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Global animal health leader Alltech signed a memorandum of understanding with Jiangsu Guo Ming Agricultural Development Company at the China Animal Husbandry Expo in Chongqing, confirming the companies' commitment to work together to open a new pig farm in Shuyang, Jiangsu Province, China. Alltech is joined in this partnership by Big Dutchman, Betco, Pig Improvement Company and Pipestone.

Industry leaders sign agreement to create pig farm of the future in China

GLOBAL animal health leader Alltech has signed a memorandum of understanding with Jiangsu Guo Ming Agricultural Development Company at the China Animal Husbandry Expo in Chongqing, confirming the companies' commitment to work together to open a new pig farm in Shuyang, Jiangsu Province, China.

Five companies have come together to support Jiangsu Guo Ming in the development of the farm in their respective areas of expertise.

Alltech will provide animal nutrition solutions, Big Dutchman and Betco will work together on the equipment, facility and house design, Pig Improvement Company will provide genetics and Pipestone will offer management support.

The farm, which will take about two years to complete, will rely on the expertise of industry leaders to develop a farm that will model to farmers and processors how using the latest technologies, including nutrigenomics, can maximise productivity.

It will house 5000 sows and in a second phase expand to include grower-finisher barns.

The end goal is to produce antibiotic-free, natural pork products in a highly efficient manner with far less environmental impact than today's farming practices.

Jiangsu Guo Ming president Guoming Pan said, "The pig industry in China is transforming from scattered small farms to large-scale farming, and there are lots of opportunities for growth."

"This new farm will need comprehensive technology, thus we are partnering with industry leaders to maximise productivity."

Jiangsu Guo Ming aims to create a farm that is environmentally sustainable with high standards for animal welfare.

In addition to ensuring traceability from seed to feed, a key objective is to produce a model for manure management that can be replicated on farms in China.

Alltech vice president and director of China business operations Dr Mark Lyons said, "Alltech

is guided by our ACE principle, which stands for benefit and safety to the animal, consumer and environment, and the base of our products has always been natural."

"We are proud to work with Jiangsu Guo Ming and other industry leaders to develop a farm that follows this principle and uses the latest technologies to maximise productivity," he said.

"I am confident that Alltech's contribution, backed by 35 years of experience, will be significant in helping pigs achieve their genetic potential through nutrition."

The agreement was signed by representatives from six companies: Guoming Pan, president of Jiangsu Guo Ming; Fred Barnard, COO of Betco Asia; Nigel Goode, president of Pig Business Unit, Big Dutchman; Martin Butler, China director, Pipestone; Sean Teng, key account director, PIC China; and Michael Woolsey, senior regulatory strategic manager, Alltech China.

For more information, please contact Brian Jin at bjin@alltech.com

On the way to the forum

THE Australian Pork Limited Delegates' Forum was held at Coogee Beach, Sydney during May and was a great opportunity to catch up with industry representatives and hear their views about what is happening in the pork industry.

Our delegate structure is one of those good things about how the pork industry works in Australia.

The idea that we can have less than 40 elected people in a room making decisions on behalf of the industry is a really valuable industry asset.

It facilitates unity across the industry, provides for a fantastic debating arena to air views and gets decisions made that enable the industry to move forward and be seen as one promoting leadership and proactivity.

Other livestock and agricultural industries find achieving this very difficult through their own mechanisms.

The change to a three-year term has also changed the delegate relationships with the APL management and Board.

Three years is a time frame that you can get your teeth into and achieve something, allowing enough time to develop opinions, see opportunity and implement change.

A relatively recent addition to the agendas for Delegates' Forums has been the 'Delegates' Point of View' session where three randomly selected delegates have 10 minutes to speak to the forum about an issue



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



of particular interest to them.

At this forum, Cherie Collins from Rivalea spoke on the importance of good research and development to the industry, Rod Hamann from Australian Pork Farms presented his opinions of the mutual obligations and responsibilities of delegates and APL towards each other for a better industry and Russell Bishop from SunnyNook Farms spoke on opportunities for the use of social media to better engage not only with the community but also with smaller producers.

Thanks to these delegates for their interesting contributions.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, in its numbers at the end of March, tells us that pig slaughters have increased quite markedly over the past couple of months to a moving annual total figure of 4.87 million carcasses; the highest since the 2007/08 industry profitability crisis.

While it's good to think that the industry continues to expand, we have to remember that 10 years ago, before the

crisis, we were a 5.4 million carcass a year trade.

Increasing imports has been the major factor impacting this number.

The good news is that demand for our product is very healthy, as represented in some strong prices for pigs and a fresh pork per capita consumption number that continues to rise.

APL general manager Marketing Peter Haydon told us at the forum that we expect this strong demand to continue into the medium term.

This is mainly due to production restraints on beef and sheep meats, good traction of our ongoing promotional efforts and a new campaign being developed around how to cook a pork steak in 10 minutes, which tested extremely well in South Australia.

This demand will continue to be realised for pig farmers through good farm gate prices and in some cases higher volume sales, with increased production being pursued in certain enterprises.

APIQ✓, our quality assurance system, has been through a review

and APL APIQ✓ business manager Tony Abel presented the outcomes of this review (which he talks about on Page 4 of this edition) at the forum.

APL general manager Communication Emily Mackintosh gave us her impressions of a conference she attended recently in the US organised by the Animal Agriculture Alliance (a collaborative venture by livestock industries in the US to better tell their story to the community).

The theme of the conference was around the power of transparency for animal production enterprises in engaging with society.

One of the conclusions was the importance of getting our messages across to those known as the 'millennials' – the generation now building careers, getting promoted and generating their own wealth.

Typically, the millennials have very little knowledge of how animal agriculture works and are a soft target to activists with their misrepresentative messaging.

This can create a self-perpetuating cycle of myths about animal farming, which we need to disrupt with the truth.

The issues in the US around this theme clearly seem to be in line with ours.

Thank you to all the delegates for your engagement over the forum and we look forward to seeing you again in Melbourne during November for the next get together.



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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2015

JUN 11 - 13 – VIV Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey www.vivturkey.com

JUN 14 - 16 – Australian Pig Veterinarians Conference, Kingscliff, NSW E: apv@ava.com.au Ph: Rowan Wilson 0429 929 753

JUN 24 - 25 – International Symposium on Emerging and Re-emerging Pig Diseases, Kyoto, Japan www.emerging2015.com

AUG 9 - 12 – International Conference on Boar Semen Preservation, Illinois, US www.boarsemen2015.com

SEP 15 - 18 – Space 2015, Rennes, France www.space.fr

OCT 11 - 13 – Leman China Swine Conference, Nanjing International Exhibition Center, Nanjing, China www.cvm.umn.edu/lemanchina

NOV 22 - 25 – Australasian Pig Science Association conference, Melbourne, VIC www.apsa.asn.au

2016

JAN 20-22 – Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Alberta Canada www.banffpork.ca

JAN 27 – Centralia Swine Research Update, Ontario, Canada www.centraliaswinerresearch.ca

FEB 16 - 18 – VIV MEA, Abu Dhabi, UAE www.vivmea.nl

APR 18 - 20 – Global Feed & Food Congress, Antalya, Turkey www.ifif.org

MAY 10 - 11 – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire UK www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

MAY 25 - 26 – Pan Pacific Pork Expo, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD P: APL 02 6285 2200

JUN 7-10 – International Pig Veterinary Society/European Symposium of Porcine Health Management, Dublin, Ireland www.ipvs2016.com

SEP 6 - 8 – VIV China, Beijing, China www.vivchina.nl

NOV 15 - 18 – EuroTier, Hanover, Germany www.eurotier.com

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

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Transforming APL R&D

IT'S now been seven years since Australian Pork Limited revamped its research, development and extension process and program, and it seems that the time has come to review and perhaps change the focus of APL's RD&E program.

In this issue I look at some of the areas that may require change.

Implemented in 2008/09, APL moved away from a two-stage preliminary and final research proposal system to a revised one-step 'research by tender' process.

The process of developing annual RD&E priorities was also revamped.

So currently the APL RD&E process consists of two key components: the R&D Specialist Groups and the revised R&D Advisory Committee.

The SGs comprise 'expert' participants from industry, research providers, federal and state government and APL management.

The SGs advise the RDAC on relevant R&D opportunities in the specialist area to assist in the achievement of APL strategic objectives.

The primary function of the RDAC is to give direction to the APL Board relating to the management, performance and outcomes of APL's R&D.

APL RD&E process is managed via OmniPig, which enables online submission of RD&E proposals, review of proposals, development of project contracts and the management of project milestones.

The end result is a system that better identifies RD&E priorities and is transparent, with each SG developing business plans and also being part of the review process.

In reviewing the 2015/16 SG business plans, the RDAC has suggested a number of changes to both the RD&E process and program going forward.

Much of this discussion has been in the context of addressing 'change required' as per the 2015-2020 APL Strategic Plan.

The key question being: "So what needs changing?"

One area that APL sought to address in the 2014/15 year was the need to develop and focus on transformational or Horizon 3 projects.

As mentioned previously (*Australian Pork Newspaper*, May 2014), the message last year to the SGs was that APL was perhaps 'playing it too safe' by being overly focused on incremental benefit priorities.

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



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



A number of SGs did revamp their approach and we have at least one or two significant/Horizon 2 rather than transformational/Horizon 3 projects.

I know it's still early days but it appears that most SGs struggled to identify Horizon 3 projects.

To be fair, we are talking about projects that are big ideas (huge industry benefits and high risk), and by virtue are not easy to find, otherwise we would have done them by now!

At the last APL Board meeting, the 2015/16 SG business plans were reviewed.

The outcome was for a number of APL Board directors and the Executive Team to consider how to optimise total R&D spend that better balances short-term requirements with long-term transformation-

al projects, and how the latter might be funded.

A number of questions were considered by the group to facilitate the discussion around Horizon 3/transformational R&D:

1. Does the APL R&D process allow for transformational R&D to be developed or does the process constrain transformational idea generation? If not, then what needs changing?

2. Given APL's new Strategic Plan, is there a need to force a proportion of our R&D spend towards Horizon 3/transformational priorities?

In reviewing the current R&D process, it was noted that the process was well managed and provided a sound basis for the development of APL's annual R&D priorities and budget.

However, the discipline

groupings of the SGs enabled the identification of Horizon 1 priorities for the main and some Horizon 2 priorities such as gilt progeny.

It was identified that there was a need to define a system to facilitate the generation of Horizon 3 priorities within APL's R&D process.

While defining Horizon 3 priorities, the group considered the following 'characteristics' to be integral to what constituted a Horizon 3 priority.

Though 'high-risk, high-reward' and 'research with an inherent high degree of uncertainty and the capability to produce a major impact on key issues' convey what Horizon 3 priorities represent, the group added a number of other characteristics to the above definitions including:

- Long term;
- Not necessarily new innovation (getting away from 'blue sky R&D');
- Lead to significant industry practice change; and
- Outcomes would need to be measured by scale of industry upside.

The discussion on development of Horizon 3 priorities concluded that rather than 'force' a proportion of R&D alloca-

tions for Horizon 3 projects, a series of transformational idea generation workshops be undertaken from July-November 2015.

The transformational idea generation workshops would involve a number of workshops to collate ideas from APL, industry, other value chain partners, futurists and so on.

A list of transformational ideas would be collated for Board discussion and selection at the February 2016 meeting.

This process of transformational idea generation would become an annual activity.

It was also noted that by virtue of being transformational, it would be possible that this process might need to be undertaken a number of times before APL would be in a position to actually commission a Horizon 3 project.

Given the above, there will also be some changes to the APL RD&E process, which I will update you on at a later stage.

So if you have any ideas around Horizon 3 projects or how to identify them, please give me a call on 02 6270 8804 or email darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au

Gestation stall free

WHILE many producers have moved to meet the industry voluntary standard of holding sows in gestation stalls for no more than five days post-mating, or in the case of the Coles supermarket requirement, no more than 24 hours, other producers have not taken any action on this front.

A number of producers have also asked the question as to when the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs legislative requirements will come into effect.

The answer is: This Model Code will require producers to ensure sows are confined in gestation stalls for no more than six weeks post-mating by April 20, 2017.

If you have not adopted either the industry voluntary five-day period or a shorter customer requirement period, then each state has or will set a date by which producers will need to limit the time sows spend in gestation stalls to no more than six weeks.

Though the Queensland Government has not yet legislated this Model

pork
QUEENSLAND INC.
President's Perspective

by **JOHN COWARD**



Code requirement, it is expected to be in line with other states.

While the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs is technically due for review, it is yet to be considered for funding by governments.

Therefore, when the

review will occur is currently an unknown.

When the next Model Code review does happen, the pork industry's voluntary initiative is likely to be considered for inclusion, along with the current six-week confinement requirement and other aspects

of the standards.

I only say this as producers need to consider the potential for the industry voluntary five-day period to become the standard in the next iteration.

So, producers who have not taken any action in relation to gestation stalls need to set a plan in place to ensure they are compliant.

Please contact me on 0407 622 166 if you need any further clarification around Queensland's legislative requirements on this matter.



Trying to close the door on sow group housing

A COUPLE of columns ago I summarised the outcomes of Pork CRC research on group housing pregnant sows.

I also sent summaries out not that long ago and we issued a media release ('Spaced out sows work it out') on the same matter about a month ago.

However, after attending the Australian Pork Limited Delegates' Forum on May 19, I realised that maybe the message remains unclear.

I also want to share with you a few things I learnt from APL delegates involved in our research and development on the management of group housed sows.

First, Pork CRC research on group housing, which is based on many smaller discovery-type studies and some very large studies in commercial facilities, can be summarised as follows:

1. Regardless of when grouped or mixed, sows rapidly adapt to mixing and reduced space.

2. Aggression and cortisol levels decline with increased space shortly after mixing, but the effect (of space) disappears in four to nine days.

3. No long-term effect on sow welfare of mixing or floor space ranging from 1.45sqm to 2.9sqm/sow.

4. No long-term effect on sow reproduction of mixing or floor space between 1.45sqm and 2.9sqm/sow. In our studies with sows mixed at weaning or three to four days after mating, farrowing rates ranged from 92-95 percent and born alive from 11.5-11.9.

5. Floor space did not affect the number of sows removed for non-reproductive reasons.

6. Results suggest there is no minimum or optimal floor space for group housed sows. Aggression immediately after mixing can be reduced by increasing floor space, but there is no long-term effect of reduced space on sow welfare or reproduction. They adapt within days.

7. The full results and the excellent science in the projects below can be found in the reports on our website at porkcrc.com.au/research/program-1/program-1-projects under IC-105 'The effects of floor space on the welfare of group housed sows', IC-108 'The sensitivity of sows to stressors throughout gestation' and IC-111 'Effects of group housing after weaning sow welfare and sexual behaviour'.

Flawed floors

Our floor space results differ in some respects from a study at the same site by APL about three years ago.

In that study, researchers investigated the effects of floor space between 1.4sqm and 3sqm on sow welfare and reproduction.

During our study we looked at six floor spaces between 1.45sqm and 2.9sqm on sow welfare and performance.

In the APL study, the researchers found, as we



Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL
CEO



did, that aggression and cortisol declined with increasing space at mixing, but the effect of space was transitory and no longer evident at day nine after mixing.

However, they found that farrowing rate increased in a linear fashion with increased floor space up to 3sqm and this was most obvious in summer.

Litter size was unaffected by floor space in both studies and BA averaged about 10.9 in the APL study and 11.5 in the Pork CRC study.

The farrowing rate information for the APL and Pork CRC studies is shown in Figure 1.

In the APL study, the researchers also investigated group size (10, 30 and 80).

The responses were all over the place and farrowing rate averaged about 69 percent when all replicates were included and roughly 78 percent when the summer replicate was removed.

In the Pork CRC study, there was no effect of floor space and this did not differ across seasons (including summer).

Farrowing rate averaged 92 percent.

The one difference between the studies was that in APL's the sows had not previously experienced group housing.

In ours, all sows had been grouped in at least one previous gestation, so I think if you're like the 70 percent of industry that has moved to group housing, our results are very relevant.

If you haven't moved to group housing, it may pay to give sows more space when first mixed and then reduce it later.

Delegating wisdom

Two items of wisdom from the Delegates' Forum:

The first – if floor feeding group housed sows, offer all daily feed within one hour and don't spread feeding over the day.

In Pork CRC's study, the sows were fed 2.5kg/day spread over four feeds, one hour apart, starting at 7am.

A representative of the Pork CRC participant, where the work was done, told delegates that this extends aggression and favours the dominant sows.

They therefore ensure all feed is provided once daily, or within an hour.

The second – commercially, a floor space between 1.8sqm and 2.1sqm supports excellent and consistent performance in group housed sows.

Sorry about going over findings discussed recently, but a lot has been invested in the research

and it is important that the implications are clearly communicated to producers and well understood by those who might influence future codes of practice for the industry.

Alternative systems

We have just concluded a long-running, collaborative project on alternative farrowing and lactation systems (Project 1A-105 'Developing commercially viable, confinement-free farrowing and lactation systems'), which involved researchers from Rivaletta, Melbourne University, Sydney University, Denmark and Scotland.

They investigated a variation of the Werribee pen at Sydney, early variations of the Piglet and Sow Alternative Farrowing Environment Pen and further refinements of each later in the project.

Recently they completed the project and reported on a study looking at moving sows and litters from crates and PigSAFE pens to groups 14 days before weaning at 25 days of age.

There were 144 replicates for the farrowing crate and PigSAFE pen and 36 replicates for the two group housed treatments.

The final report can be viewed on our website by clicking the Research tab, then Program 1 – Projects & Final Reports.

Pricey pens

We have generally found that the alternative or freedom-type pens initially result in higher piglet mortality and it was no different in this project, but with modification and good management they can be made to work.

But, and it's a big but, they are also much more costly than traditional farrowing crates.

The latest results are summarised in Table 1.

Piglet mortality tended to be higher in the PigSAFE pen and most deaths occurred in the first couple of days after birth, with small spikes when sows and piglets were moved to group housing.

Sows moved from PigSAFE pens adjusted sooner to groups than those from farrowing crates, but aggression in both declined rapidly after grouping.

The two problems with moving sows and litters to groups were that piglets grew slower when grouped and were lighter at weaning than those that remained in crates or pens through lactation.

The exact reason for this was not established, but I believe it will be.

Based on return to service intervals and plasma progesterone levels, quite a high percentage (20-27

percent) of sows in the group lactation treatments probably ovulated in lactation.

About 30 percent of sows housed during lactation in PigSAFE pens also likely ovulated in lactation.

Roughly 9 percent of sows that remained in farrowing crates ovulated in lactation.

These results suggest that in freedom-type systems, sows likely reduce their suckling frequency and/or intensity over time and it is something that would need to be accounted for, monitored and managed in these systems.

We have developed a farrowing system index that accounts for the welfare and performance of the sow and piglet and financial and workplace health and safety issues for the producer.

Favoured crates

To date, the index favours farrowing crates over all alternatives investigated.

In general, the different systems investigated have little or no measurable benefits for the sow, initially reduce piglet survival and, based on cost and labour inputs, have much lower value for producers than the farrowing crate.

We will continue to refine the index and keep you updated on research outcomes, but we are a long way from an alternative system that benefits the sow, piglet or producer.

Our latest research is concentrating more on defining the welfare of sows in conventional-type crates and, if compromised, how it might be enhanced.

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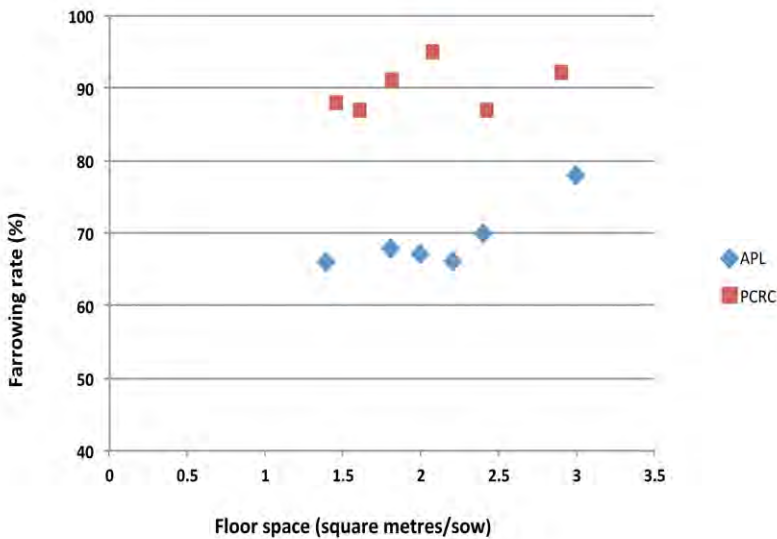


Figure 1: Effects of floor space on the farrowing rate of sows mixed after mating from APL and Pork CRC studies conducted at the same facility about three years apart.

Table 1: Effects of different farrowing and lactation systems on sow and piglet performance

Treatment	Farrowing crate	FC to group	PigSAFE pen	PSP to group
Born alive mortality (%)	16.6	14.6	19.9	20.3
Weaning weight (kg)	7.04a	6.71b	7.12a	6.79b
Piglet daily gain day 14 to weaning (g)	258a	167b	246a	179b
WRI (days)	5.2	8.3	7.4	7.6
Sows mated within four days (%)	75a	56b	53b	46b
Sows that likely ovulated in lactation (%)	9	22	31	27

a, b within rows, treatment averages followed by different subscript letters differ significantly (P<0.05)

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Changes to APIQ✓ after major review

THE APIQ✓ Major Review has now been completed.

The changes to APIQ✓ are summarised below.

Document structure

Under the proposed recommendations, the only changes to document structure are:

1. There will be three separate versions of the Implementation Manual – one for each certification type, namely: Indoor, Free Range and Outdoor Bred.

2. The audit checklist will move to an electronic format (but note a manual version will still be available in case the electronic version cannot be used in a particular situation).

Modules

In the revised version of APIQ✓ there will be seven modules and two Verification Options.

Currently APIQ✓ has four modules and the customer specifications Verification Option – known as CS6.

The new modules in the revised version are Traceability, Environment and Transport.

Gestation Stall Free status has also been identified as an additional Verification Option, which applies to indoor certifications only.

For ease of reference, the new module structure is shown in Table 1.

Content of modules

1. Management

- Environmental management requirements for Free Range and Outdoor Bred certification types will be moved into the new Environment module. Only the generic management requirements that apply to all APIQ✓ certified piggeries will remain in this module, along with definitions of the three certification types available.

- The Outdoor Bred certification type will be renamed to ‘Outdoor Bred and Eco-Barn Raised’ or an alternative new name to be confirmed in discussions with APL Marketing.

- Free Range and Outdoor Bred definitions will reinforce that pigs must predominantly be kept outdoors, with unrestricted access to appropriate shel-

ter and that any marketing material produced must accurately reflect the actual production system setup being used (in order to meet ACCC requirements around truth of labelling).

- Shelter allowances for outdoor pigs will become Standards whereas they are now noted as Guidelines in the Model Code.

- Boars will be explicitly covered in relation to the breeding stock requirements for outdoor systems.

2. Food Safety

- Pig movement requirements will be moved into the new Traceability module and aligned with new National Livestock Identification System rules.

- Pig treatment requirements will be better aligned with veterinary prescribing and policy on off-label use of medications clarified.

- It will become mandatory for all APIQ✓ certified piggeries to have a client relationship with a vet.

- Approved Medication Lists will no longer be mandatory.

- Recommendations from the Industry On-Farm HACCP Plan review previously conducted by Australian Pork Limited will be incorporated into the Food Safety Standards.

3. Animal Welfare

- Gestation Stall Free will be moved to a Verification Option for indoor APIQ✓ certified piggeries and will be accompanied by the ACCC qualifying statement.

- It will become mandatory for all APIQ✓ certified piggeries to have a current copy of the Model Code of Welfare for Pigs on site.

- The need to assess physical pig welfare on site will be part of the animal welfare audit, but Pig-Care guideline information will be moved to the APIQ✓ Reference Manual. The reference tables will be updated to reflect current recommendations for Australian conditions. Compliance with these guidelines will not be a condition of certification – they will instead be advisory only.

4. Biosecurity

- The minimum quarantine period for introduced stock of unknown or lesser health status sources will be amended to align with the recommendations of Animal Health Australia biosecurity guidelines (further discussion required to confirm Animal Health Australia’s position and its risk assessment and recommended best practice).

- The definition of what an acceptable quarantine arrangement comprises will be refined and clarified.

- It will become man-

datory for a piggery to have an emergency disease awareness and action poster placed in a visible location for ready reference by staff as a reminder of their responsibilities and to provide key contact phone numbers for disease alerts.

- Overall wording of biosecurity content will be reviewed with a view to making the requirements more clear and explicit wherever that can be done.

5. Traceability

- The new Traceability module will contain all content related to compliance with pig movement requirements and new NLIS rules.

6. Environment

- The new Piggery Environment module will have three components:

- a) Free Range and Outdoor Bred environment specific Standards;

- b) Need for all piggeries, including indoor piggeries, to be compliant with state requirements; and

- c) A ‘good housekeeping’ component, broadly based on the UK Red Tractor requirements.

- This module will also provide a place for future optional environment-based standards if agreed to between state governments and APIQ Management, where agreement allows a producer to meet state requirements with less audits and less cost to them. The benchmark model for this is the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme run by the Australian Lot Feeders’ Association and administered by AUS-MEAT.

- Environmental Standards requirements that currently must be met by

free range and outdoor bred certified piggeries will become binding on all pigs kept outdoors, including those on indoor certified piggeries.

- Rotation requirements for pigs kept outdoors will be more clearly specified and some form of rotation made mandatory.

- The content of the Environment Standards will be strongly informed and aligned with the National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries and the National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Piggeries.

- Requirements for disposal of spent bedding in outdoor systems and barn systems will be aligned with the NEGP/NEGRP.

7. Transport

- After much discussion and consultation, pig transport will be included as a separate module in the revised version of APIQ✓.

- The provisions that currently exist in other modules will be relocated to the Transport module and the producer’s duty of care in relation to pig transport will be made more explicit with the addition of Standards to ensure compliance to the transport legislation is appropriately covered.

Verification Options

- a) Customer Specifications

This Verification Option will include the content of the current CS6 module (requirements for producers wishing to supply Coles supermarkets). It will also provide a place for any other such customer verification requirements that may be needed in future.

b) Gestation Stall Free

The GSF Verification Option will only apply to piggeries seeking indoor certification and will not feature in the Implementation Manuals for the other certification types, except to state that GSF applies (by default) to all certified free range and outdoor bred producers.

Auditing

Along with moving the audit checklist to an electronic format, third party administration of audits is being investigated by APL under a separate project.

The findings of the APIQ✓ Major Review will feed into that project.

Overall documentation editing

There were a large number of small detail issues raised in consultations.

They have been recorded in the consultation minutes and Major Review Issues Register and will be addressed in the document editing.

Administration policies have been edited/updated in line with recommendations of the previous system audit.

Certification policies will also be updated.

We are currently waiting for final Board approval.

Following this we will be in direct communication with all APIQ✓ stakeholders to communicate the changes to APIQ✓.

For further information on any of the topics discussed in this column, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8812 or tony.abel@australianpork.com.au

Tony Abel
APIQ✓ Business Manager, Research and Innovation, APL

Module	Certification Type		
	Indoor	Free Range	Outdoor Bred
Management	✓	✓	✓
Food Safety	✓	✓	✓
Animal Welfare	✓	✓	✓
Biosecurity	✓	✓	✓
Traceability	✓	✓	✓
Environment	✓	✓	✓
Transport	✓	✓	✓
Verification Options			
Customer Specifications	✓	✓	✓
GSF	✓	n/a	n/a

Table 1



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Guilty plea for deliberately circumventing biosecurity laws

A NSW business owner has pleaded guilty to deliberately circumventing Australia’s biosecurity laws, receiving fines and a suspended sentence in the Sydney District Court last week.

First Assistant Secretary of the Department of Agriculture’s Compliance Division Raelene Vivian said the company illegally imported pork and chicken products into Australia by deliberately mislabelling the contents of shipping containers.

“Naruone Pty Ltd has received fines totalling \$100,000 for illegally importing pork dumpings, steaks, whole chickens, sausages and other products into Australia,” Ms Vivian said.

“The company’s owner, Mr Hyung Park, received a three-year suspended sentence for deliberately mislabelling the import documents as he knew the products were not permitted in Australia.

“The Department of Agriculture provides training courses to help importers comply with Australian laws and when they are ignored, we take decisive action.

“Mr Park, as owner of Naruone Pty Ltd, had received training and held quarantine accreditation, which comes with the responsibility for ensuring the integrity of Australia’s biosecurity system is maintained.

“Mr Park has paid the consequences for failing to take his responsibility seriously.”

Mr Park and Naruone Pty Ltd were charged with offences under the Quarantine Act 1908 and the Imported Food Control Act 1992.

Ms Vivian said Australia enjoys freedom from many harmful pests and diseases that occur in other parts of the world.

“One of the risks associated with pork products is foot and mouth disease, which, should it become established in the country, has been estimated to cost Australia about \$50 billion over a decade,” she said.

“We work off-shore, at the border and on-shore to manage biosecurity risks and any threat to the integrity of Australia’s biosecurity or quarantine process is vigorously pursued.”

This prosecution is one of a series stemming from Operation Hayride, which has seen seven individuals and five corporate entities receive convictions, and fines totalling \$240,000 for offences relating to the illegal importation of food products to date.

Further prosecutions are yet to be completed.

If you witness suspicious behaviour or come across any goods that you believe have been illegally imported, you can anonymously contact the Biosecurity Redline on 1800 803 006.

Navid nailing algae

■ Pork CRC Project 4A-106 'Growth, development and use of algae grown on untreated and undiluted anaerobic digestion piggery effluent' and 4A-107 'Bioprospecting and growth of macroalgae on anaerobic digestion piggery effluent'

DR Navid Moheimani is a senior algae technical specialist with more than 14 years' experience as an applied phycologist involved in biomass production from microalgae.

Navid was awarded his PhD 10 years ago from Murdoch University in Western Australia for work on capturing carbon dioxide using microalgae.

In mid-2006, Navid joined Biofuel Pty Ltd as chief scientist, working with the company in Melbourne until returning to Murdoch University in December 2008 to work in large-scale algae culture for biofuel production as a senior postdoctoral fellow on the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate project 'Integrated large-scale microalgae culture for biofuel production'.

He led the biology team and this project was successfully completed in December 2012.

Murdoch position

In April 2010, Navid was employed as a senior lecturer by Murdoch University.

Between 2001 and 2013, Navid worked closely with his mentor Emeritus Prof Michael Borowitzka.

Upon Michael's retirement in early 2013, Navid started leading the Murdoch University Algae R&D Centre.

Using algae for treating wastewater is one of Navid's main research interests.

One wastewater treatment system that is gaining acceptance in Australian piggeries is anaerobic digestion ponds.

These systems typically consist of a covered pond containing wastewater, which is biologically treated by heterotrophic micro-organisms in the absence of oxygen.

The piggery anaerobic effluent is very high in ammonium, making it unsuitable for many purposes.

Pork project

Navid was a part of the team working on Pork CRC Project 4A-101 112, 'Algae for energy and feed: A wastewater solution. A review'.

This review recommended that, along with anaerobic digestion, microalgae culture systems should be investigated further as a potential component of the Australian piggery wastewater management strategy.

In 2013, Navid supervised Jeremy Ayre (Pork CRC funded Honours student) investigating microalgae culture for post-anaerobic digestion efflu-

ent of piggery wastewater treatment.

Jeremy managed to isolate at least three microalgae capable of growing on undiluted, sand-filtered, anaerobic digestion effluent.

This proof-of-concept study clearly illustrated the potential for culturing microalgae in such effluent with a high ammonium content.

As a follow up to this Honours study, Navid is currently leading Pork CRC project 4A-106 'Growth, development and use of algae grown on untreated and undiluted anaerobic digestion piggery effluent'.

The main aims of this project are sustainable cultivation of microalgae on undiluted and non-treated piggery anaerobic digestion effluent and to study the limits to the growth of isolated microalgae.

Pig feed

Navid and his team will also analyse nutrient composition of produced biomass and test its suitability as a feed ingredient for pigs.

If the biomass is not suitable as a pig feed, they will also test co-anaerobic digestion of produced biomass with piggery effluent, with the aim to produce bio-methane.

Last but not least, the economics and CO₂ bio-sequestration of large-scale production will be assessed.

Further to investigating potential use of microalgae for treating piggery anaerobic digestion effluent, they will also investigate the potential use of macroalgae for treating this effluent.

Navid received a Pork CRC innovation grant (4A-107) 'Bioprospecting and growth of macroalgae on anaerobic digestion piggery effluent'.

These projects are multidisciplinary, involving experts with different backgrounds.

Navid's Murdoch University colleagues Prof John Pluske, Emeritus Prof Michael Borowitzka and Dr John Huisman are contributing their expertise in nutrient studies, algal cultivation and economics and macroalgal bioprospecting, respectively.

Dr Sasha Jenkins from the University of Western Australia is helping to investigate the anaerobic digestion process, while Jeremy Ayre is conducting his Pork CRC supported PhD mainly on microalgae cultivation aspects of the project.

The project is also supported by the Department of Agriculture and Food, WA and University

of Melbourne (Dr Peter Cakebread).

Wastewater treatment is not Navid's only field of interest.

He has also been involved in and led several national and international projects on studying calcification, biology, photophysiology and limits to the growth of microalgae from laboratory to large scale, both with industry and academia.

For more than a decade, Navid has been developing large-scale cultivation systems for microalgae species isolation, adaptation, growth optimisation,

increasing productivity of target species and downstream processing.

Recently, Navid has successfully built an international multidisciplinary team developing efficient hybrid conversion of solar energy to biomass, and electricity and non-destructive hydrocarbon extraction from microalgae.

If you need more information about Dr Moheimani's current studies at Murdoch University and his Pork CRC projects, please contact him by email at n.moheimani@murdoch.edu.au

www.porkcrc.com.au



Dr Navid Moheimani

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Margaret was chosen for the scheme because she was HIV positive. She has had similar outcomes to Mary, except with some disease problems, so has utilised AFAP's veterinary services.



Mary inside her piggery. A pig is just \$55 and you can donate at bit.ly/afap-pass-on

Pigs proving to be powerful tools for alleviating poverty

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PIGS are making a big impact in helping poor and vulnerable families in rural Malawi, Africa to make a living for themselves, according to Australian non-government organisation AFAP Action on Poverty.

The small Sydney-based international aid agency has seen impressive results through its Small Livestock Pass-on Scheme, which is helping hundreds of people improve their lives.

AFAP executive director Christine Murphy said it's a simple idea.

"First we go out into poor rural communities and call for people who want to sign up for the scheme," she said.

"Priority goes to particularly vulnerable people such as single mothers, people with a disability or people who are HIV positive.

"We give one of those families a female pig and we teach them about live-stock management, pig pen construction and marketing.

"The pig is mated and when it sows, the family repays the scheme with two piglets and keeps the rest.

"Those piglets are then 'passed on' to two other families in need, who each in return pay back the scheme with two piglets.

"Then four new families benefit – and so the scheme grows."

It's a sustainable piggy bank.

Families are generating their own incomes through small-scale pig farming, selling piglets to markets and hiring out boars to stud.

They are also using the manure as fertiliser for their crops, which is increasing their yields.

and kept a male pig that she is hiring out to her neighbours as a stud – giving her more income.

Mary feeds the pigs maize husks, which she buys using the small income she earns through working on the local tea estate.

"When I visited Mary she had builders constructing a modest brick home for her family to live in," Ms Kellar said.

"She was also able to buy blankets and pay for her children's school fees.

"She was lucky not to have had any problems with disease with her pigs, but the scheme has a veterinarian to ensure the ongoing health of the pigs.

"What I really like about this program is that it's giving people the means

to make their own living, rather than just giving handouts.

"Mary has taught her children how to pig farm so it will help her family for generations to come."

AFAP Action on Poverty is seeking donations to scale up the Small Livestock Pass-on Scheme and reach more people in need.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and AFAP is urging people to donate before June 30 to get their tax deduction.

A donation of \$55 could provide a family with one pig, which could, through the pass-on scheme, benefit seven families within a year.

You can donate today at www.afap.org/donate

Tiffany Keller, AFAP

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Mary has started to build her dream home. She has four bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen. This is all because of the income she received from the AFAP Action on Poverty Small Livestock Pass-on Scheme.



Mary gets in and out of her pig pen through an opening in the top left corner.



D'Orsogna's Terry Bassula, who manages the Woolworths account, flanked by D'Orsogna store merchandisers Joan Clarke and Janette Back at the author's local Woolworths in South Fremantle, WA.

Smallgoods big business for WA-based D'Orsogna

D'ORSOGNA senior business manager Massimo Valentini understands the company's business inside out, which comes from the 15 years he's spent on the production side and 10 years on sales.

Highly experienced and well regarded Western Australia-based account managers Terry Bassula, Eddie Murphy and Silvano Persichillo are part of the sales team at the 65-year-old, WA head-quartered smallgoods manufacturer.

A team led by Steve Vradis co-ordinates D'Orsogna's vast distribution network in WA and interstate, using a variety of transport companies and contractors to ensure product gets delivered on time, every time.

D'Orsogna's own trucks supply metropolitan Perth and the company engages skilled contractors to deliver products into all capital cities, as well as many regional areas in north Queensland, the Northern Territory, Tasmania and northwest WA (Broome, Exmouth and Geraldton), for example.

A depot in Bunbury, WA, led by Glenn Jones, distributes products to the southwest of the state.

Social media

A passionate advocate for the reach and market penetration that social



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

media and the digital age offers a progressive company such as D'Orsogna, Massimo has been a driving force behind the development and refinement of D'Orsogna's website and Facebook page.

Massimo believes social media offers an important pathway to reaching consumers, describing it as "the public but personal voice of the company".

"Our Facebook page, for example, has more than 20,000 likes," Massimo said.

"A recent initiative was partnering with Julie Dundon from Nutrition Professionals Australia to

offer followers healthy dining tips.

"This along with our regular recipes from chef Matt Golinski means we can quickly and regularly inform new and old customers about how our range of D'Orsogna products can fit in with their busy lifestyles.

"Our partnership with Amanda of Cooking For Busy Mums is also an important community link and last year she featured D'Orsogna's Lunchtime Legend campaign headed by Matt Golinski, filmed 10 recipes (www.youtube.com/user/cookingforbusymums/videos) using the D'Orsogna range along with Matt Golinski and supplied a free eBook (www.cookingforbusymums.com/sdm_downloads/free-ebook-entertain-cooking-busymums-dorsogna) for the entertaining season."

This year Amanda will incorporate two recipes each month using the D'Orsogna range and will show followers how they can easily use D'Orsogna products at home – be sure to look out for the hashtag: #dorsognaathome with the recipes and photos Amanda shares.

D'Orsogna's website www.dorsogna.com.au is well worth a visit if you're looking for some fabulous recipes, most of which of course, celebrate the 'power of the pig'.

Facing facts

According to a fact sheet on Australian Pork Limited's website, Australians annually consume about 23.5kg of pork per person, and this is made up of 8.5kg of fresh pork and 15kg of processed ham products such as bacon and smallgoods.

Business researcher IBISWorld says demand for smallgoods in Australia in the past year has been buoyed by the development of new products that have addressed rising consumer trends focused on healthy eating and convenience.

It forecasts industry revenue (currently \$3 billion) for operators in the cured

meat and smallgoods manufacturing sector in Australia to grow by 2.3 percent in 2014-15, with innovative new products such as low-fat smallgoods and more efficient single-serve packaging for consumers' convenience.

Husbandry practices – tusk trimming

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited is regularly approached for advice on various on-farm husbandry practices.

Recently we have had a number of inquiries about tusk trimming of boars.

Tusk trimming is an elective husbandry procedure.

The Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs stipulates that stockpersons must not carry out elective husbandry procedures unless they are either competent or under direct supervision of someone who is competent.

The Code states that tusk trimming is necessary where injury to humans or other animals is likely to occur.

Tusks are potentially dangerous to stockpeople and other pigs and can grow about 2cm every six months.

Injury to other pigs is particularly likely to occur if boars are transported in groups or with other pigs.

If it is likely that a

boar will be aggregated with other pigs, APL advises that its tusks are trimmed beforehand.

If a boar is being transported to a saleyard then it is likely that the buyer will need to transport that boar with other pigs, so APL suggests the tusk trimming take place on farm, not in public areas such as saleyards where there is additional stress to the animal.

Trained stockpeople are best placed to carry out this procedure.

It is unlikely that a suitably qualified person will be available to trim tusks if boars are aggregated after leaving the farm, for instance, at a saleyard.

If tusk trimming is conducted inappropriately (that is with the wrong tools, inadequate restraint or too close to the gum line) then the boar may experience significant pain, and this could well be considered an act of cruelty.

Producers should take steps to avoid these situ-

ations by dealing with problems such as this on farm.

The recommended practice is to use embryotomy wire while the boar is adequately restrained or sedated.

It can be difficult and time consuming to use the wire properly, but it is much better for the boar when done correctly.

Bolt cutters are not recommended because they are difficult to manipulate and can shatter the tusk.

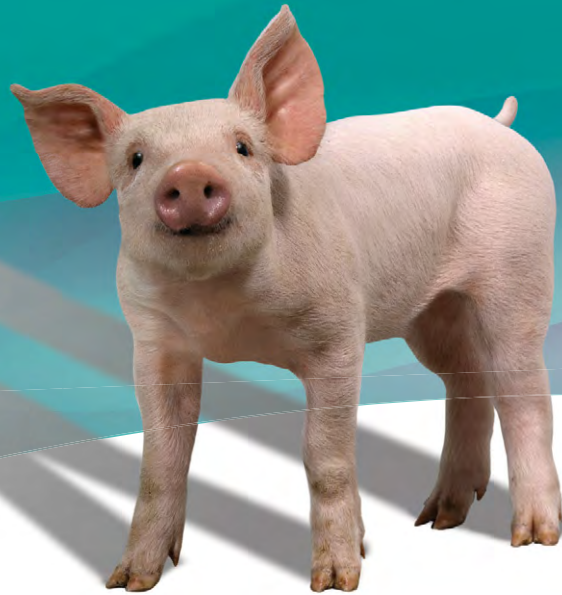
Inside a boar tusk is a pulp chamber that contains nerves, vessels and connective tissue.

A small section of this pulp chamber protrudes past the gum line, so be careful to leave a small length of tusk above the gum line to ensure this is not exposed.

For more information, please contact me on 02 6270 8807 or Laura. Phelps@australianpork.com.au

Laura Phelps
APL Policy Research Officer

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Projects recognise the importance of innovation

TWELVE new research and development projects to drive increased profits for rural industries will soon be under way following a recent announcement by Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce.

In welcoming \$26.7 million of grants under the Rural R&D for Profit program, Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations chair Mr Selwyn Snell said the announcement recognised the importance of innovation for the future prosperity of Australia's rural sector.

Through these projects, the 15 Rural RDCs are working with each other and more than 35 other

partners to deliver about \$60 million worth of research investment.

"This is an incredibly important time for our food and fibre industries," Mr Snell said.

"The growing population and affluence across Asia means there are significant opportunities emerging in our nearest markets.

"But we have to compete strongly against global competitors and maximise our competitive advantages if we are going to capture the benefits.

"One of our advantages is a strong and successful research community that is actively being focused on current industry challenges and ensuring industries are

well placed for emerging opportunities."

Mr Snell said Australia's RDCs have again demonstrated their skill and capabilities in building investment and delivery partnerships that bring together governments, the research providers and industry to focus on critical issues.

"The 12 successful projects were selected from a competitive field of more than 50 applications; the result of an enormous effort across the RDCs and our partner organisations," he said.

"We welcome the announcement of additional funding, and are looking forward to working with our project partners to quickly get these projects under way." 🐷



Turning waste into fertilisers and feed

THE Australian pork industry is excited with the recent announcement by Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce of 12 new projects set to drive innovation and increased profits for rural industries under the government's Rural R&D for Profit program.

In particular, one such novel project is the prospect of creating new sources of fertilisers and feed by using algae, bacteria and chemotrophs to recapture nutrients from waste products.

What the project is setting out to achieve is the development of safe animal feed and high nitro-

gen and phosphorus fertiliser for agricultural use.

This is a concept and approach that is completely new to agriculture.

Alternative soil improvers including composts, teas and pellets generated from low cost cleaner composting technologies will also be investigated.

Australian Pork Limited general manager Research and Innovation Program Dr Darryl D'Souza said: "Livestock produce large volumes of underutilised waste which contain significant amounts of macronutrients but these are typically in a diluted form and nutritionally unbalanced for agricultural crops, as well as being hard to transport off farm."

The 'Waste to Revenue: novel fertilisers and feed project' will develop new technologies to recapture the nutrients in waste, evaluate nutritive, agronomic and economic benefits of the new products, as well as investigate potential barriers to adoption in

order to generate the most benefit for producers and end users.

"Generating these new products will improve the sustainability, productivity and profitability of primary industries through the generation of new revenue streams and reduced input costs," Dr D'Souza said.

"The production of digestible feed will supplement existing feeds while fertilisers will improve crop productivity, carbon availability and soil resilience to erosion, frost, drought and heat stress."

This research will be carried out collaboratively by the University of Queensland and University of Western Australia and is supported by a range of Rural Research and Development Corporations that both produce and utilise waste products: Australian Pork Limited, Dairy Australia, Sugar Research Australia Limited, Meat & Livestock Australia and Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (Meat Chickens). 🐷



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References: 1. Seo HW et al. *Vaccine* 2012. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2012.08.065>. 2. Patterson AR et al. *Vet Microbiology* 2011; 149:91-98. 3. Colditz I.G. *Livestock Production Science*. 2002; 75:257-268. 4. Kim D et al. *Vaccine* 2011; 29:3206-3212. © 2014 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd ABN 94 156 476 425 Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard Rhodes, NSW 2138. www.zoetis.com.au 06/15 TPAH0178

Depreciation for farmers brought forward

AUSTRALIAN farmers can now claim a tax deduction on all capital expenditure on water facilities, fodder storage assets and fencing incurred since the 2015 Budget was handed down at 7.30pm on May 12.

Farmers can fully deduct the cost of water facilities and fencing in the year they are bought and deduct the cost of fodder storage assets over three years.

Australian small businesses got a boost on Budget night, being able to immediately claim accelerated depreciation on business assets costing up to \$20,000.

Farms with turnover of less than \$2 million qualify as a small business and are therefore also eligible to immediately write off all asset purchases up to \$20,000.

Following broad consultation, stakeholders told the Government they wanted to get on with building fences, dams and fodder storage as soon as possible.

The Government's decision to bring forward the start date of accelerated depreciation for all farmers, regardless of the size of their farm, allows them

to prepare for drought and invest in the productivity of their farms immediately.

The measure builds on the more than \$333 million in targeted support for farmers and communities impacted by drought announced by Prime Minister Tony Abbott on May 9 in Longreach, Queensland, taking the Government's total commitments to farmers in this year's Budget to more than \$400 million.

Supporting farmers in the hard times and boosting the competitiveness of the agriculture sector is not just good for the economy, it is also the right thing to do.

Bringing forward these changes to begin from July 1, 2016 to May 12, 2015 is estimated to cost \$72 million over the forward estimates.

Further measures to support farmers who are preparing themselves for the damaging effects of drought will be announced in the forthcoming Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

For information on the new drought support measures, go to www.agriculture.gov.au/drought 🐷

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Gleptosil iron injection for piglets – the difference

INJECTING piglets with iron in the first few days after farrowing is a long and well-established practice for pig health, management and production.

The relationship of iron injections with the prevention of anaemia and adequate levels of red blood cells in growing piglets is scientifically proven.

Piglets quickly grow to weaning and their blood supply increases with increasing body weight.

Iron reserves in piglets at birth are very small and inadequate to sustain growth and good health.

Sow milk is a very poor source of iron and orally administered iron is problematic.

Iron is essential for the formation of red blood cells, particularly for haemoglobin in red blood cells in animals and humans.

Iron is both essential and important for haemoglobin in piglets to ensure good health and growth and to support the immune system.

Studies in other species indicate that low levels of iron increase the incidence of subclinical anaemia and susceptibility to disease, especially respiratory infection and diarrhoea.

In piglets, studies indicate no or a lower level of iron injection resulted in lower number of piglets at weaning and increased incidence of disease.

Orally administered iron has low availability either as a paste or solution.

The variable and unreliable iron levels in soil present another issue.

A study in the UK indicated that piglets of sows farrowed outdoors benefited from a single treat-

ment of iron injection.

Piglets born and raised outdoors and treated with iron had lower mortality and infection.

Field survey on iron levels in pigs

A recent (2015) field study in Canada found that up to 10 percent of pigs had low iron levels, even though they had been treated with 200mg of iron by injection.

These pigs were recently introduced crossbreds that are faster growing than other breeds and this may be one reason for the inadequate iron levels.

Another reason might be the iron dose was not accurately delivered or some 'flow back' occurred from the injection site.

The clinical efficacy of some iron injection products may not have been tested to demonstrate the absorption and efficacy of

the products in improving blood levels and preventing anaemia.

Some generic iron injections have possibly been registered without clinical trials to demonstrate the efficacy of the product.

Gleptosil iron injection for piglets is an international veterinary product and has been sold for many years in Europe and the Americas.

It is available in many large markets with high levels of pig production.

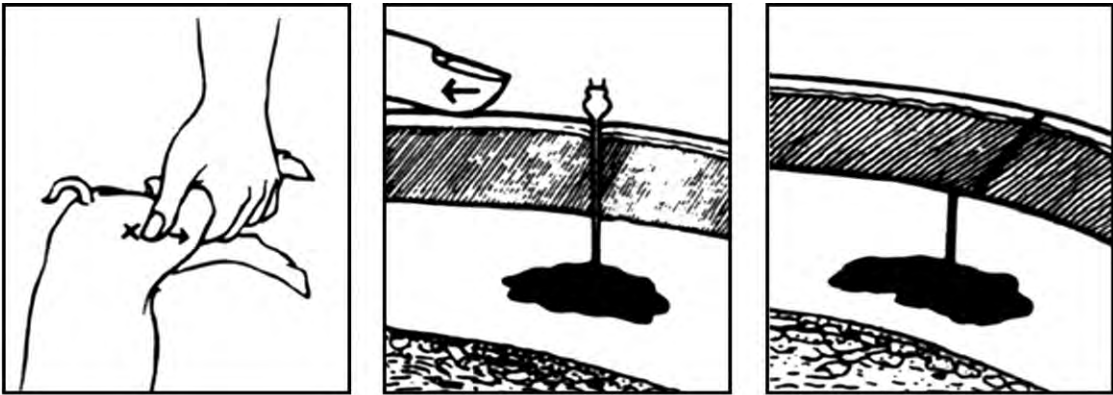
Many studies have been published on the use of Gleptosil in piglets and a number of studies demonstrate increased red blood cell levels and higher weight gains at weaning.

Gleptosil is produced in Europe to high-level good manufacturing practice standards.

Studies indicate that Gleptosil is an effective and safe treatment for piglets, with Gleptosil-treated piglets growing faster and healthier than untreated animals.

In some studies the Gleptosil piglets also had higher weaning weights.

	Control group – no treatment	Iron Dextran 200mg/piglet	Gleptosil 200mg/piglet
Mortality @ 3 weeks of age	10.5%	11.5%	7.1%
Growth rate @ 3 weeks of age	4.8kg	5.3kg	5.6kg



How to inject Gleptosil to avoid flow back.



Australian Made teams up with RANGEme to get genuine Aussie products on shelves

THE Australian Made Campaign is teaming up with RANGEme to help give Aussie growers and manufacturers a competitive edge when pitching their products and produce to retail buyers.

RANGEme is a revolutionary online platform used by retail buyers within the grocery, pharmacy, convenience and health food channels to source new products for their shops.

Suppliers using the site to pitch their prod-

ucts to leading retailers can now highlight their Australian Made certification by incorporating the Australian Made, Australian Grown logo on their product profiles.

Australian Made Campaign chief executive Ian Harrison said, "Many retailers now have procurement policies that require a significant percentage of products sourced to be locally made or grown, so the ability to quickly and easily communicate that products have been

produced locally will give Aussie businesses a great advantage."

"The standards products must meet in order to be eligible to use the country-of-origin certification trademark are more stringent than the rules for making a country-of-origin claim in writing, so this initiative will help set Aussie growers and manufacturers apart from the rest."

RANGEme sales and marketing director Carly Shamgar said, "Both organisations are com-

mitted to the success of Australian suppliers in the retail landscape."

"We are delighted to be working with Australian Made to showcase Australian-produced products to leading buyers."

For more information about the Australian Made, Australian Grown logo, visit www.australianmade.com.au or call 1800 350 520.

To pitch your product to potential buyers via RANGEme, visit www.rangeme.com.au or call 02 9199 8530.



Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc)

APSA 2015

15th Biennial Conference
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22 - 25th November 2015

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22 - 25 November 2015

The Australasian Pig Science Association is pleased to announce that the 2015 APSA Biennial Conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne, Australia from 22nd to 25th November 2015.

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Registration Type		
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Non-Member	Full Registration	1255.00
	Day Registration	495.00
Student APSA Member	Full Registration	335.00

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Alltech acquires Ridley Inc

ALLTECH and Ridley Inc recently announced that they have entered into a plan of arrangement agreement under which Alltech will acquire 100 percent of the outstanding stock of Ridley, one of the leading commercial animal nutrition companies in North America, for \$CAD40.75 a share.

The total consideration payable to Ridley shareholders is about \$CAD521 million.

That price of CAD \$CAD40.75 a share represents a premium of about 23 percent to the 20-day volume weighted average price of Ridley's common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange as of April 22, 2015.

The closing price of the Ridley shares on the TSX on April 22, 2015 was \$CAD33.94.

Both companies' boards of directors have unanimously approved the merger.

Alltech founder and president Dr Pearse Lyons said, "This trans-



formative transaction that combines two industry leaders allows Alltech to deliver better performance and value to livestock and poultry producers across the globe."

"With Ridley's leading animal nutrition supplements, block products, extensive livestock and poultry producer distribution network and on-farm presence, we will be able to bring our advanced nutrition technology to market faster and more effectively.

"This combination creates a new model to deliver superior animal nutrition and tailored feeding programs supported by robust scientific research and data analytics.

"This deal underscores our continued momentum in growing our business through strategic acquisitions of best-in-class companies with trusted technology and brand recognition."

Ridley CEO and president Steven J. VanRoekel said, "Joining Ridley with Alltech is about bringing the best nutrition solutions to meat, milk and egg producers around the world."

"Alltech is the technological leader with a broad global footprint, so by uniting forces we will create a scalable platform to grow and market solutions to enhance the profitability of producers.

"We are also joining a financially strong company that is committed to investing in science and innovation so that we can deliver the most advanced animal nutrition solutions."

Ridley is one of the largest commercial animal nutrition businesses in North America and manufactures and markets a full range of animal nutrition solutions, including formulated complete feeds, pre-

mixes, feed supplements, block supplements, animal health products and feed ingredients.

The company's customers include livestock producers and equine and pet breeders and its products are sold to producers by direct sales or through distributor and dealer channels.

Both companies are industry leaders committed to investing in sustainable nutrition solutions and advanced feeding programs that optimise physical and financial performance on farms, leading to increased efficiency and value.

Alltech spends about 10 percent of its gross revenue on research and development, which is more than any other company in the industry.

Ridley has a strong technical team with over 40 advanced degree staff who have produced some of the industry's best-selling and most widely recognised blocks and nutrition supplements and will now be working side by side with Alltech's team of about 150 PhDs.

This deal will further

enhance Alltech's primacy in science and allow it to deliver this to a broader range of livestock and poultry producers in the US and bring more advanced animal nutrition solutions to countries across the globe.

Improved animal nutrition is a pressing need for the productivity of the world's livestock and food chain.

Feed costs comprise the majority of livestock production costs.

By improving nutrition, livestock and poultry producers are able to realise a significant increase in efficiencies and return on investment.

Alltech's continued commitment to tailoring nutrition and health programs with a focus on natural, antibiotic-free ingredients allows livestock and poultry producers to raise healthier animals through a process that is better for animals, consumers and the environment.

The combined company will have a presence in over 128 countries, with 4200 employees worldwide.

Alltech has more than doubled its sales in the past three years and is on target to achieve \$US4 billion in sales in the next few years.

The transaction is subject to approval by Ridley shareholders, regulatory review and other customary closing conditions and is expected to close by the end of the second quarter.

Alltech has established a track record of successful acquisitions, having completed seven since 2011.

Better scrutiny of foreign investment in agriculture

AGRICULTURE Minister Barnaby Joyce warmly welcomed new measures recently announced by the Prime Minister and Treasurer to improve transparency of foreign investment in Australian agriculture.

"We have heard the Australian people, fought for changes and now have delivered," Minister Joyce said.

Minister Joyce said in line with its election commitments, the Government was now implementing:

- A cumulative threshold of \$15 million for agricultural land purchases by foreign investors that are required to be scrutinised and approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board, compared with the previous level of \$252 million. This came into effect on March 1, 2015;

- A threshold of \$55 million for agribusiness purchases by foreign investors that require FIRB scrutiny and approval, also compared to the previous level of \$252 million;

- A common-sense definition of agribusiness to capture first-stage processors beyond the farm gate, to which the new \$55 million threshold will apply and which was previously lacking; and

- A register of all foreign ownership

of agricultural land, which will paint a clearer picture of the level of foreign ownership in our nation.

"We now have a clear case of policy differentiation," Minister Joyce said.

"The Labor Party wants to increase the FIRB limit for agricultural land and businesses to more than \$1 billion."

Minister Joyce also said you don't have to own the land in order to influence farmers, but you could own the first stage of processing and you could control the economies of rural Australia.

"Despite the disparaging comments from some quarters, Australia still remains the most liberal country on earth to buy agricultural land," he said.

"With these measures, we are simply reviewing foreign purchases, where other countries deny such purchases completely.

"Labor Member Steven Jones said we are open for business but we want to 'check the passports' (Sky News Agenda, Saturday, May 2).

"Well, well put Steven, we do.

"It is undeniable that the absolute essence of the nation is the land we stand on and therefore we must be cautious when it comes to our stewardship of it."

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Recipe

Bacon bubble and squeak



Ingredients

- 500g roasted or steamed vegetables, diced
- 400g potatoes, pre-cooked, peeled and diced
- 50ml olive oil
- 4 free range eggs, poached or fried
- 8 Australian bacon rashers, cooked until crisp and golden
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Chutney to serve
- Chopped parsley to garnish

Cooking instructions

1. Preheat grill.
2. Heat a medium size non-stick pan over a me-

dium heat with 25ml olive oil for two to three minutes.

3. Add the vegetables and potatoes to the pan and mash with a fork to combine, season and press into a large pancake shape. Cook over a medium heat for five to six minutes until the base is golden, then turn the mixture to incorporate the golden base.

4. Press the mixture once again into a large pancake shape and drizzle the edges of the pan with the remaining oil. Continue cooking for a further five to six minutes until base is crisp and golden.

5. Spread butter on the surface of the bubble and squeak and place the pan under the preheated grill until surface is golden and bubbling.

6. Cut bubble and squeak into large wedges, carefully remove from the pan and place onto each serving plate.

7. Top with an egg and crisp rashers of bacon.

8. Garnish with parsley and a dollop of chutney.

Note: This recipe is delicious when made with leftover vegetables but can be made with boiled or steamed vegetables. The mixture may also be shaped into large cakes prior to cooking. Cakes can be frozen prior to cooking for up three months and used as required.

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Demand up – may be a year to get our balance sheets in order

IT was only a couple of months ago that in this column I was talking about reasons to be cheerful.

Since then we've had an Australian Pork Limited Delegates' Forum.

This get together of producer-elected representatives provides an opportunity to take stock of progress to date and seek feedback on future plans.

This year, we realised that the volume and value sales commitments made for June 2017 (in the marketing levy increase consultation) were achieved



Marketing Matters

by **PETER HAYDON**
General Manager Marketing



in December 2014.

Likewise, the volume sales commitments made in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for 2020 were achieved in March this year, with pig pricing

ahead of plan also.

While many factors are contributing to these outcomes, two of the contributors were a successful Christmas and a successful advertising test in

South Australia in spring, 2014.

Assuming both these are repeated on a national level in 2015-16, it seems likely that demand for Australian pork will continue to increase (especially if beef and lamb prices stay as high as they are).

As a consequence, it seems likely that the volume and value sales commitments made in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan will need to be increased. Obviously, this should benefit all producers.

If we assume that demand continues to in-

crease at its current rate, sooner or later this will result in increased production.

Here's why:

If demand continues to increase at its current rate and producers all decide to maintain their present levels of production, prices will increase to a point where returns to producers become highly attractive.

At that point, economic theory tells us that new producers will enter the market seeking those returns and production will increase.

Alternatively, if demand continues to increase at its

present rate and some of the current producers decide to invest and increase production then the same effect will occur; production will increase.

Obviously, it takes at least a year to increase pig production from the point of decision to do so.

Meat & Livestock Australia's manager of market information, Ben Thomas, who was quoted in the *Australian Financial Review* (June 1, 2015) on the topic of record exports of beef: "That demand is likely to remain in place for at least the next 12 to 18 months."

He added: "That paints a promising picture for prices," which may mean producers have a year to sure up their balance sheets.

Clearly, each individual producer will decide how to run their business, based on their own circumstances.

However, economics suggests that production is likely to increase in the future, which may moderate growth in prices back to the levels outlined in the industry 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, so there is no time like the present.



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US proposes law to collect animal antimicrobial data

THE US Food and Drug Administration has proposed a rule that would require animal drug sponsors of all antimicrobials sold or distributed for use in food-producing animals to obtain estimates of sales.

The rule would apply to major food-producing species including swine, cattle, chickens and turkeys.

Currently, animal drug sponsors are not required to submit sales or distribution data by particular

species, though they do provide annual summary reports.

The US Department of Agriculture said the additional data would improve understanding of how antimicrobials are sold or distributed for use in major food-producing animals, and help the FDA further target its efforts to ensure judicious use of medically important antimicrobials.

FDA deputy commissioner for foods and veterinary medicine Michael

Taylor said, "Consistent with data collection objectives outlined in the administration's 'National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria', this proposed rule is a step towards providing more detailed information to the FDA and the public on changes in antimicrobial sales and distribution over time."

"We plan further actions to complete the task."

Current regulatory authority limits the data collection that FDA can

mandate to antimicrobial sales and distribution information.

While adding species-specific information will help provide a fuller picture, more detailed information is needed about on-farm practices to adequately understand links between usage patterns and trends in resistance.

The FDA is actively engaged with the USDA, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and a wide array of stakeholders to fill this need.

Producers Podium

Have your say!

All producers are encouraged to send in letters to be published in APN, outlining any concerns or issues they may have within the industry.

This is an open forum where you can cover any topic, whether for or against an issue (for example, sow stalls).

Please send your letters to:
ben@porknews.com.au or
PO Box 387, Cleveland QLD 4163

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Big Kubota pumps

AUSSIE Pumps' new range of high-capacity 3" and 4" Kubota-powered Drought Buster pumps is creating a flood of inquiries.

Built around the popular Aussie Pumps Quik Prime design principles, the pumps offer fast self-priming, with vertical lifts from creeks, rivers and dams of up to 8.4m.

The pumps are powered by Kubota's beautiful 9.5hp OC95 electric start air and oil-cooled diesel engines.

This oil and air-cooled design means that the engine runs cooler than conventional air-cooled engines, is quieter and provides excellent fuel economy.

The pumps feature huge flows, with the 4" version delivering a whopping 1600l/pm and delivery heads of up to 28m.

That is over 40psi, making it ideal for fast-filling water carts or transferring big volumes.

The 3" model, built around the same basic pump design but with 3" ports, delivers 1300l/pm matched to a higher head of 30m vertical lift, which equals 43psi.

Both the 3" and 4" pumps use the same match tested and approved Kubota engine and both pumps feature big, open high-spheroidal graphite cast iron impellers suitable for passing small solids in suspension.

Heavy-duty mechanical carbon/ceramic seals are fitted as standard with buna-N nitrile elastomers.

The big Aussie Pumps gusher casings are made from high-quality marine grade aluminium.

These pumps are just as much at home on a

construction site dewatering job as they would be on a high-flow water transfer application, moving water from dam to dam to maximise farm efficiency.

Both pumps are backed by Aussie Pumps' unique five-year warranty and the engines come with Kubota's two-year warranty to be free of faulty workmanship or materials.

Aussie Pumps product manager Brad Farrugia said: "Our five-year guarantee is the only one in the industry and tells consumers something about our quality."

Kubota offers a complete domestic and international support program for the Aussie Pumps package, with professional distributors all over the country able to provide service, both in and out of warranty.

Aussie Pumps is offering a low-cost maintenance kit to make sure engine servicing is a breeze.

The pumps come standard with super heavy-duty galvanised steel roll frames and galvanised steel sub bases with anti-vibration mounts.

They are all carefully match tested to Kubota's stringent requirements to ensure the engines

are not overloaded but rather able to work well within their capacity.

"The Kubotas run as smooth as silk, even under load," Farrugia said.

"The advanced cooling three vortex system that combines an oil-cooled combustion chamber and an air-cooled cylinder really works."

Australia's Kubota operation is supporting Aussie Pumps with a partnering program aimed at producing a great product at a realistic price.

It's good for farmers and contractors that the pumps are on the market at prices significantly lower than other air-cooled diesel-drive pumps.

"The Kubotas represent great value for money with their diesel fuel economy being matched only by the real economics of pumping large quantities of water at the lowest cost per litre of fuel," Farrugia said.

Further information including a free informative guide to select the right Aussie Pumps QP Kubota-powered pump is available from www.aussiepumps.com.au and Aussie Pumps Gold distributors around the country.



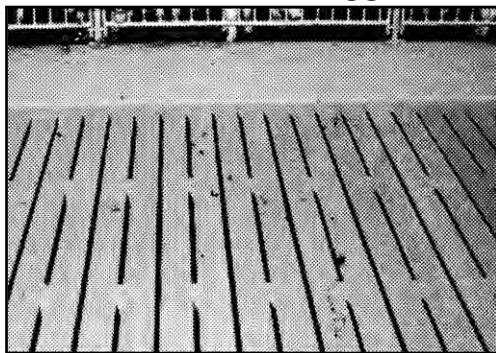
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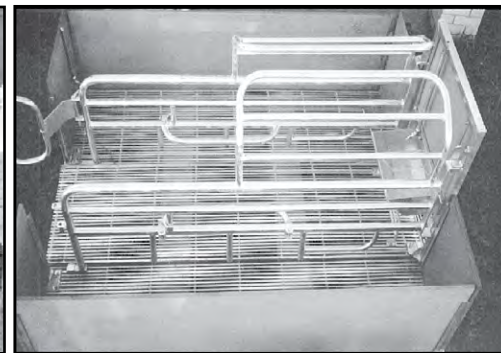
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Australian Pork Limited general manager Finance & Administration Sarah Lindsay explained the financial position of APL to the forum.



APL general manager Marketing Peter Haydon addressed the Delegates' Forum.



APL Policy analyst James Battams updated delegates on PigPass movement reporting.



Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell gave an update on CRC research.



South Australian delegate Rod Hamann provided an insight into the expectations and responsibilities of delegates.



NSW delegate Cherrie Collins presented her view on the importance of maintaining research momentum.



APL general manager Research and Innovation Darryl D'Souza responded to a delegate's comment.



Queensland delegate Russell Bishop expressed his concerns about the growing gap between farming and society and how social media may be used to change this shift.

Funding strong biosecurity and export certification for the future



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

THE Australian Government continues to progress the redesign of export certification and biosecurity cost recovery arrangements with industry and stakeholders.

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce said the government was delivering on its commitment to reduce red tape and implement fairer, more equitable funding arrangements for users of the export certification and biosecurity systems.

"It is important that our exporters and importers pay a reasonable price that recovers the real cost of the services they receive from government, however it is also important that fees and charges are both efficient and transparent," Minister Joyce said.

"At the same time we need to make sure our biosecurity and export certification systems remain world leading as Australia's \$53 billion agricultural sector relies on it.

"Last year, I asked export sectors in particular to work with the Department of Agriculture through the existing government-industry consultative committees to review export fees and charges.

"I wanted to explore how we could best address having charges that do not unfairly discriminate against new or small exporters.

"The Australian Government is introducing new export and imported food charging legislation that will enable the full cost recovery redesign
www.porknews.com.au

that is currently being worked through with industry and stakeholders.

"These bills don't have fees and charges in them – rather, they lay the foundations so we can work with industry to determine the best way to implement fees and charges that are fair, efficient and reduce the impact on small exporters and businesses."

The department has been consulting with government-industry consultative committees about the redesign of the cost recovery arrangements since mid-last year.

In the coming months, the department will seek broader stakeholder feedback on the redesign that has been worked through with these committees.

"We continue to listen to industry and work with clients, government-industry consultative committees and peak bodies," Minister Joyce said.

"This engagement will continue as we design appropriate fees and charges that underpin each of the arrangements."

Further information on draft cost recovery implementation statements, including proposed fees and charges, will be published on the department's website in July 2015.

Information will also become available on how interested stakeholders can provide feedback and attend information forums held by the department.

For more information about the redesign of cost recovery arrangements, go to agriculture.gov.au/costrecoveryreview

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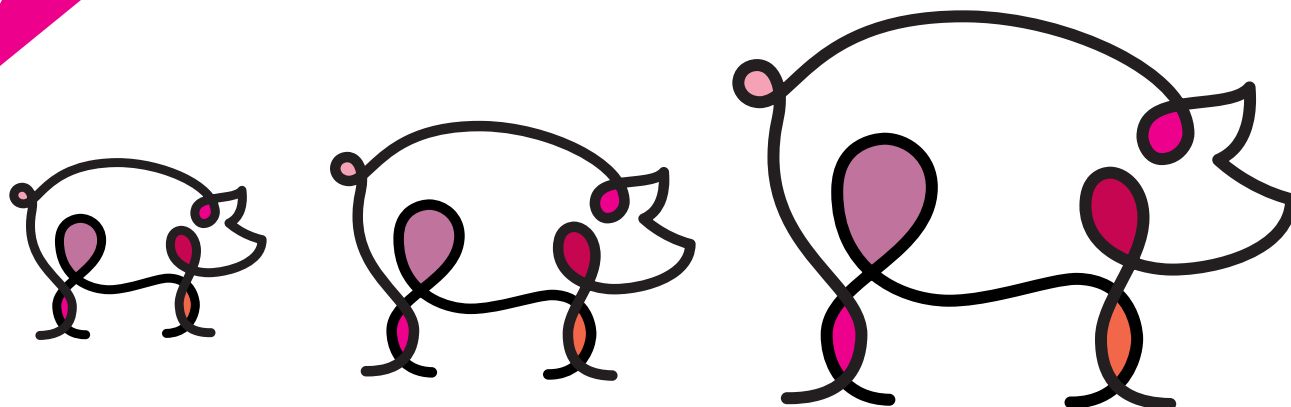


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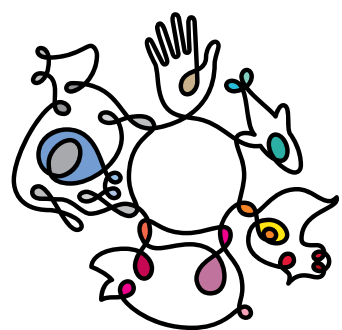
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