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# Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

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Mark Boyd Otter, Russell Bishop, Ian Hill and Laurie Brosnan comprised the very forthright producer panel at the Toowoomba sow housing workshop.

## Group housing a done deal for pregnant sows

GROUP housing workshops in Toowoomba (April 2) and Melbourne (April 4) were very successful, based on feedback from those who attended and the very informative producer panels.

Most interesting for me was the change in attitude during the past 18 to 24 months of those producers yet to make the change.

Gone is the trepidation and angst and even some of the frustration previously expressed by producers who were very negative regarding the need to change from stalls to group housing.

### Positive stories

The main reason for the different attitude was probably the positive stories they heard from producers who made the change 18 months to two years ago.

However, as one said to me: "I now think I can make the change and maintain my excellent reproduction, but it is going to cost me a million dollars."

Ten producers outlined their experiences with group housing sows and while the journey has been more challenging for some, all have the system working, with a number in Queensland and the southern states achieving better reproduction than be-



## Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL  
CEO



fore they changed.

The latter is probably not due to group housing per se, but better management of lactation and how sows are fed at mixing and in early pregnancy.

### Aussie way

In typical Australian fashion, I don't think there were any two producers doing the same thing.

For sows weaned into groups, we heard from producers who used a large single pen through to five days or even longer post mating before grouping sows, to those who group immediately at weaning.

Rob Rosaia from Rivalea was one of the latter and is achieving excellent reproduction.

He weans into groups of four, with the sows enjoying plenty

of space (4sq m), full length feeding stalls and plenty of feed after mixing.

Others wean into larger groups and the sows are fed by electronic sow feeders.

For sows grouped after mating, we heard of small groups (10-20) with floor feeding, large static groups (45-90) using electronic feeders and even larger (200-300) dynamic groups with electronic feeders.

Indeed, we saw all of these systems in action when the Pork CRC board visited Rivalea in April.

The sows had about 2sq m floor spaces and each pen had walls or partitions where sows

continued P3

## China's perpetual Year of the Pig

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited chair Enzo Al-lara and I were recently included on the Australian trade delegation to China.

This was apparently one of the largest Australian trade delegations ever, with about 600 participants and supported by the presence of Small Business Minister Bruce Bilson, Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb, and Prime Minister Tony Abbott at the end of the trip.

I have been travelling to China every two to three years for close to 20 years but am always surprised at the progress being made in this country.

The clear indicators of progress are the growth of cities, the new buildings going up, the standard of accommodation and services, the high-class infrastructure and even the number of European cars on the roads.

China is clearly no longer a Third World country and we as a nation need to agree on that fairly quickly.

Of course, pork and China have a unique relationship.

China consumes around half of all the world's pork (about 50 million tonnes annually).

Pork makes up a significant proportion of the Chinese equivalent of the Consumer Price Index (jokingly referred to as the Consumer Pork Index there), which makes pork as a commodity politically important.

The Chinese Government strategically trades in pork to avoid as best as possible the highs and lows of prices that can cause public discontent.

However, the perception



### Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



of safety of domestically produced food in China is low, especially among wealthier consumers who can afford alternative sources of food.

The melamine dairy crisis a few years ago was an example of what can go wrong with the food safety systems in China and pork has not been immune to its own crises, including from time to time the illegal use of clenbuterol in pig production.

Australia on the other hand has an excellent reputation in China for its food, and apparently the key attributes appreciated are naturalness, healthiness and safety.

Our pork consumption is only about 1 percent of the Chinese and they could see our industry as a boutique one in comparison.

All the planets seem to be lining up for good business for our industry, with a big market, strong demand growth and great product fit.

Unfortunately, as interesting a market as China is, solid business for the Australian pork industry is not going to drop into our lap.

First and for the time being foremost is we have no market access to China as things stand.

To trade with China, pork processing plants have to be certified by the Chinese authorities and none of our plants are certified at present.

Gaining this certification is sensitive, complicated, difficult and potentially takes a long time.

The opportunity in the longer term is clear for our industry in China and we are committed to opening the market to our products there, but we will need to be patient.

This is one of the clear directions agreed on for our APL Strategic Plan 2015-2020 that is reaching its final stages of development and which you will be hearing more about in the next couple of months.

I'm looking forward to catching up with many producers at the forthcoming Pan Pacific Pork Expo at the Gold Coast later this month to talk about their issues as well as share some of my observations from the China trip.

If you haven't already done so, please register to attend PPPE.

It's a great opportunity to mix with other pig producers as well as find out where we are going as an industry.

I'll see you there... 🐷

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**Pig Industry Calendar of Events**

**2014**

**MAY 19 - 21** – Alltech Symposium, Kentucky, USA, [www.alltech.com/symposium](http://www.alltech.com/symposium)

**MAY 20 - 22** – VIV Europe, Jaarbeurs Utrecht, The Netherlands, [www.viveurope.nl](http://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](http://www.millingconference.com.au)

**JUN 4 - 6** – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, Iowa, USA [www.worldpork.org](http://www.worldpork.org)

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

**AUG 8 - 10** – The 9th Biennial Conference of AAA, Newcastle NSW E: [androfest@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:androfest@newcastle.edu.au)

**AUG 10 - 14** – The 12th International Symposium on Spermatology, Newcastle NSW E: [androfest@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:androfest@newcastle.edu.au)

**SEP 13 - 16** – Allen D. Lemman Swine Conference, Minnesota, USA [www.cvm.umn.edu/vetmedce/events/adl/](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.eurotier.com/)

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

**2015**

**JAN 27 - 29** – International Production & Processing Expo, Atlanta, Georgia USA [www.ippexpo.org](http://www.ippexpo.org)

**MAR 11 - 13** – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand [www.vivasia.nl](http://www.vivasia.nl)

**APR 23 - 25** – VIV India, Bangalore, India [www.vivindia.nl](http://www.vivindia.nl)

**MAY 7 - 9** – 6th European Symposium of Porcine Health Management, Sorrento, Italy [www.esphm2014.org](http://www.esphm2014.org)

**SEP 16 - 19** – Space 2014, Rennes, France [www.space.fr](http://www.space.fr)

**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](mailto:ben@porknews.com.au)**

[porknews.com.au](http://porknews.com.au)

# Research priorities for 2014/15

THIS month I report on the new R&D priorities for 2014/15 as established by the Australian Pork Limited Research and Development Specialist Groups in their respective business plans.

The SG business plans have been reviewed by the APL R&D Advisory Committee and their recommendations including R&D budget await approval by the APL Board.

My thanks to all the SG chairs and members who as usual have done an excellent job defining APL's R&D priorities.

The message to the SGs this year from the RDAC was one of caution and encouragement.

Caution in that APL was perhaps playing it too safe by being overly focused on incremental benefit priorities.

In reviewing its focus for 2014/15, the RDAC noted there was a need to resource priorities that were more transformational.

The RDAC suggested each SG provide one transformational idea within their business plans.

A quick brainstorm by the RDAC yielded the following list that was considered by the SGs.

- Development of industry market strategies to reduce variation. For example, weaner pigs for Asian markets
- Technologies to increase proportion of female piglets born
- No effluent pond pig production systems
- Pig feed from human food waste
- Technologies that reduce pig and carcass variation
- China market access
- IT solutions for targeted technology transfer and adoption
- Rural R&D corporations 'back-office' harmonisation feasibility study.

The new R&D priorities for 2014/15 by the R&D SGs are listed below; existing R&D projects are not included.

For instance, two priority areas not included are food safety and biosecurity.

Given the exotic disease issues (porcine epidemic diarrhoea, African swine fever, foot and mouth disease) and their risk to the Australian pork industry, these priorities were brought ahead and funded in 2013/14.

The full list of APL R&D priorities can be viewed at [australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/research/funding-opportunities](http://australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/research/funding-opportunities)

**SG1 – Marketing, Supply Chain and Product Quality**

- Continuous data (including advertising tracking)

While the need for continuous data and tracking work is accepted we continue to review the methodologies used for relevance, value and alternatives and seek improvements wherever possible.

- Singapore product compliance checking:

It is the perception that monitoring and its consequences drive compliance.

This activity minimises the risk that the market



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



## Following priority setting by APL's six industry Specialist Groups and the RDAC, a call for tenders has been made to address 2014/15 R&D priorities.

will be open to large scale, undetected substitution and builds on the challenges already faced by our exporters in a very competitive market.

- Eating quality monitoring:

Engage retailers, brand owners and supply chains to assess the impact of providing cooking instructions and a range of other marketing levers to drive short-term pork purchases and longer-term pork recipe habit formation for fresh Australian pork.

- Product integrity/consistency and provenance claims compliance monitoring:

Demonstrate the industry's commitment to providing high quality and trustworthy products as well as hold the supply chain to account for the provenance claims they make.

- Restaurant tracking and market sizing:

Gain an in-depth understanding and perspective of the food service market similar to what APL has of the retail market, leading to more commercially rational decisions about future marketing activities.

- Addressing unmet consumer needs:

Identification of new consumer trends from both a retail and food service perspective and identify existing trends and consumer needs not currently met.

- How to communicate with premium international pork consumers:

Identify the ideal way to launch premium pork in high-end niche markets in Asian cities and identify the pitfalls.

**SG2 – Genetics, Reproduction and Welfare**

- Reducing reproductive efficiency:

Identify risk factors and positive influences that impact on sow retention and improvement of mated gilt retention rate.

- Breeding females:

Identify strategies for production of boars creating only X bearing sperm resulting in the conception of only females, and effective treatment of semen to

result in a predominance of female progeny produced in the subsequent litter after insemination.

- Welfare interventions:

Identify requirements for practical and humane euthanasia welfare protocols for all classes of pigs and identification of stockperson attitudes to various euthanasia practices.

Additionally, undertake welfare methodology investigations in eco-shelters to determine risk factors.

- Community engagement:

Community pressure threatens the pork industry's social licence to operate and may impact on consumers' willingness to buy pork.

It is therefore critical that the Australian pork industry ensures it understands the community's attitude to welfare aspects of pork production and keeps abreast of changing attitudes and consumer responses.

**SG3 – Nutrition, Health and Physiology**

- Optimising gilt progeny performance:

A multifaceted approach is required to optimise the performance of gilt progeny by reducing variation and increasing margin over feed cost for the gilt herd by focusing on improving the performance of the gilt progeny, decreasing wean-sale mortality, the impacts of disease on the quality and yield of the carcass, and innovative technologies to increase feed efficiency.

- Disease expression:

A need has been identified to determine the impacts of pig losses during the grower-finisher phase.

This should be quantified and strategies to diminish these effects need to become a priority.

- Feed efficiency innovations:

Short-term, innovative technologies are required to increase the feed efficiency of the pig at all stages of the production system.

**SG4 – Industry Capability and Technology Transfer**

- Bringing influencers together:

APL will host and sponsor a range of events that enable interaction among stakeholders and collection and processing of information on outcomes and technologies.

- Facilitating technology transfer and adoption:

APL will use a range of complementary channels to reach stakeholders, which will increase the likelihood of R&D messages getting through and action being taken.

Gaining a better understanding of the pathways to adoption will influence future technology transfer and adoption activities.

- Fostering new capability:

By supporting two distinct components of new capability in school students and postgraduates, the industry will be better placed to influence perception.

Informing potential recruits of opportunities in the industry is a crucial first step in addressing labour shortage.

- Building technical capacity:

Producers looking to build the skills and knowledge of stockpeople and provide management training for supervisors will have access to industry-relevant resources.

- Corporate communication and influence:

APL is able to protect and/or advance the industry's position across a range of areas through its ability to access and utilise current industry information.

**SG5 – Environment Management**

- Pondless treatment systems:

The pork industry has explored the capture and use of renewable energy (biogas) on-farm, mostly through covered anaerobic ponds, but is seeking an alternative holistic or closed-loop approach to effluent management that integrates the waste, energy and water recovery aspects without the need for effluent treatment ponds.

- Pelletisation/nutrient extraction:

Technologies to extract the nutrients for processing into concentrated, balanced fertiliser-type products have the potential to value add piggery byproducts, resulting in products that have a higher economic value and are easier to handle and transport, with improved nutrient availability for plant uptake.

Proposals and pilot-type studies are being sought to enhance the industry's knowledge of technologies suitable for the extraction and recovery of nutrients from effluent and manure.

- Energy audit program:

With the continual rise in energy prices and an industry goal of reducing resources and greenhouse gas emissions, there is the need to identify ways of reducing producers' energy consumption and subsequent bills.

The requirement is to develop and carry out an energy audit program for the Australian pork industry that can identify, quantify and suggest efficiency

strategies to reduce energy use on site.

- Sludge profiling and determining sludge trigger point:

Following on from a recent APL project that evaluated existing sludge handling and management practices commonly used in other industries, in addition to generating valuable sludge rheology data it has been identified gaps exist that have a significant impact on pond design and extraction systems.

Complementary information is sought to assist producers in their decision making in relation to sludge profiling, removal trigger levels and desludging frequency to facilitate ease of removal while minimising losses in methane potential.

**SG6 – Food Safety, Biosecurity and Quality Assurance**

- Major review of APIQ:

Fulfil the requirement of a four-yearly major review of APIQ.

The major review is important to the program and industry to maintain its credibility, integrity and robustness with all stakeholders.

**Call for R&D tenders**

Following priority setting by APL's six industry Specialist Groups and the RDAC, a call for tenders has been made to address 2014/15 R&D priorities.

To view the 2014/15 priorities or download the call for tender document please follow the links at [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au)

Tenders addressing the 2014/15 priorities are to be submitted through APL's online application process via <https://www.pignet.com.au/Login.aspx>

**USDA requires reporting of PEDv and swine delta coronavirus**

It has finally happened! The US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that in an effort to further enhance the biosecurity and health of the US swine herd while maintaining movement of pigs in the US, the USDA will require reporting of PEDv and SDCV in order to slow the spread of these diseases across the US.

Source: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

**Contaminated feed most likely source of Ontario PED outbreak**

Investigations in Ontario point to contaminated feed as the most likely cause of the PED outbreak there.

According to Dr Chris Byra, Canadian Swine Health Intelligence manager, the farms that became infected were linked by a single source of feed and a single batch of plasma.

This report comes nearly a month after the Canadian Food Inspection Agency could not confirm a link between feed containing blood plasma and PED cases in Canada.

Source: [www.farmscape.com](http://www.farmscape.com)

For further information on any topics discussed in this column, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8804 or [darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au](mailto:darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au)

# Group housing a done deal for pregnant sows

from P1

could get away from others or rest if needed.

There seemed to be ample free space and the sows looked excellent, with little or no aggression after the first week following mixing.

## Science lessons

At the scientific level we learnt a couple of lessons.

Paul Hemsworth summed it up pretty well with, "Sows do experience aggression and stress at mixing and it should be our objective to minimise the duration and impact of this."

Paul made the point that space is more important than group size in determining stress and aggression at grouping, and the quality of space should be taken into account.

## Quick learners

Paul Hughes showed us that sows adapt very quickly to mixing and limited space.

He and his students looked at the behaviour of sows mixed after mating into groups with 2, 4 or 6sq m of floor space and then into pens with 2sq m floor space after four days.

They found that aggression based on the number and duration of fights declined with increasing floor space the day of mixing, but there was no effect of space two and three days after mixing.

Salivary cortisol level followed the same trend, declining with time after mixing.

They also found when regrouping after four days that sows previously kept at 6sq m exhibited more aggression than those formerly kept at 2 or 4sq m.

The effect of floor space and time after mixing on aggression is shown in Figure 1.

The results question the value of mixing pens, at least for sows mixed after mating, and suggest that they might best be mixed

into pens with the space allowance in which they will spend most of their pregnancy.

Paul found no effect of space at mixing on reproduction.

## World first

Jean Loup Rault from Melbourne University compared the behaviour and reproduction of sows weaned into groups or stalls and grouped within seven days of weaning.

Group weaned sows were weaned into groups of 10, with 4sq m of floor space.

The pens were fitted with full body stalls and sows were locked in these for one hour daily, during which time they received their first of three daily feeds and were checked for oestrus and mated if found in oestrus.

At day seven after weaning the sows that had been mated twice were moved into groups of seven (familiar sows) in pens with 2.1sq m of floor space.

The stall weaned sows were fed at the same level as the group weaned sows (8kg a day in three equal feeds) and grouped at day seven after weaning into the same size pens (seven a pen) as the group weaned sows.

All were fed 2.7kg a day to week five of pregnancy and 2.4kg a day thereafter to farrowing.

Jean Loup showed that based on cortisol levels, sows grouped at weaning were more stressed during mixing than those weaned into stalls and grouped after mating, but adapted before being regrouped on day seven after weaning.

Based on fresh lesion scores, sows weaned into stalls had poorer welfare after mixing (measured on day eight) than those weaned into groups, which had adapted by day eight.

The results simply confirm that sows will fight at mixing, but do adapt quickly.

He also found that sows weaned into groups were less receptive to boar contact, but more receptive to the back pressure test (in the presence of a boar) than those weaned into stalls, suggesting oestrus detection may be more crucial for sows weaned into groups.

For those that remained on experiment after day seven (seven sows from each initial group of 10, totalling 243), reproduction was excellent with no significant difference between the two grouping treatments.

The results are summarised in Table 1.

## Weaning meaning

The results show that weaning sows into groups doesn't necessarily adversely impact welfare or reproduction any more than those grouped after mating.

Though sows weaned in-

to groups were essentially provided with a mixing pen for six days as they had plenty of space, a lot of feed and were detected in heat and mated while locked in full length feeding stalls for one hour daily.

Nevertheless, they spent no more than 10 hours confined during the six days after mating and Jean Loup may have come up with a good system for those grouped at weaning.

So grouping sows at weaning, even if they are to be mated in stalls, may reduce aggression and stress after mating and further enhance reproduction.

As previously mentioned, Rob Rosaia also mated group weaned sows in full length stalls, but provided them with 4sq m of space throughout gestation.

continued P4

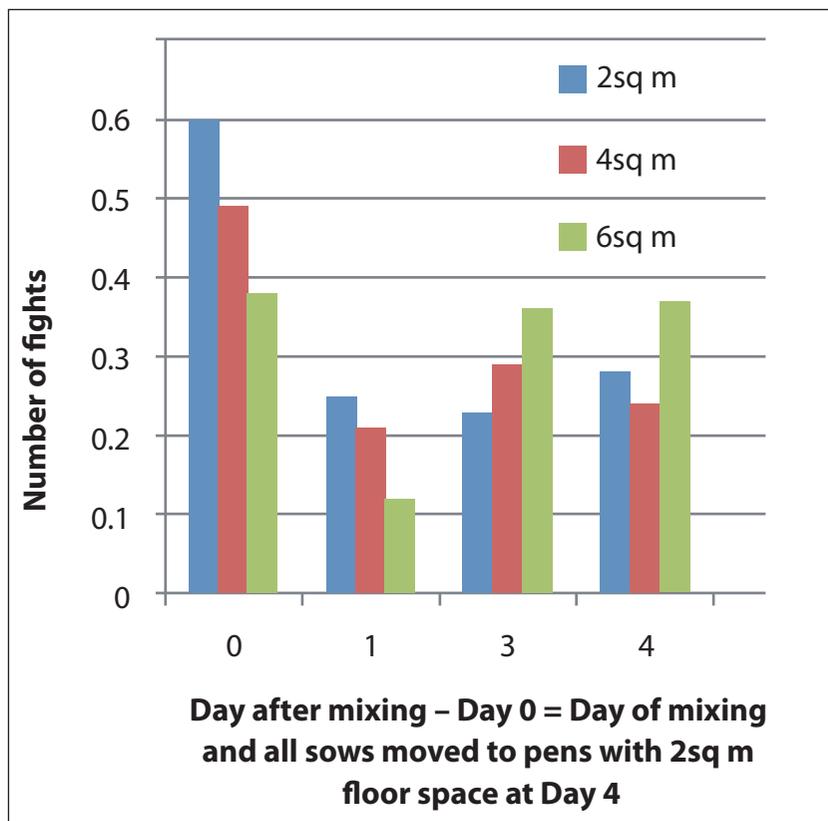


Figure 1 - Effects of floor space (2, 4 and 6sq m) on day of and after mixing on the number of fights in sows grouped after mating.

Weaning treatment	Stalls	Group
Number of sows	120	117
Pregnancy rate (%)	96.7	97.4
Farrowing rate (%)	90.4	95.8
Litter size - Total born	12.8	12.6
Litter size - Born alive	11.9	11.5

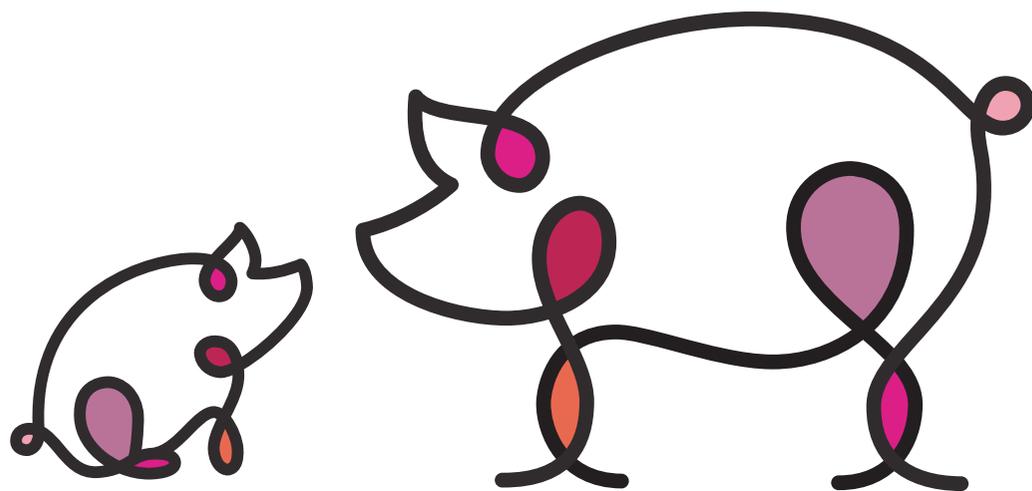
Table 1 - Effect of weaning sows into stalls and mixing seven days after weaning or weaning into groups and remixing seven days later on reproduction.



Jean Loup Rault from Melbourne University may have come up with a good system for sows grouped at weaning.

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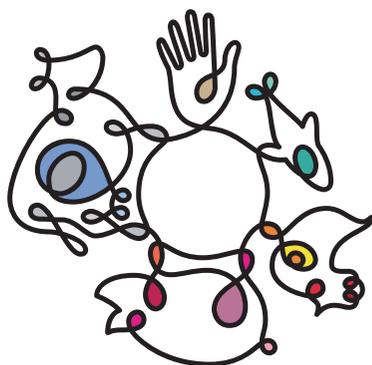
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# Why pigging out is in



I LIKE nothing better than helping to devour a suckling pig, but will also happily dine out on a decent sized spit-roasted porker.

So it seems do an increasing number of Australian chefs and porcine praising punters.

The appropriately titled cover story 'I'll have my beast and eat it all' in the April issue of *Hospitality Magazine* sought the views of some smart young chefs on why they're choosing to serve whole pigs, including the offal, tail, ears and the like.

Irish-born chef Colin Fassnidge, at his Sydney restaurant Four in Hand, oven roasts a whole pig that serves 10 people and on some nights he prepares three pigs.

According to Brea Carter's story, Fassnidge attributes whole pig popularity to pork being a meat everyone loves (I wish)

## Cant Comment

by BRENDON CANT



and the memorable dining experience they enjoy.

Typically, the pig bodies arrive four days before cooking and are then daily brushed with a saltwater solution, which apparently dries the skin, drawing the moisture out and thereby ensuring a better crackling (yum, yum).

They take about three hours to cook.

Fassnidge sees economics as another advantage of buying and cooking a whole pig, with a big saving (about half the price)

enjoyed by not having to pay someone else to break down the carcass.

A Four in Hand website sample menu revealed soy braised pig tail with clams, mussels, samphire and crackling as an entree and suckling pig with black pudding, local greens and ham hock potato as a main.

Yum, yum pig's bum!

At Swine & Co, also in Sydney, milk fed Macleay Valley suckling pig sells for \$40 a serve and is cooked over a beechwood

charcoal rotisserie, with rosemary and fennel pollen thrown into the coals to smoke it and add flavour.

Head chef Robert Taylor told *Hospitality* that before cooking for two to three hours, the 8-9kg pigs are covered in a spice blend of black cardamom, fennel, celery salt and salt.

Taylor said after the cooked pig has been portioned and served, the bones go into a stock to make a pork jus that's

served with a fennel salad and celery salt.

Pig's tail salad, pork belly with pork cheek croquettes, blood pudding with scallops and pork schnitzels are also plated at Swine & Co.

I confess to being a lover of blood pudding, devoured with relish (enthusiastic appetite, that is) especially on St Patrick's Day at WA's Irish Club big brekkie and on the odd lazy winter weekend (bring 'em on I say).



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## Group housing a done deal for pregnant sows

◀ from P3

Jean Loup's results suggest this isn't necessary, but we learnt there isn't a one size fits all system.

### Bottom line

1. Sows adapt rapidly to grouping and reduced space.

2. There probably isn't an ideal floor space for group housed sows and there was plenty of commercial experience and research evidence that 1.8 to 2sq m of quality space provides for the welfare and reproductive needs of sows in groups during gestation.

3. The effect of grouping on aggression and welfare can be reduced by ensuring sows have access to plenty of feed at and immediately after mixing, and that higher feeding levels in early gestation tend to improve reproduction, especially in younger sows.

4. Good stockmanship appears essential to success.

Most producers who presented at the workshops thought we could move on from group housing pregnant sows.

It is a done deal and

those who are yet to change should have it a lot easier than those who moved early.

As Chris Richards and Associates veterinarian Bernie Gleeson said, "Producers have made their decisions and the decisions differ, but now they have to make it work."

Pork CRC R&D will now concentrate on enhancing satiety and inves-

tigating the enrichment of group housed pregnant sows.

The industry publication *Mixing Sows - How to Maximise Welfare* was released at the workshops and is based largely on Pork CRC research.

The publication is available for download from the Pork CRC and APL websites at [porkcrc.com.au](http://porkcrc.com.au) and [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au)

If you want a hard copy,

please email me at [Roger.Campbell@porkcrc.com.au](mailto:Roger.Campbell@porkcrc.com.au)

### Producer praise

Finally, I want to thank and applaud Mark Boyd Otter, Laurie Brosnan, Russell Bishop and Ian Hill who made up the producer panel in Toowoomba and Melbourne.

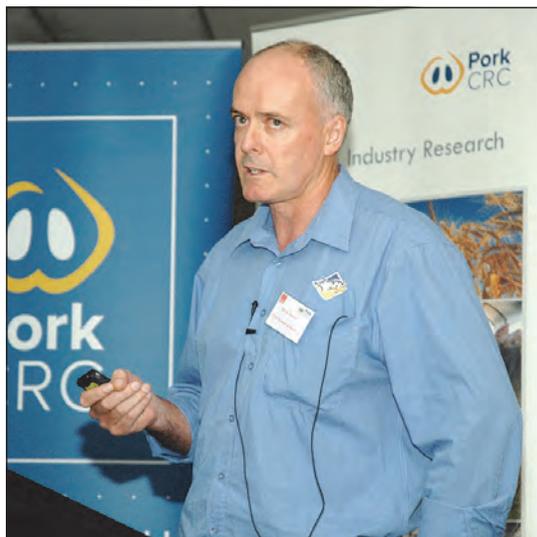
I'd also like to thank workshop producer panel members Rob Rosaia, Ian Bayley, Rod Hamann,

Jenny and Peter McMahon, Kym Bisset and John Bourke.

All were very generous and open in sharing their experiences (good and bad) with us all.

The information was enlightening and should have helped everyone who attended get a good handle on what makes group housing work and some things that don't.

[www.porkcrc.com.au](http://www.porkcrc.com.au)



Chris Richards and Associates veterinarian Bernie Gleeson told the workshops that producers have made their decisions on group housing systems and now they have to make it work.



Pork CRC Program 1 leader Ray King edited the industry publication *Mixing Sows - How to Maximise Welfare* that was launched at the Toowoomba and Melbourne workshops.

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# Boaring approach to taste of success

KAREN Moore is in her second year of a PhD investigating the production of quality pork by optimising the production of male pigs immunised against gonadotrophin releasing factor, that is, pigs that have received Improvac.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Hons), is supported by Australian Pork Limited and her research is conducted under Pork CRC Program 3 (Healthy Pork Consumption).

Karen comes from a pig farming background and is a research officer in the Pork Innovation Group at the Department of Agriculture and Food, WA where her recent work has focused on nutrition and meat quality in grower-finisher pigs.

## Boar taint

Boar taint refers to the urine or perspiration-like odour that occurs in carcasses of some entire males and is a significant cause of consumer complaints about pork.

Immunising entire males against GnRF is an effective strategy to eliminate boar taint and a welfare-friendly alternative to physical castration.

The vaccine is administered relatively close to slaughter, allowing the pig to grow as an entire male with associated positive effects on growth rate and carcass leanness.

After the secondary vaccination, any taint substances present are progressively metabolised, but there is an increase in feed intake and backfat thickness.

## 'Producing quality pork by optimising the production of male pigs immunised against gonadotrophin releasing factor'



Karen Moore: Pork CRC and APL PhD candidate, School of Land and Environment, University of Melbourne

Supervisors: Dr Bruce Mullan, Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, Prof Frank Dunshea, University of Melbourne and Dr Ian Bland, University of Melbourne

## Nutrient needs

Little work has been done with pigs that have received Improvac to look at their nutrient requirements.

It is important that pigs are fed the optimum lysine level to ensure lean growth is maximised and feed costs are minimised.

It is also important that lysine requirements for immunised males are appropriate in order to benefit from the two distinct phases, that is, the benefits of entire male production and immunisation against GnRF.

This project aims to determine the dietary lysine requirements of immunised males.

It was found pigs that received Improvac should be fed as entire males until at least two weeks after the second vaccination, after which the available lysine to energy ratio can be decreased.

Though Improvac is very effective at eliminating and controlling boar taint, the associated increase in fat deposition and feed intake has potentially limited its uptake in the Australian industry because of the price penalties on fat carcasses.

This project will investigate how body composition and certain physiological measures change

following the second vaccination of Improvac.

By identifying the changes and their timing we will be in a better position to identify management strategies that could improve the carcass and eating quality of pork, without any major effect

on the cost of production.

**Farm focus**  
Following on from determining the nutrient requirements of immunised males and investigating body composition and physiological changes, the final aim of this project is to use the information to

develop on-farm management strategies to optimise production of immunised males.

By developing on-farm management strategies to overcome the disadvantages associated with the production of immunised males, it's hoped there will be increased uptake of immunisation against GnRF by the Australian pork industry.

Increased use of Improvac could help reduce the incidence of consumers having a negative pork eating experience due to boar taint.

For more information, please email Karen. moore@agric.wa.gov.au



Karen Moore

# New building requirements for producers

PORK Queensland Inc. will take part in the Department of Housing and Public Works review of the farm building section in the Building Code of Australia in early May.

The review will look at the red tape and requirements for new farm buildings, which includes construction or alterations of piggeries.

The code places significant requirements on new farm buildings, many of which appear to be taken from commercial building requirements such as exit signage, wheelchair access and others that have little or no application in a piggery.

PQI is pleased with the review process be-



## President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



ing adopted by the department as a response to the farming sector's concerns.

Changes being considered will provide alignment with other states that have already implemented commonsense changes.

PQI welcomes any input from producers who have come across what they think are unnecessary requirements.

## Cyclone Ita

I am pleased to re-

port cyclone Ita didn't cause any damage to pig production facilities in Queensland.

Past emergency events have improved Queensland's preparedness, with government and industry contacting each other prior to the cyclone to ensure all possible precautions were in place and providing producers a point of contact in case of need.

PQI took part in post-

Ita teleconferences with government to report damage and assist in relaying information on road closures where required.

**Pan Pacific Pork Expo**  
The PPPE is just around the corner!

The pork industry's premier expo and forum starts with the Delegates Forum on Tuesday, May 20.

This gives producers the opportunity to have their concerns or support tabled for consideration by the Australian Pork Limited board and management.

It also provides direct feedback of APL plans and strategies to producers who are represented by a delegate, so it is important you talk to your elected delegate before

and after the event.

The Pan Pacific Pork Expo from May 21-22 follows the Delegates Forum and provides a valuable two days of information and displays that anyone associated with the pork industry can't afford to miss.

The opportunity to network with fellow industry people is one of the benefits of attending, not to mention visiting the record number of trade displays and listening to the topical presentations by key industry speakers.

Remember, if you or your staff intend to visit PPPE you need to register and should contact APL on 02 6285 2200 or email apl@australianpork.com.au for further information.

See you there!

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# Hedging your grain price risk on ASX

THIS month the ASX Grain Futures and Options market will have been operating for 11 years.

Since inception, in excess of 50 million tonnes of Australian grain has traded on ASX.

Has your piggery ever applied the contracts available on ASX to hedge your grain price risk?

According to industry statistics, the cost of feed is predominantly grain based and represents over half of the total operating costs for Australian piggeries.

If you rank grain price risk as a key issue for your business but do not know what you can do to take greater control, then you may be interested in the following proposal.

### ASX training workshop following PPPE

The Pan Pacific Pork Expo being held on the Gold Coast at the end of the month provides an opportunity to train Australian piggery owners at one central location.

If you are attending PPPE and would like to learn more about how your business can take greater control over the cost of feed grain, ASX is offering to run an industry training workshop on grain futures and options products.

It will explain how ASX products can be applied to hedge your grain price risk.

The proposed workshop is scheduled for Friday, May 23.

A minimum of 10 delegates will be required to run the workshop.

The details of the workshop (if confirmed) are:

- Cost: \$220 (including GST) a delegate
- Time: 9am to 4pm
- Catering: Lunch supplied
- Venue: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

If you would like to participate in the proposed ASX workshop to learn more about hedging your grain price risk, please contact ASX on 02 9227 0197.

Expressions of interest must be received before close of business Thursday, May 8.

ASX will then confirm whether a quorum has been obtained to run the workshop.

### Season update

The winter cropping season is off to a promising start.

A decent season break was received in southern Australia, with growers from east to west actively sowing their winter crops.

That said, while some rain fell in Queensland and northern NSW, regular follow-up rain is required to make up for



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



country lacking subsoil moisture.

Grain end-users looking to hedge their grain price risk exposure should work with the trend and take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves.

As we know, grain prices tend to escalate quickly in times of production uncertainty and the steps down (staggered decline in line with trend) when in a bearish market and production is deemed sufficient and normal.

Through the application of ASX Grain Futures and Options there are strategies that grain end-users can employ which will protect against an upside move in the future.

Furthermore, by utilising an option strategy to hedge grain price risk, end-users can also continue to benefit from further downsides in the grain market should they occur.

### ASX New Trader Incentive Scheme

ASX has launched a New Trader Incentive Scheme for the ASX

Grain Market.

This scheme allows eligible clients (those who have not traded the ASX Grain Market in the past 12 months) to trade the ASX Grain Market at a reduced exchange fee for a six-month period.

ASX is providing a \$2 rebate on the headline exchange fee for futures and options for new traders, resulting in a net fee of \$0.50.

The rebate is payable up to a maximum total of 15,000 sides over a six-month period.

The scheme applies to all contracts within the ASX Grain Market.

### Further information

The ASX Grain Futures and Options market provides Australia's piggeries with a mechanism to take greater control over their exposure to grain price risk.

To get a deeper understanding of the ASX Grain Futures and Options market or for more information on the NTI Scheme, please visit [www.asx.com.au/grain](http://www.asx.com.au/grain) futures

### ASX Market Snapshot (as at April 28, 2014)

Contract	May 2014	January 2015
NSW Wheat	\$324.50	\$320.50
WA Wheat	\$284.50	\$292.50
Feed Barley	\$246.80	\$252.50
Sorghum	\$313.00	\$319.50

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# Pork CRC project leader profile



■ **Pork CRC Project 3B-102: 'Effect of long term consumption of Australian pork for weight loss and weight maintenance on cardiometabolic health, food cravings and cognition and psychological wellbeing in individuals with type 2 diabetes'**

■ **Pork CRC Project 3B-105: 'Volunteers' attitudes towards consumption of fresh Australian pork'**

CLEARLY explaining the health benefits of lean pork consumption has been the focus of the past six years of Dr Karen Murphy's work with colleagues at the University of South Australia Nutritional Physiology Research Centre.

A senior research fellow and registered nutritionist, Karen graduated from RMIT University with a PhD in nutritional biochemistry, exploring the health benefits of bioactive nutrients including lipids, fatty acids and cocoa polyphenols.

Since returning to Adelaide in 2002 to undertake a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship and then NHMRC Industry Research Fellowship at UniSA, she has extended her research to scientifically substantiate the cardiometabolic and cognitive health benefit of foods, bioactive nutrients and dietary patterns.

Some of her past research has focused on exploring cardiovascular benefits of long chain omega-3 fatty acids, dairy foods, tea, cocoa antioxidants and lean pork.

Of particular interest to Karen was why Australians are low consumers of pork compared to other

meats such as beef and chicken.

Apart from anecdotal evidence that perhaps pork was perceived as a less healthy meat than chicken or beef, there appeared to be no good reason why this was so, given pork's similar nutritional content to beef.

#### CRC research

Karen's first Pork CRC funded research project aimed to examine whether regular consumption of fresh, lean pork could improve body composition and cardiovascular risk factors in a six-month parallel intervention trial.

This trial recruited 164 overweight adults who were randomly assigned to incorporate up to 1kg of pork a week by substituting for other foods, or asked to maintain their regular habitual diet.

The team measured plasma levels of lipids, glucose and insulin, as well as indicators of body fatness such as body mass index, waist/hip circumference, blood pressure, heart rate and arterial compliance (arterial elasticity) at the beginning of the trial and then again at three and six months.

A total of 144 volunteers completed the project and volunteers in the pork

group increased their intake tenfold by substituting pork for mainly beef and chicken.

After three months there were significant reductions in weight, BMI, waist circumference, percentage body fat, fat mass and abdominal fat in the pork group relative to controls, which persisted for six months.

There was no change in lean mass, indicating that the reduction in weight was due to loss of fat mass.

Lipids, glucose, insulin and blood pressure did not change.

#### Pork's place

These findings were evaluated in a subsequent trial, as it was unclear whether the effects on body composition were specific to pork, or whether consumption of other high-protein meat diets may have the same benefit.

The team conducted another trial to compare regular consumption of pork with the two most commonly consumed meats in Australia, chicken and beef, on indices of adiposity in a nine-month crossover intervention trial.

Forty-nine overweight or obese adults were randomly assigned to con-

sume up to 1kg a week of pork, chicken or beef by incorporating it into their regular diet for three months at a time.

Interestingly, the researchers found no difference in body mass index or any other marker of adiposity between consumption of pork, beef and chicken diets, indicating pork is no different to chicken or beef in terms of effects on body composition.

#### What's on

This research formed the basis for the current Pork CRC funded project with Pork CRC PhD scholar Nerylee Watson, which is to evaluate the effects of a high pork protein energy restricted diet and a low pork protein energy restricted diet on weight loss, glycaemic control, cardiometabolic health and cognitive performance in men and women with type 2 diabetes.

This project is running and due to finish in March 2015.

Nerylee's team recently completed a project exploring attitudes towards fresh Australian pork in 104 volunteers who had participated in one of Karen's trials.

Volunteers completed food frequency question-

naires and a written questionnaire to determine if attitudes about consumption of pork had changed before and after participating in one or both of the trials.

All volunteers, including those who acted as controls in the previous trials indicated that their pork consumption had increased since participating.

Most volunteers, including controls, felt the opportunity to learn more about the health benefits of pork contributed to

their increase in pork consumption.

In addition, those who were required to consume pork during the intervention trials indicated that while learning more about the potential health benefits of pork had contributed to their increased consumption, so had receiving recipe books that allowed them to prepare and consume different cuts of pork as part of tasty and enjoyable meals.

Overall, pork was seen in a positive light, but

more so after participation in the dietary intervention trial.

#### Pork poppy

Karen is a recipient of 23 research awards, including the prestigious South Australian Young Tall Poppy Award in 2009.

She has received close to \$3 million in research funding and regularly supervises honours and postgraduate students.

For more information, please email Dr Karen Murphy at [Karen.Murphy@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Karen.Murphy@unisa.edu.au)



Dr Karen Murphy



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# Mary Valley Pork announces partnership with Manu Feildel

RIVALEA, Australia's largest pork producer has renewed its partnership with celebrity chef and TV presenter Manu Feildel.

Manu is continuing as the ambassador for its Murray Valley Pork brand.

During 2014 Murray Valley Pork will continue to work closely with Manu and together they will engage consumers, butchers and industry to help spread the word about the quality of this 100 percent Australian grown product.

Manu will be involved in a number of consumer engagement and brand awareness events and campaigns throughout the year.

Rivalea Australia marketing manager Paul da

Absolutely Delicious



Silva said, "We are very excited to be working with Manu again this year."

"Our partnership with someone of Manu's calibre and his reputation for great cooking and fine dining is critical for our brand awareness," Paul said.

"Manu is widely loved and respected and provides an inspirational element to our brand."

"He will be instrumental in helping the increasing number of

home-grown chefs in Australian households achieve the best results when cooking with pork.

"Manu's reputation is synonymous with quality and taste, which is key to the Murray Valley Pork brand."

Manu Feildel said he was delighted to continue as the ambassador for Murray Valley Pork for the second year in a row.

"For me, it is important to be part of a brand that is all about high quality produce that not only tastes delicious, but is responsible and great to cook with," he said.

"I am really passionate about this pork, both in my restaurant business and at home."

"It delivers such great taste and versatility of cooking options."

As Murray Valley Pork's brand ambassador, Manu will take a lead role in the brand's activation and engagement program.

He will feature in the brand's marketing activities, participate in industry events and inspire butchers and consumers alike with his passion and flair for cooking with Murray Valley Pork.



The 2013 University of Melbourne ICMJ team.

## Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition

THE Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Association will hold the 25th annual convention from July 8-13, 2014 at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

The itinerary involves three days of industry-based information seminars, lectures, carcass assessment workshops and presentations by industry leaders.

Subsequently, the convention hosts the annual ICMJ Competition, which is held over two days and followed by a presentation dinner.

In the competition students evaluate pork, beef and lamb carcasses, primals and retail cuts.

The 10 leading students chosen during the competition carry on and complete a Meat Standards Australia training course in Brisbane, with five then selected to compete on the meat judging circuit in the US for one month as part of the Australian National

This five-day program is a valuable opportunity for undergraduate students to gain an appreciation for the immense opportunities and challenges that face the pork and red meat industries in Australia, and also acquire practical experience in the evaluation of carcasses, primals and retail cuts.

Meat Judging Team.

This five-day program is a valuable opportunity for undergraduate students to gain an appreciation for the immense opportunities and challenges that face the pork and red meat industries in Australia, and also acquire practical experience in the evaluation of carcasses, primals and retail cuts.

On an industry level the program enriches the en-

thusiasm, understanding and ability of passionate undergraduate students who are interested in the meat and livestock industries.

This has influenced many past contestants to seek careers in areas such as animal processing, marketing, lot-feeding, farming, food retail, veterinary and research.

The ICMJ Competition achieves this by:

- Exposing students to the fundamentals of meat quality education;
- Demonstrating to students how and why markets perceive meat quality differently, and highlighting the various carcass specifications required by these markets;
- Exposing students to different systems of meat identification and classification;
- Providing training and a non-threatening competitive environment to assist students in developing confidence and communication skills;
- Providing an opportunity for students to acquire and apply knowledge of the practical aspects of meat science;
- Raising students' awareness of career opportunities that exist in the meat and livestock industries; and
- Exposing students to new technologies within the meat and livestock industries.

Following its highly successful participation in the national convention

and competition in previous years, the University of Melbourne hopes to be able to partake in the program again in 2014.

However, the associated training, equipment, travel and entrance fees involved in participating in the competition make it an expensive venture.

We were extremely appreciative for the financial support the nine students participating in the program received from sponsors outside the university last year.

As previous competitors, we are returning as coaches in 2014 to ensure a team can attend this year.

We are seeking sponsorship to enable 20 interested students with a chance at this unique opportunity to again represent the University of Melbourne in the competition.

Your support for this team will be beneficial for both your company and the Victorian meat and livestock industries, as it will no doubt contribute to the injection of passionate graduates back into the industry.

Students selected to compete would be prime candidates for any graduate program initiatives as they continue to develop a firm interest in the meat industry through the Intercollegiate Meat Judging program.

Commercial logos of sponsoring companies will be proudly displayed on team uniforms. The participating students would also be willing to provide statements or deliver a presentation at a nominated company meeting to outline their experiences and the benefits at a personal level.

For further information and to discuss contributions, please email mel bun iicmj@gmail.com or phone 0401 243 618 (Natalie) or 0413 364 983 (Tim).

**Natalie Eckert, Tim Ryan, Phoebe Johnson, David Swain**  
The University of Melbourne ICMJ team coaches 2014  
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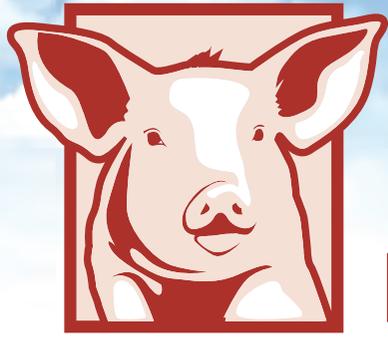


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## Plenary Session Information and Speaker Profiles

Wednesday 21 May 2014

9.00am – 12.00pm	Registration and exhibition hall open
12.00pm – 12.45pm	Lunch
12.45pm – 12.55pm	Chairman's welcome and 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 Medium 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.



### Professor Neil Mann

Neil Mann is Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry in the School of Applied Sciences at RMIT University, Melbourne. He has numerous research publications on diet and health and particularly meat in the human diet past and present. He has played an active role in the Nutrition Society of Australia for over 25 years. He is also an active member of the Australian Society for Human Biology and the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids (ISSFAL). He is also a regular commentator in the print media and on numerous radio and TV programs as a nutrition expert. With colleagues from the School of Anthropology at Oxford University, Professor

Mann has recently published a text on the evolution of human diet in conjunction with health issues faced in modern society by divergence from our evolutionary diet (Evolving Human Nutrition: Implications for Public Health; Ulijaszek, Mann & Elton. CUP, Cambridge, UK).



### Kenton Shaw

Kenton Shaw holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Rural Technology) degree and a Graduate Diploma in Management. Kenton is currently General Manager – Agricultural Operations for Rivalea Australia. Rivalea is Australia's largest pork producer (18%). It is a fully integrated pork producer with grain growing, stockfeed manufacture, pig production, slaughter plants, boning and processing and meat distribution. Rivalea supplies directly to the consumer through a number of unique pork brands. A graduate of Qld University; Gatton Campus; Kenton began employment at Corowa in 1989 as a stockman. He progressed through the organisation;

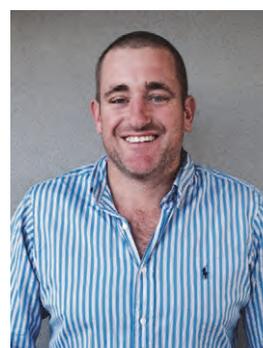
working in various leadership roles across the diverse piggery production systems throughout Southern NSW and Victoria. He has been an Australian Pork Limited Delegate for eight years and a Director of the Pork CRC for four years. While responsible for all pig production and feed milling at Rivalea, a major focus is on implementing sustainable production systems that enhance animal welfare and meet the needs of the public while ensuring long-term viability of the organisation and industry.



### Professor Robert Van Barneveld

Robert van Barneveld is a research consultant, commercial nutritionist and Company Director. He has numerous corporate roles including being General Manager of the CHM Alliance Pty Ltd, a Director of the Pork CRC Ltd, Deputy Chair of the Autism CRC Ltd, Chairman of Porkscan Pty Ltd (a company commercialising technologies for more accurate measurement of pig carcasses), a Non-Executive Director of the Ridley Corporation (Australia's largest stockfeed manufacturer), a Director of Roseworthy Piggery Pty Ltd, and Chairman of Sunpork Pty Ltd (which owns PIC Australia, Australia's most significant supplier of pig

genetics). In 2010, Robert led the bid to establish a Cooperative Research Centre for High Integrity Australian Pork valued at \$132 million over eight years with more than 40 National and International participants. Between 2004 and 2012, Robert was a Specialist Director of Australian Pork Limited. Robert is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



### Tim Kingma

Tim Kingma is a pig producer who owns and manages a 1,400 sow farrow to finish operation in North-Central Victoria. Tim is passionate about the pig industry and is involved in the industry at a State and National level.

## Thank you to the PPPE 2014 Sponsors



## Concurrent Session Information and Some Speaker Profiles

### 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 Stephan Tait, University of Queensland
- Janine Price, Australian Pork Limited
- Dr Damien Batstone, 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.



#### Dr Stephan Tait

Dr Stephan Tait, PhD (Chem Eng), CEng (IChemE). Stephan Tait is a Pork CRC funded Research Fellow at the Advanced Water Management Centre, The University of Queensland across the Anaerobic Technologies and Resource Recovery Groups. Stephan is currently coordinating an industry-based Bioenergy Support Program supporting adoption of biogas at piggeries across Australia.

Online Registration now open and further information available at <http://australianpork.com.au/about-us/calendar-of-events/pan-pacific-pork-expo/>

Limited sponsorship packages and exhibition trade booths remaining

Attendance assistance packages available for Australian Pork Limited Members



#### Professor Paul Hemsworth

Paul Hemsworth is a professor at the University of Melbourne and is Director of the Animal Welfare Science Centre, a joint centre of The University of Melbourne, the Department of Primary Industries (Victoria) and The Ohio State University. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Animal Science, The Ohio State University. Paul is most recognised internationally for his research on the role of human-animal interactions on farm animal welfare and productivity. He has also collaborated with numerous colleagues studying the influence of a wide range of husbandry and housing systems on farm animal welfare and productivity. Paul

has more than 180 peer-reviewed full publications and he teaches undergraduate and postgraduate subjects on animal behaviour and animal welfare at the University of Melbourne.



#### Professor Paul Hughes

Paul Hughes was brought up on a hill sheep farm in North Wales. He holds an honours degree in agricultural science and a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology from the University of Nottingham in the UK. In the 1970s and 1980s he taught at the Royal Agricultural College and the University of Leeds, Department of Animal Physiology and Nutrition prior to emigrating to Australia in 1985. More recently he has been employed at Muresk Institute in Western Australia and the University of Melbourne, where he was the inaugural Head of the Animal Science Department in the Institute of Land and Food Resources.

Currently, he is Program Leader of the Pig and Poultry Production Institute based at the Roseworthy campus of Adelaide University. He has published more than 180 original research papers and reviews in refereed journals on topics as diverse as the endocrinology of puberty in rats, pheromone feedback systems in sheep and nutrition-reproduction interaction in pigs. Perhaps he is best recognised as a co-author of the book "Reproduction in the pig" and, more recently, the CD-ROM "Reproductive management of pigs."



#### Professor Frank Dunshea

After graduating with Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) and PhD from La Trobe University and conducting a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University, Frank Dunshea worked as a government scientist before accepting the position as Chair of Agriculture at The University of Melbourne. Professor Dunshea's research in growth and development, nutrition and meat science has an impressive breadth and quality, providing commercial and public good outcomes. Dunshea is the recipient of the Daniel McAlpine Award, the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Growth and Development Award and the ASAS Non-ruminant

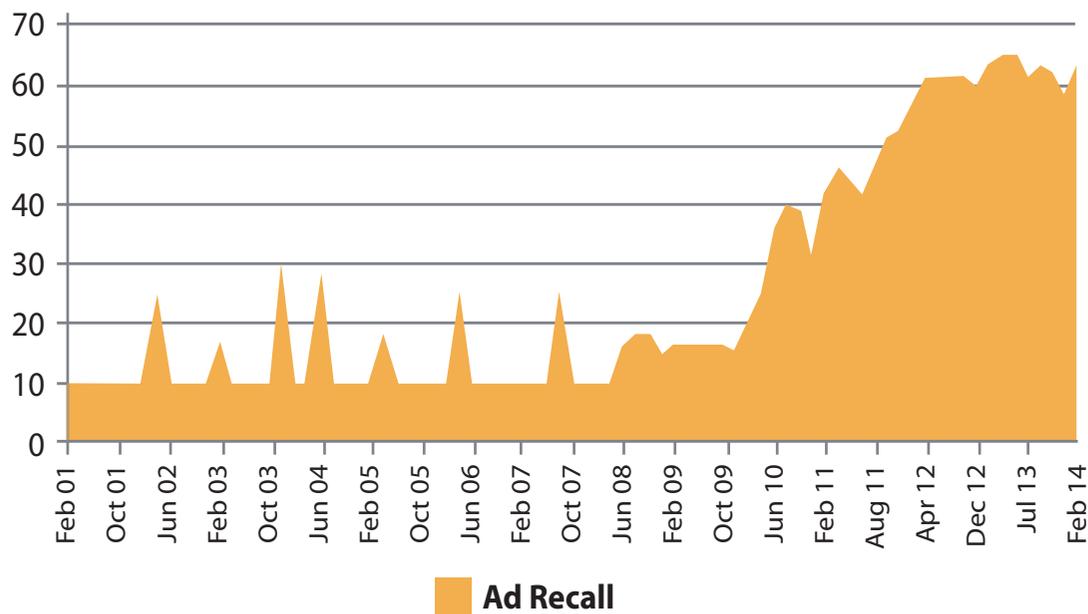
Nutrition award. Dunshea is a Fellow of The Nutrition Society of Australia and the Australasian Pig Science Association and is Chair of the Nutrition Committee of the Australian Academy of Science. Dunshea is Director of "The Unlocking the Food Value Chain" which is a \$9.6M investment over four years by the ARC, Mondelez International and The University of Melbourne to assist the Food industry capture premium markets in China.



#### Dr Damien Batstone

Dr Damien Batstone is Deputy Director (Education) of the Advanced Water Management Centre at the University of Queensland and Professor in the School of Chemical Engineering. Damien has 20 years experience in water industry research, particularly in the area of industrial wastewater treatment, anaerobic technologies, environmental biotechnology, and biosolids management. He is extensively involved as lead consultant at the AWMC with a wide range of industrial partners around the world, and internationally is chair of the IWA Anaerobic Digestion Specialist Group.

## Ad Recall % 2001-2014



# Can you trust a marketer?

CAN you trust a marketer to be consistent?

The short answer is no. By their very nature, most marketers value new ideas and what's possible over what's known and apparently certain.

The Australian Pork Limited Three-Year Performance Review is currently being conducted and prompts the questions, what is being done well and what is in need of significant change?

Big brands and businesses have the advantages of financial strength and scale and the disadvantage of needing to please everyone because almost everyone buys their products.

Smaller brands and businesses have the opposite, with a lack of financial resources and scale but the advantage of flexibility from not having to please everyone.

Smaller brands or businesses can be challenging or challengers.

Pork has just over 10 percent market share in fresh meat, so in late 2009 APL identified a group of Australians and has advertised to them consistently since February 2010.

Advertising was created to suit the people we are targeting.

The ads are different, challenging and noticeable, and some people in our industry have said they are in poor taste.

I can see that (a little). However, APL is not spending producers' marketing money to entertain producers.

It is being spent to produce attractive outcomes.

And so far, increases in Australians remembering our advertising appear to coincide with increased fresh pork consumption and increasing (from one year to the next from 2011 onwards) pig prices.

Overall, outcomes are better than they could be, though a lower grain price



## Marketing Matters

by **PETER HAYDON**  
General Manager Marketing



would help, particularly in Queensland.

But we want improved outcomes.

In addition, advertising or anything else that seemed challenging in 2010 might become normal and non-challenging, which is part of what made it successful in the first place.

All great brands and products are consistent over time.

The available evidence suggests our product consistency is still in need of serious work from the average consumer's perspective.

APL's advertising of fresh pork has been steady, and this will need to be retained in the long term to preserve communication consistency.

So here's the challenger's conundrum.

When things are progressing well, how do you remain challenging without giving away what

you've got?

Here amazingly, scientists become useful.

It's a miracle!

To be more specific, the scientific method becomes useful.

If we treat changes to marketing as experiments, change only one thing at a time and measure the results, we should learn what improves and what damages performance.

Can you hear Darryl D'Souza saying, "Haydon if you are a scientist, I'm Usain Bolt."

Darryl may be right, but that's the plan: to change one thing at a time and measure the result.

So can you trust a marketer?

It depends if they've earned it.

Even then it's a 'shades of grey' thing.

I don't trust many people completely and I can't think of anyone I distrust completely.



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## Historic agreement with Japan falls short

PRIME Minister Tony Abbott recently announced completion of a Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement.

The National Farmers' Federation recognised that the Australian Government has demonstrated its commitment to complete agreements with key trading partners such as South Korea and Japan.

NFF president Brent Finlay said he understands the difficulties involved with negotiating such an agreement, and acknowledged both Trade Minister Andrew Robb and Mr Abbott for securing the agreement.

"We recognise the historical significance of the agreement," Mr Finlay said.

"However, we are disappointed with the overall outcomes for agriculture, with a number of sectors facing marginal improvements or limited commercial gains.

"The agreement appears to be positive for Australian beef, horticulture and seafood, with a range of tariffs being reduced over time.

"We understand there is a commitment to review the agreement in five years, which is an opportunity to continue to improve the arrangements."

The sensitivities surrounding parts of Japanese agriculture have made reaching an agreement more challenging.

Australia is the first major agricultural exporter to achieve movement on some of Japan's high import barriers.

While the agreement has provided some concessions, Australian farmers needed more.

Mr Finlay said the ultimate objective with any trade agreement is to obtain tangible benefits for farmers.

"Agreements must be comprehensive," he said.

"That means no sector carve-outs and elimination of tariffs.

"The Japanese agreement falls short of the mark on a number of fronts in this regard.

"The agreement does not improve – or marginally improves – market access and terms of trade for a number of sectors such as pork, dairy, sugar, grains and rice.

"Securing good deals for agriculture is always a difficult part of any negotiation and it is clearly the case for Japan.

"Given we export 60 percent of the food and fibre we produce in Australia, our farmers need good commercial outcomes from future trade negotiations."

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# Feed acid market estimated at \$US2.6 billion by 2018

THE world market for organic acids in animal feeds is rising at more than 5 percent a year, strengthened by the demand to replace antibiotic growth promoters, according to a new market study.

The global market for feed acidifiers in terms of revenue was estimated to be worth around \$US2 billion in 2013 and is projected to reach \$US2.6 billion by 2018; growing at the compound annual growth rate of 5.2 percent, as reported by Markets and Markets.

The main industry participants are involved in acquisitions to penetrate the untapped markets.

The report, 'Feed Acidifiers Market by Type (Propionic Acid, Fumaric Acid, Lactic Acid, Formic Acid & Others), by Livestock (Swine, Cattle, Poultry, Aquatic Animals & Others), by Geography - Global Trends & Forecasts to 2018', defines and segments the global feed acidifier market with analysis and projection of the global volume and revenue for the feed acidifiers.

It also identifies the driving and restraining factors of acidifiers in treating animal diseases. The main restraints of the industry are the emergence of substitute products such as metabolic peptides, microflora enhancers and herbal products.

However, the increasing use of feed acidifiers for treating animal diseases is creating opportunities. The report adds that manufacturers are developing innovative production techniques to manufacture the products at a lower cost and increase their production capacity.

The demand-driving factors of the feed acidifiers market are the ban on the use of antibiotics as animal growth promoters, and the increasing use of acidifiers in treating animal diseases.

For the global market with analysis of trends, opportunities, burning issues, winning imperatives and challenges.

The market is segmented and revenue is projected on the basis of regions such as North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific and

Rest of the World.

The key countries are covered and their market is projected for each region.

Further, the market is divided and revenue is forecast on the basis of types, livestock and geography.

Feed acidifiers are supplements that are added to improve the digestibility of the feed.

They are used for various purposes such as improving gut health, maintaining a level of microflora in the intestine and increasing the growth rate of the animals.

The demand-driving factors of the feed acidifiers market are the ban on the use of antibiotics as animal growth promoters, and the increasing use

Feed acidifiers help to keep livestock healthy and therefore more productive.

Some important feed acidifiers are propionic, fumaric, lactic and formic acids.

These feed acidifiers are supplemented with the feed in varying quantities, depending on the livestock as well as the surrounding environment and its impact on the animals.

The demand-driving factors of the feed acidifiers market are the ban on the use of antibiotics as animal growth promoters, and the increasing use

of acidifiers in treating animal diseases.

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## Muck Runner enabling producers to make the most of solid and liquid effluents

MUCK Runner Pty Ltd is based in Mount Gambier, South Australia and has been supplying quality machines to Australian pig farmers and contractors for more than 15 years.

Run by Tom and Louise Paltridge, the company is the official importer of Pichon and Rolland machines (both French manufacturers) and they endeavor to help pig farmers make the most of liquid and solid effluents.

Pichon has been a market leader in slurry handling equipment for many years.

Its factory is located in Brittany, a region producing 50 percent of the pigs in France.

Pichon has manufactured galvanised slurry tankers for over 40 years and extends its manufacturing excellence to a range of rear discharge galvanised manure spreaders.

Muck Runner supplies the whole range of Pichon TCI slurry tankers (integrated chassis tanks) from 2600 to 30,000 litres and also the Muck Master manure spreaders that range from 9 to 24m<sup>3</sup>.

In addition to supplying reliable and quality machines, Muck Runner also focuses on advising farmers about the equipment on the machines so they will profit most from the fertilising value of solid and liquid effluents.

In Australia, most liquid effluent is spread with splash plates on paddocks.

This method can result in up to 80 percent of the available nitrogen applied in the slurry being lost in the atmosphere, which means a huge loss of valuable nutrients for farmers. Muck Runner advises minimising such losses by reducing the surface area of the spread slurry exposed to the air.

To achieve this, it offers a wide range of spreading tools such as dribble bars (from 9 to 24m wide), trailing shoes or injectors.

Muck Runner focuses on the idea that organic fertilisers coming from farming activities enable farmers to create impor-

tant savings and obtain the best outputs by adding value to the paddock.

For instance, by spreading liquid slurry with a dribble bar the product is deposited directly on the soil surface at the roots and not the leaf, reducing smell and evaporation of valuable nitrogen.

This spread pattern is much more uniform and improves slurry infiltration.

The calculation is simple in terms of savings on bags of fertiliser.

The idea is exactly the same for solid effluent.

By using manure spreaders with vertical beaters, the user can incorporate solid pig manure and biosolids into paddocks.

They will be much slower to decompose than liquid slurry but odours usually last for a short period.

Some of the standard features of manure spreaders provided by Muck Runner include fully hot-dipped and galvanised structures at 480C, commercial axles with 10 studs, 420x180mm hydraulic brakes, the largest diameter beaters on the market (1035mm), sprung drawbars, rear guillotine doors, hydraulic floor chain tension and hydraulic jacks.

The extra large beaters give higher tip speed and uniform spreading of different products at higher flow rates (even at the end of spreading).

The size of the beaters and their positioning means the left and right overlap and spreading vanes ensure complete processing of any clumps and lumps.

This gives the additional benefit of saving energy as the reversible blades only contact the spreading material during the exiting arc of travel.

A hydraulic rear hood can be added to any existing machine in order to achieve greater spreading width and added processing of the product.

Muck Runner can also order a range of accessories such as scales with weight delivery systems and lime kits to handle any type of solid manure.

## Lamapor heat pads

LAMAPOR has been making heat pads for intensive farming for over 38 years, but several years ago and as energy costs spiralled upwards it altered its manufacturing philosophy to cater for an energy efficient economy in the livestock industry.

Now it has stainless steel and polymer concrete pads available in electric and hot water designs for creep and weaner flooring systems.

The pads can be located over grating or ordered with support flaps to provide either a raised or level surface for your piglets.

Lamapor heat pads are made using top quality stainless steel with a checkered surface.

They offer even heat distribution across the

whole surface, are incredibly durable and strong, as well as hygienic and easy to disinfect.

The polymer concrete heat pads also have very even heat distribution and are a strong and hardwearing product.

Due to the sophisticated manufacturing process both pads only

radiate heat from the surface, making sure the warmth is going exactly where it needs to.

Lamapor heat pads can be ordered in various sizes and are adaptable to any type of flooring.

They are ideally suited to Freedom farrowing crates as the sows won't damage the heat pads.



## Stainless steel food pump

AUSTRALIAN Pump Industries has launched a 316 grade stainless steel submersible pump range.

Manufactured by Tsurumi Pump, the world's largest manufacturer of submersible sump pumps, the new SFQ series offers improved standards of reliability and performance for the food industry.

With cast parts made of super high grade SCS14 stainless steel (316 grade) and elastomers from FKM (fluoroelastomer rubber), the pumps are highly compatible with a wide range of acidic liquids.

These include citric acid, fatty acids, milk, alcohol and lactic acid.

The pumps are also suitable for applications involving the pumping of food oils including castor, corn, cotton seed and linseed oils.

Soy and coconut oils can also be handled after making compatibility adjustments to materials such as the pump detail cable.

The SFQ range was developed for mining applications where corrosive liquids literally eat conventional cast iron or 304 grade pumps.

The Tsurumi SFQ series is purpose-designed for such environments, with a range of pumps featuring port sizes from 50 to 80mm.

They offer flow rates of up to 2000lpm and head capacities to 44m.

That head capacity is a vertical lift from the pump's discharge port.

Motors are heavy-duty three-phase units that range from 4 to 11kW.

The starting method is by direct on line and the motors are two pole 415V, 50Hz.

available for 60Hz power where required.

The pumps are fitted with semi-open type impellers that enable them to pass solids in suspension.

Because the impeller blade rotates about 0.5mm above the wear plate, the pump can clear itself of settled solids.

For permanent installation in sumps or pits, the larger models can be equipped with stainless steel guide rail kits.

The kits include a 5m stainless lifting chain with shackles, guild supports with nuts and bolts, a guide hook and a duck foot bend outlet that enables the pump to be removed and reinstalled in the pit without the operator risking impurity or contamination.

These pumps are used in saltwater applications as well and have proven themselves because of the high-grade material used.

The 316 castings do not corrode the way welded sheet steel grades of stainless steel can in conventional submersible pumps.

They can also handle wastewater and effluent and are ideal for applications wherever corrosion is a potential issue.

For example, their ability to handle fatty acids makes them perfect for use in abattoirs or downstream meat processing applications.

Further information including a free chemical compatibility chart is available from Australian Pump Industries, or at [www.aussiepumps.com.au](http://www.aussiepumps.com.au)





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# Australia-New Zealand partner to fight animal disease threat

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand have agreed to work together to prepare for the unlikely event of a foot and mouth disease outbreak in either country.

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce and NZ Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to stress the importance of collaboration in combating the disease and its devastating impacts.

Minister Joyce said, "Our number one plan and the focus of much of our biosecurity efforts is to keep FMD out of Australia and New Zealand – but you can't stick your head in the sand about something this significant – you have to plan for the worst."

"Australia has an internationally recognised capability to deal quickly and effectively with emergency animal disease outbreaks," Mr Joyce said.

"However, an FMD outbreak could have devastating impacts on our valuable livestock industries, exporting capabilities and trading reputation.

"Recent ABARES research found the impact of an FMD outbreak in Australia could cost our economy up to \$52 billion over 10 years, therefore we have more than 50 billion reasons to work together to continue Australia's 100-year record of freedom from FMD."

Minister Guy said greater collaboration would improve readiness and capacity to cope with an outbreak of FMD or any other significant exotic animal disease.

"We will work together in fields such as sharing intelligence on risk, collaborating on training opportunities, sharing scarce skills in the event of an outbreak and influencing international policy in the area of disease management," Mr Guy said.

"New Zealand has now joined the well-established Australian FMD training program in Nepal, which has engaged the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to provide veterinarians and key livestock industry representatives the opportunity to see FMD in the field.

"It is well known that an outbreak of FMD would cause significant economic and social damage, with the closure of many international markets for animal products and control measures having huge impacts on tourism, food chain businesses, farming families, rural business and communities."

Another benefit of the MoU is helping to ensure that an international reserve of veterinary specialists and other skilled personnel can be activated quickly.

NZ recently provided veterinary assistance to the successful NSW avian influenza eradication effort and continues to observe the Australian FMD simulation Exercise Odyssey, a series of discussion

and field-based exercises being held throughout 2014.

"Exercise simulations and participation in peace time activities also ensure there is a mutual understanding of how systems work in the other country, which means that staff can rapidly integrate into the other country's systems in the event they are needed," Mr Guy said.

Minister Joyce said working closely together and participating in exercises helped build very useful links between the two countries.

"Australia and New Zealand have a long history of cooperation in areas of mutual interest and preparedness for a significant animal disease outbreak is certainly a worthy area to partner in."

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## Ontario pork producers vote to keep sow stalls

AT Ontario Pork's recent annual general meeting, delegates voted to continue using sow stalls until it is proven there is a better welfare system.

Delegates at the AGM voted 45 to 18 to keep sow stalls until "it is proven through proper documented research that there is another system that will provide better welfare".

Ontario Pork chair Amy Cronin said the result was what she had expected.

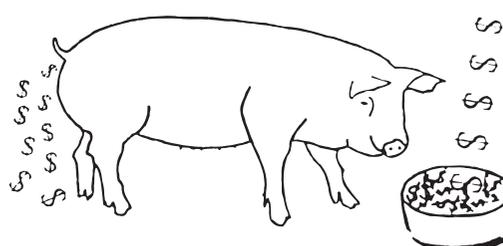
She said she didn't

believe it was an out and out rejection of loose housing and that attitudes have definitely changed, but producers have reservations.

The new Canadian national Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs was released at the beginning of March.

It calls for barns built after July 1, 2014 to enable loose housing systems for gestating sows and for stalls to be phased out of existing housing by the end of 2014.

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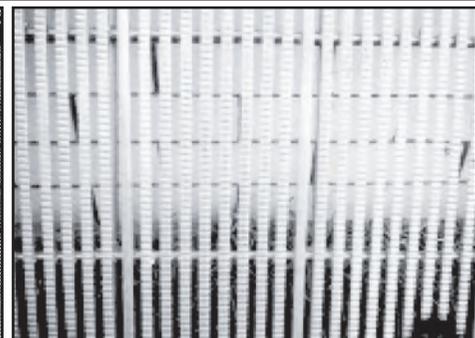
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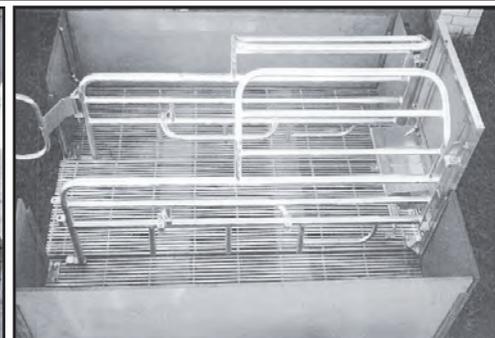
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# Pointers for successful sow group housing

AUSTRALIAN pork producers and sows in their care are successfully transitioning to group housing as part of the concerted efforts to produce high integrity Australian pork and appropriately differentiate the product from that of overseas competitors. Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell addressed 150 pork producers and industry stakeholders at the recent Pork CRC and

APL 'Successful Group Housing Systems for Dry Sows' workshops in Toowoomba and Melbourne, and described group housing the Australian way as "now virtually a done deal". "Most producers have made the transition and those who are now a couple of years down the track are reporting very satisfactory production levels and, it seems, improved welfare outcomes for sows," Dr Campbell said.

"While the precise recipes for those successes vary slightly, the essential ingredients are providing adequate quantity and quality of space for the sows, plenty of feed availability and access, especially immediately after first mixing of sows into groups and, as is the Australian way, good stockmanship."

Pork CRC subprogram leader Prof Paul Hemsworth from the Animal Welfare Science Centre, University of Melbourne said domestic pigs, just like their wild relatives, needed to establish a social order or hierarchy and this needed to be done quickly when sows were first mixed.

"Sows need adequate space to avoid other sows and research has shown that space is more important than group size when mixing sows," Prof Hemsworth said.

"Stress will, typically, reduce from day two to nine after mixing and

maximising space allowances, especially up to day two, will help reduce aggression between sows.

"Superior stockmanship is very important with group housing and being aware that if sows have recent familiarity they are likely to be less aggressive on mixing."

Prof Hemsworth said the quality of floor space and feeding system type was also important.

Producers at the workshops generally agreed that providing plenty of feed, including perhaps multiple drops a day if floor feeding, was very important, especially when sows were first mixed in groups.

All feeding arrangements had advantages and disadvantages including electronic sow feeding systems where sows are trained and full or shoulder stall feeding.

Producers should, for example, ensure sufficient ESFs for the number of sows in the pen to minimise aggression during entry to the ESF.

Dr Jean Loup Rault, a colleague of Prof Hemsworth at AWSC, addressed the workshops and recommended that in order to limit unwelcome aggression between sows mixed at weaning, producers should consider using feeding stalls, distinct mating stalls and make efforts to limit sexual interaction by dominant sows over submissive sows.

Chris Richards and Associates veterinarian Dr Bernie Gleeson warned of unintended consequences and said nothing happened in isolation and this was particularly the case in group housing.

Producers needed to be aware of potential hazards such as mycotoxins in straw bedding, overweight sows, especially when floor feeding where dominant sows may eat more

than submissive sows and the strategic placement of self-feeders.

Robust producer panel discussions were held at the Toowoomba and Melbourne workshops, with most agreeing that the transition to group sow housing, albeit challenging, was working well and that there was no one size fits all solution.

Most agreed that the positive perception of improved sow welfare was apparent.

A very informative manual titled *Mixing Sows – How to Maximise Welfare* was launched at the workshops and made available to producers.

It can be viewed or downloaded from the Pork CRC website at [www.porkcrc.com.au](http://www.porkcrc.com.au)

Edited by Pork CRC Program 1 leader Dr Ray King, it is very comprehensive and outlines the latest research on group housing sows and strategies for mixing sows post weaning or post insemination.

Some key take-home messages in the manual are:

- Current Australian research indicates that the minimum space allowance for group housed sows is likely to be somewhere between 1.8 and

2.4sq m a sow.

- Sows adapt quickly to mixing and may adapt to reduced space during later stages of pregnancy.

- Physical and visual barriers within pens of large groups of sows allow them to avoid each other and escape aggressive sows.

- Sows should receive average daily intakes that maintain targeted body condition.

- Higher feeding levels immediately after mixing and through to day 28 of gestation will minimise the risk of less dominant sows receiving less nutrition, as well as reduce aggression.

- Feed should be spread widely to allow greater access by timid sows, while multiple feed drops every 30 to 60 minutes may reduce aggression at feeding.

- Dynamic groups should not experience more welfare issues than static groups provided only a small proportion of sows enter and are removed from the group at each change.

- Keep the majority of sows in the same group from one pregnancy to the next and try to match sows into groups, based on parity and size.

[www.porkcrc.com.au](http://www.porkcrc.com.au)

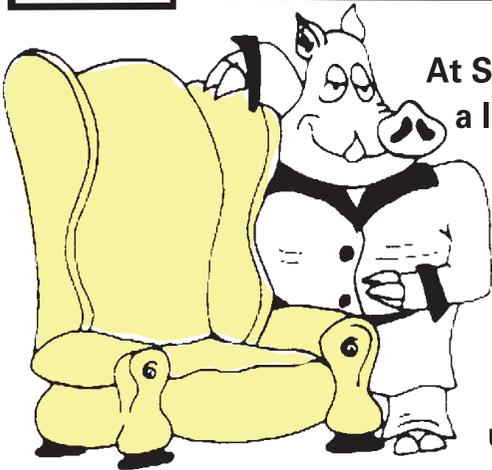
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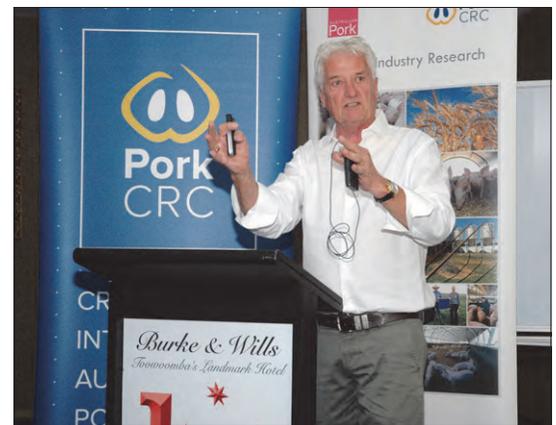
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Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell addressed the Toowoomba 'Successful Group Housing Systems for Dry Sows' Pork CRC/APL workshop and described group housing the Australian way as "now virtually a done deal".

## Mental health support for drought-affected communities

DROUGHT-affected communities in Queensland and NSW will have increased access to free counselling under a \$10.7 million Australian Government investment in targeted social and community support.

Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews and Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce said the investment was a key element of the Government's \$320 million support package for businesses, farm families and rural communities facing hardship brought on by drought.

Mr Andrews said the Australian Government understands that some farmers, farm families and rural communities are doing it tough because of the prolonged severe drought, and this can affect their mental

health and wellbeing.

"That is why we are investing \$10.7 million in additional help, including one-to-one counselling, family support services and referrals and outreach to people in need in drought-affected communities," he said.

"The Department of Human Services has drought coordinators who will help to ensure good communication and coordination between service providers, so they can best support those in need."

Mr Joyce said the funds will be delivered through the Family Support Program and Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) Program to 22 existing service providers across drought-affected areas in Queensland and NSW.

"The funds will allow providers to go out to these communities, promote support services through community events and offer individual counselling," he said.

"The providers will also work with other government and non-government services, such as the Rural Financial Counselling Service, health services, emergency relief and other community support organisations, to provide a full range of support to these communities."

A list of service providers that will receive the additional funds is available at [www.dss.gov.au/mental-health/news/drought-assistance](http://www.dss.gov.au/mental-health/news/drought-assistance)

Information about other support can be found at [www.daff.gov.au/drought](http://www.daff.gov.au/drought)

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# Sow housing seminars – Toowoomba and Melbourne



Eric Short, McLean Farms, Pittsworth, Queensland; Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell; McLean Farms Wayne Sullivan; and Pork CRC Program 1 leader Ray King at Toowoomba.

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APL Research and Innovation GM Darryl D'Souza helped set the scene at the start of the day's proceedings in Toowoomba by reviewing how housing systems for dry sows in Australia had changed over the past few years from stall to group housing.



Producers and other industry stakeholders at the Toowoomba workshop maintained a sharp focus throughout the day as the rewards and challenges of group housing were revealed.



Stanhope, Victoria producer John Bourke has 480 sows and was a member of the producer panel at the Melbourne workshop.



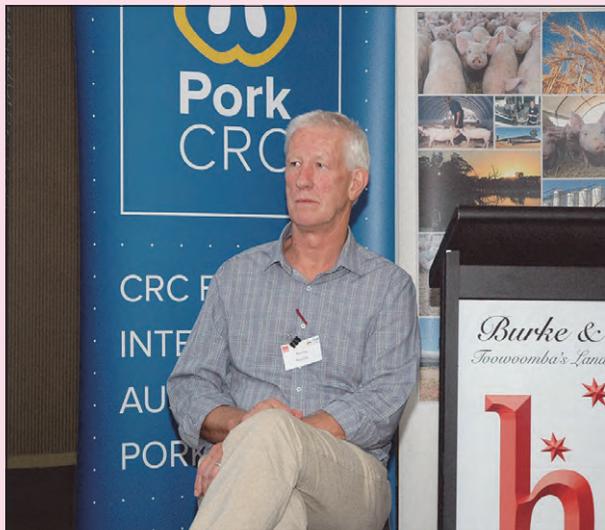
Melbourne workshop producer panel members: Peter McMahon, MacPiggery, Lameroo, SA; Rob Rosaia, Rivalea, St Arnaud, Victoria; Ian Bayley, Blackwood Piggery, Trafalgar, Victoria; and Rod Hamann, Australian Pork Farms Group, SA.



Errol Hardwick of CT & MJ Davis, Chinchilla, Queensland; Sara Willis, DAFF Queensland; Lester Handford, DHA Rural, Toowoomba; and Brenden McClelland, Belmont Pastoral Co, Bell, Queensland.



Greg Bolster of Singh Farms, Yetman, NSW and Raj Singh, Byron Bay Pork at the Toowoomba workshop.



Ray King was an appropriately laid back chairman for the Toowoomba and Melbourne workshops.



Emalyn Loudon of Westpork, Western Australia spoke at Toowoomba of Westpork's very positive initiatives to enhance, measure and validate welfare outcomes for pigs at its sites.



Cameron Marbach, All Creatures Vet Services, Monto, Queensland with Richard Saraus and Tyson Jarvis from Liberty Fields, a 450 sow piggery at Monto that has been group housing for six months using a Nedap ESF system.



Carlos Gonzales and Mircea Mihal of Tong Park Piggery in Warra, Queensland with Jorge Pena from Alltech Australia at the Toowoomba workshop. Tong Park has about 9000 sows that were group housed approximately two years ago.



Imogene Gardiner of APL was about to survey workshop participants at the end of the day's proceedings at Toowoomba.



## PROUD OF OUR INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT



## PROUD OF OUR INNOVATION



## PROUD OF OUR STAFF

Proudly family-owned and operating in Queensland for almost 20 years, QNPH is an industry leader. A range of technologies have been implemented over the past 10 years, including state of the art automated sow feeding systems and group-housing technologies. The team at QNPH are also immensely proud of their involvement in an industry biogas collection pilot study, whereby methane was collected and reticulated as a heating source for piglets.

QNPH also recognise, with pride, their loyal, committed and longstanding staff.

QNPH is proud of its innovation, progress and team, and proud to be an efficient producer of quality Australian pork products.



Supported by Chris Richards & Associates