bacteria have developed resistance to the antibiotics used to control scouring, making them less effective.

Many producers are keen to investigate alternatives to antibiotics to control scouring, including acidifiers in water and low protein diets.

These management strategies may be evaluated by measuring the balance of beneficial and detrimental bacteria within the intestine.

CRC project

Dung samples from scouring and healthy piglets (before and after weaning) were submitted from seven different farms across Australia, along with information about antibiotic use.

The number of beneficial (Lactobacilli) and detrimental bacteria (*E. coli* and Clostridia) were measured in each of the 121 samples.

It was expected to see higher numbers of detrimental bacteria in scouring pigs and higher numbers of beneficial bacteria in healthy pigs.

However, these were not the results found, possibly because the numbers of beneficial and detrimental bacteria are not the same in dung and the intestine.

It was found that the number of *E. coli* in the gut did not correlate with the numbers found in dung from the same pig.

However, Lactobacilli numbers in the gut did correlate with numbers in faeces.

The complexity of the bacterial populations in the intestine may also have contributed to these unexpected results.

Routine destruction

The project was also able to investigate the influence of antibiotics on bacterial numbers.

Pigs fed with antibiotics had fewer Lactobacilli than non-medicated pigs.

However, *E. coli* numbers in faeces were not significantly affected, suggesting that routine use of antibiotics may exacerbate scouring by destroying the beneficial bacteria instead of the bacteria causing scouring.

Industry impacts

Work is continuing to better understand which bacteria are important in gut health, including the impact of scouring on total number and diversity of bacteria.

An assay that can measure the balance of beneficial and detrimental bacteria in scouring pigs could be used to evaluate risk factors and management tools.

It is also hoped that the gut health assay will be a useful tool for producers wanting to monitor the impact of dietary changes aimed at preventing scouring, and treatment alternatives to antibiotics.

Better control of scouring would reduce production losses and mortality and ultimately improve profitability.

Finding alternatives to antibiotics to control scouring will alleviate consumer concern about drug resistant bacteria.

For more information, contact Bethany Bowring via email at bethany.bowring@dpi.nsw.gov.au

NZ pork industry pushes for country of origin labelling

NZPORK CEO Owen Symmans recently told the Primary Production Select Committee that New Zealand consumers want to know where their food comes from and NZPork believes they have a right to that information.

"Many New Zealanders believe that as a food producing country the food they buy is grown here," Mr Symmans said.

"They want to support local produce.

"Most will be surprised this is not actually the case; 49 percent of the pork and pork products consumed here is imported, for example.

"Our research tells us people generally believe the bacon, ham or pork they are buying is local. "And often the labelling, while legal, is misleading."

Mr Symmans said with some products such as ham and bacon, the only 'kiwi' components might be the water or the Manuka smoke used during processing.

"The major ingredient – the meat – is imported from somewhere else such as Mexico or Canada."

Mr Symmans said despite being a signatory to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Agreement, New Zealand has not adopted the same approach to labelling as its partner.

Australia requires country of origin labelling for fresh products (single ingredient product).

"NZPork has recommended to the Primary Production Select Committee hearing submissions on the Food Bill that COOL labelling requirements be introduced for single ingredient products under the FSANZ standard," he said.

"We should not continue to opt out of our responsibility to ensure consumers can make an informed decision about the food they are buying."

Mr Symmans said that rules also need to be amended so that the country of origin of the main ingredient of a processed (multiple ingredient) product is identified in a clear and obvious manner.

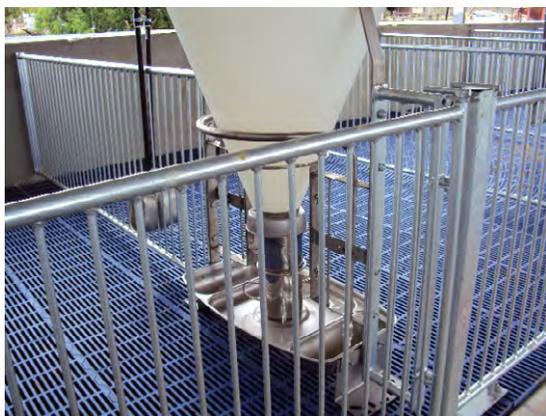
"New Zealanders have a right to know and be able to then make an informed decision when buying their food."

The Primary Production Select Committee is hearing submissions on the Food Bill, which is expected to be reported back to parliament this year.

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Pork CRC project leader profile

- Pork CRC Project 2C-102: 'Strategies to quantitatively measure and reduce the load of Lawsonia in commercial herds'
- Pork CRC Project 2A-109: 'Assays to measure gut health in order to identify risk factors and control strategies for *E. coli* scours in weaner pigs'

FINDING alternatives to antibiotics for the control of common pig diseases has been the focus of eight years of Pork CRC research by Alison Collins and her colleagues at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Alison has worked closely with veterinarians servicing pork producers and pharmaceutical and feed additive companies to find alternatives to antibiotics for the control of pig intestinal diseases.

After training as an agricultural scientist at La Trobe University, Alison worked in vaccine development at CSIRO, then in pig health a few years later, working at the Bendigo veterinary laboratory, before commencing a PhD at the University of Sydney with Prof Robert Love.

"Working with Bob was a highlight of my career, because he provided an exciting environment where questions and new ideas were encouraged and the research was directly related to pig industry needs," Alison said.

"I've tried to create and encourage a similar research environment for my own students since then."

Production limiting

Alison's research has primarily focused on controlling the production limiting disease ileitis, which remains one of the main reasons for antibiotic use in grower and finisher pigs in Australia.

A common and significant disease, ileitis results in reduced profitability due to increased medication costs, reduced feed conversion efficiency, reduced average daily gain and an increase in days to slaughter.

In collaboration with the University of Sydney and

Boehringer Ingelheim, Alison and her team used a CT scanner and production data to quantify the cost of ileitis in Australian herds.

Based on a scenario where 80 percent of pigs were sub-clinically affected in a herd (found in a 2010 Australian survey), net revenue was reduced by \$8.33 a pig (AUSPIG modelling).

CRC research

Alison's Pork CRC funded research has also focused on developing management strategies to reduce the survival and transmission of *Lawsonia intracellularis*, the bacterium that causes ileitis.

Cleaning and disinfecting pens is critical in reducing the bacterial load in the piggery and therefore reducing disease severity because *Lawsonia* can survive in empty pig pens for at least two weeks.

Preventing ileitis also relies on rodent control around piggeries, as rats trapped on pig farms excrete very large numbers of *Lawsonia*.

Alison's recent research is developing a cost-effective tool for producers and veterinarians to evaluate their ileitis control treatments and help avoid the associated losses in profitability caused by ileitis.

A quantitative assay was developed to measure the number of *Lawsonia* bacteria shed in pig faeces.

In experimental studies, *Lawsonia* numbers were strongly associated with other measures of ileitis, including reduced growth and damage to the intestine.

This quantitative test has since been modified to accurately quantify bacterial numbers in pooled faecal samples, as this will be a more cost effective way to monitor ileitis on farm.

Support team

Support from Australian pork producers has recently enabled the team to quantify the impact of high and low numbers of *Lawsonia* bacteria on ADG and FCE over a wide range of commercial production conditions.

Stephen Heavener, graduate trainee with NSW DPI, has been working with Alison and the research team at Rivalea to identify the critical number of *Lawsonia* that cause production losses on commercial farms by correlating production measures with bacterial numbers.

Stephen's analysis shows

Lawsonia numbers correlate well with average daily gain when pigs are affected with ileitis.

The relationship is not as strong when ileitis is being well managed.

Producer benefits

So, how will this research benefit producers and their costs of production?

According to Alison, this study will show producers that once the number of *Lawsonia* exceeds a certain threshold, pig growth will be compromised and treatments are needed to control disease.

For example, we already know from experimental

studies that pigs lose 131g a day when *Lawsonia* numbers increase from 10 million to 100 million.

If severe infection lasts for seven days, that equates to nearly 1kg of lost weight per pig, with greater consequences caused by more severe or prolonged infection.

Pork CRC is hoping to have the new quantitative *Lawsonia* test available to pork producers and veterinarians later this year.

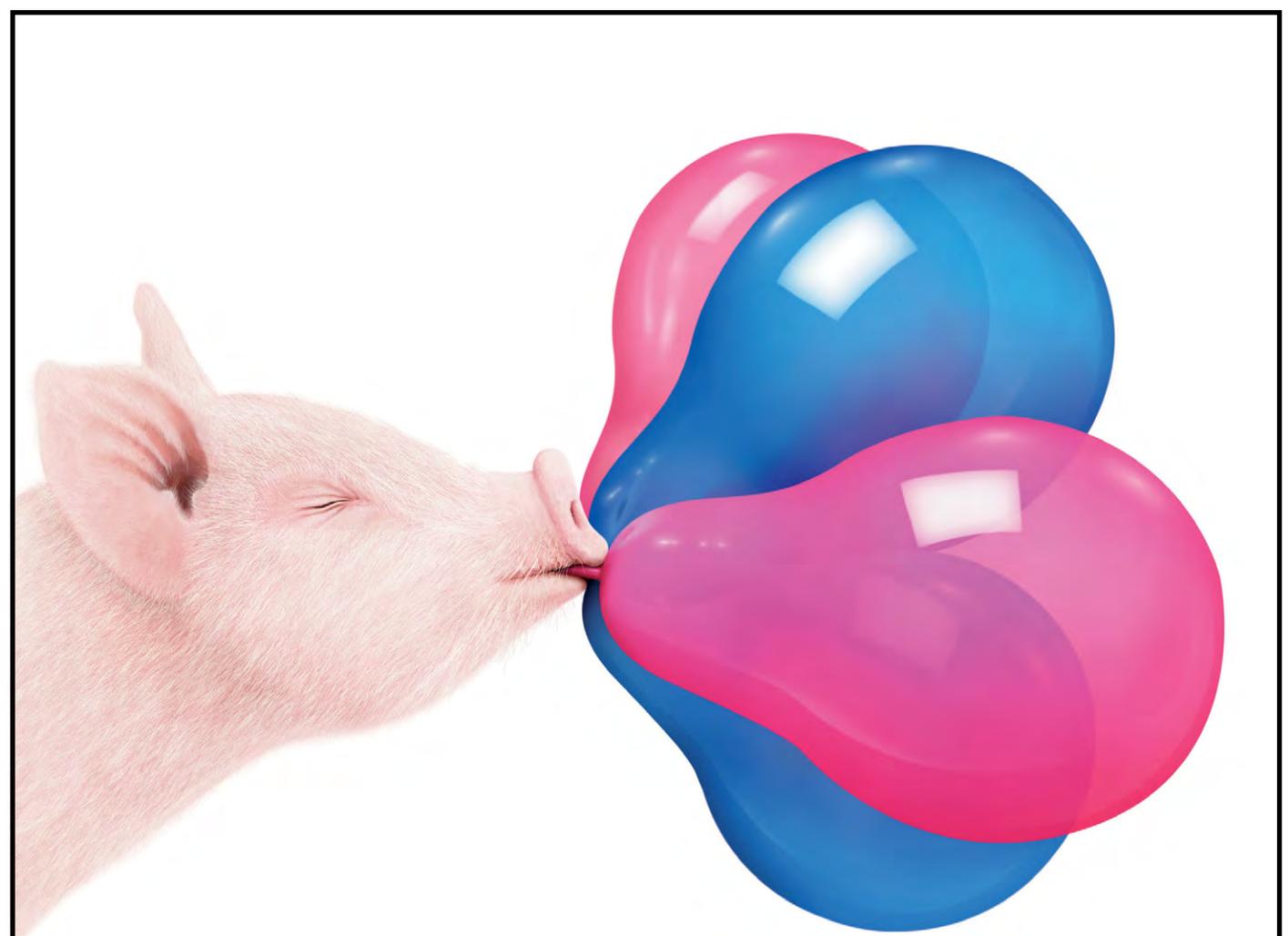
Questions regarding this research should be directed to Alison Collins at alison.collins@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Dr Alison Collins



Stephen Heavener, graduate trainee with NSW DPI, has been working with Alison Collins and the research team at Rivalea to identify the critical number of *Lawsonia* that cause production losses.



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Not the full hog

A PIG leg was caught in a recent biosecurity poke when its importer didn't check the biosecurity requirements for sending goods to Australia.

The Iberian ham, which still had the trotter attached – an unwelcome surprise at the international mail centre in Sydney – was detected following an X-ray of the package.

Accompanying the pig leg was salami and wine.

Pig meat can contain serious exotic diseases such as foot and mouth disease, hog cholera, Aujeszky's disease,

swine vesicular disease and African swine fever.

The wine was released to the importer while the pig leg and salami were seized and the recipient given the option of exporting or destroying the ham and salami.

The Department of Agriculture has a rigorous, risk-based approach to inspecting international mail, passenger baggage and cargo for exotic biosecurity threats.

More information about what not to send to Australia can be found at www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity



Megan Verdon, winner of the Australian Pork Award with APL's Andrew Spencer. Photo: Steve Keough Photography

Australian pork industry wins prestigious young scientist award

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has congratulated Megan Verdon for receiving the Australian Pork Award as part of the 2014 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce presented the award at a gala dinner for the agriculture sector's key annual conference, Outlook, noting the government's investment in research and development.

The award presentation was held during March at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.

Megan is currently completing her PhD at the University of Melbourne in collaboration with the Animal Welfare Science Centre, where she met her first sow and "fell in love".

She is researching animal behaviour and well-being, particularly Social Strategies of Sows in Groups, and is also the recipient of an APL Post-graduate Research Scholarship (PhD).

The grant Megan received will go towards her project titled Pre-weaning Social Exposure: Effects on Aggression, Injuries

and Growth of Weaner and Growing Pigs.

Megan plans to assess housing piglets in group-housed sow lactation systems and its effects on aggression and injuries following mixing at the weaning and growing stages of production, in comparison to piglets raised in a non-group lactation system.

Pigs form groups with a dominance hierarchy social system.

Increased levels of aggression are observed when pigs are mixed into groups to establish these dominance ranks.

These higher levels of aggression compromise pig welfare by increasing the occurrence of fight-

ing, injury and stress, ultimately affecting productivity by reducing growth, feed conversion and meat quality, and can also result in increased mortality.

Megan said, "I feel very fortunate to have won this prestigious award and am very grateful to APL for giving me the opportunity to continue doing what I love – working with pigs."

"This award will benefit me both personally and professionally.

"In addition to enhancing and refining my research skills, this project will allow me to explore the welfare of the young and adolescent pig.

"This topic has not been as widely researched and it is exciting to be a part

of new groundbreaking science.

"I relish the opportunity to continue contributing to the differentiation of Australia's pork industry as world leaders in pig welfare."

The Science and Innovation Awards are held annually and are coordinated by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

They foster greater participation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry through providing grant funding for innovative scientific research projects.

For further information, visit www.daff.gov.au/ABARES/Pages/conferences-events/scienceawards/

China's online meat delivery service

A NEW online commercial pork site operated by China's business-to-consumer market leader TMall.com opened recently.

It promised nationwide delivery of eight US pork items within 24 to 48 hours at discounts of up to 60 percent during a site-opening seven-day sale.

The new e-commerce platform attracted more than 400,000 viewers within the first few hours of operation, and a US Meat Exporter Federation-organised promotion to win a sample of American pork drew more than 2000 applications in the first hour.

Support for the promotion was provided through the Pork Checkoff.

The US pork items, ranging from pre-cut

bone-in pork butt steak to pork belly, were offered to Chinese consumers nationwide.

The products were sourced from three US processors and sold through three specialised distributors that delivered the frozen ready-to-cook items nationwide in under 48 hours.

A link allowed shoppers to view a video on US pork production, while other specific information about the brands and the distributors selling the products provided assurances and a ten-fold money back guarantee regarding the US source of the products.

USMEF has been investing in building up US pork's online sales potential for nearly a year.

Early efforts focused

on assisting online vendors with ideas and expertise on how to improve packaging, so the geographical footprint of product shipments could expand.

Revenue from e-commerce in China last year reached an estimated \$US290 billion, an increase of 38 percent over 2012.

TMall is the largest business-to-consumer e-commerce platform in China, with 57 percent market share.

The China/Hong Kong region was the third-largest export market for US pork in 2013, buying 417,306 metric tons valued at \$US903.4 million.

This was an increase of 2 percent in value on 3 percent lower volumes versus 2012 levels.

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Barnaby Joyce (Agriculture Minister), George Christensen (MP and host), Angus Atkinson (Cattle Council), Joel Fitzgibbon (Shadow Agriculture Minister), Dr Kat Ferme (CEO, Sheepmeat Council), and Deb Kerr (APL general manager Policy). Photo: Colin Bettles

Federal politicians throw support behind pork, cattle and sheepmeat farmers

ON Tuesday, March 25, over 200 federal politicians and staff, along with members of the press gallery, threw their collective weight behind Australian pork, beef and sheepmeat farmers by hosting a barbecue at Parliament House Canberra to counter anti-

farming lobby groups' promotion of Meat Free Week.

The barbecue aptly badged Free Meat Week was the brainchild of George Christensen, Queensland federal member for Dawson.

The Cattle Council of Australia, Sheepmeat

Council of Australia and Australian Pork Limited were called upon to supply meat for the event.

Attendees enjoyed steak, bacon and lamb kebabs, with a side of bread and onions.

Both sides of parliament supported the concept, vowing on behalf of their

constituents to make it an annual event.

As one parliamentary wit quipped, it was a Greens-free barbecue.

All sides of parliament were invited to attend, however the parliamentary Greens lack of support for the event was evident.



George Christensen and Barnaby Joyce chowed over the lighter side of politics. Photo: APL



The event proved popular with (most) politicians. Photo: APL

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Australian Grains Industry Conference Singapore set to become annual event

THE Australian grains industry is rising to the challenge of expanding Asian markets and will explore hosting a regular international industry event in Singapore.

The inaugural Australian Grains Industry Conference Singapore held recently was designed to complement the major AGIC in Melbourne in July.

The Singapore conference focused on the quality requirements for grains and oilseeds of end users in the critical Australian markets across Asia.

The conference was hosted by Grain Trade Australia, the Australian Oilseeds Federation and Pulse Australia.

GTA's Geoff Honey said with Asia being such a high priority destination for Australian grain, AGIC Singapore provided an opportunity for customers, processors and marketers of Australian grain

to gain an update on the Australian crop prospects, quality and logistics.

"It provides the Australian industry with an opportunity to hear firsthand from its customers," he said.

"Based on the positive feedback from delegates, the industry is hoping to now make this a regular event."

One hundred and fifty delegates from across the domestic and international grain supply chain were told that markets in Asia will continue to expand over the next 10 to 15 years, but that Australia will need to utilise all available quality, R&D and market information to capitalise on these opportunities.

Oilseeds was a key focus of the conference, with speakers highlighting the quality aspects of Australian canola and the market opportunities these present in Asia.

Australian Oilseeds Federation executive director Nick Goddard said as the number two exporter of canola in the world, Australia punches well above its weight, however there were still challenges.

"Australia needs to better exploit and market its strong quality aspects of canola such as high oil content and low moisture levels," he said.

"These attributes place

us in a highly competitive position compared to our major competitors."

According to Michael Whitehead, director Agribusiness at ANZ, Australia will need to lift grain production to 35 million tonnes by 2030 to maintain its Asian market share.

About 50 percent of Australian grain exports currently go to five key Asian markets – Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and India.

Speakers told the conference that while Australia is a strong supplier of noodle wheat into Asia, the United States holds a solid position in the supply of high protein wheats for baking.

Global miller Interflour managing director Greg Harvey told delegates Australia needed a hard wheat with better water absorption and extensibility that could compete with the US hard varieties in the production of Asian breads.

The conference also heard from Australian grain marketers and handlers who presented 2013-14 crop data by region, which showed that growers were responding to end-user market signals by choosing newer wheat and barley varieties that better met market requirements.

Glencore general manager, Logistics and Commercial Relations Jonathan Wilson said the com-

pany's southern Australia crop data showed a significant trend to Australian Hard wheat varieties such as MACE, replacing traditional APW varieties such as Wyalkatchem.

He also said new barley varieties such as Hindmarsh and Commander were now dominating production.

Graincorp and CBH also provided an overview of their 2013-14 crop information, highlighting the better than expected yields in WA and above average protein levels in Queensland and northern NSW.

Geoff Honey said a consistent theme throughout the conference was the need for even greater transparency and better relationships along the supply chain between growers, handlers, traders and end users.

"The conference provided a great opportunity for all in the industry to gain even greater insights into global and local developments and will hopefully further assist in the facilitation and ultimately expansion of opportunities for Australian grain into the Asian region."

Visit www.ausgrainconf.com to download the proceedings from AGIC2014 Singapore.

For more information, contact Rosemary Richards on 02 9427 6999 or 0411 564 128.



2014 Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award

FINAL APPLICATIONS are being sought for the Pan Pacific Pork Expo – Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award 2014

The Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award is proudly sponsored and supported by the 2014 Pan Pacific Pork Expo Committee, Australian Pork Limited and the *Australian Pork Newspaper*.

The Pan Pacific Pork Expo was created as an event that would attract both international and local pig communities to meet and share information and ideas. As well, it provided the Australian pig industry with the ideal forum in which to showcase the local industry.

The first PPPE was held in October 1998 in Brisbane. The inaugural event was a huge success leading to continuation of the event biennially. Ron Collins was one of the leaders of a group of industry forward thinkers who brought PPPE into life. He was also the owner, editor and publisher of Australia's leading pig industry newspaper *Australian Pork Newspaper*.

APN first saw the light of day in 1997 and is still produced today by Ron's son Ben Collins. Through his beloved APN Ron continued throughout his life to support every aspect of the Australian pig industry.

Tragically in 2003 Ron passed away after a battle with cancer. In memory of the tireless work and support Ron gave the industry the Ron Collins Memorial – Pan Pacific Pork Expo Travel Award was established.

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The Ron Collins Memorial – Pan Pacific Pork Expo Travel Award has been designed to assist a person involved in any part of the industry supply chain to travel overseas and further investigate a nominated innovative topic that would be of benefit to Australia's pork industry.

AWARD VALUE

The total award is valued at up to \$10,000. Overseas travel limited to \$6000.

CLOSING DATE

All applications must be received by the Committee by close of business Monday, April 28, 2014. No late applications will be accepted.

For further information and application forms contact: Wayne Bradshaw on 0429 301 500 or email wbradshaw@jefo.com

Send completed applications to:

Darryl D'Souza
Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award
C/- Australian Pork Limited
PO Box 4746
Kingston ACT 2604
or email
darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au

Australian Pork
NEWSPAPER



Dynamic Dominique PorkFest ambassador

AUSTRALIA'S pork farmers have declared innovative chef Dominique Rizzo the ambassador for Australian PorkFest – the month-long peak season for pork that will occur throughout April.

April is when fresh Australian pork is at its most plentiful, at its peak quality, and is most economical, deliciously putting consumers in the winning seat.

Dominique Rizzo, chef, author and presenter has built a reputation for inspiring people to cook with fresh, seasonal and

local produce.

And nothing will be more seasonal than pork this April.

"I am deeply passionate about creating innovative food using quality safe and clean fresh produce," she said.

From her earliest childhood memories of visiting family in Sicily and being part of the festive sharing of a whole pig in the family village, Dominique Rizzo has been fascinated with food, and pork has been an integral, cultural part of that fascination.

This year, the Easter and

Anzac Day holidays will make April an extraordinary month for entertaining and cooking and the bounty of PorkFest is destined to take centre stage.

During April, butchers and supermarkets will join the PorkFest bandwagon, showcasing fresh Aussie pork while restaurant chefs will hero pork on their menus.

With the country already slipping into another severe drought, pork farmers are hoping April will be good for them and consumers alike.

Why April?

Australia's pig herd predominantly consists of two types of white pigs: Large Whites and Landrace, which are sometimes crossed with the robust duroc breed.

They are leaner, faster growing pigs that traditionally don't breed and grow as well over summer.

As the weather starts to cool their growth rate and fertility lift.

It takes about nine months for a pig to go from birth to market.

Pigs born in June, July and August of the previous year hit the market around April the next year.

And as it gets cooler their growth rate increases considerably.

So much so that earlier piglet batches catch up in size with previous litters.

Consequently as nature would have it, more pigs come onto the market during April.



Dominique Rizzo, the ambassador for Australian PorkFest.

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Meeting on deadly porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus

MORE than 60 people representing United States and Canadian pork, feed and other allied industries recently participated in a meeting on the porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus.

Held in Des Moines, Iowa the meeting was hosted by the National Pork Board in collaboration with the National Pork Producers Council, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, the American Feed Industry Association, the National Grain and Feed Association, the National Render-

ers Association and the North American Spray Dried Blood and Plasma Producers.

Although the disease does not affect human health or pork food safety, it has infected and killed millions of young pigs on farms of all sizes in 27 states since May 2013 and in four Canadian provinces since January.

Dr Paul Sundberg, vice-president of science and technology at the National Pork Board said, "Our main goal was to bring a group of people together to help us agree

on research needs related to PEDv and feed systems so that we can get answers to ongoing questions as quickly and efficiently as possible."

"We've been working on PEDv research and collaborating with all pork industry stakeholders since the disease was discovered here, and we'll continue doing that to get practical results for farmers to use to save their pigs."

Participants, made up of producers, veterinarians, nutritionists, academics and government and association officials also shared

what's currently known about PEDv, including transmission routes, possible vectors and current testing limitations.

The group agreed the virus is of Asian origin genetically, but its direct pathway to North America remains unknown.

The US Department of Agriculture offered information about the agency's pathways analysis that seeks to identify and describe pathways that exotic viral pathogens of swine may enter the country.

Canadian participants shared their PEDv experi-

ences and actions taken this year, and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians presented its initial survey of early PEDv cases.

In addition, participants learnt results of veterinary investigations in several states and heard what the feed, feed ingredient and rendering industries are doing to enhance their biosecurity programs and mitigate risk.

Sundberg said after taking all this information into consideration, the group agreed that there are multiple ways for pigs

to become infected via a faecal-oral route, including environmental, transportation, feed systems and other vectors.

The top research priorities agreed upon by the group are to:

- Investigate the effectiveness and cost of treatments that could be used to mitigate the survival of PEDv and other viruses in feeds;

- Conduct contamination risk assessments at all steps within the feed processing and delivery chain;

- Develop a substitute for the currently used

swine bioassay procedures; and

- Continue to investigate the risk of feed and other pathways for pathogen entry into the US.

Sundberg said if feed is a factor in the transfer of PEDv, based on past research we know there are specific time and temperature combinations that should inactivate the virus.

"However, there are many variables that can affect feed, including post-processing contamination, which is another area that must be carefully controlled even if inactivation occurs." ☛

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Get fire ready, go diesel for safety and fuel economy

AUSTRALIAN Pump Industries has set new standards for quality, performance and communication in bush firefighting pumps and equipment.

It launched its Fire Ready program this season with a huge amount of printed information aimed specifically at end users.

The company reports increased interest in diesel-drive fire fighters because of their safety and fuel economy.

Aussie Pumps Brad Farrugia admitted not many suburban homeowners are going to buy a diesel fire pump.

“What we are seeing is a continuous swing at a dealer level where the market being serviced is either firefighting authorities or farming professionals,” he said.

High-pressure diesel fire pumps have become more affordable, with Aussie Pumps leading the way with increased production of Yanmar diesel engine drive fire pumps.

The Aussie Fire Chief pump, with an L48 4.8hp Yanmar diesel engine has proved a real winner.

It is a low-priced entry level unit especially configured to attract customers to the safer aspects of diesel drive pumps.

“Diesel’s lower flash-point makes it intrinsically safer than petrol engines in a bush firefighting environment,” Farrugia said.

“Firefighting authorities and national park operators around the country are sold on diesel and won’t go back to petrol-drive fire pumps.”

Australian Pump Industries produces a full range of Yanmar diesel engine powered pumps designed specifically for professional firefighting units.

“National parks operators have standardised on this combination of a pump coupled to a

400-litre tank mounted on a LandCruiser ute as the ideal ‘mop up’ or ‘fast attack’ style vehicle,” Farrugia said.

“The Aussie Fire Chief is the choice of the real professionals.

“They team it up with a high performance foaming device that minimises the use of water being applied but maximises the impact on the fire.”

John Mason, representative for Yanmar distributor Power Equipment agrees with the Aussie Pump diesel preference philosophy.

“The Yanmar L series of engines incorporate direct injection technology that sips fuel rather than gulping it,” he said.

“Improvements in fuel efficiency mean the engines run for longer between refuelling.

“Refuelling during a fire emergency can be extremely dangerous, particularly when you’re under ember attack.

“Diesel does not release large amounts of flammable vapour and is less likely to ignite than petrol

if any fuel is spilt.”

Aussie Pumps has also launched a heavy duty 10hp twin impeller high performance pump that is already proving popular with professional users and farmers.

Farrugia said Aussie Pumps had even sold these big diesel twin impellers to people on the outskirts of Australia’s bigger capital cities to protect large homes, stable complexes, nurseries and market gardens.

“The beauty of the Mr T twin impeller Aussie fire

pump with its big 10hp diesel engine and super high pressure is that it can be used for a wide range of applications,” he said.

“It includes high pressure water transfer, spray irrigation as well as fulfilling its traditional firefighting role.”

Further information on the Aussie diesel drive fire pumps and their intrinsic safety features is available from Aussie Pumps Gold Distributors around Australia and online at www.aussiepumps.com.au



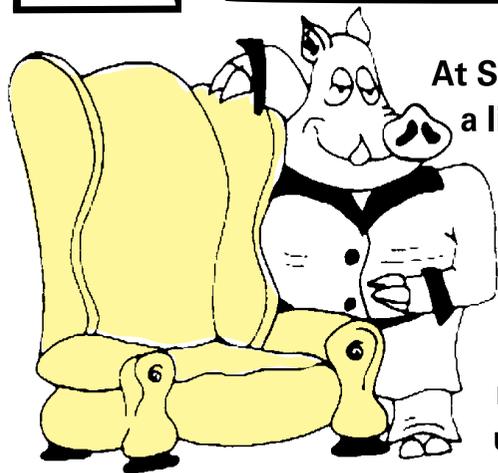
Aussie Pumps Brad Farrugia said diesel pumps are intrinsically safer and more fuel efficient than petrol equivalents.

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Farm businesses should apply for concessional loans

MINISTER for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce said any farm business that received a Farm Finance Concessional Loan will be able to apply for a Drought Concessional Loan when they become available, and they can already apply for income support if needed.

“This government announced \$320 million in drought assistance measures in late February and on March 3 delivered on making the new income support measure, with more appropriate eligibility requirements available to farmers in need,” Minister Joyce said.

“A major component of the assistance measures is the \$280 million in drought concessional loans we announced that are specifically targeted to provide farm businesses with finance to meet their ongoing daily business running costs; and to cover drought recovery activities.

“Drought concessional loans are not available yet, as we work with relevant state and territory governments to progress delivery arrangements.”

Minister Joyce said he hoped to sign off on the loan guidelines arrangements by early April.

“While I have asked

my department to progress these negotiations as a matter of priority, we need to ensure that the governance arrangements concerning the loan roll out are strong as we have a responsibility to all Australians to ensure government funds are spent wisely,” he said.

“But Farm Finance Concessional Loans are available now in all states and the Northern Territory.

“I encourage any farmer who might be thinking about applying for a concessional loan to go ahead and apply under Farm Finance to access assistance as

quickly as possible.”

Minister Joyce said farm businesses with a Farm Finance Loan will be able to apply to transfer to a Drought Concessional Loan through a streamlined process.

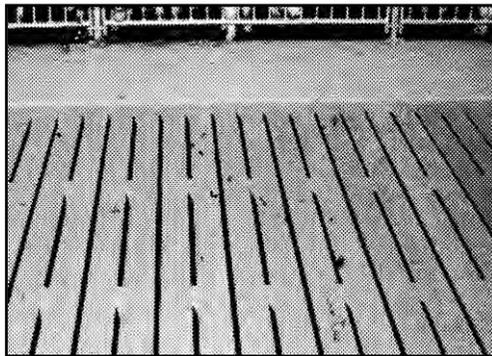
“I’ve asked my department to work with delivery agencies to make the application and transfer process as streamlined as possible.”

For more information on the Farm Finance Concessional Loans Scheme and the Drought Concessional Loans Scheme, visit www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance/farm-finance

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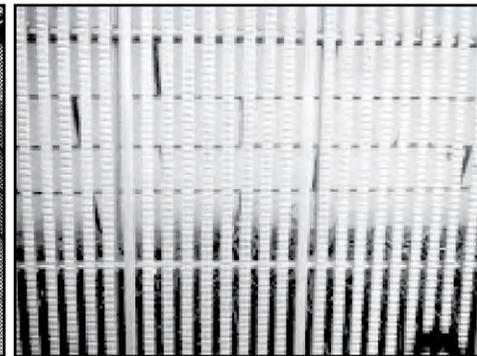
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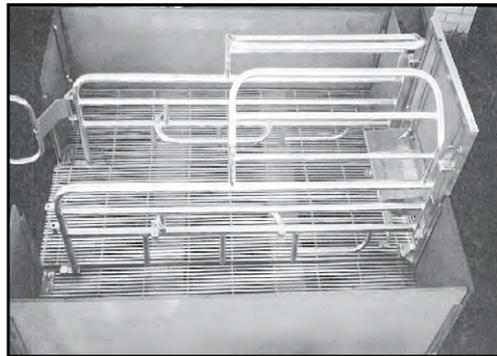
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Understanding ASX NSW Wheat futures

THE ASX NSW Wheat futures contract is the most successful of the five contracts listed within the ASX Grain Market complex.

Over 70 percent of all volume traded in the ASX Grain Market is in the NSW Wheat contract.

The contract is based on a minimum milling wheat quality specification of Australian Premium White wheat with 10.5 percent protein.

It is used by hedgers to hedge the price risk related to Australian milling wheat.

At the time of writing, the NSW Wheat contract for May 2014 delivery was worth about \$335 track, while contracts for delivery in January 2015 were worth \$310.

This is an example of the market being in an inverse pricing pattern, where the nearby futures contract is worth more than the deferred month, following the next harvest.

An inverse market reflects the reality that there is supply and demand pressure in the near term.

The market is short stock and is not rewarding the storage of the limited stock for sale at a later date.

Owners of stock are therefore encouraged to sell now rather than store for a later sale.

The drought in Queensland and northern NSW – which hopefully consistent rain will soon consign to the history books – is forcing this issue.

The ASX NSW Wheat



by **DOUGAL HUNTER**
Manager
Agricultural Derivatives
ASX Limited



futures contract is a track contract covering the two port zones in NSW; Newcastle and Port Kembla.

If you have a bought hedge in place for May 2014 NSW Wheat and your piggery is in the NSW Riverina, one aspect you will want to know is which port zone does the \$335 represent?

In other words, where is delivery more likely?

Is it the Newcastle or Port Kembla port zone?

This season, the drought market that exists north of Dubbo in central NSW means delivery of APW wheat into the Newcastle port zone is highly unlikely.

That is, it is reasonable to assume the \$335 price is likely to represent Port Kembla values for APW wheat.

If the wheat is delivered within the Port Kembla zone, you may be interested to hold on to that bought position and take delivery of the grain within the network of the ASX approved bulk handler.

The ASX approved bulk handlers for NSW Wheat are GrainCorp, AWB GrainFlow and Emerald

Grain Logistics.

There are two ways you can assess the market price in terms of port zone:

- Analyse the location of stock lodgements as detailed in the ASX Grain Holding Report which is available on the ASX website; and

- Compare the ASX price with APW prices trading in both port zones via merchant bids/offers.

It is the seller's responsibility to lodge the stock they wish to tender or deliver against their sold position.

Delivery economics will dictate which port zone represents the least value for the seller.

A seller is most likely to deliver in the port of least value.

As already discussed, because of the Queensland and NSW drought market, grain prices in Newcastle are expected to remain stronger than in Port Kembla.

It is important to note that the port of least value can, and does, change at any time.

That is within delivery periods, between delivery

months or between seasons.

The port of least value is a continuous assessment of the local supply and demand fundamentals in each port zone.

This year, drought has adversely impacted the winter and summer crops in both the Brisbane and Newcastle port zones while the port zones south of Newcastle recorded decent winter harvest results.

If you do take delivery, you will want to know how the price paid for the ASX NSW Wheat is adjusted once delivery is made.

Delivered ASX contracts are settled Free In Store.

Knowing the FIS price will help you assess whether delivery makes sense when compared with your alternatives.

The tabulated example is based on 1000 tonnes of APW hypothetically lodged and delivered at AWB GrainFlow Grong Grong (Port Kembla port zone).

One important feature of the NSW Wheat contract that changed in March this year was the removal of protein increments from the settlement calculation for deliveries made.

Industry training
The Pan Pacific Pork Expo will no doubt be well attended by pork producers from around Australia.

If demand warrants, ASX is happy to run an industry training course on the products and how they can be applied to

hedge your grain price risk.

If you are planning to attend PPPE and would like to undertake an ASX workshop on hedging your grain price risk sometime during the week of the conference (before or after) then please contact ASX on 02 9227 0197 to register your interest.

ASX has been running similar courses for Australia's lot feeding industry as well as international end users of Australian wheat based in South-East Asia.

Feedback received to date suggests the training has been worthwhile for all concerned and may provide you with an opportunity to clarify issues on how it all works.

Where can I learn more?

The ASX Grain Futures and Options market provides piggeries with tools to manage exposure to grain price risk.

If you are new to the world of derivatives and would like to discuss your business aims and develop a hedging strategy that satisfies your requirements, seeking the professional services of a risk management adviser is the next step.

A contact list of licensed advisers is available at www.asx.com.au/grainfutures

Disclaimer: This article is general and summary information only. It does not take into account your individual circumstances and to determine whether it is applicable to you, or should you require further information, please consult your licensed financial advisor.

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Value	\$302,310	=Gross Price * Tonnage
GST	\$30,231	10% of value
Total Value	\$332,541	GST inclusive
S&H Company	AWB GrainFlow	Name of approved bulk handler
Location	Grong Grong	Silo name
Shrinkage	0.7%	As per applicable SHA ¹
ASX Futures Track Price	\$335.00	As traded and quoted on ASX ²
Less GTA Location Differential	-\$44.75	GTA Location Differential ³
Up Country Price Delivered	\$290.25	
Plus Receival Fee	+\$9.94	As per applicable SHA
Up Country Price Free in Store	\$300.19	= Up Country Delivered + Receival Fee
Gross Shrunken Price Free in Store	\$302.31	= Up Country FIS / 0.993

1 Bulk Handler Storage and Handling Agreements (SHA) reviewed and updated annually.

2 The tender is calculated based on the settlement price on the day of tender. In this example it is assumed that \$335 is the settlement price on the day of tender as well as the traded price when the bought hedge was opened.

3 Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Location Differentials updated October every year and available from www.graintrade.org.au

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PROUD OF OUR PROGRESS



PROUD OF OUR PIGGERY

There's something special in the air at RPC Glengallan Piggery, and they are immensely proud of it.

With over 150 years of service to Glengallan between them, the staff of RPC Glengallan Piggery have good reason to be proud of their dedicated team. Friendship and support dating back to the 1980s, a strong commitment to training and advancement, and a bit of fun on the side via their active social club underpin a strong, stable human resource base, with negligible staff turnover.

Progressive improvements including an impressive new 600 crate farrowing shed, conversion to sow-stall free and herd expansion are a great source of pride. In conjunction with a strong emphasis on pig health, welfare and quality systems these improvements have helped Glengallan become the highly productive system it currently is. RPC Glengallan Piggery is proud of its progress and proud to be producing a consistent, quality Australian pork product.



Supported by Chris Richards & Associates