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## Gold Coast welcomed the Australian pork industry

IT was great to see so many producers at another successful Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

Record numbers of registrants seem to go against a long-term industry trend that is seeing fewer and fewer pig producers over the years.

This I guess ignores the fact that piggery staff represent more of those we get to meet at events such as PPPE.

Those in the industry always take advantage of being in the same place at the same time, so there were many other events organised around PPPE including an Australian Pork Limited Board meeting on the Monday and a Delegates Forum the following day.

We continue to see higher levels of engagement by delegates at the twice-yearly forums, which is great and notably very helpful to APL executive staff to hear the voices of the industry – though they are not always in agreement.

Some of the issues we covered included:

- An update on the goings on with farm invasions from APL Policy general manager Deb Kerr.

A number of Queensland properties have been 'exposed' on the likely websites recently.

We took the opportunity to release our toolkit for handling the risk of farm invasions, which will very soon be available to the broader industry through the APL website;

- An update on APL's interactions with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on the use of terminology such as sow stall free (meaning at least 90 per cent of the pregnancy is unconfined individually);

- Information about what we are doing to prevent the same type of crisis that is presently going on in North America with the porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus outbreak;

- Antibiotic use within the industry including potential issues with the future use of olaquinox;

- What the current government means for emis-

sions management and the future of the Carbon Farming Initiative;

- An outline of issues around the APIQ<sup>✓</sup> system, including the major review to be conducted in the coming financial year; and

- A progress report on the Strategic Plan, which is going through the final approval processes in the May and June APL Board meetings prior to its launch.

We hope to do a 'politician and media' launch at Parliament House in Canberra in August, subject to the availability of the right stakeholders.

Once you get a chance to see the new Strategic Plan, APL would like to hear your thoughts about how it fits with your views of what the industry needs to do over the next five years.

For the first time at a Delegates Forum, we gave delegates the opportunity to talk on industry issues they are passionate about.

Thanks to Laurie Brosnan, John Bourke and Ean Pollard for their in-



### Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



teresting takes on our issues – it certainly helped to highlight the array of opinions within the industry that help our healthy debates.

There will be some summary notes distributed to delegates from the meeting, so any producers wanting more information on the forum are encouraged to contact their delegate to get a copy.

The other activity that I was involved in during our Gold Coast week was talking to the media about pork industry issues.

If you get a moment,

take a look at the *Landline* story about farm invasions affecting our industry.

Through an interview with Peter McCutcheon, I had the opportunity to get across the key points about why something has to give around the appropriate protection of pig farmers from these invasions, and we all need to take responsibility to spread the message.

Next month I'll be further outlining some of the key attributes of our new Strategic Plan for 2015-2020.

Until then... ☺

## Positive PPPE outcomes

PORK CRC and Australian Pork Limited undergraduate and post-graduate students spent the day before the Pan Pacific Pork Expo in a development workshop capably hosted by Robyn Terry, former Pork CRC

PhD student now with APL.

The students presented on their research and participated in vigorous discussions about animal welfare and how science can help defend the pork industry against rogue animal activists.

Invited participants and speakers included Roger Campbell (Pork CRC), Darryl D'Souza (APL), Frank Dunshea (University of Melbourne), Tony Edwards (Ace Livestock Consulting) and pork producers Edwina Beveridge and Ean Pollard. ☺



More PPPE articles and photo gallery inside ➔

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**Pig Industry  
Calendar of Events**

**2014**

**JUL 1** – PigGas Producer's Workshop, Kingaroy QLD, Ian Kruger 0401 365 488

**JUL 3** – PigGas Producer's Workshop, Lismore NSW, Ian Kruger 0401 365 488

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

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

**SEP 8 - 12** – Joint ISNH/ISRP International Conference 'Harnessing the Ecology and Physiology of Herbivores', Canberra www.herbivores2014.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2015**

**JAN 27 - 29** – International Production & Processing Expo, Atlanta, Georgia, US www.ippexpo.org

**MAR 11 - 13** – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand www.vivasia.nl

**APR 14 - 15** – Victorian Pig Fair Inc, Bendigo, VIC E: aileen@acelabservices.com.au

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

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

**MAY 17 - 20** – Alltech Symposium, Lexington, US www.alltech.com

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

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

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

**porknews.com.au**

**Animal activism, welfare and the science of it all**

AT the recent Pan Pacific Pork Expo I was asked to present at a student workshop for Australian Pork Limited and Pork CRC students.

The title of my presentation was 'Animal welfare activism: can science defend our industry?'

A pertinent topic I thought given the increased illegal farm break and entries targeting the pork industry, and the need for our next group of scientists to be aware of key issues affecting our industry.

In addition, NSW farmers Edwina Beveridge and Ean Pollard also presented to the students.

Edwina gave a firsthand account of life after her farm was illegally broken into and the subsequent vitriol she, her family and staff have had to put up with in the aftermath.

Ean Pollard also spoke briefly about his similar experiences, post the illegal break and entry to his farm.

The key points I wanted to get across to the students were:

1. That science must form the basis of any animal welfare discussion.

In the absence of science, we are in danger of altering production systems to the detriment of the animals we farm.

I also believe that knee-jerk reactions based on anthropomorphic comparisons should not constitute the basis for the welfare of our animals.

2. That science must be based on sound and valid



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



hypotheses, have appropriate experimental design and be peer reviewed and published (irrespective of positive results or not).

Needless to say, much discussion was had over the duration of PPPE.

This discussion did however get me thinking whether in fact science could ever defend good welfare practices by the pork industry.

My gut response is absolutely!

Take for example the report released by Voiceless in 2012 titled 'Science and Sense: the case for abolishing sow stalls'.

This so-called scientific report sought to discredit just about all the science funded by the Pig Research and Development Corporation and APL over the years, and labelled our substantial scientific studies as biased, even though the work has been peer reviewed and published.

Nevertheless, it was fairly easy to refute these claims as put simply, our scientific credentials speak for themselves.

It was interesting to note that not long after

this report was released, a scientific manuscript titled 'Publication Bias in Animal Welfare Scientific Literature' by van der Schot and Phillips was published in the 2013 *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* (Vol 26 (5) p945-958).

Prof Clive Phillips, Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics director at the University of Queensland and consultant to Voiceless stated that, "in a study of how scientists report animal welfare research, Agnes van der Schot found convincing proof that they are greatly influenced by the funding agency" (*The Conversation*, January 9, 2013).

I have read the manuscript numerous times and I must say there is much to fault with it and the author's conclusions.

Also, this manuscript does not provide convincing proof that scientists do in fact change their conclusions to suit the funding agency.

But Schot and Phillips do make some salient points around the need to publish all research, not

just the studies that provide positive results.

As APL Research and Innovation general manager, I can report that APL has not prevented any animal welfare research and development from being published and the results and conclusions are there for all to see.

Speaking of which, APL is about to place all research reports on its revamped website within the next month.

So, getting back to my question about whether science could ever defend good welfare practices by the pork industry.

I firmly believe the answer is yes, as the animal activists seem to be steering the welfare attacks on the pig industry well past the science, to a place where there appears to be very few checks and balances.

I am of course referring to a trial by media approach, which when you think about it is their only option.

The fact of the matter is that the response of animal activists to our science has proved less than satisfactory for them.

It would appear the actions of animal activists leave me with another question: Are any of these farm raids about improving animal welfare?

I can only conclude that the answer to this question is a resounding no.

It seems that in their eyes at least, good animal welfare equals veganism, and for animal activists this can only be achieved

by shutting down the Australian pork industry.

As an industry we must continue, and in fact step up our efforts to ensure that this discussion is about true animal welfare and animal welfare alone.

Not some anthropomorphic statement from an individual/s that have openly breached the bio-security of farms in carrying out these illegal activities and actions.

To this end, the Australian pork industry has an obligation to demonstrate that its production practices do in fact represent 'best welfare'.

To do this however, we must do a better job at defining what in fact best welfare is.

Scientists use a range of 'markers' to define welfare status, and I think therein lies the problem.

There appears to be a lack of agreement on the appropriateness of these welfare markers, which perhaps seems to confuse the issue.

In a utopian world there would be a single definitive marker – perhaps a traffic light system in a pig's ear to highlight welfare status.

Come to think of it, such a system would never be accepted as we would have the anti-genetically modified groups up in arms.

So will a science-based approach to animal welfare be an effective foil to the animal activists' trial by media campaigns?

Time will tell, but one thing I am sure of is that in the absence of science, we are in danger of altering production systems to the detriment of the animals we farm.

And that to me is a bigger issue than the considerable angst the illegal farm break and entries are causing our industry.

The Australian pork industry must strive to ensure it adopts and is able to demonstrate the highest welfare practices as determined by science and not popular view.

As a livestock industry we owe it to our pigs, the community and pork consumers.

**Study shows Australian livestock industry leading the way in antibiotic resistance**

Laura Gartrey, *ABC Rural* (May 27, 2014)

Antibiotic resistance in farming animals is a looming global health issue, but a University of Adelaide national survey indicates that Australia remains in a very favourable position.

Released at the Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference in Perth, results show Australia's strong regulations around veterinary drugs, combined with relatively low levels of antibiotic use, are producing stronger immune systems and

continued P3

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# How CRC sees PPPE

PAN Pacific Pork Expo 2014 set a record for attendance (576), ran very smoothly, encouraged healthy debate and provided a valuable forum for interchange, particularly between producers, researchers and industry.

I modestly congratulate the organising committee, of which I was Pork CRC's representative, and sponsors and delegates for again supporting this important biennial event.

The mood among producers was much more optimistic than in 2012 and for good reason.

We are certainly making great progress differentiating our industry and our pork, and the plenary presentations from producers Tim Kingma and Kenton Shaw outlined where they saw the greatest opportunities.

Andrew Spencer similarly defined the basis of APL's Strategic Plan for the next five years, with more emphasis on what you might term higher-end export markets.

The three concurrent sessions covered Pork CRC research in sow housing, eating quality of Australian pork and carbon reduction; the latter particularly emphasising how to make more from manure.

## Catch up

In sow housing, Paul Hemsworth outlined where we're at with housing gestating sows in groups, while Paul Hughes covered alternative lactation systems.

I can say the researchers have caught up with industry in respect to the management and nutrition of group housed sows and there seems to be some take-home messages to making group housing work.

The most interesting finding is that sows, whether grouped at weaning or after mating, adjust quite rapidly (within days) to mixing or grouping and reduced available floor space.

However, based on measuring cortisol levels and observing injuries, their welfare is compromised during this period.

The impact of mixing on welfare can be reduced by:

1. Providing sows during



## Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL  
CEO



the period immediately after grouping with more space and good quality space, such as giving them barriers and shoulder or full-body stalls.

However, as I said, the amount of space can be reduced once sows have sorted their dominance order, and we know from commercial experience that 1.8-2sq m of good-quality floor space appears adequate for welfare and reproduction.

I keenly await a final Pork CRC report from Paul Hemsworth of a study looking at the effect of floor space between 1.45 and 2.9sq m on welfare and reproduction – let's see what these results tell us.

2. Providing sows with ample feed immediately after mixing and feeding at a higher level (2.7kg/d) for the first 28 days of gestation.

The former reduces aggression immediately after mixing and the latter improves reproduction, especially in younger sows.

3. Grouping parity one sows with gilts, rather than older sows.

4. Good stockmanship. I know this is a given with Australian pork production, but it is particularly important with group housed sows.

Of lesser importance is group size and whether sows are housed in dynamic or static groups.

### Familiar territory

Although we haven't specifically investigated how, or even if familiarity impacts aggressiveness or welfare of sows at grouping, there is evidence that sows remember their pen mates for about six weeks.

And you'd expect that the problems experienced at mixing and grouping would decline as sows

become comfortable with the system and more familiar with those they are mixed with.

So, the future looks good and I think this was clearly demonstrated by the results of Jean-Loup Rault, who showed that providing things are done correctly (adequate space and feed) excellent reproduction can be achieved with sows weaned in to groups or stalls and grouped within six days of weaning.

Much interest remains in the subject, but it is largely sorted out.

We have now moved to looking at satiety and enrichment with group housed sows.

### Smith theory

One thing we haven't tried, and I'm not sure why, is grouping sows at weaning and mating them in stalls and then regrouping.

The system was advocated by innovative Victorian pig farmer Tom Smith at the PPPE sow housing sessions and makes sense, given the sows would be familiar with each other when regrouped after mating, thus reducing aggression and stress during this crucial period of reproduction (shortly after mating).

### Greater challenge

Alternative lactation systems are a different matter, but it was obvious at PPPE that quite a few producers have installed systems such as the Sow Welfare and Piglet Protection pen, the Piglet and Sow Alternative Farrowing Environment pen and even the 360-degree pen, which I saw for the first time at the Stockyard Industries stand at PPPE.

The latter is one of the few alternatives with a similar footprint to conventional farrowing

crates, so it will be interesting to see how it performs commercially.

Pork CRC research to date shows these alternative systems generally don't work, requiring considerable adjustment and modification and even then resulting in higher piglet mortality, generally taking up a lot of space and being considerably more costly than conventional crates.

We are trying to develop a farrowing system index that accounts for the impact on the sow, piglet and producer.

The producer aspect of the index will likely be based on dollars.

In addition to the cost of the pen and extra space required for most of the alternatives, it will also consider the greater cleaning and occupational health and safety issues associated with some of the alternate systems.

Our research has also moved from comparing different systems (although admittedly important for those installing such systems) to better defining the welfare implications for the sow, es-

continued P4



Neil Ferguson, Westpork, WA and Pork CRC benchmarking project manager Dr Rowan O'Hagan. In the Pork CRC benchmarking project, average HFC is 3.9. Roger Campbell has pondered the question of why more producers aren't achieving the efficiencies Australian pigs are capable of.



Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell spoke of recent challenges and future opportunities in sow housing at PPPE's first simultaneous session. He commended those producers who first changed to group housing, saying they were brave. The focus has now moved to looking at satiety and enrichment with group housed sows.

# Animal activism, welfare and the science of it all

from P2

healthier animals.

Animals that have high levels of resistance are unable to fight off dangerous bacterial infections such as *E. coli* and salmonella.

The potential implications of antibiotic resistance on human health have been labelled the 'global superbug threat' and was raised by the World Health Organisation and global heads of state at the annual G8 Summit.

Dr Darren Trott from the University of Adelaide was the lead researcher on the [www.porknews.com.au](http://www.porknews.com.au)

study that looked at 2600 samples sent in by vets from around Australia.

"We've been very encouraged that our results show Australia is one the best in the world and we have very low levels of resistance," Dr Trott said.

He said that's great news for livestock health, with no resistance found to carbapenems, which are an antibiotic class of 'last resort' in human medicine – usually effective against infections when other antibacterial treatments have failed.

The study also identified extremely low frequencies of resistance to other vital human antibiotics, including fluoroquinolones and third generation cephalosporins.

According to co-researcher Sam Abraham, resistance to these antibiotics is frequently encountered in Europe, North America and Asia.

For further information on any of the topics discussed in this column, please contact me on 02 6270 8804 or [darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au](mailto:darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au)

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

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# How CRC sees Pan Pacific Pork Expo



Pork CRC project leader Heather Channon, along with Frank Dunshea at the University of Melbourne, is making promising progress on pork eating quality and is now analysing a project involving processing interventions across three supply chains.



After presenting on alternative lactation systems and housing gestating sows in groups during PPPE's parallel sessions, professors Paul Hughes and Paul Hemsworth caught up with University of Adelaide Pork CRC candidate Emma Greenwood.

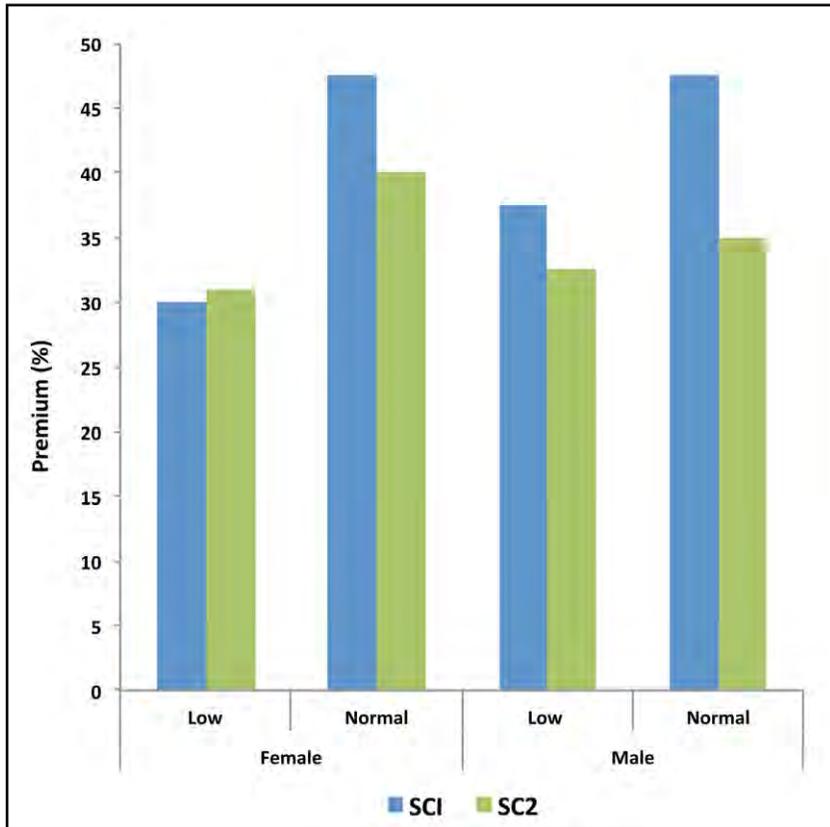


Figure 1: The effect of ultimate pH (low and normal) of the loin on the percentage of loins from female and male pigs across two supply chains (SC1 and SC2) ranked by consumers as premium eating quality.

from P3

pecially in conventional crates – is it compromised and how might it be enhanced?

The bottom line is there is a long way to go, but it's important good research be conducted so we can keep ahead of the curve in an area of production that will likely continue to come under pressure.

## Biogas business

On carbon reduction, there seems to be, and certainly appeared so at PPPE, a lot more interest in biogas.

Stephan Tait, Pork CRC research fellow and leader of our Bioenergy Support Program was very much in demand.

Look elsewhere in this issue for Stephan's latest 'It's a gas' column, which this month covers the very important safety aspects of handling biogas on-farm.

## Cutting remarks

With regard to eating quality, Pork CRC research has demonstrated there are pork cuts, particularly the loin and silverside roast, that consumers don't particularly like.

Based on an eating quality ranking from one to five (terrible to excellent), we (the researchers) consider pork that is ranked as one or two in consumer taste panels as having failed (not liked and not likely to result in repurchasing pork).

In four studies across a number of supply chains, the fail rate for loin and silverside roast has been consistently high, reaching 36 percent in one study.

Eating quality is affected by many factors including sex of the pig, the cut, how long it is aged, cooking temperature and many other factors – but in the end it may be ultimate pH (measured 72 hours after slaughter) that is causing the problem.

## Eating out

A recent study by Cameron Jose, Pork CRC postdoc with the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, looked at the effect on eating quality of loins with low (5.31-5.49) and normal (5.49-5.69) pH and found the average fail rate was 21 percent.

The good news is that 38 percent of the loins were rated by consumers as above average or excellent (ranked as a four or five).

Still, a fail rate of 21 percent is too high and the objective of our researchers is to reduce it to 10 percent or less.

The impact ultimate pH, which appears to be declining across the industry, can have on eating quality is shown in Figure 1, which compares the percentage of loins from female and intact male pigs ranked as premium (score four or five) by consumer taste panels across two supply chains (SC1

and SC2).

SC1 fail rates for loins from female pigs with low and normal pH were 22.5 percent and only 10 percent, respectively.

However, the change in fail rate was not consistent across the sexes or supply chains, with the move upwards (between low and normal pH) in some from average (ranking three) to the premium grades with little change in fail rate.

Eating quality was also related to tenderness and ultimate pH to muscle glycogen level at slaughter, so some clues may be on how ultimate pH might be increased.

Improving eating quality goes hand-in-hand with differentiating Australian pork, and reducing fail rate to 10 percent or being able to predict eating quality and grading pork accordingly has been calculated to have a marked effect on demand and reflects in the price received by producers.

The project is being led by Heather Channon and Frank Dunshea at the University of Melbourne.

They are making good progress and are now analysing a project involving processing interventions across three supply chains.

It is a challenge, but with great rewards for industry and the supply chain, from processors to retailers, is very interesting and involved.

I will keep you updated.

## Thoughtful thinking

I see a lot of results from large-scale grower and finisher experiments generally conducted in systems with automatic feeding devices such as Feed Logic, and over the past couple of years the feed

to gain values reported are consistently about 2.1 for growers (30-60kg) and around 2.5 for finishers.

Most of these values were for females, so would be even lower if males and Improvac males sold within two to three weeks of receiving the second vaccination were included.

My thought is that for herds selling only 20 pigs a sow each year, these figures equate to a herd feed conversion between 3.2 and 3.4.

In the Pork CRC benchmarking project, the average HFC is 3.9 and it has been stuck there for the past three years.

We do however have two or three producers reporting values between 3.3 and 3.4, so we have the pigs and some have the other things right, but the question is why aren't more achieving the efficiencies our pigs are obviously capable of?

## Cold comfort

I don't think it is the diets as such, as we know how modern genetics should be fed and our research nutritionists have consistently demonstrated this.

It is likely related to feed waste, shedding or environment and probably the fact that pigs are below their thermoneutral zone through the colder months and outside their thermoneutral zone most of the year.

Disease and immune challenge also probably contribute to the higher than expected HFC values across the industry.

## Feeling better

I don't think we need any new technology to improve HFC, but we do need a better feel for the

major factors contributing to inefficient feed use in commercial grower and finisher pigs.

Pork CRC has projects on reducing immune challenge in commercial situations, the impact of the common diseases on feed efficiency under commercial situations and grain processing on feed efficiency.

We have never been able to get a reliable estimate of feed wastage, but APL is trying a new approach across different herds using PigBal.

The outcomes will be interesting, but there is a lot of money left on the table and given our diet costs are not likely to decline in the near future, considerable effort directed at defining the gap is warranted.

In my next column I will update you on some recent outcomes on grain processing assessed under commercial situations – it is something we need to seriously consider and account for.

## Student uprising

Speaking of the future, I must briefly refer to our enthusiastic, bright group of students who showcased their studies and projects at the student workshop the day before PPPE, and concluded it with a well-deserved dinner and social gathering that same evening.

Well done to you all, and may you continue to establish positive career paths within the pork industry, because it needs and values you.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find some coverage of the students involved at PPPE.

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



All eyes were on Pork CRC Bioenergy Support Program leader Dr Stephan Tait at PPPE, whether he was presenting during concurrent sessions or at Pork CRC's stand in the trade display area.

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# Alltech launches Pig On-farm Advantage in Australia

GLOBAL leader in animal health Alltech announced the launch of new solutions programs in Australia during the recent Pan Pacific Pork Expo on the Gold Coast.

Developed with the latest technology, Alltech Pig On-farm Advantage Paks aim to give pork producers a competitive edge in the Australian marketplace.

What if Australian pork producers could significantly reduce their feed costs, get more piglets per sow, decrease the risk of viruses and diseases or become more profitable overall?

The Alltech team addressed those questions and more at the company's booth during PPPE.

The Alltech Pig On-Farm Advantage series are feeding programs built around the study of nutrigenomics that provide natural nutritional answers to overcoming challenges on-farm in ar-



eas such as sow productivity, pre-weaning mortality, gut integrity, early growth, feed conversion and cost of production.

Alltech Asia Pacific regional swine technical manager Arturo Frio said, "It is all about nutrition at the cellular level and how we can feed our animals to regulate their genes, improve immune response, advance carcass quality and overall farm profitability."

For the distribution of the Pig On-farm Advantage Paks, Alltech has exclusively part-

nered with Lienert Australia, the country's leading national manufacturer and distributor of feed premixes and supplements, and a provider of nutritional technical advice and solutions to livestock producers and feed mills across Australia.

Lienert Australia has had a very close relationship with the pig industry for nearly 45 years.

Over that time it is proud to have had the opportunity of working with pork producers to improve livestock performance and farm profitability.

The team at Lienert is also pleased to be working with Alltech to bring significant new technologies such as the On-farm Advantage Paks to the Australian market for the benefit of Australian pork producers.

Through Lienert Australia's extensive distribution network, the Alltech Pig On-Farm Advantage series (Sow Advantage, Weaner Advantage and Finisher Advantage) are now available for pig farmers throughout Australia.

For further information about the Alltech On-farm Advantage Paks, please email Fiona Davies at [fdavies@alltech.com](mailto:fdavies@alltech.com)



Ravi Paricherla (Alltech), Russell Trainor (Alltech), Nathan O'Brien (Lienert Australia national sales manager), Mark Peebles (Lienert Australia general manager) and Toby Doak (Alltech) officially launched the Alltech Pig On-farm Advantage Paks in the Australian market at the Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

# Illegal farm raids target Queensland producers

THE recent move by animal activists to focus on Queensland pork producers should be a timely reminder that every pig facility is a target.

These people and organisations have demonstrated little regard for the true welfare of pigs.

They are becoming more active in trespassing on properties and obtaining footage of farming practices, which may then be manipulated to depict vision and noises that are unacceptable to viewers.

The videos are posted on YouTube with links for people to click on and provide donations to aid the activists' cause of stopping the farming of animals.

At the recent Australian Pork Limited Delegates Forum, producers discussed measures being taken to minimise the risk of farm raids and to better collect evidence in the case of such events.

Producers should ensure compliance to industry welfare standards is underpinned by third party auditing and documented history, as this provides evidence of day-to-day animal husbandry on your farm.

The installation of motion-sensor cameras linked to alarms to monitor facilities after hours has been reported as one of the best measures to record illegal activity.

**pork**  
QUEENSLAND INC.  
President's Perspective



by JOHN COWARD

These monitoring and alarm systems can cost about \$3000.

Needless to say, preventing entry in the first instance is the best measure.

Producers need to be more vigilant with regard to access to their farms through paddocks and fences that are well away from the front gates.

Surveillance detection equipment can be obtained from security firms and outlets to monitor for 'planted' cameras and detect movement in and around sheds.

In recent cases the footage was taken months before its release and was edited from long periods of filming.

Of course, genuine animal cruelty and non-compliant activity with the welfare code is unacceptable and cannot be condoned.

Producers should be aware that employees may be targeted by activist groups to assist in gathering footage at farms.

The activists have no regard for producers and their families' genuine interest in

providing pigs with a good welfare-managed environment, and are looking to push their vegan outlook on anyone they can.

If producers suspect their farm is being raided or targeted, they should immediately contact local police for assistance and take photos or collect evidence of people or vehicles involved in the event.

If you're a producer, don't think they won't target you!

Producers should talk to neighbours about notifying them of any unusual traffic around their farm, and consider an investment in monitoring and alarm systems.

They also need to have contacts and action lists handy in case a raid is uncovered.

And ensure there are appropriate trespass and no-entry signs at entry points.

Pork Queensland Inc. has approached both state and federal agriculture ministers to assist industry in its endeavour to have trespass laws strengthened.

# Multiple benefits from grazing pigs

IF you told any livestock farmers they could reduce their feed bill by up to 75 percent and create a new market for their product at the same, they would no doubt jump at the opportunity.

That's exactly what NSW pig and potato producer Matt Simmons hopes will happen on his Ebenezer property, west of Sydney.

As owner-manager of Swallow Rock Organics and Melanda Park Free Range Pork, Matt has been growing certified organic potatoes and running free-range sows for a number of years.

His customers include some of Sydney's top restaurants and providers, and his pork is marketed through many of Sydney's largest farmers' markets.

Matt used his 2012 Nuffield scholarship to focus on the relationship between the pig phase and cropping phase of a rotation system.

"We first got into pigs about 10 years ago when we used them to clean up a paddock of potatoes," he said.

"It was a big learning curve, as during the pig phase we had a lot of problems keeping our paddocks in a condition that would allow for planting afterwards.

"From an organic point of view, there are great benefits from using pigs as part of the rotation.

"They can dramatically reduce the weed burden in the paddock and help to control pests such as curl grubs – and the manure they leave behind is worth its weight in gold, high in nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash and great for stimulating soil biology."

Matt said with the Australian outdoor pig industry not being significant, there is a lack of knowledge on using pigs in cropping rotations.

"In Australia we've never really had a history of outdoor pigs, but it is an emerging industry now," he said.

"I really wanted to use my Nuffield scholarship to travel and see what the best management practices were around the world."

Matt decided to travel to countries where there were long-established pig industries, and not surprisingly, England was at the top of that list.

"In England they don't picture a farm without a pig really, they've still got this image of a farm with a pig – even dairy farms will have a couple, it's just so traditional for them," he said.

Matt was in the fortunate position of being able to access the widespread Nuffield network in England to learn about the industry, with plenty of UK Nuffield scholars operating pig farms.

Focusing mostly on the East Anglia area, Matt visited some very big operations, all with outdoor sow units.

"I found that the UK pig farmers were managing their farms well from a production point of view, which is something we've really got to learn as well, because managing pigs outdoors is totally different to indoors," he said.

"Their breeds were also what made them successful – they've had pigs outdoors much longer than we have, so they actually breed specific pigs for the outdoor market.

"I also saw a lot of cropping rotations with pigs, but the key is setting rotations so they know what's coming up and they're not something that's thought of at the last moment."

Matt believes many of the systems and principles he observed in England could work in Australia, and a number may even work better Down Under.

"Some of their ideas would work better here because we don't have the rainfall and the problems they have, while others might not work as well," he said.

"While the principles should work, it really is trial and error for us."

On their Ebenezer property, Matt and his wife Sue are planning to graze sows more on pasture, mainly for the sav-

ings in feed.

"If they're grazing a quality pasture, we could see up to a 75 percent saving on how much we feed our pigs," he said.

"The potential is massive, and the good thing is there's already a market there for it.

"The market is demanding free-range pigs, we've just got to build a model that fits that market and provides the pigs."

Matt's scholarship was supported by the Sidney Myer Fund.

Nuffield Australia is an organisation providing opportunities to Australian farmers between the ages of 28 and 40 to travel the globe investigating a research topic important to them and Australian agriculture.

Primary producers wanting to apply for a Nuffield Australia scholarship can do so now, with applications being taken for the 2015 program through to June 30, 2014.

The scholarships are worth \$30,000 and enable successful applicants to travel the world researching a topic of importance to them and their broader industry.

For more information and selection guidelines, please connect with Nuffield at [www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au) on Twitter @nuffieldaust and #nuffieldag, and Facebook.

You can watch Matt presenting his findings at the Nuffield Australia conference in Perth at [vimeo.com/76959153](http://vimeo.com/76959153)

and read his completed report at [www.nuffieldinternational.org/rep\\_pdf/1400451098MattSimmonsfinalreport.pdf](http://www.nuffieldinternational.org/rep_pdf/1400451098MattSimmonsfinalreport.pdf)



Matt Simmons

# Giang attack on grain particle size

GIANG Nguyen holds a BSc degree in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine from Can Tho University, Vietnam and a MSc in Agricultural Science from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, majoring in nutrition for non-ruminants.

She is an AusAID scholar and a PhD student at the University of Queensland under Dr Peter Sopade's Pork CRC Project 4B-112.

## Milling matters

In Australia, pig feed is based mainly on grains that supply the bulk of nutrients to pigs.

Field pea (*Pisum sativum* L.), a pulse and sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), a cereal, are commonly used and subjected to various combinations of unit operations and processes to make their nutrients available.

Milling is usually the first feed manufacturing operation, with hammer, roller and disc milling the main ones.

Milling reduces grain particle size, and differences in grain fracturability lead to particle size distribution.

Grain-to-grain fracturability differences and mill differences also exist.

Within a mill, particle size and particle size distribution can vary as mill settings change, hence grain and mill differences can generate a variety of particle sizes and distributions, which affect feed efficiency.

Previous Pork CRC studies at the University of Queensland revealed that feed digestibility can be substantially reduced with an increase in feed particle size.

There appears to be an optimum particle size for each grain and this is yet to be defined in combined laboratory and animal studies.

Giang's research aims to establish this optimum size, using an innovative process-engineering approach to understand the disappearance of starch and protein in pig diets during passage through the gastrointestinal tract.

In view of their importance in the Australian pig industry, Giang's PhD concentrates on field peas and sorghum and includes these objectives:

- Influence of disc and hammer milling conditions on particle size and size distribution of the grains and how they affect starch and protein digestion, feed conversion and growth performance;

- Status of starch and protein in diets with different particle sizes at the ileum using cannulated pigs; and

- Flow regimes of different particle-sized grains in the pig gastrointestinal tract, using residence time and exit age distribution concepts to predict the critical particle size for complete ileal digestibility, based on diffusion rates of am-

www.porknews.com.au

## 'Influence of particle size and size distribution of cereals and pulses on digestibility and growth performance of pigs'



Giang Nguyen: Pork CRC PhD candidate, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, University of Queensland  
Principal advisor: Dr Peter Sopade

ylases and proteases.  
**Studies started**

Giang's research is broadly divided into two tasks: laboratory studies using in-vitro techniques developed in previous Pork CRC projects; and animal studies with relevant Pork CRC commercial partners.

The key element of her research is using commercial samples and setups to represent real-life situations.

The research started by obtaining two field pea varieties (Maki and Walana) from Pork CRC, which were disc and hammer milled with different settings under laboratory conditions to vary their particle sizes and distributions.

Roller milling was also investigated, but at one level.

The in-vitro starch and protein digestibility of the milled field peas was studied, and using a modified first order kinetic equation the rates of starch and protein digestion were obtained to examine the particle size effects in a typical pulse and relative digestibility of starch and protein in the pulse, with implications for nutrient asynchrony.

There were mill differences in the digestibility of the pulse, with the hammer-milled field peas showing greater digestibility due to higher thermo-mechanical effects.

No significant variety effects were found, and with Walana, the preferred variety by the pig industry, it was used for a weaner feeding study at a Pork CRC commercial partner.

Walana was disc and hammer milled in commercial mills to reflect the industrial setup for adoption of the research.

The diets were formulated to meet the nutrition requirements of weaner pigs, with field peas being about 30 percent.

The trial did not reveal particle size differences in animal performance, and it could be because the field peas were ground within the optimum particle size of the pulse.

Giang's research is investigating this further to guide the particle size range for acceptable milling of the pulse.

Research into how sorghum affects animal performance of weaner pigs is ongoing.

## Future studies

The gastrointestinal tract can be likened to a pipe with complex flow regimes as feed moves through the small intestine.

Differences in particle size can influence mixing and flow in the tract, with possible differential trans-

port of starch and protein. Among other things, Giang's research will establish if:

- Larger particles arrive at the ileum before smaller particles and carry more starch and protein;
- Particles that arrive first at the ileum, irrespective of particle size, contain more starch and protein;
- The time course of appearance of milled feed particles at the ileum can be modelled using an engineering pipe-flow approach; and
- Animal digestibil-

ity reconciles sufficiently with in-vitro digestion data to provide a quantitative prediction of critical particle size for complete ileal digestibility.

To achieve this, a pig cannulation experiment planned before the end of the year will use mash diets from field peas and sorghum that will be disc and hammer milled to different particle sizes.

## Industry benefits

Blending laboratory with commercial situations is a major plus in Giang's research, as it

establishes milling as an important feed manufacturing operation.

The research has already established differences in milled grains for pig feed and the need to control milling, towards maximising energy delivery from pig diets.

Her research evaluated a manual sieving device developed in a previous CRC project and demonstrated how valuable the device is for Australian feedmills.

Ultimately, the research will establish optimum particle sizes for the selected pulse and cereal to guide how grains should be economically milled for maximum feed efficiency in pigs.

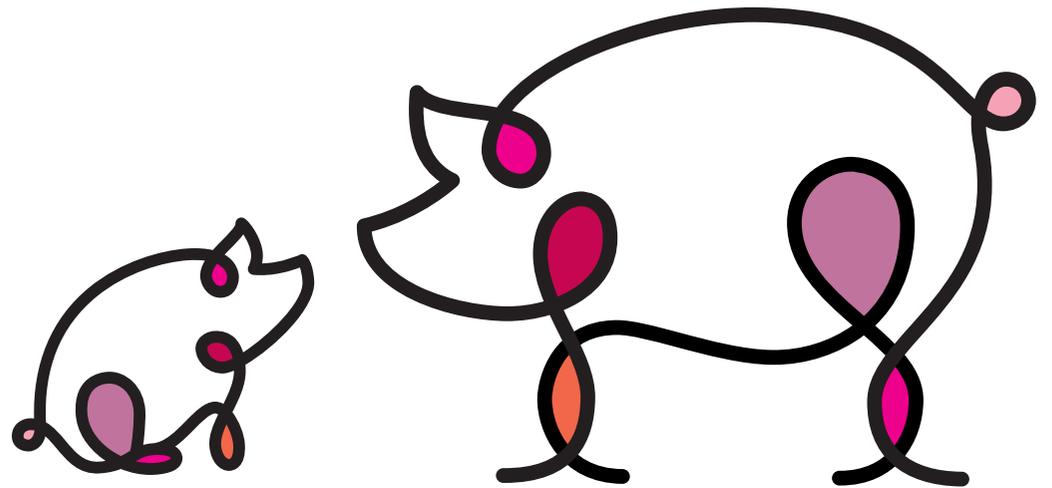
For more information, please email Giang Nguyen at t.nguyen61@uq.edu.au



Giang Nguyen



Giang's principal Pork CRC PhD advisor Dr Peter Sopade with the grain sieve Giang helped evaluate.



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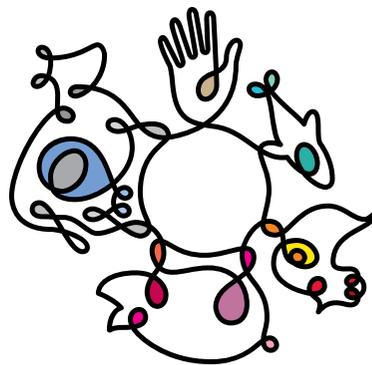
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Dr Stephan Tait, University of Queensland; Dr Rob Wilson, Pork CRC Program 4 leader; and Steve Wiedemann, FSA Consulting, Toowoomba, Queensland at the launch of Pork CRC's Bioenergy Support Program at the Pan Pacific Pork Expo 2012.

# Pork CRC project leader profile

- Pork CRC Project 4C-101: 'Life cycle assessment of waste treatment and additional pork supply chains'
- Pork CRC Project 4C-107: 'Potential Pathways to Carbon Neutrality'

STEVE Wiedemann, FSA Consulting, Toowoomba, Queensland together with FSA Consulting researchers Eugene McGahan and Caoilinn Murphy has led two projects in Pork CRC's Program 4 (Carbon Conscious Nutrient Inputs and Outputs) focusing on quantifying and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water use.

Carbon and water footprinting, or life cycle assessment, was new to the pig industry when Pork CRC received the first project funding from Australian Pork Limited and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation in 2009.

Pork CRC was very pleased to see this work underpin Program 4, which integrates LCA as a method for identifying research targets and demonstrating continuous improvement in the industry.

**CRC research**  
The first project was an expanded benchmarking task studying life cycle greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water use from 13 piggeries in Queensland, NSW and WA.

The study, covering 23,000 sow places,

showed GHG emissions ranging from  $5.0 \pm 0.7\text{kg CO}_2\text{-e/kg}$  to  $8.7 \pm 1.2\text{kg CO}_2\text{-e/kg}$  retail pork, with the range in values mainly driven by differences in the manure management systems.

Conventional piggeries that treat effluent in open anaerobic ponds generate the highest emissions, while deep litter and outdoor piggeries are estimated to produce lower emissions because manure management emissions are lower from these piggeries.

Greenhouse gases in conventional piggeries mainly arose from effluent treatment (contributing 62-64 percent of total emissions), with feed production such as grain farming contributing 18-40 percent of total emissions.

On-farm energy was a fairly small contributor to GHG for most piggeries.

**Managing manure**

Another aspect of the research was an analysis of alternative manure management systems, with several scenarios investigated to determine opportunities for GHG mitigation and increased energy efficiency for pork production.

These included pond

covering to capture methane from effluent treatment and using alternative housing for breeding and grow-out stages of production.

Installing a covered anaerobic pond with combined heat and power generation reduced full supply chain GHG emissions by 55 percent for pork from a large conventional piggery, and lessened embodied energy by 30 percent.

Installing a CAP and flare system lowered GHG by 46 percent.

Modelling future piggery systems to reduce emissions was the focus of a second Pork CRC project, which looked at methods to decrease the whole of system emissions.

The project found that optimising diet and effluent systems was the best option for reducing emissions in piggeries where a CAP with CHP was installed.

Modelling suggested emissions could be reduced by a further 70 percent by combining all possible mitigation options.

**Effluent effects**

These studies identified effluent ponds as the single largest emission source from piggeries.

Covering the primary effluent pond at a conventional piggery will reduce emissions by about 50 percent, and installing a generator to use this methane will lower emissions further, cutting whole supply chain energy use by 30 percent.

Future options to minimise emissions also exist and these will need to focus on sourcing feed inputs that have a lower GHG burden and improved effluent handling to reduce emissions and make better use of the valuable crop nutrients in effluent and solid manure.

**Steve's status**

A senior agricultural scientist specialising in carbon, water and nutrient management in the agri-food sector, Steve Wiedemann's research includes a number of Australian-first LCA studies of the environmental impact and resource use for livestock systems including pork, beef, lamb, eggs and chicken meat.

He has a Bachelor of Rural Science (first class Hons) from the University of New England, NSW.

For more information, please email Steve at [Stephen.wiedemann@fsaconsulting.net](mailto:Stephen.wiedemann@fsaconsulting.net)

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Getting to the meat of animal welfare issues

WHAT are Australian consumers' key concerns about how livestock is treated, and how much are they willing to pay for ethically produced meats?

How will consumer values influence livestock industry and food retailer decisions, and ultimately impact what is available on supermarket shelves in the future?

These and other social and economic issues are the focus of a new three-year research project now under way at the University of Adelaide, in partnership with industry leaders, retailers and government.

Funded by the Australian Research Council, the project is led by two University of Adelaide chief investigators: history and ethics expert Prof Rachel

Ankeny, the School of History and Politics; and food policy specialist Assoc Prof Wendy Umberger, Global Food Studies director.

"What we're hoping to achieve from this project is a greater dialogue between consumers and producers," Assoc Prof Umberger said.

"What people know and expect regarding animal welfare, and an understanding of how that influences consumers' purchases of animal products at the supermarket is critical to our study.

"This research will be all-encompassing, taking a whole-of-chain approach from paddock to plate.

"We'll examine people's actual purchasing behaviours and link that with information about their

animal welfare beliefs.

"This will provide an understanding of not just what they buy, but how and why.

"We hope this work will help to better inform producers and consumers about each other's perspective on animal welfare, and enable them both to make choices that will have sustainable benefits for animal welfare."

Prof Ankeny said, "We're interested in what the average person thinks and how they behave."

"One of the things we'll be considering is whether there's a need for improved labelling that integrates method of production with animal welfare outcomes," she said.

"Many labelling categories are largely unregulated, and the definition of these categories can

be very broad.

Elders Ltd, Coles Supermarkets and Richard Gunner's Fine Meats are all industry partners on this project as well as SARDI, a division of Primary Industries and Regions SA.

"We couldn't do this research without one of the major retailers, and we're pleased that Coles has been so willing to be a partner on this project," Prof Ankeny said.

Elders National Livestock manager Chris Howie said, "Elders' business is driven by promoting best practice sale and transport of livestock, ensuring the best outcome for animal, producer and customer."

"This project is a fundamental step in educating the wider community about decisions made at

each stage of the production chain," Mr Howie said.

"Addressing the disjoin between city and country communities' understanding of the Australian livestock industry, which has occurred over the past 20 years, is key to creating informed opinion."

Richard Gunner, Gunner's Fine Meats and Feast Fine Foods managing director said his company is passionate about ethically produced, quality meat.

"It's important to us to be involved in this research project because it has the potential to shape industry and consumer understanding, attitudes and behaviour," Mr Gunner said.

"In our opinion, being a leading producer means having a commitment to ethical production."

Aussie cost down for piggery clean-up

SUCCESSFUL animal husbandry includes managing hygiene to maintain optimal animal health.

By expanding production volumes on high-pressure water blasters, Aussie Pumps has been able to pass on significant savings to pig farmers to assist with animal welfare.

The Aussie Scud 351 is a high-flow blaster designed specifically for cleaning down pig pens and stockyards.

It delivers flow rates to 21 l/pm and an effective working pressure up to 3400psi when used with a turbo lance.

This extra flow washes away animal excrement from concrete surfaces, effectively flushing the area.

Power for the machine is supplied by a 13hp Honda GX390 industrial engine with low oil protection as standard equipment.

Aussie Pumps product manager Hamish Lorenz said, "We've sliced prices on our range of pro-

fessional high-pressure cleaners due to the expansion of the manufacturing facility at Castle Hill in NSW."

"Our bigger production runs mean these machines are leading the market in both quality and price," he said.

The heart of the machine is a heavy-duty 'Big Berty' Bertolini triplex pump capable of developing pressures up to 3000psi.

For the Aussie Scud 351 blaster, the pump is adjusted to a pressure of only 2500psi to allow the pump to produce extra flow.

This is instrumental for efficient flushing and improved hygiene.

The unbeatable quality Italian pump is backed by a three-year manufacturer's warranty.

Lorenz said the machine's combination of high flow and high pressure means the operator has the ability to efficiently clean and flush at the same time.

The pump is protected by a unique Aussie

safety protection system that consists of a thermal dump valve and a safety valve.

The thermal dump valve protects the machine from overheating while the safety valve safeguards both machine and operator from pressure spikes.

Designed for operation in dirty environments, the big engine-driven

pressure cleaner has an ergonomic heavy-duty galvanised steel trolley.

And the frame provides full protection over the engine and pump system.

The centred balance point and large pneumatic-tired wheels make the unit easy to manoeuvre.

The Aussie Scud 351 features detergent injection as standard equipment, allowing the op-

erator to apply chemical cleaning agents to the job.

This facilitates sanitising and dramatically cuts cleaning times, with major bonuses in animal hygiene.

For further information, please contact Australian Pump Industries or Aussie Pumps distributors throughout Australia.

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



The Aussie Scud high-pressure, high-flow blaster is designed specifically for cleaning down pig pens and animal shelters.

Heat pads for piggeries

LAMAPOR has been making heat pads for intensive farming for over 38 years, but in 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.

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

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tribution 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 hard-wearing 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.

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Access to biogas infrastructure should be restricted to authorised people only, but the extent and position of exclusion fencing may be different from site to site.



Stephan Tait measured the composition of biogas under this covered piggery lagoon. Notice that the hand-held composition meter is explosion proof, with long sampling tubes to keep the user well away from the source of biogas. It was a windy day out in the open, which helped reduce safety risk. Stephan is leaning on the bank of the pond and staying well clear of the unsupported portion of the cover over the pond's liquid surface. This piggery's biogas was measured at 57 percent methane (an excellent fuel source), 41 percent carbon dioxide and 1500ppm hydrogen sulphide (can cause instantaneous death by inhalation).

## Safety first, second and third with biogas



by DR STEPHAN TAIT  
Pork CRC Research Fellow  
Bioenergy Support Program



to an acceptable level by easing off the accelerator, stepping on the brake pedal or steering.

Therefore, safety planning in its practical form comes naturally to most people.

However, biogas has unique and significant safety risks, even when compared with normal off-the-shelf natural gas systems where the flammable gas ingredient (methane) is identical to that in biogas.

People with appropriate competency should be involved in the safety planning.

To assist producers with safety planning and risk assessment around on-farm biogas systems, Australian Pork Limited has developed a Code of Practice for On-farm Biogas Production and Use (Piggeries), which steps through the special features of an on-farm biogas system and identifies many of the unique safety risks.

It is expected that this Code of Practice will greatly assist producers and other influencers during the safety planning process.

Reference is made to a gas safety management plan, which is the documented safety planning process.

The code will also contain an overarching generic safety management plan

from which producers will be able to identify their site-specific risks and so apply safety responses applicable to their individual on-farm situation.

APL expects to release the Code of Practice in June and the Safety Management Plan towards the end of this year.



Signage around a biogas plant reflects the unique safety risks of biogas systems.

PIGGERY biogas is a fuel gas that can be used for energy to the great benefit of pork producers, but it is also flammable and can cause flash fires.

A biogas flash fire caused medium-scale damage at one Australian piggery in 2011, and the industry does not need a repeat event.

Relevant Australian standards such as AS/NZS 5601.1, AS 3814, AS 2430 and AS 3000 set out requirements for fuel gas installations, including piping and equipment that transports and uses fuel gases such as biogas.

While biogas is not legislatively recognised as a fuel gas in all Australian states, state-based gas safety regulators are likely to uphold the relevant Australian standards when considering biogas installations.

### Strict compliance

It is however increasingly recognised that strict compliance with prescriptive requirements in standards such as line-by-line detailed instruc-

tions about construction materials, pipe burial requirements, separation distances or the complexity of valves and fittings for a biogas pipeline do not necessarily provide the safest outcomes.

In other words, a fully compliant design or installation according to the relevant Australian standards is not always the safest.

Accordingly, safety planning is gaining popularity as a potentially superior route to compliance because the designer or installer can cater for unique requirements and features that make the arrangement safer.

Safety planning involves identifying, evaluating and reducing or eliminating safety risks.

In this case during the design or installation of a biogas system.

When identifying safety risks, the designer asks and answers what can go wrong, as well as how and why.

When evaluating safety risks, the designer asks and answers how much harm will be caused if it goes wrong and what may influence the extent of harm, and also how likely it is that the extent of harm will occur and what might influence that likelihood.

The overall aim is to determine if a risk is acceptable or tolerable.

Once safety risks have been identified and evaluated, the designer or installer will devise ways to eliminate or minimise them until they are reduced to an acceptable level.

Last and most importantly, safety planning is usually considered null and void unless properly documented.

This is so the people who should know about the risks can read and understand the planning and methods implemented to reduce them.

Section 2 of the latest 2013 revision of AS/NZS 5601.1 is already recognising safety planning as an alternative route to compliance for gas installations, instead of direct adherence to the prescrip-

tive requirements in Sections 3 to 6 of AS/NZS 5601.1.

It is important to understand that AS/NZS 5601.1 (2013) only accepts designs under Section 2 if the level of safety, convenience and efficiency of operation is equivalent to or better than designs under Sections 3 to 6.

Cost is not usually an acceptable justification for an alternative design or installation with an unacceptable level of safety risk and applying a reasonable duty of care.

### Safe driving

In reality, safety planning is a normal but not necessarily documented part of everyone's day.

A simple example is driving a car, where the distance away from other vehicles or the colour of a traffic light is frequently examined to determine if the level of safety risk is acceptable.

The driver might act to reduce the safety risk

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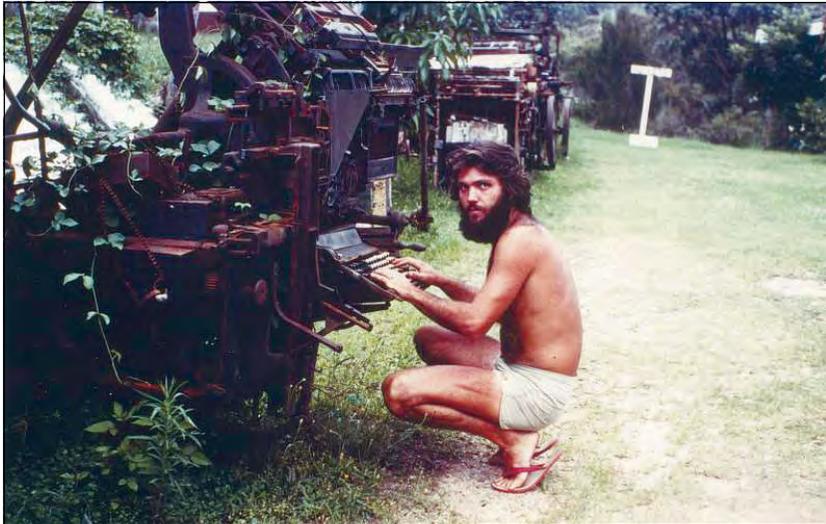
More safety signs to be aware of around biogas operations.

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

# A fractured friendship with Queensland



A shrine to the author's dear departed dad, Raymond George Cant (1933-2014).



Prodding away on a well-worn rusty keyboard.



The author and camel farmer Noel Fullerton jostling for position on the start line of a Gold Coast race.

I HAVE mixed feelings about my two most recent trips to Queensland, much as I love the big state, with its curiously complementary mix of iconic Aussie outback and coastal city mayhem.

While in Toowoomba for the Pork CRC/Australian Pork Limited sow housing workshop on April 2, I took a phone call from my sister Michelle to say my dear ol' dad Ray had just collapsed, probably of a heart attack, while with her at an aquarium and fish shop where he was sourcing a new light for a freshwater tank he'd recently set up for me in my office.

Then, while at PPPE on the Gold Coast last month I phoned my sister just to ask how my dog Boodja the blue heeler was going, as she was looking after him.

Little sis said, "As always the Boodj is good, but I've just returned from the doctor with Mum who slipped over this arvo in the supermarket, fractured her arm and severely bruised her face and the side of her rather delicate 81-year-old body." Oh dear.

Needless to say, Dad never recovered but Mum is doing her best, albeit slowly, to recover from his passing and her falling.

One of the pictures shown is a little shrine I had in my lounge room for a few weeks after Dad



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

passed away.

We all miss Dad big time of course, but he had a good life that was full of adventure, perhaps with a little too much pain, largely self-inflicted though I must say by his scallywag days riding and breaking in horses and camels and puffing away on too many 'durries'.

Among his many wise sayings, one sticks in my mind and I try, especially post his passing to live it every day.

He'd often say, particularly in the past year or two, "Son, I can't wait for

the sun to come up at the start of every day and I'm disappointed when it goes down at the end of every day."

Always a hard worker, essentially his message was to get up, get at it and get the most out of every day.

Hard to argue with that methinks.

Backtracking to Queensland and refreshing my mind with much happier memories, I have lived there a bit, for a few months at a time on a couple of occasions.

One such occasion was in Far North Queensland, living mainly at Mareeba and doing seasonal work on various farms (OK, some were tobacco farms, when that was an accepted and acceptable industry on the Atherton Tablelands 30 years ago), as well as travelling to Cooktown and other places hunting feral pigs and the like.

The other memorable occasion was riding and racing camels for and with my ol' mate Noel Fullerton, then of Virginia Creek Camel Farm near Uluru, but from Emily Gap Camel Farm when I first met and worked with him in Alice Springs in 1980.

We had a series of races in the early '80s up and down the NSW north

coast and in Queensland, including the Gold Coast (see picture of Noel and I jostling for a good start during one epic Gold Coast race).

Although I had the inside running that time, Noel may well have overtaken me down the home straight.

I don't exactly recall, as there were many races and much rivalry between us, but what I do recall is that he never let the fastest camel in his team out of his own calloused hands.

And rightly so, I guess. On a journalistic note, another of the pictures was taken while I was having some fun tapping away on an old rusty keyboard on a hot metal printing press at a rundown museum in the tropics.

Although the picture was taken at Kuranda, FNQ in the early '80s, it was only a few short years before that I worked as a journalist in WA at *Farmers Weekly*, which was then printed hot metal – and we typed our stories using manual typewriters on butcher's paper!

What a pleasure it is to be typing away now on my Toshiba laptop, with Tipp-Ex nowhere to be seen, albeit a legacy is I still tap the keyboard too hard with the few fingers I use. ☺



Post-camel race celebrations of the 1980s.

## Emalyn wins Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award



Wayne Bradshaw, Jefe; Emalyn Loudon, Westpork (2014 award winner); John Coward, PPPE president; and Ben Collins, *Australian Pork Newspaper*.

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# New property to property traceability rules



MOST producers are aware of their obligations to complete National Vendor Declarations when moving pigs from farms to saleyards and abattoirs.

To correctly capture the movement of livestock it is recommended they use the pork industry's NVD system PigPass to ensure traceability of the pigs.

This can be done either online at [www.pigpass.com.au](http://www.pigpass.com.au) or through books by phoning the PigPass dedicated phone service on 1800 001 458.

There are several reasons for the use of this system but the most important is to ensure pigs can be traced in the event of a disease outbreak.

When saleyards and abattoirs receive the NVD, this information is uploaded directly to the National Livestock Identification System database.

This allows jurisdictions to trace animals (pigs, cattle, sheep and goats) reliably and in a timely manner if a disease outbreak occurs in an effort to contain it.

Think how the porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus in the US has spread rapidly and affected large numbers of pigs across the country.

Inadequate reporting and biosecurity failures lie at the heart of this rapid spread.

However, there is currently no reporting for movements of pigs that do not occur at saleyards or abattoirs.

That is property to property or movements to and from shows and other events.

The tracing of these movements is critical to contain the spread of disease.

NLIS Pork is Australia's system for identification and tracing of pigs for biosecurity, food safety, product integrity and market access purposes.

Australian Pork Limited recently reached an agreement on NLIS Pork Business Rules in conjunction with Animal Health Australia, federal and state Departments of Agriculture and SAFEMEAT.

NLIS Pork is a consignment mob-based livestock traceability system covering the production system from property of birth to the point of disposition at processing.

It uses pig identification (either body tattoos or visually readable ear tags) as well as paper-based movement documentation (the PPNVD or state waybill) and the NLIS and PigPass databases to trace pig consignments.

Pigs must be identified at [www.porknews.com.au](http://www.porknews.com.au)

fied and accompanied by a movement document whenever they are sold or moved off a property to any other location with a different Property Identification Code.

Industry participants will also need to register mob-based movement information via the PigPass database (P2P movements by producers) or NLIS database (saleyard and abattoir movements by those businesses).

NLIS Pork operates on the principle that the owner of the pigs and each participant responsible for them along the supply chain has an obligation to ensure they do not move forward in the supply chain unless they can be reliably traced back to their last property of residence.

At each point along the supply chain the person responsible for the pigs must meet their requirements as defined within the Business Rules.

Given that many producers are aware of and use PigPass, and it already covers the majority of Australia's pig herd, this reporting system will be the focus for P2P movements.

In some jurisdictions, pigs are moved using non-PPNVD documentation such as waybills.

In accordance with the agreed rules, APL will be making changes to the PigPass system to allow these to be uploaded to PigPass.

Importantly, producers will be required to upload the P2P movements or movements between PICs and shows or events within two days or before the next movement, whichever occurs first.

All producers need to be aware that from October 1, 2014, APL and jurisdictions intend to commence reporting all pig movements.

This will occur ahead of authorities making the required legislative changes to incorporate the new rules.

In other words, implementation will occur before legislation, and states and territories will require producers to report from October 1, 2014.

At the heart of the implementation is a communications strategy that needs to be developed and applied.

APL will be taking a three-tiered approach to communicating the new requirements:

- To those pig producers registered on the PigPass system;
- To those pig producers not registered on PigPass but registered with state or territory PIC da-

tabases; and

- To all other pig producers not registered in either of the above systems.

Producers in group three will be a challenge, and APL would welcome suggestions from industry on ways to communicate with these producers.

APL will also seek to leverage any communications strategy to convey other important industry and statutory requirements such as the key message that swill feeding is illegal.

While there is a lot to do between now and then, APL will be in contact with producers over the coming months about these new requirements.

**Deb Kerr**  
APL Policy general manager

# Pork expo goes the whole hog

REPRESENTATIVES of Australia's cutting-edge \$3.5 billion pork industry gathered on the Gold Coast during May to share their collective experiences and ideas at the 16th annual Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce officially opened the pre-eminent pork trade show and exhibition and heard firsthand some of the forward thinking and pioneering practices carried out at more than 2000 pig-producing farms across Australia.

"With this year's theme of Forward Thinking: Creating Opportunities, this was a great event for a sector that has historically been quick to embrace new technologies and innovations," Minister Joyce said.

"The expo gave producers and others involved in pork production an opportunity to discuss and debate ideas that they may adopt in the future.

"The industry has worked continuously to promote pork to the community, reinforcing the health benefits of pork and explaining its environmental and animal husbandry credentials."

In opening the expo, Minister Joyce said Australian pork producers have a long history of innovation and driving improvements to their industry.

"Credit should be given to Australia's pig farmers who capture and use so much of the biogas they produce that Australian pig farms are the lowest greenhouse gas emitters



Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce

in the world," he said.

"Recognition is also due to an industry that has responded to community concern about animal husbandry practices and is addressing it with a world-first, voluntary industry phase-out of sow stalls.

"Production changes of this magnitude take time and considerable invest-

ment to implement and should not be pushed on a sector by people who don't understand farming.

"I commend the foresight and opportunities Australia's pork industry has taken to ensure high-quality Australian product is served at breakfast, lunch and dinner tables."

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# 2014 Pan Pacific Pork Expo photo gallery





## PPPE student workshop



A busy seven-hour program of speakers and workshops meant focus and attention were the order of the day at the Pork CRC/APL student workshop.



Amy Suckling (Pork CRC industry placement at Linley Valley Pork, WA); Julia Huser (University of Adelaide); Diana Turpin (Pork CRC PhD candidate, Murdoch University); and Lechelle van Breda (University of Sydney) busily workshoped at the PPPE 2014 Pork CRC/APL student workshop.



University of Adelaide students were out to make a big impression at PPPE 2014. They were pictured at Pork CRC's trade display, having completed their commitments at the student workshop a day earlier.



Having a break from the student workshop were PhD candidates Nerylee Watson (University of South Australia); Tom Weaver (University of Melbourne); and Vicky Brookes (University of Sydney).



Tracy Muller (Pork CRC industry placement program, CHM Alliance); Jemma Seyfang (Pork CRC Hons, University of Adelaide); and Brooke Dearlove (APL PhD candidate, University of Adelaide) did a joint presentation at the student workshop.



Happy and smiling students.



After a big day of presenting aims and outcomes from their projects and workshoping important aspects of the pork industry and how their studies might enhance the industry's future, students relaxed over a Gold Coast dinner that of course featured pork schnitzel and pork hocks.



Enjoying the trade exhibition at PPPE with Prof Paul Hughes (SARDI) were Alice Weaver (University of Adelaide); Megan Verdon and Lauren Roberts (University of Melbourne); Anthony Martyniuk (University of Adelaide); and Phillip Gurman (University of Tasmania).



Taking a tea break during the student workshop were Tracy Muller; Ingunn Stensland (Pork CRC Hons, Murdoch University); Diana Turpin; and Jemma Lumby (Pork CRC Hons, University of Melbourne).

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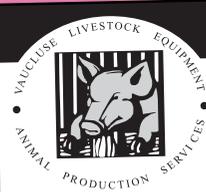


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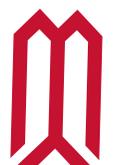
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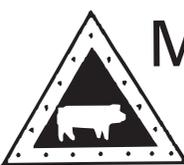
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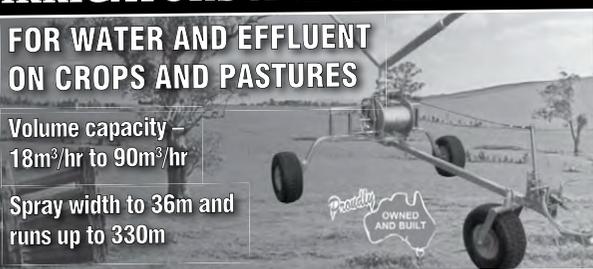
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# Pig producers to save time and paperwork with new standards

AUSTRALIAN pork producers who supply Coles Supermarkets have welcomed news they will save time and administration by only having to comply with one set of quality assurance standards.

Until now, producers supplying Coles have met the Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program requirements as well as Coles' own sow-stall free certification.

The Coles certification was free, but involved additional paperwork.

Following eight months

of consultation between Coles, Australian Pork Limited and Coles' suppliers, a supplementary set of customer specifications for producers supplying pork to Coles have been agreed upon as an extra module of the APIQ<sup>✓</sup> standards.

Producers will transition to the new program over the next 12 months.

Victorian pork producer Ian Peace, Pigco director and a member of the farmer steering committee that oversaw the change, welcomed the development of a sow stall

free module.

"As producers, we gained a greater insight into how our customers view fresh pork, and ultimately this is good for our business," Mr Peace said.

"The incorporation of the standards into the APIQ<sup>✓</sup> module is a great way for our business to increase transparency and understanding with consumers and potential consumers of pork."

Other pork producers involved in the APIQ<sup>✓</sup> module have also welcomed the change, saying they were pleased to be in-

volved with Coles in firstly developing and then integrating the enhanced Coles specifications into the APIQ<sup>✓</sup> program.

Producers have indicated it as a win-win all round, as farms avoided costly additional audits by adding to current external audits.

The process also allowed producers to better integrate the Coles standards into their APIQ<sup>✓</sup> welfare assurance processes that occur every day with their animals.

APL CEO Andrew Spencer said, "Any on-

going reduction in duplication for producers, whether of cost or time or both, is exactly the kind of initiative we like."

"It's great that the APIQ<sup>✓</sup> quality assurance program can remain consistent nationally and be flexible enough to incorporate the needs of a significant group of Australian producers."

Coles has stocked only sow-stall free Coles Brand fresh pork, ham and bacon products to its standard for both domestic and imported pork since January 2013.

Coles chief operating officer John Durkan said the latest move to streamline certification requirements for pork producers was a sensible step following the move to sow stall free pork production.

"Our customers told us they want quality food that is responsibly sourced and great value," Mr Durkan said.

"We have listened carefully to this message and worked tirelessly with our suppliers over the past two years to make the investments and changes required to

move to sow stall free production for all Coles Brand fresh pork, ham and bacon.

"We believe this latest move to work with the industry to establish one quality assurance audit, incorporating both standard APIQ<sup>✓</sup> and an additional module of certification standards for producers will help to reduce administration and time for our suppliers."

The APIQ<sup>✓</sup> Standards Manual is available under the information tab on the APIQ<sup>✓</sup> website at [www.apiq.com.au](http://www.apiq.com.au)

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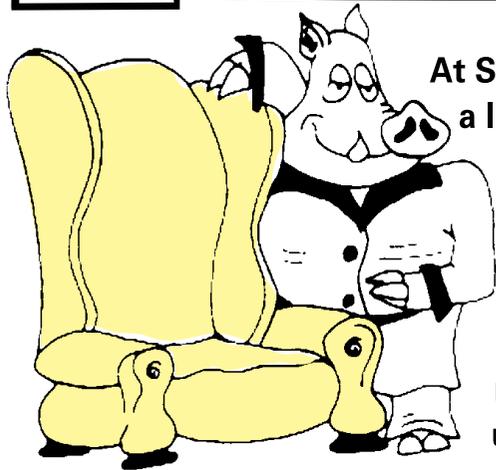
Promise	June 2011 Actual	Levy Increase 2017 Commitment	March 2014 Actual	% of Levy Goal Achieved	% of Time Gone	Status vs. Levy Increase Goal
Fresh pork per capita (kg carcass weight equivalent) consumption	8.5	9.3	9.22	90%	35%	Ahead
Fresh meat value share (retail)	9.9%	10.9%	10.4%	50%	35%	Ahead
Australian share of processed	31.0%	31.0%	31.0%	100%	35%	Ahead
Average buyer's pig price (annualised per kg – all pigs, including sows)	\$2.59	No commitment but hold or increased implicit	\$2.98	NA	NA	Ahead
Differentiation of Australian pork	We would make some progress but it would be later in the five-year period				35%	Added 'fresh' to ads

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# Half-yearly progress update

EVERY six months, Australian Pork Limited updates our progress against the levy increase commitments we made in 2011.

In reality, this is probably the last time we will report against those.

They will be replaced with the goals set out in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

This is nearing final presentation to the APL Board, having been reviewed by APL delegates in May.

So going by the scorecard, all commitments are ahead of plan.

This, at prices that by and large (except currently for Queensland) offset some unattractively high grain prices.

An assertion was also made that we could deliver the 2017 targets without adding significantly



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON  
General Manager Marketing



From an increasing prices perspective, the priorities are:

1. Maintain demand ahead of supply;
2. Build on existing awareness to help Australian pork be seen as better than alternate choices; and
3. Learn how to create sustainable niche markets overseas.

While the Strategic Plan has not yet been finalised, it does include plans to add people hours but not cost to the 2011 structure at today's prices.

So as we evolve our focus from the 2017 commitments to the new 2020 commitments, the underlying assumptions remain the same.

That is to stick with the primary purpose of increased levy funding; principally focus it on projects not overheads.

to people costs and other non-project costs, excepting the influence of inflation.

This has also been achieved in ways that if anything have improved the mix of skills, experience and expertise of the whole team at APL.

APL, the Board and the Delegates Reference Group on Strategy have also been mindful of this principle.

Stripped of all complexity, the Strategic Plan targets:

- Prices going up faster than costs to improve margin.
- It seeks to do this in a way that minimises requirements for new capital expenditure, improving returns on past investments.
- Ways to make producer revenue more certain.

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# Australia renews commitment to international reserve to combat animal disease threats

AUSTRALIA has joined with Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the US to renew formal arrangements as an international reserve of knowledgeable and experienced specialists to help combat animal health disease threats.

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce said many biosecurity risks potentially have huge financial consequences for Australian agriculture and environment.

"Australia's commitment to collaboration on animal health threats in such a broad partnership group is a huge boost to the effectiveness of a disease response," Minister Joyce said.

"Foot and mouth disease is by far the biggest exotic disease threat to Australia's agricultural and livestock industries and all those producers and communities who rely on farming.

"A recent ABARES report found that an FMD outbreak could cost more than \$50 billion to the Australian economy over



Dr Mark Schipp

a decade.

"Our effectiveness in responding to a major disease threat depends heavily on having the right resources in place.

"We have strong biosecurity controls in place to reduce the risk of FMD reaching our borders and good preparation to stamp it out in the unlikely event it makes it here, but we're always looking for ways to strengthen our defences."

Mr Joyce said a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure international collaboration in the event of an exotic animal disease was first signed by the six countries in 2004, forming the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve.

"The existing MoU expires this year and the arrangements signed in May formalise collaboration and sharing of resources if a signatory country is affected by an animal health emergency."

Australia's chief veterinary officer Dr Mark Schipp joined other animal health representatives at the World Organisation for Animal Health meeting in Paris to sign the arrangement.

"We have a long history of co-operation in animal disease preparedness, particularly in FMD, with New Zealand and the other countries that signed the arrangements," Dr Schipp said.

"The signing in Paris affirms the importance of formal collaboration to manage biosecurity threats and is a big step forward.

"The new arrangements demonstrate a great willingness across many nations to ensure the prosperity of primary sectors all over the world against the threat of exotic animal disease."

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

# Know your carbon emissions

FOR the past 12 months pork producers have attended workshops around Australia to gain a better understanding of piggery greenhouse gas emissions and look at possible ways to reduce their emissions.

The National PigGas Extension Project has found large differences in on-farm greenhouse gas emissions intensities between different pork production systems.

On nearly every piggery there are opportunities to mitigate emissions or generate income and marketing opportunities.

Production, waste management and energy information from a range of types and sizes of piggeries has been used to calculate on-farm greenhouse gas emissions using the Pork Industry Greenhouse Gas Calculator.

Emissions intensities have so far been estimated on more than 10 percent of Australia's pork production.

Emissions intensities are calculated in kilo-

grams of carbon dioxide equivalents a kilogram of dressed pork.

Some clear pictures are emerging from the data, and significant emissions savings are being made on farms.

## What are the emissions?

Emissions intensities are generally highest in conventional farrow to finish, flushed effluent piggeries that use anaerobic pond treatment and land application of treated effluent and sludge.

Emissions intensities are generally about 40 percent lower than conventional farrow to finish piggeries and average 2.4kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/kg pork.

The next highest emissions intensities occur in systems that combine conventional breeding and/or weaning facilities with deep litter grow-out facilities.

Emissions from these combination piggeries are generally about 40 percent lower than conventional farrow to finish piggeries and average 2.4kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/kg pork.

Following this are systems that are wholly or predominantly deep litter

for all classes of stock, some with outdoor breeding or farrowing.

Emissions from these piggeries are about 60 percent lower than conventional farrow to finish piggeries, averaging 1.4kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/kg pork.

Even lower emissions intensities occur on free range piggeries.

The emissions intensities on these piggeries are about 80 percent lower than conventional farrow to finish piggeries, with an average of about 1kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/kg pork.

Conventional farrow to finish piggeries that cover anaerobic ponds to capture and burn methane to generate on-farm energy to offset piggery energy use can achieve the lowest emissions intensities of all types of piggeries, averaging about 0.9kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/kg pork.

Knowing on-farm emissions can have a benefit in marketing pork product against other products.

Reducing emissions can influence perception of environmental steward-

ship, save costs and possibly provide an extra income stream.

## What savings are possible?

It is possible to reduce on-farm emissions and also increase piggery profitability.

For example, reducing feed wastage by as little as 5 percent can result in substantial feed cost savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 10 percent.

Medium to large piggeries can generate extra income by capturing and burning methane from anaerobic ponds if carbon credits are traded and energy is generated on-site to replace most of the bought electricity or LPG used in the piggery.

Up to an 85 percent reduction in emissions is possible.

By conversion of certain facilities from conventional to deep litter housing, up to 40 percent of emissions can be saved.

A number of producers are converting to group sow housing on deep litter.

Some piggeries are installing solar power while others are making simple changes to waste treatment systems or manure reuse options.

With the PigGas Calculator, producers are able to model many different options to identify possibilities on their own piggeries to maximise emissions savings while maintaining or increasing profit.

The average greenhouse gas emissions savings across all piggeries modelled so far is 42 percent.

**Not yet involved?** Free PigGas workshops and one-on-one piggery consultations will be conducted in Queensland, NSW, SA and Victoria during the next six months.

The National PigGas Extension Project is funded by Ian Kruger Consulting, the Australian Government and Australian Pork Limited.

For further information or involvement, please contact Ian Kruger by email [iankrugerconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:iankrugerconsulting@gmail.com) or phone 0401 365 488.

## ProHanduptake optimises pig welfare

OVER 30 South Australian stockpeople have completed the pig industry's ProHand training program during 2013/14, bringing the total number to 600 since the current version was released for industry uptake by Australian Pork Limited in March 2009.

Delivery of the program at Roseworthy and Murray Bridge regional centres during the year has been supported through funding approved by the SA Pig Industry Advisory Group, with the training sessions presented by industry consultant Graeme Pope, Nuriootpa.

ProHand was developed for APL by the Animal Welfare Science Centre, Victoria and aims to demonstrate the effect stockperson attitudes and beliefs towards pigs can have on pig growth, litter size, ease and predictability when moving pigs and eventual meat quality.

The program is delivered over two afternoon sessions set several weeks apart to enable stockpeople to practise their new pig handling techniques and then provide group feedback.

Consistent comments received from participants after completing ProHand training is that the routine moving of pigs around a piggery could be made physically easier and quicker once staff gained a greater understanding of natural pig behaviour and sensory abilities, as well

as the obstacles or distractions commonly encountered by pigs when being moved.

Issues to be dealt with by pigs including being moved singularly (rather than with their pen mates), contrasting light patterns (dark to light and back again), poorly designed raceways and loading facilities, flooring maintenance and obstacles such as feed carts and hoses can all impact on the ease with which pigs can be moved.

The frequent use of positive handling behaviours including pats, rubs, a hand resting on the pig's back and talking in a quiet voice will result in pigs being less fearful of human interventions and more inclined to move in a predictable manner, decreasing the risk of stockperson injury and work frustration.

The frequency of pigs requiring individual handling and moving within commercial piggeries will increase in future as the national pig industry converts to group sow housing systems.

Consumers are also showing an increased interest in understanding how their pork is being produced.

The ProHand program is a practical training resource supported by industry funding within SA to enable stockpeople to develop their competency in moving and handling pigs.

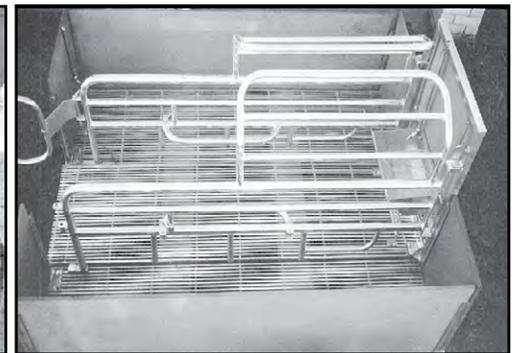
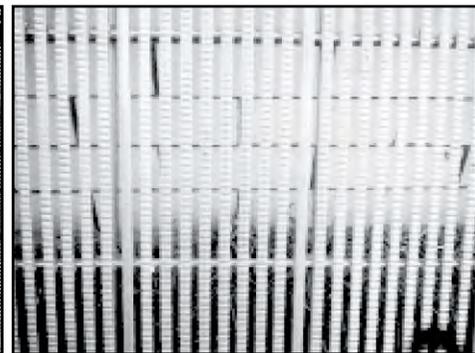
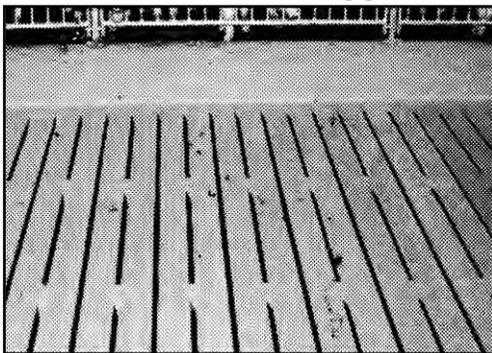
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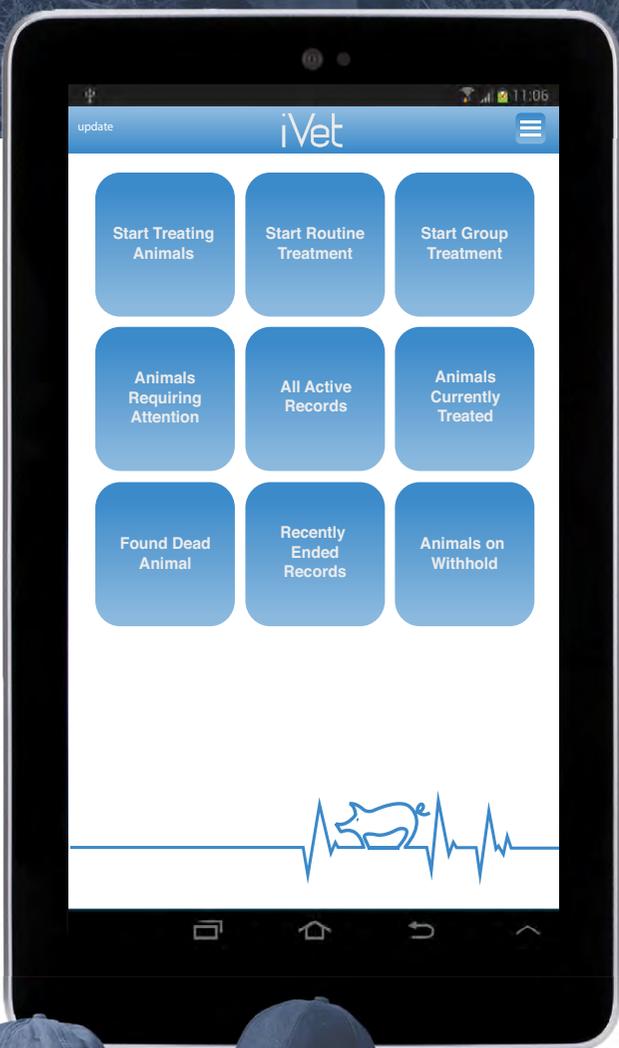
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# REAL TIME ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

iVet has been developed as an innovative management tool that assists health, welfare and food safety compliance in production animal systems.



## iVet application

### Complete Customised Solution

- Meets industry quality assurance system requirements
- Integrates approved medication lists, staff competencies, treatment records, retained and lost needle records, withholding period management systems and assists welfare standard compliance
- Customised for individual farms, sites, pens and pigs, including sow and batch identifiers
- Notifies manager and vet of treatment and welfare trigger non-compliances
- Retains all records in a retrievable electronic format
- Enables analysis of the effectiveness of veterinary and husbandry programs

### Peace of Mind

- Proactive Veterinary and Welfare Management
- Improves compliance with medication regimes
- Improves effectiveness of health programs
- Assists risk management of potential welfare issues
- Analysis of effectiveness of treatment responses and medication programs
- Assists to reduce medication usage
- Low investment cost

***For further information  
contact us below***

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