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Dr Roger Campbell, Pork CRC (bottom left) and Dr Robyn Terry, APL (bottom right) with students after their one-day workshop on the Gold Coast, Queensland, on the eve of PPPE 2016.

Pork CRC/APL student workshop at Pan Pacific Pork Expo 2016

WELCOMING about 30 Pork CRC and Australian Pork Limited supported students to a one-day workshop at the 2016 Pan Pacific Pork Expo on Tuesday, May 24, Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell said the 'real work' started once students had finished their studies, whether that be in honours, masters, PhD, postdoc or if they were part of the Pork CRC's Industry Placement Program.

"When you finish you probably know as much as anyone about the area you've studied, so it's then up to you to sell

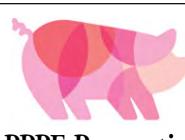
yourselves, and PPPE is an ideal opportunity, with most of the industry's key players in attendance," Dr Campbell said.

Dr Campbell said he was proud to report that about 90 percent of students from the inaugural Pork CRC now had jobs

within the industry.

"With the quality of students we have in the current CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork and the very refined focus of our programs, I'm sure we'll enjoy similar outcomes once this CRC winds up and we transition," he said.

PPPE 2016 the best ever



PPPE Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



THE results are in after the much publicised and promoted 2016 Pan Pacific Pork Expo was held on the Gold Coast from May 25-26.

As chair of the organising committee, I was ecstatic with the results.

A record number of exhibitors, up by 20 percent and with better displays and presentations, provided the perfect interludes to the plenary and concurrent sessions where more than 700 delegates and attendees listened

and learnt from world-class speakers who truly underpinned the theme of the event: 'Inspiring Transformation'.

Then at structured breaks all in attendance spent time in the trade

hall, with 60 exhibitors providing information on a wide range of equipment, products and services for the industry.

Reports from many exhibitors concluded that this was their best year

ever, with keen interest from producers in their products and services.

It seems that with several years of better financial performance under their belts, producers were looking to reinvest in their farms.

Many producers brought family to the Gold Coast and took advantage of perfect Queensland weather.

While the kids enjoyed features of the Coast, producers spent time catch-

► continued P2

Beautiful one day, perfect the next at PPPE

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Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO

I RECENTLY had the pleasure of attending the industry's Pan Pacific Pork Expo on the Gold Coast.

It really was one of, if not the best, I have ever attended.

Not only did we have an exhibition hall full of enthusiastic industry suppliers, but there was a fantastic array of inspiring and interesting speakers.

There certainly seemed to be a buzz around the event that was probably reflecting the positive feelings within the industry at present.

One of the most notable presentations was given by futurist Craig Rispin.

Craig gave us a view into the future by showing us a selection of technologies that today, right now, are causing major disruption in many industries.

He challenged us and our industry to think more boldly, more creatively, to really understand those things that are about to challenge how we conduct our business into the future.

He showed us the power of networks, working together to develop tools and products that no individual could ever hope to achieve.

I believe that collaborative power is going to be critical for our future success.

Collaboration is starting to be just as important as competition for our industry, and this is an area where we are going to have to learn to do more.

More than 700 delegates were at the event.

This is a new record by a large margin and the feedback that we have

received so far indicates that most of them were very happy they chose to join the event.

I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to those who sat on the PPPE Committee and worked extremely hard to make sure this year's event was a worthwhile experience for our producers to come to.

Considering that, due to staff changes, there was no one on the committee this year that had a close connection with running the PPPE event two years ago, they did a fantastic job.

Special thanks go to our committee chair and past Australian Pork Limited Board director Mr John Coward.

Quite a few of us spent

most of the week on the Gold Coast because PPPE was combined with the Delegates' Forum and an APL Board meeting.

There was quite a hearty debate at the Delegates' Forum about the timing of a review

of our standards and guidelines for animal welfare management in pigs.

Due to the significant investment in increased production capacity happening within the industry, there was an argument that we needed

greater certainty around the future production standards under which the industry will be able to operate.

It was also noted that the industry needs to demonstrate the commitment we have to the sow stall phase-out by completing the promise we have made.

The debate culminated in a fairly strong agreement that we as an industry need to investigate ways of securing a review of our welfare standards and guidelines as soon as we can.

Other issues discussed at the Delegates' Forum included the conflict-of-interest policies that are used at APL, supply and demand issues presented by General Manager Marketing Peter Haydon (see article on Page 14) and issues around whether APL should be putting more cash away for a rainy day through amending our reserves policy.

But the work for PPPE isn't over yet.

In the next week or two, we'll be getting together to discuss how it went, what we could've done better and how to make the event an even better one in two years' time.

I'm sure I'll see many of you there again.

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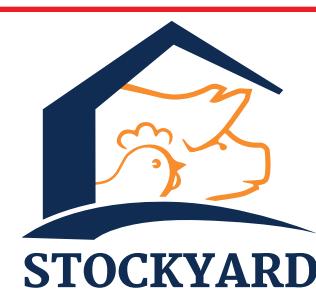
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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2016

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

JUN 8-10 – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, Iowa, US www.worldpork.org

JUN 19-25 – Australian Bacon Week, P: APL 02 6285 2200

JUN 20-23 – 16th International Conference on Production Diseases in Farm Animals, Wageningen, Netherlands www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-Institutes/livestock-research/show/16th-In

JUL 4-7 – Animal Production 2016, Adelaide, SA www.asap.asn.au/conference

JUL 5-10 – Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, Wagga Wagga, NSW www.icmj.com.au

AUG 2 deadline – Steak Your Claim, Australian pork steak competition, P: APL 02 6285 2200

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

SEP 6 - 9 – 19th Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations Congress, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam www.fava2016.vn

SEP 13 - 16 – SPACE 2016, Rennes, France www.space.fr

SEP 17 - 20 – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota, US www.ccevents.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference

NOV 3-5 – IX International Symposium on Mediterranean Pig, Portalegre, Portugal www.9sympmedpig.com

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

2017

FEB 25 - 28 – AASV Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, US www.aasv.org

MAR 15 - 17 – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand www.vivasia.nl

AUG 29 - 31 – SIAVS - International Poultry and Pork Show, São Paulo, Brazil www.siavs.org.br/?lang=en

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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Focusing on delivery of R&D outcomes



by HEATHER CHANNON
Acting Research and Innovation General Manager



IT'S back to business with renewed focus as the Research and Innovation team continues on the path to deliver our research and development outcomes to Australian pork producers and supply chain partners now that Darryl D'Souza has been farewelled from Australian Pork Limited and takes up his new position with SunPork Solutions.

As a team, we have greatly valued his leadership and support – we hope his new team continues to ‘make him look good’!

In the interim period before Darryl's replacement is formally appointed by APL, I will be acting in the GM position while also maintaining responsibility for the Product Integrity portfolio within the R&I division.

R&D outcomes need to be disseminated through a range of channels to promote rapid and widespread adoption.

In response to the shift to new and emerging communication technologies, APL recognises modern IT and social media have an increasing role and place in the world of agricultural extension, particularly in reaching various segments of industry.

This is particularly the case for stockpeople, a segment that has traditionally missed out on R&D information, yet they are integral in its implementation.

At the Pan Pacific Pork Expo, held on the Gold Coast recently, the APL Tech Toolbox was officially launched.

This exciting development has involved the utilisation of IT tools to assist with the dissemination of key outcomes arising from our R&D projects and is being very capably managed by R&I Manager, Technology Adoption and Industry Capability Ashley Norval.

This project aimed to facilitate the transfer of pork industry research through better access to resources, along with more intelligent decision support tools.

So, you may wonder, what is the Tech Toolbox and how can it be used?

The Tech Toolbox is an app and is available for use on all Apple, Android and Windows mobile devices such as tablets and

smartphones. It contains all the R&D Snapshots (that highlight the latest research outcomes that are also distributed fortnightly to producers in the APL Communiques), best management practice information (including manuals, fact sheets and guidelines) as well as upcoming events and news.

Once the app has been downloaded, the information contained within it can also be accessed without the need for an internet connection – very handy when you are out and about and wanting to access some information.

Each article contains contact details for the APL R&I program manager, so if you want further information, including the full final report, we can be easily contacted from within the app.

Events can also be easily added to your calendar by clicking on the icon within the events section.

It is very easy to navigate through – the snapshots have been categorised into six sections: Marketing Development; Genetics, Reproduction and Welfare; Nutrition, Health and Physiology; Industry Capability and Technology Transfer; Environmental Management; and Food Safety, Biosecurity and Quality Assurance.

You can restrict the app to look only at content within one or some of these groups, or you can use the search function to find information on a specific topic.

We envisage that the use of this app will assist with making our information more accessible to you, and that you may be able to provide more feedback to us at the same time.

Users might also like to comment on articles within the app – those who already have an online PigPass username and password will be able to log in.

PPPE the best ever

• from P1

ing up with many of their colleagues and exchanging views and experiences of on-farm practices being adopted to meet growth and change in our industry.

Whether it was the thought-provoking opening presentation by international speakers and a futurist or listening to the wealth of knowledge from guest speakers on the latest information

about pig production around the world and here in Australia, there was overwhelming support for the success of this year's PPPE and now the bar is set for the next.

Thanks to all the sponsors and exhibitors of PPPE 2016 who made it possible to bring such a large number of our pig producers to this event.

Looking forward to our next PPPE in 2018.



program at your own pace.

Antimicrobial usage and resistance is another key area being addressed for the Australian pork industry.

The outcomes of this research will enhance animal health through better management, reduce the reliance on antibiotic use and allow industry to work with communities and human health professionals as vigilance regarding antibiotic usage and resistance is everyone's concern.

Antibiotics are one of those areas that's proven to be a bit contentious for our industry.

Actually it's not antibiotics as such, it's accusations of misuse and/or overuse of antibiotics that people like flinging at the industry.

On a weight for weight basis, higher amounts of antibiotics are used in human medicine compared to food animal industries.

Australia, for example, has one of the highest levels of human antibiotic usage per capita in the developed world.

But pointing the finger at others does nothing to solve the problem, so we need to all pull together to resolve this issue because we all are part of the problem and the solution.

APL is discussing the development of an industry antimicrobial stewardship plan with other intensive livestock industries.

The term 'stewardship' has many definitions but one that fits well is: "...the careful and responsible management of something precious entrusted to one's care".

In this case the something precious is the antimicrobials that we need to preserve for future use for both animals and humans.

This antimicrobial stewardship program will include components such as biosecurity and disease preparedness, integrated management and animal husbandry, treatments, interventions (antibiotics and others), records,

antimicrobial resistance surveillance and further education and training.

The industry has a pretty good start on providing much of the building blocks needed for a stewardship plan through both our on-farm QA program, APIQ✓, and research commissioned by both the Pork CRC and APL.

Pork CRC Program 2: 'Herd Health Management' focuses not only on enhancing pig health but also reducing antibiotic use.

Outcomes of the Program 2 portfolio including new diagnostics and other strategies (such as an antibiotic usage calculator) will support industry's focus on reducing antimicrobial use and resistance.

In relation to QA's role in a stewardship program, APIQ✓ is intrinsically linked with good practice associated with antimicrobial use through the Food Safety module that incorporates the Herd Health Plan.

The HHP covers all aspects of sick pig management including all treatment and recording associated with the treatment.

The Food Safety and Biosecurity Plan that is incorporated within each farm's APIQ✓ plan will be an important part of a stewardship program.

Further research commissioned by APL within the biosecurity portfolio will provide more information to support producers by demonstrating the importance of biosecurity rules that not only keep pig diseases out, but also keep out any bacteria that may cause disease and/or carry resistance to antibiotics, noting the potential for such bacteria to come into farms, including transmission by humans, rodents and birds.

For further information on any of the topics discussed in this article, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0423 056 045 or heather.channon@australianpork.com.au.

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YOU will read a lot about the 2016 Pan Pacific Pork Expo in this edition of APN.

Let me say it was probably the best held to date.

Everyone seemed buoyant and optimistic.

I guess good prices and reasonable margins will do that.

The plenary and technical sessions were well attended.

We learnt from a futurist to look forward and to understand that progress in IT, technology in general and science is far more advanced than we might think and we must keep an open mind and be aware of what is occurring if we don't want to be left behind.

Raising reproduction

I chaired a concurrent session titled 'Refocusing on productivity' where we heard from Zinpro's Dr Mark Wilson on advances in summer infertility and heat stress, from SunPork's Prof Robert van Barneveld on the hidden cost of variability and from Victorian producer Caleb Smith (Kia-Ora Piggery) on how the Smith team has increased born alive and is weaning 26.5 piglets/sow/year.

All had a similar message on improving reproduction in any season and that was maximising feed intake in lactation.

Mark showed that heat stress causes inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract and he provided evidence that this can be reduced using an amino acid bound form of zinc.

He told us how some of the best herds he works with cull sows that don't exhibit oestrus within seven days of weaning and those that return after mating.

While this means you need a larger gilt pool, you end up with a reproductively more efficient herd.

Barneveld message

Robert showed that variability starts in early life, even at birth, and that smaller pigs can survive and grow as fast as bigger pigs at birth and wean at the same live weight, but they eat less and never catch up.

He told us how this variability is further increased by sales strategies and complicated with serious economic consequences by the market demand for different types of pigs (carcasses) and cuts.

It all comes to a head at Christmas when demand for pigs/pork generally exceeds supply, which, of course, is exacerbated by summer infertility.

There was a glimmer of hope, however, as it ap-



Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL
CEO



pears that feeding sows dextrose between weaning and remating may help reduce variability in subsequent birth weight.

Unfortunately, there are few other technologies that can do this and Robert made the point, as I have on previous occasions, that a higher feeding level in any period of gestation, but particularly after day 28, will increase the weight of the sow at farrowing and adversely affect lactation feed intake.

However, it will have little or no effect on birth weight or the variation around birth weight.

Smith system

Caleb showed how at Kia-Ora they had always made progress in born alive, but not in number weaned, and explained how they began to weigh every litter at birth and formulated a new index for culling sows on the unit.

Previously based largely on born alive, the index now includes born alive, litter weight, average piglet birth weight and number weaned (and maybe some other factors).

Since basing replacement decisions on the new system they've seen number weaned increase over time and in 2014-15 averaged 26.5 piglets/sow/year.

Caleb thinks that apart from our genetics the biggest constraint on improving reproduction in Australia is our rather harsh (read hot) environment and our housing, especially during lactation, which rarely prevents sows from experiencing heat 'stress', except in the coolest months.

It was an informative session, with quite a few take-home messages.

I believe all presentations were filmed and will eventually appear on Australian Pork Limited's website.

Sow block

Two products based on Pork CRC research were launched at PPPE.

One was the sow enrichment block and the other was Piglet Buddy.

The sow block was developed in a series of Pork CRC projects with Ridley Corporation and scientists at SunPork Queensland.

should contact Ridley (03 8624 6500) or your local Ridley representative.

Piglet Buddy

Piglet Buddy is a formulation based on some of the best research I've seen on piglet taste preferences and was conducted for Pork CRC by Dr Eugeni Roura, University of Queensland.

It is a low-inclusion product (1.5kg/tonne) to enhance the performance of piglets immediately after weaning when included in what might be termed simple diets.

By this I mean diets that do not contain spray-dried plasma, special fish products or acids.

The product is produced by BEC Feed Solutions and has been tested experimentally and commercially.

I have included a couple of graphs showing the performance of pigs in a commercial environment

offered a conventional or complex weaner diet, a simple diet based on the conventional diet with the spray-dried plasma, special fish product and acids removed and the same diet supplemented with Piglet Buddy.

All diets contained 10 percent milk powder.

The pigs were weaned at 21 days, with an average weight of 6.4kg and performance was measured over 28 days.

Piglets offered the simple diet supplemented with Piglet Buddy were the heaviest at 28 days ($P=0.07$) and, more importantly, I think had better feed: gain the first week after weaning than those offered the complex diet and significantly better feed: gain ($P=0.002$) over the 28 days than pigs offered either of the other diets.

Under the circumstances of the study, using the

• continued P4



Dr Mark Wilson, Zinpro, US.



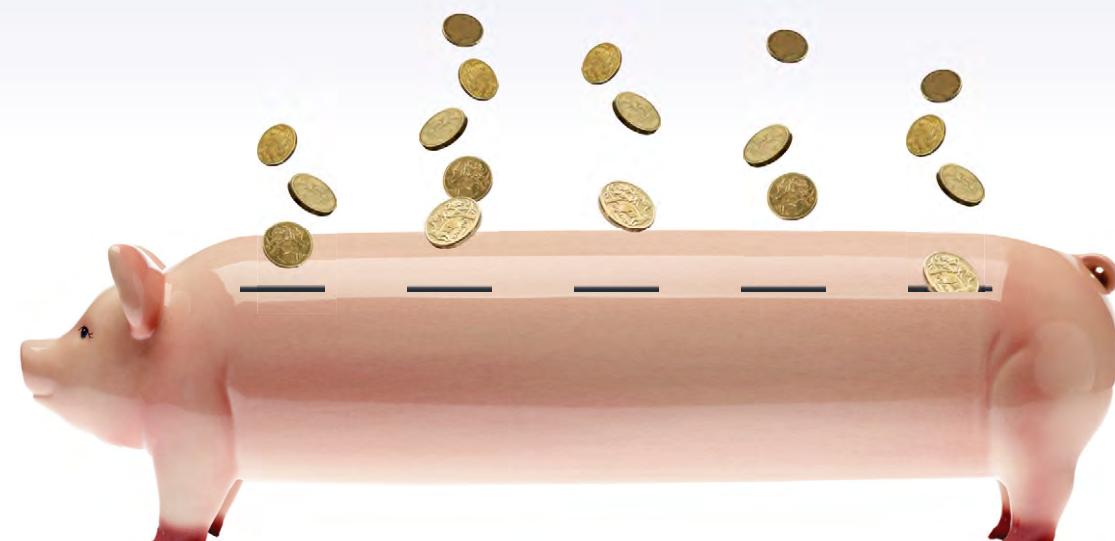
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Figure 1: Effects of a complex (conventional) diet, a simple diet plus 1.5kg/tonne Piglet Buddy on the weight of piglets 28 days after weaning.

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Dr Eugeni Roura, University of Queensland.



For information on Piglet Buddy, producers can contact Pork CRC Commercialisation and Research Impact Manager Charles Rikard-Bell on 0439 513 723.

Pork CRC proudly partners productive PPPE

from P3

simple diet supplemented with Piglet Buddy reduced feed cost to 28 days post weaning by about \$2.80/pig.

The product is worth a try, especially for those using low-protein diets to reduce the incidence of *E. coli* and those not using spray-dried plasma in the first stage weaner feeds.

For more information on Piglet Buddy, contact BEC Feed Solutions on 1300 884 593 or Pork CRC Commercialisation and Research Impact Manager Charles Rikard-Bell on 0439 513 723 and he will point you in the right direction.

Lactation systems

Pork CRC and APL released our industry publication 'Alternative Lactation Housing Systems for Australian Pork Producers' at PPPE.

If you weren't at PPPE or didn't get your hands on a copy, an electronic version is available on our website.

We're also happy to post you a hard copy if you prefer – just contact Rebecca on 08 8313 7743.

The report summarises research and experiences with four alternative systems, namely the Combi-Flex pen, 360 Freedom

Farrower, SWAP pen and PigSAFE pen.

The report also features a table showing the attributes of each system compared with the traditional farrowing crate based on the sow (behaviour, physiology, body condition and reproduction), the piglet (behaviour, physiology, growth rate and mortality) and the producer (capital cost, labour requirement and occupational health and safety issues issues).

In all cases the traditional farrowing system was given a value of 100 and the others were scored/ranked accordingly, based on research outcomes and experiences of the different systems of the advisory panel who put the publication together.

They included producers who've installed some of the lower confinement systems.

The lower confinement systems were generally scored higher than the traditional system based on sow behaviour.

However, sow physiology was considered similar across the systems, as was subsequent reproduction.

The lower confinement systems scored lower for sow body condition, but slightly higher for feed intake, although you'd

think this might actually be a cost to the systems given the sows had worse body condition and the same reproduction.

Advantages trumped

For the piglet, the PigSAFE pen and SWAP pen scored higher than others for behaviour and marginally better for pre-weaning growth rate.

However, these potential advantages were trumped by the higher pre-weaning mortality and lower physiology scores for all reduced confinement systems compared with the conventional system.

When the producer was considered, all the alternatives scored lower than the traditional system.

They all have high capital cost, require greater labour input and have OH&S issues.

The publication is a work in progress and for your information only.

There is increasing research evidence that all the alternatives so far investigated have no net welfare benefit.

The latter conclusion was arrived at recently by a New Zealand panel (National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee), which was asked by the NZ Minister for Primary Industries to investigate if there were alternatives to the traditional farrowing crate.

The panel concluded there wasn't, based largely on the adverse effects of the lower confinement systems on piglet welfare.

This panel further suggested that all the considered alternatives, which included the Canarm pen (from Canada), the 360

Freedom Farrower and the Danish Combi-Flex pen, were not financially viable.

Danish differences

Interestingly, some Danish researchers at PPPE suggested to me that their latest research shows only minimal differences in the behaviour of sows farrowed loose or confined.

Based on cortisol levels it also appears that the sows' welfare is 'better' when confined before and during farrowing than when allowed to farrow loose.

Pork CRC researchers at the University of Melbourne and the South Australian Research and Development Institute are conducting detailed studies on the behaviour and physiology of sows during and immediately after farrowing.

The research is genuinely innovative and should tell us what the needs of the sow are during farrowing and if required how welfare might be im-

proved in traditional farrowing systems.

The first results will be available this year and I will let you know as soon as they are available.

Student workshop

I was proud and honoured to share the day before PPPE with the wonderfully talented and enthusiastic group of Pork CRC and APL supported students.

The student workshop, now a fixture at PPPE, was very interactive, with the students participating in several exercises, all with serious messages, but some with fun methods.

I particularly congratulate our former Pork CRC PhD student, Dr Robyn Terry of APL, for the way she put the program together and kept everyone stimulated for what was a very full day, topped off by a relaxing and sociable dinner in the evening.

I believe there's even pictures to prove it elsewhere in this edition of APN.

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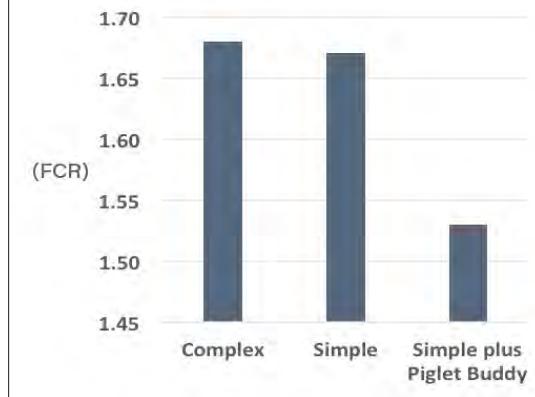


Figure 2: Effects of a complex diet, a simple diet and simple diet plus 1.5kg/tonne Piglet Buddy on feed conversion ratio between weaning and 28 days.

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to day three in supplemented versus control VLBW and LBW piglets and reduced mortality in VLBW piglets at seven and 21 days of age.

Being aware of this, I was very interested in a study in the January issue of *Livestock Science* that looked at the effect of giving energy supplements to lightweight piglets on mortality, weaning weight, daily weight gain and colostrum intake.

As a result of the increased demand for high-quality, lean protein, many within the pig industry have for some time been selecting for increased litter size and leaner carcasses at slaughter.

However, as a side effect of increasing litter size and producing leaner pigs, these piglets are often smaller at birth, have lower energy (fat) stores and must compete with more littermates for access to teats. In addition, the energy reserves of piglets are very rapidly depleted after birth in an attempt to keep warm.

These piglets must quickly receive colostrum to access not only the immunoglobulins necessary for immune function, but also to tap into the rich source of energy in the sow's milk. Without colostrum, piglets will not have sufficient energy to compete with littermates for functional teats.

Compared to normal littermates, piglets born with a low to very low birth weight (less than 1.2kg) are at higher risk

of becoming just another pre-weaning mortality as they are weaker and less competitive for colostrum intake. Interestingly, weaning weights were lower in the group receiving the oral supplement; however this was attributed to the higher survival of VLBW piglets at weaning.

It is thought that those piglets which received the supplement were stronger and more able to suckle, thus resulting in higher milk intake in supplemented piglets.

It was interesting to note that there was no relationship in this study between giving the oral supplement and increasing colostrum intake in LBW piglets. As such, it appears the additional energy alone caused a reduction in piglet mortality rates.

This study did not follow the pigs through the entirety of production and as such did not assess the viability and profitability of these VLBW piglets as growers. However given the increased focus on welfare and increased demand for high-quality pork throughout the entire industry, there is huge potential for energy supplements to be routinely used as a means of increasing pre-weaning survival.

APL membership renewal and delegate election process

AS of midnight on June 30, 2016, all memberships of Australian Pork Limited will lapse and producers and associate members will need to reapply to become members.

Existing delegates will cease to be delegates at the same time.

The new producer membership renewal and delegate nomination processes will be undertaken online.

Providing online access to producer members and delegate nominees is expected to result in increased convenience to producers wishing to renew their membership and to candidates wishing to nominate as delegates.

The online processes for both the membership and candidate nomination process can be accessed at pigpass.australianpork.com.au

For those with access to the site through an existing login, you will find the relevant online applications through the 'Members Area'.

For those new to our website, please access the new user application through the 'Register with APL' link.

All levy-paying producers are eligible to become APL members and they are encouraged to do so.

Please remember that levy-paying producers are not automatically members of APL; membership requires just a quick online process supported by a statutory declaration declaring levies paid.

The online membership application process will be available from July 1, 2016.

Renewed memberships will then expire at midnight on June 30, 2019.

Levy-paying producers are encouraged to become members of APL.

APL provides a united industry voice strengthening the capacity of Australia's pork industry to be heard by politicians, government departments, regulators and consumers.

Strong membership underpins APL's effectiveness in consumer marketing, critical policy matters and issues management, along with research and development outcomes and adoption.

By joining APL you can have your say on how your levies are spent.

APL members can:

- Attend, speak and vote at annual general meetings;
- Vote on changes to APL's constitution and the Pig Slaughter Levy; and
- Present concerns directly to the APL Board and management through the well-structured delegate communication program.

There are numerous other membership benefits as well.

Delegates are an important communication link between APL and its members.

They form a vital conduit for exchange of information from APL to the industry, and from industry back to APL.

This includes active participation at two Delegates' Forum meetings a year and when required, assisting at regional producer meetings.

A delegate does not have to be a member or director of the company for the purposes of the law or the constitution.

A delegate's only rights and obligations are the

rights and obligations set out in APL's constitution.

The APL constitution is intended to operate as a contract between the company and a delegate.

There are however particular conditions that need to be met.

These conditions are explained on our website.

In accordance with the APL constitution, nominations for delegates are open between June 6 and 20, 2016.

We are encouraging ex-

isting delegates and others with an aspiration to become delegates to complete an online delegation nomination during this period.

The online process enables candidates to provide a photograph and a brief biography and we are encouraging existing delegates who are renominating to refresh their previous biography.

The delegate voting and election process will occur early in our next financial year and members will be advised further of how this is going to proceed.

Once elected, the tenure of elected delegates will expire at midnight on June 30, 2019.

In the event you are seeking assistance with the membership application and/or delegate nomination process, please contact APL's Membership and Events Executive Heidi Eldridge at Heidi.Eldridge@australianpork.com.au

Damien Howse



Damien Howse, APL GM Corporate Services.

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Transformational outcomes from Pork CRC Programs 2 and 3



Pork CRC Program 2 leader Dr Brian Luxford.



Pork CRC Program 3 leader Dr Darryl D'Souza.

PORK CRC transitions to new program leaders from July 1 this year, hence we now look back, through the eyes of those who have led the programs, on some of the transformational outcomes achieved.

We began in the May edition of APN with words from Dr Ray King, leader of Program 1, who will be succeeded by Dr Will van Wettere and also from Dr Rob Wilson, leader of Program 4, who will be succeeded by Dr Stephan Tait.

In this issue we feature words of wisdom from Program 2 leader Dr Brian Luxford and Program 3 leader Dr Darryl D'Souza, who will be succeeded by, respectively, Dr Pat Mitchell and Heather Channon.

Program 2: 'Herd health management', Dr Brian Luxford

The aim of the program was to develop an integrated health program that relied less on the rou-



tine use of antibiotics as a front-line strategy.

A significant effort has been expended to better understand the interactions between a number of important pathogens, the pig and its environment.

One example of these types of studies was Dr Alison Collins' work with ileitis.

Alison, with a new polymerase chain reaction, was able to determine what level of pathogen load in the environment was required to trigger a disease episode.

This work has aided the development of new strategies to manage health.

Dr Susanne Hermesch has managed an exten-

sive program aimed at genetically improving the general resilience of pigs against not only disease but also environmental challenges.

The work has included development of an economic model that can quantify the economic effect of different diseases, a statistical model that can improve genetic gains for resilience using routine collected production data and, finally, specific immune traits that can be incorporated into breeding programs.

Numerous other management strategies have been developed, including: nutritional alterations such as essential oil and

use of dietary fibre; non-antibiotic additives such as aspirin and vitamin E; antibacterial peptides; new vaccines; and specific disinfection strategies.

The next step in the Pork CRC will be integrating these strategies to deal with the unique circumstances of different farms.

Program 3: 'Healthy pork consumption', Dr Darryl D'Souza

Delivering high-quality pork consistently is absolutely crucial for the pork industry.

Australian Pork Limited's usage and attitude studies, conducted over a number of years, consistently show that eating quality is the number-one driver for consumer repeat purchases of pork.

A bad eating experience sees consumers 'walk away' from pork for a considerable period.

In Australia, no industry system has yet been developed and implemented to assure consistently supplying high-quality fresh pork to consumers.

The ability of any supply chain to consistently produce high-quality pork is complex due to the variable responses of pigs to the various animal, pre and post-slaughter factors.

Additionally, even with the close management of those pathway parameters, eating quality inconsistencies may still be experienced due to the cooking methods used, final internal temperatures achieved, cooking abilities of consumers and their confidence in preparing pork meals.

Pork CRC Program 3 eating quality projects have sought to address these issues and set a target to reduce the 'fail rate' of pork to less than 10 percent.

Outcomes from this program have enabled the Australian pork industry to identify the eating quality pathway critical control points across a range of cuts when prepared using different cooking methods.

These eating quality pathways have been established for a number of industry supply chains.

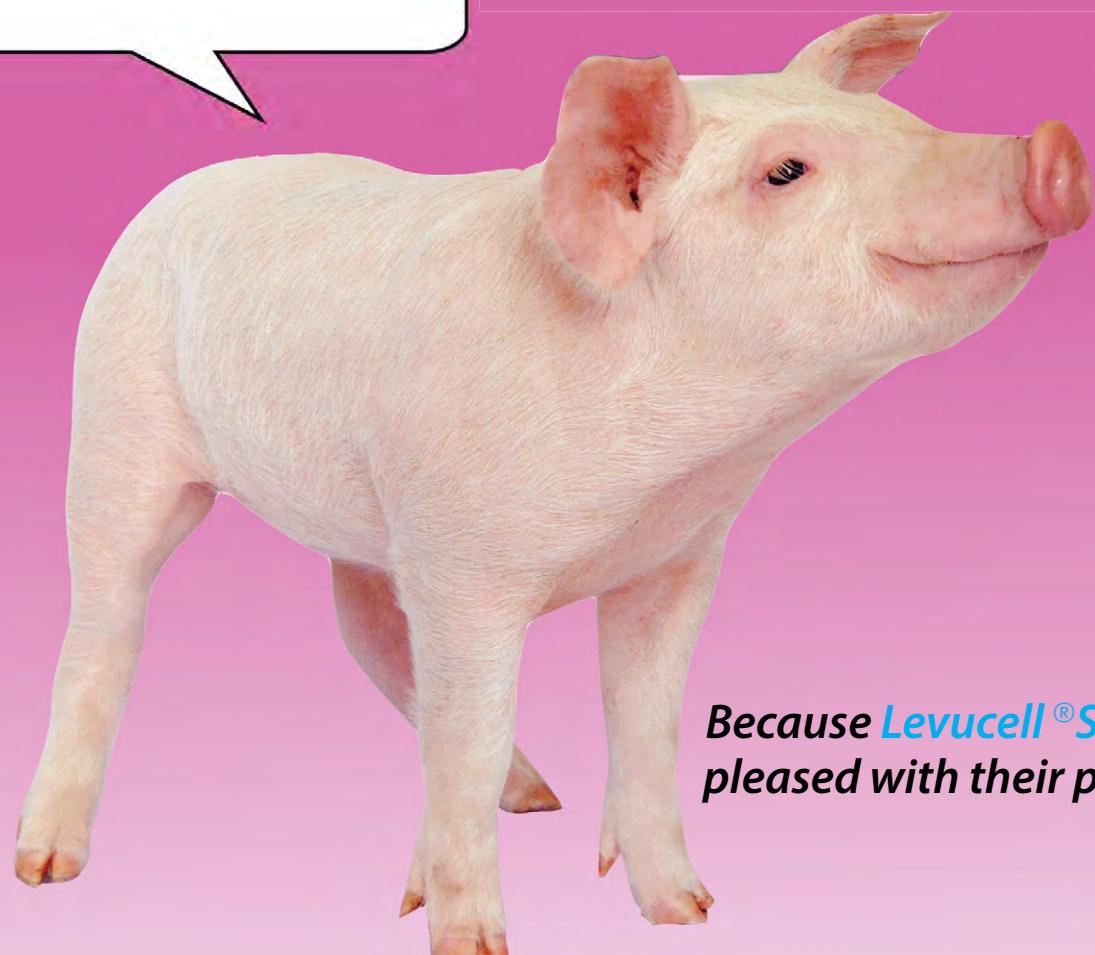
In addition, the data generated can now be used to develop an eating quality assurance system for Australian pork.

Results from Pork CRC Program 3 have also driven the adoption of technologies such as Improvac (boar taint vaccine) by a number of supply chains to address key eating quality issues.

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Student study exposes WA pork industry to the world

FOUR University of Western Australia MBA students have analysed opportunities for exported growth in WA's pork industry while completing an industry project for the Department of Agriculture and Food, WA.

Along the way, they came up with a pretty good snapshot of the current WA pork industry, so I thought I'd share some of their findings with you.

Thanks, by the way, to the students, Michael Bingemann, Darren Glass, Cameron Levitzke and Joel Turco.

In WA, the pork industry contributes about \$130 million at the farm gate, representing 12 percent of national pork production.

In the past five years, the WA industry has experienced annual compound growth above 5 percent, a significant transformation given seven prior years of declining growth.

Despite recent growth, WA production still represents less than 0.06 percent of global production.

WA pork production is consolidated, with the three largest producers, Westpork, Craig Mostyn Group and Milne Agri-group contributing almost 80 percent of production.

Consolidation increased in 2015 due to large production increases by MAG, following execu-



Cant Comment
by
BRENDON CANT

tion of a long-term contract to supply free-range pork to Coles supermarkets nationally.

Further industry consolidation is forecast.

The recent increase in free-range pig farming methods has focused on the lower Great Southern region, which has suitable soil and climatic conditions.

In the 12 months to August 2015, WA slaughtered about 600,000 pigs to produce 44,279 tonnes of pig meat, an increase of 14.9 percent on the previous corresponding period.

In WA, about 70 per-

cent of pork production is for local WA demand, 15 percent for eastern states and 15 percent (about 7500 tonnes) for South-East Asian export markets, predominantly Singapore.

This is largely due to the strategy of CMG, which continues to maintain a consistent supply of pork to Singapore.

In Australia, demand for fresh pork is largely underwritten by long-term contracts with the major food retailing companies, Coles and Woolworths, which exercise significant buying power.

Higher margin, smaller volume sales are typically made to smaller independent supermarkets and butchers.

WA's high cost of production made exports uncompetitive in the global commodity market of frozen pork.

The industry must instead pursue premium, niche markets in the chilled pork export market, differentiating on the basis of food safety and/or free-range production.

The students in the industry project suggested the most likely export markets would be cities within China due to:

- Availability of fast, affordable freight of chilled pork;
- Concerns about the safety of domestic pork in

those regions; and

- Presence of affluent segments of the population.

Lack of an export protocol, however, remains the primary barrier to exporting to China.

The WA pork industry must strive to reduce costs by increasing domestic scale and efficiency, which could be encouraged through a faster approvals process and benchmarking to encourage innovation.

As well as increasing the global competitiveness of the industry, these actions could make producers more profitable.

There remain two significant challenges to export success.

First, as most export markets require specific cuts, the WA industry faces the challenge of how to balance the remainder of the carcass.

Another export market such as Singapore that is willing to accept the entire carcass is the ideal solution, however premium niche markets typically demand specific cuts, rather than whole carcasses.

Therefore, the more likely solution to this challenge will be in the form of multiple export partners.

With business today being all about partnerships, I hope the students have got it right. ☺



Free range sows are an increasingly common sight in Western Australia.

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Four-yearly review of modern awards – annual leave

THE Fair Work Commission has issued a decision dealing with the insertion of new annual leave terms into modern awards including the Pastoral Award 2010.

The decision is issued as part of the first four-yearly review of modern awards, which under the Fair Work Act 2009 provides that the Commission must conduct a four-yearly review of modern awards.

This full bench decision deals with the variation of awards in relation to a number of matters regarding paid annual leave.

These issues were the subject of two previous full bench decisions in June 2015 and September 2015.

In the June and September 2015 decisions the Commission determined model terms in respect of:

- Cashing out of annual leave;
- Leave in advance;
- Excessive leave; and
- Payment by electronic funds transfer.

This decision deals with the variation of modern awards to insert the model terms.

As the September 2015 model terms are yet to be

incorporated into modern awards, the full bench reviewed and redrafted the model terms to ensure that they are expressed in plain language.

The model terms were restructured to make the clauses more straightforward for employers and employees to understand and use.

The language is simpler and clearer and uses commonly understood words rather than legal jargon.

Importantly, the substantive legal effect of the model terms has not changed.

While the Commission accepted many of the proposed changes put forward it reached the provisional view that the excessive leave terms in the Agriculture Awards do not provide a fair and relevant minimum safety net of terms and conditions of employment and therefore the existing terms do not satisfy the modern award's objective.

Additionally, the Commission decided that employers should not be able to deduct overpayments of annual leave from employees on termination if they did not have an agreement

in writing for leave in advance that complies with the award and was made before the leave in advance was taken.

The key outcome from this decision is that employers would be wise to review their annual leave policies to ensure they are across leave entitlements and accruals.

To avoid a situation where overpayments are made and cannot be recovered, some may consider it sensible to adopt a 'no leave will be granted in advance' policy.

The decision can be found at: www.fwc.gov.au/documents/sites/awardsmodernfouryr/ubmissions/2016FWCFB3177.pdf

Attachment three of the decision provides an annotated version of changes to the award and attachment four contains the final draft and templates for agreements to cash out annual leave and annual leave in advance.

Should you have any questions about this decision, please do not hesitate to contact John McGoverne on 02 6270 8846 or John.McGovern@australianpork.com.au

Deb Kerr



Deb Kerr, APL General Manager Policy.

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Insights from the Pan Pacific Pork Expo

BEAU Taylor, one of Wiley's Senior Process Engineers, recently took time out to visit the 2016 Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

Beau captured insights relevant to all stakeholders in the pork industry including hints of what the future of the industry might look like; how data may be used to drive increased value for pork products; and how the industry might drive increased consumer interest and additional planned pork product purchases on retail shelves.

The Expo included a presentation from renowned futurist Craig Rispin who immediately challenged everyone's thinking.

He posed questions including:

- Who might be the Uber of the pork industry and when will we see them?
- Are you willing to give up a little privacy to capitalise on technology?
- If you had access to sensor and scanning technologies, would you be willing to share your data with others?

These are all great questions focused on the future of the pork industry. It was a good lead-in to one of the hot topics at the Expo: data.

The pork industry, like many food industries, is on the cusp of capturing a new wave of opportunities through data.

For example, one of the presenters, Dr Jude Capper, pointed out that consumer demand for data is ever increasing and shared that:

- 65 percent of people want to know where their food comes from;
- 37 percent of consumers believe that the food industry is not transparent; and
- Only 30 percent of consumers have the information they require about their food.

If you connect this with the previous insights around data, then benefits could be captured by connecting pork products with other data sources.

For example, connecting different pork products with recipe databases and complementary product databases that the consumer is engaged with might drive additional planned pork product purchases.

The 2016 Pan Pacific Pork Expo highlighted the need for the pork industry to look to the future and capture increased value and increased demand for pork products through data.

In addition, a data-led approach to operations within the pork industry can drive new levels of production efficiency and optimisation.

For further details on these and more insights coming from the 2016 Pan Pacific Pork Expo, please connect with Beau Taylor (au.linkedin.com/in/taylorbeau) or if you would like to learn more about capturing value through data.

Another insight coming from the Expo is that consumers do not always know how to use, prepare or cook pork.

www.wiley.com.au

Working with international partners on animal disease preparedness

ON May 23, 2016, Australia signed arrangements with international trading partners to further support the control of, and manage the effects of, emergency animal disease outbreaks.

Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Mark Schipp signed three arrangements on behalf of Australia while at the World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE) 84th General Session in Paris.

"International co-operation is absolutely critical in managing the spread and impact of animal disease," Dr Schipp said.

"By working together we can help control and limit the risks to our countries.

"That's what these arrangements are intended to achieve.

"One arrangement provides continued access to additional experienced

personnel to assist in the event of an outbreak.

"Another streamlines requests for additional vaccines for foot and mouth disease in an outbreak, and the other seeks to facilitate the timely recognition of zoning decisions to minimise disruptions to safe trade.

"These arrangements show real international solidarity, transparency and leadership in working together to prepare for an animal health emergency on a global scale."

Dr Schipp said the international arrangements complemented efforts on the home front to manage and protect Australia's animal health.

"Australia is very lucky to have natural barriers, which have helped protect our favourable animal health status," he said.

"But with increased

movement of goods and people across the world comes increased risk of exotic diseases reaching our shores.

"We work hard to protect our favourable animal health status through our risk-based biosecurity arrangements, and we have a range of measures in place to be prepared for any outbreaks that might occur."

"We run exercises to test our response arrangements, such as livestock standstills, and we work with industry, state and territory governments and veterinarians to make sure the right arrangements are in place to respond swiftly and effectively."

For more information, visit www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/international-arrangements-emergency-animal-disease-outbreaks

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Boehringer Ingelheim Technical Services and Sales Representative Meg Donahoo and Lisa Monjean used FLEXcombo vaccine, a combination of Ingelvac MycoFLEX and Ingelvac CircoFLEX to protect against both mycoplasma hyopneumoniae and porcine circovirus type 2 with one injection.

Safety and ease of use are important benefits of Ingelvac MycoFLEX vaccine

IN August last year, Boehringer Ingelheim launched Ingelvac MycoFLEX vaccine in Australia to protect pigs from pneumonia caused by mycoplasma hyopneumoniae.

The vaccine has the added benefit of being able to be mixed with Ingelvac CircoFLEX vaccine to provide protection against porcine circovirus associated disease with just one vaccination.

The Edson Piggery in Murray Bridge, South Australia is a 500-sow piggery and was one of the first farms in Australia to use the new product. Kay and Bill Edson started farming in Murray Bridge 30 years ago with 90 sows run outdoors and have built the operation up to its current 500 sows.

Kay and Bill's daughter Lisa Monjean and son Brett now work on the piggery, with Lisa in charge of vaccinating piglets.

Lisa said pneumonia was a persistent problem on the property before they started vaccinating.

"We'd seen mortalities, a lot of coughing and generally sick pigs with pneumonia, and vaccination made a real difference," she said.

"Unfortunately we observed that immediately after vaccination, a number of piglets showed signs of illness."

The Edsons invited the local Boehringer Ingelheim Technical Services and Sales Representative to investigate the problem. Following an in-depth discussion about their

on-farm vaccination practices, Lisa began using Ingelvac MycoFLEX.

Lisa observed that the previous issues such as vomiting and seizures in their piglets after vaccination stopped immediately after switching to Ingelvac MycoFLEX.

Boehringer Ingelheim product manager Dr Sean Daly said, "Boehringer Ingelheim prides itself on the excellent safety profile of its vaccines."

"It's important to understand that Ingelvac MycoFLEX shares the same adjuvant as Ingelvac CircoFLEX, called ImpranFLEX, and this adjuvant has proven itself as being extremely safe in over 20 million doses of Ingelvac CircoFLEX in Australia since launch.

"Therefore it is no surprise when farmers such as the Edsons who have observed reactions from the use of other pneumonia vaccines can potentially achieve improved results by switching to Ingelvac MycoFLEX."

On top of the excellent safety profile of Ingelvac MycoFLEX, convenience is also consistently cited as an added benefit.

"Being able to mix the vaccine with CircoFLEX has reduced the number of injections the piglets receive and means I don't have to juggle two separate bottles and tubes during vaccination," Lisa said.

"You can give the vaccination much more safely into one side of the neck rather than trying to 'dart' in two vaccinations on each side of the neck at once."

"It is safer for staff as well because they have better control of the pig during vaccination."

To make the fresh mixing of the two products as simple as possible, Boehringer Ingelheim has packaged Ingelvac MycoFLEX in an innovative 'Head Space Bottle'.

The Head Space Bottle is specifically designed so the right amount of Ingelvac CircoFLEX can be simply added to the same bottle via a specially designed and easy-to-use transfer needle.

Lisa is a fan of the Head Space Bottle.

"We are definitely happy with the convenience of being able to mix the MycoFLEX with CircoFLEX," Lisa said.

"It is easy to mix and probably saves us a couple of hours on vaccination day."

The Edsons have been using the vaccine for over five months and have been impressed with the results.

"The most notable difference has been the improvement in safety and the lack of vaccine reactions, but other than that the evenness and general health of the pigs has been great," Lisa said.

"The vaccine appears to be working well."

When asked if she would recommend Ingelvac MycoFLEX to other farms, Lisa said, "Definitely, the product works and is safe."

"It is much quicker to use, which benefits the pigs, the staff and myself."



Lisa Monjean and Meg Donahoo inspected piglets vaccinated with Ingelvac MycoFLEX vaccine.

Most successful PPPE yet

THE 2016 Pan Pacific Pork Expo was held on May 25 and 26 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach.

The event was the largest and most successful PPPE yet, with a record 705 delegates; a great note on which to farewell outgoing PPPE chair John Coward.

The PPPE trade exhibition sold out and was well attended as delegates networked with industry stakeholders from international and national businesses.

It was also the focus of the popular social events, industry cocktail party and Happy Two Hours.

Delegates were treated to a diverse range of speakers for both the plenary and

concurrent sessions.

The plenary session presenters included Craig Rispin (Future Trends Group), Dr Jude Capper (Livestock Sustainability Consultancy), Dr Heather Bray (University of Adelaide) and Rob Cumine (Coles).

These presenters challenged delegates to think outside the box and discussed the importance of improving networks, consumer marketing and technology in production.

The concurrent sessions were presented by Dr Mark Wilson (Zinpro, US), Dr Rob van Barneveld (SunPork Farms), Caleb Smith (Kia-Ora Piggy), Dr Darryl D'Souza (Australian Pork Limited), Dr Pat Mitchell (APL), Dr Peter Davies

(University of Minnesota, US), Prof Darren Trott (University of Adelaide), Hollis Ashman (Mondelez International), Matt Rutter (Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative) and Jayne Gallagher (Honey & Fox).

These sessions covered research outcomes on technology, current and future advances in seasonal fertility and heat stress impacts, international pathways and opportunities, risk management and a comparison of industry's performance from rock lobsters and abalone.

In addition to the concurrent presentations, Chris Richards & Associates facilitated the interactive Animal Health Workshop, which proved popular among producers and students.

The PPPE Committee thanks all exhibitors, sponsors and others who attended to make this a very successful event.



Joe Neely, Trevor Digby, Andrew Atkin and Rhys Atkin of Finrone Systems.



Ross Brown of SunPork Farms, PPPE chair John Coward and Paul Noone of PIC.



Dave Elmouttie, Peter Nicholson and Mark Wilson.



Dave Garnier, Tobias Steiner, Kym Miller and Michael Boddington.



Brian Smith, Janine Price and Kim Smith.

World Organisation for Animal Health report into Australia's veterinary services released

AUSTRALIA'S veterinary services were recently assessed and found to serve Australia well by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the influential global body that sets health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.

In the report, the four international OIE evaluators complimented Australia on:

- The widespread understanding of the importance of biosecurity to the nation;
- Our technical proficiency in areas such as veterinary education, risk analysis and laboratory capability;
- The comprehensive measures in place to protect our borders, undertake surveillance and prepare for emergencies; and
- Our effective partnerships between government and industry.

The report stands Australia's reputation as a producer and exporter of safe and healthy animals and animal products in good stead.

In the report, the four international OIE evaluators complimented Australia on:

- The widespread understanding of the importance of biosecurity to the nation;
- Our technical proficiency in areas such as veterinary education, risk analysis and laboratory capability;
- The comprehensive measures in place to protect our borders, undertake surveillance and prepare for emergencies; and
- Our effective partnerships between government and industry.

nearly 13,000 registered veterinarians.

More than 130 countries, including many of Australia's major trade competitors, have been assessed by the OIE against the same standards.

The detailed document reflected the findings of an expert OIE team that visited Australia in October and November 2015, holding meetings with veterinary authorities and their stakeholders and visiting more than 60 field sites in all states and territories.

The full OIE PVS report is available at www.oie.int

Dr Mark Schipp
Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer

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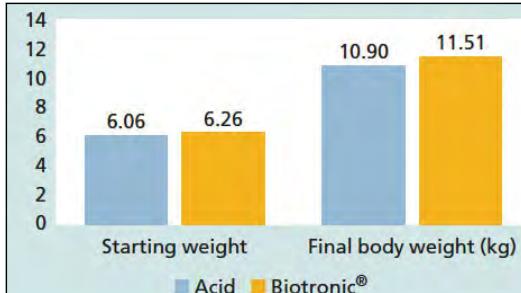


Figure 1: Body weight (kg) of the animals.

Making room for feed additives in piglet diets

ORGANIC acid use in piglet diets can be considered routine nowadays.

Yet, high levels of organic acids in feed formulation take up a lot of otherwise useful space in the feed.

Replacing a portion of organic acids with a more powerful additive can create room to further enhance feed formulation or add more economical raw materials at no additional cost.

Swine producers apply organic acids to feed mainly to combat microbial and fungal contamination that causes the deterioration of feed and to decrease the pH in animals' stomachs.

Constant treatment with organic acids has the added benefit of preventing recontamination of feed, whereas methods such as heat treatment do not.

A number of factors support the rationale for dietary acidification for juvenile animals, especially weaning pigs.

At weaning, piglets often register limited digestive and absorption capacity, typically due to insufficient hydrochloric acid and pancreatic enzymes secretion.

Additionally, the stress associated with the weaning process, sudden feed consistency and environmental changes can have a negative effect on the digestion, feed absorption and intestinal microflora of the piglets.

E. coli inhibition and beneficial bacteria promotion

Various studies show that acidification of piglet diets at reported pH levels ranging from 4.36 to 5.79 can reduce the coliform and *E. coli* counts along the intestinal tract, decreasing scouring and mortality of piglets (Table 1).

Organic acids positively influence the growth of lactobacilli in the gastrointestinal tract, which may competitively inhibit the proliferation of *E. coli* and produce lactic acid and other metabolites that lower the pH or have an antimicrobial effect and

inhibit *E. coli* even more.

Inclusion levels

To decrease the buffer capacity and feed pH levels, organic acids are typically used in the feed manufacturing process.

These generally include formic acid, benzoic acid, lactic acid and acetic acid.

Dietary acidification by a mixture of organic acids decreases the pH value of swine diets by 0.15 to 0.98 pH units, depending on the inclusion levels (varying from 0.5 percent to 3 percent) and diet composition.

The inclusion level of the organic acids varies considerably in every feed manufacturing plant, depending also on the type of organic acids, the carrier and if the acids are added alone or blended.

Replacement of single acids in the diet

The feed formulation is a delicate process that must balance the nutrient requirements of animals at each production stage, the nutritional value of various feed raw materials, premixes, vitamins and minerals along with price and availability considerations.

Space can be an issue because trying to include all ingredients at an optimum level is not easy.

Piglet diets that also contain organic acids pose an additional challenge.

One approach is to replace part of the single acids with a more powerful feed additive, thereby making space in the feed formulation in a cost-effective way.

Biotronic Top line combines the unique Biomin Permeabilizing Complex, a phytochemical, a selected blend of organic acids and their salts, fully utilizing a unique synergism in their mode of action.

The Biomin Permeabilizing Complex boosts the activity of the active ingredients and facilitates their entry in the cytoplasm by permeabilizing the outer membrane of

gram-negative bacteria.

Replacing 2-3kg of a single acid with 1kg of Biotronic Top3 boosts the antimicrobial effect of the acid blend, reducing the bacterial load and improving animal growth performance.

When looking to create space in feed formulation, it is generally recommended to use this 2:1 ratio to replace a single acid with Biotronic Top line products.

Maximising space in the practice

Several field and scientific trials have been conducted to replace benzoic acid and formic acid in different commercial formulations in piglet diets.

In one recent case, a producer in Germany wanted to reduce the space taken up by the acids in the formulation by entirely replacing 6kg per ton of a product based on formic acid salt (ACID) with Biotronic Top3, provided it could be done with no additional cost.

For that trial, the recommended replacement ratio was doubled to 4:1, substituting the acid in question with Biotronic Top3.

The feed formulation also contained other acids that were not changed in either the initial or replacement diets (Table 2).

The acid component of the replacement diet using Biotronic Top3 cost 19 percent less than the initial diet using the product based on ACID; a saving of €3.60/ton (prices originate from the German market).

After evaluating the growth performance in a field trial using 380 weaner piglets (Figure 1), it was clear that the replacement of the 0.6 percent of ACID with 0.15 percent of Biotronic Top3 caused no change in growth performance, though it did generate an extra profit of €0.5 per piglet.

The Biotronic group had higher feed intake and lower feed conversion ratio (Figures 2 and 3).

Room for more performance

The extra space that is spared in the feed formulation can be used to include other feed additives that can further enhance growth performance or support animal health.

A mycotoxin deactivator or phytogenic feed additive figure among the most common ones paired with organic acids.

The modulation of the bacterial load in the intestinal tract, together with more efficient usage of the feed by the animal will not only cover the costs of the product, but bring an added benefit.

Conclusion

Organic acids are essential in piglet feed, especially in the weaning period, but at the same time they can be a limiting factor for the feed formulation.

Biotronic Top line products can replace part of the organic acids in the formulation with additional economical benefits for the farmer.

The modulation of the bacterial load in the intestinal tract, together with more efficient usage of the feed by the animal will not only cover the costs of the product, but bring an added benefit.

Log cfu/g	Control	Positive control	Biotronic Top3
Ileum			
<i>E. coli</i>	6.302 ^a	5.970 ^b	5.873 ^b
Coliforms	8.277 ^a	7.977 ^b	8.151 ^b
<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>	8.220 ^a	7.941 ^b	8.053 ^{ab}
<i>Lactobacillus</i>	6.295 ^a	6.172 ^a	6.515 ^b
Bifidobacteria	6.891 ^a	6.878 ^a	7.130 ^b

Table 1: Change in the bacterial flora of the intestinal tract using Biotonic Top3. Positive control: Colistin 100g/ton plus CTC 100g/ton.

Component	Inclusion (%)	Inclusion (%)
Biotronic Top3	0	0.15
ACID	0.60	0
Calcium Formate	0.43	0.43
Fumaric acid	0.12	0.12
Citric acid	0.12	0.12
Price of acids € per ton of feed*	€ 19.20	€ 15.60

Table 2: Acid content and price in weaner pig diets.
*Prices originate from the German market.

Boosting Australia's FMD preparedness

THE final report from Exercise Odysseus has been released, providing a positive assessment of Australia's most significant foot and mouth disease response exercise.

"This means that Australia is now better prepared to manage an outbreak and safeguard our industries and environment from this damaging disease."

Outbreaks overseas have demonstrated that movements of livestock can spread FMD over long distances.

A national livestock standstill in Australia would involve restricting movements of susceptible animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and other species, for at least 72 hours after the detection of FMD.

Exercise Odysseus involved more than 1600 people from government, industry and non-government organisations who took part in 48 activities throughout Australia in 2014-15.

The final report identifies a number of key findings that will inform subsequent action by government and industry to further enhance Australia's preparedness to manage the threat of FMD, should it occur in Australia.

The final report is available online at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/emergency/exercises/exercise_odysseus/report.

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Forbes Breeders Stud Pig Sale and Bedgerabong Youth Show Day

THE very successful 2016 Forbes Breeders Stud Pig Sale and Bedgerabong Youth Show Day were held at Bedgerabong Showground on April 27 and 28.

The amazing two-day event was started last year by a group of local pork producers Emma and Paul Baxter, Sue and Graham Baxter, Cheryl and Hugh McMahon and Richard and Heather Cole, with stock agent Murray Reid of VC Reid and Sons and local school teacher Anne Earney.

The goal of this event is multifaceted:

- to improve local pig genetics;
- to showcase an industry that is largely hidden from view; and
- to show school students how pigs are handled.

Australian Pork Limited provided funding for the student day and the NSW Department of Primary



A carcass was described.

Vets – get paid for sharing your opinions

BEING a vet is pretty hard work: you have to study for many years to qualify, work long hours to apply your competence and skills, then advance your knowledge through continuous professional education and further qualifications.

Your clients and employers search and benefit from your brainpower and these skills.

Well, your professional and personal views are in demand from elsewhere too and organisations are willing to pay for them.

Vetspanel is one such organisation that pays vets for their opinions on aspects relating to animal health, nutrition and the veterinary profession.

In addition, if you are nosy about what companies are up to and would like to know what is coming up in the animal health industry, you can glimpse a preview through Vetspanel's surveys.

Vetspanel is a market research panel of veterinary professionals with over 16,000 members across Australia, Europe, South America and the US.

The way it works:

- Members sign up to receive email invites to online surveys.

• You can complete the surveys in your own time.

- Complete as many or as few surveys as

Industries assisted with the planning leading up to the day and biosecurity inspections of studs' travel documents.

The Bedgerabong Show Society also helped by running the canteen and behind the scenes activities.

It was interesting to note that not all schools in attendance were using the teaching resources specifically developed by APL, but it was pleasing to see the interest in the pork industry was strong.

The feedback received from various participants was it was a great couple of days.

For next year, more work is needed to promote APL's very useful resources and a bit more thought is required for some engaging activities for the students.

The Youth Show Day was attended by about 90 students made up of mostly local regional schools, with Hurlstone

Agriculture High School, Yass and Brisbane Water schools also attending.

The stud breeders assisted the students with the hands-on activities of preparing, parading and judging the pigs.

Teachers in attendance were impressed with other student activities including a very candid producer talk by Edwina Beveridge; a butchery demonstration by Stephen Tamplin from Tablelands Premier Meats; a demonstration of an ultrasound scanner by David Reu of Vaucluse Livestock Equipment; and a presentation on feral pigs from Wendy Gill and Alicia Whiley from the Lachlan Local Land Services.

As part of the sale day, invited businesses participated with a trade display.

A vast range of displays were provided from companies including Lienert Australia, HE Silos, Riverton Stock Feeds, Stock-

yard Industries, Forbes Veterinary Clinic, National Australia Bank Agribusiness, Vaucluse Livestock Equipment, Australian Waste Engineering, Lachlan Local Land Services, National Feed Solutions, Sarus Pty Ltd, Sabor and Future Pork.

The stud breeders that participated in the sale travelled from interstate and across NSW, including C&G Dockerill of Pinedock Stud Casino, NSW; D&G Middleton of Glendave Stud Wallabadah, NSW; BD, JB, and WD Cooke of Stratheden, NSW; RM, JW, and JP Goodfellow of Moonbi, NSW; Craig Beaumont of Green Isle Stud Huntly, Victoria; MC, ML and SM Blenkiron of Keyneton, South Australia; and R&CS Rüdiger of Karoonda, South Australia.

About 200 people attended the sale day, with the sale exceeding all expectations and surpassing

last year's results.

The top-priced gilt (in-pig) made \$3050, the top-priced boar made \$2800, the overall average was over \$1500 and all 82 lots of pigs were sold.

This event is a great initiative of Forbes pork producers and will be held again next year, with the date to be confirmed closer to the time.



Emma Baxter and Edwina Beveridge.



Students and teachers at the Youth Show Day.

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References: 1. Kim D et al. Vaccine 2011; 3206-3212. 2. Seo HW et al. Vaccine 2012; 6671-6677. © 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 TPAH0177

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Pig price per kilogram in selected countries

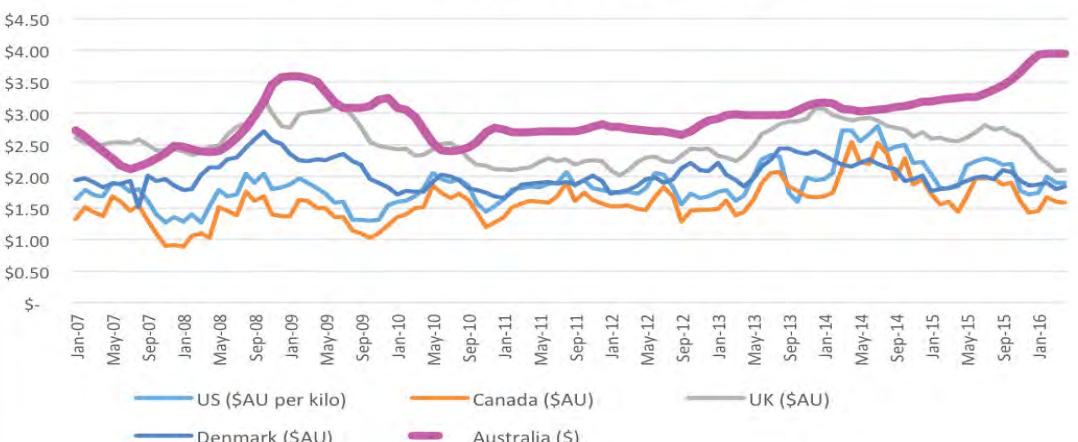


Figure 1

Australian retail fresh meat prices per kilogram

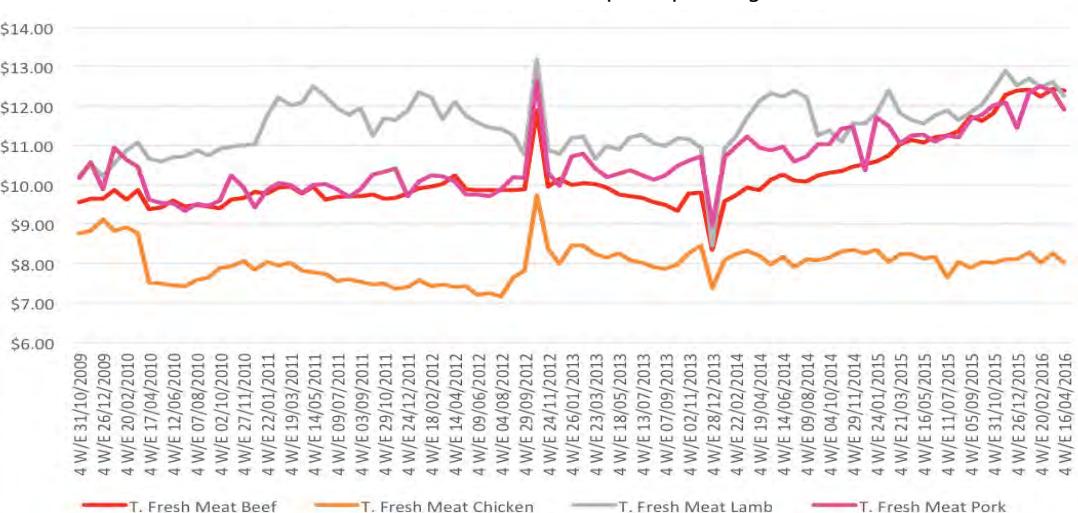


Figure 2

Fresh meat by species and processed chicken

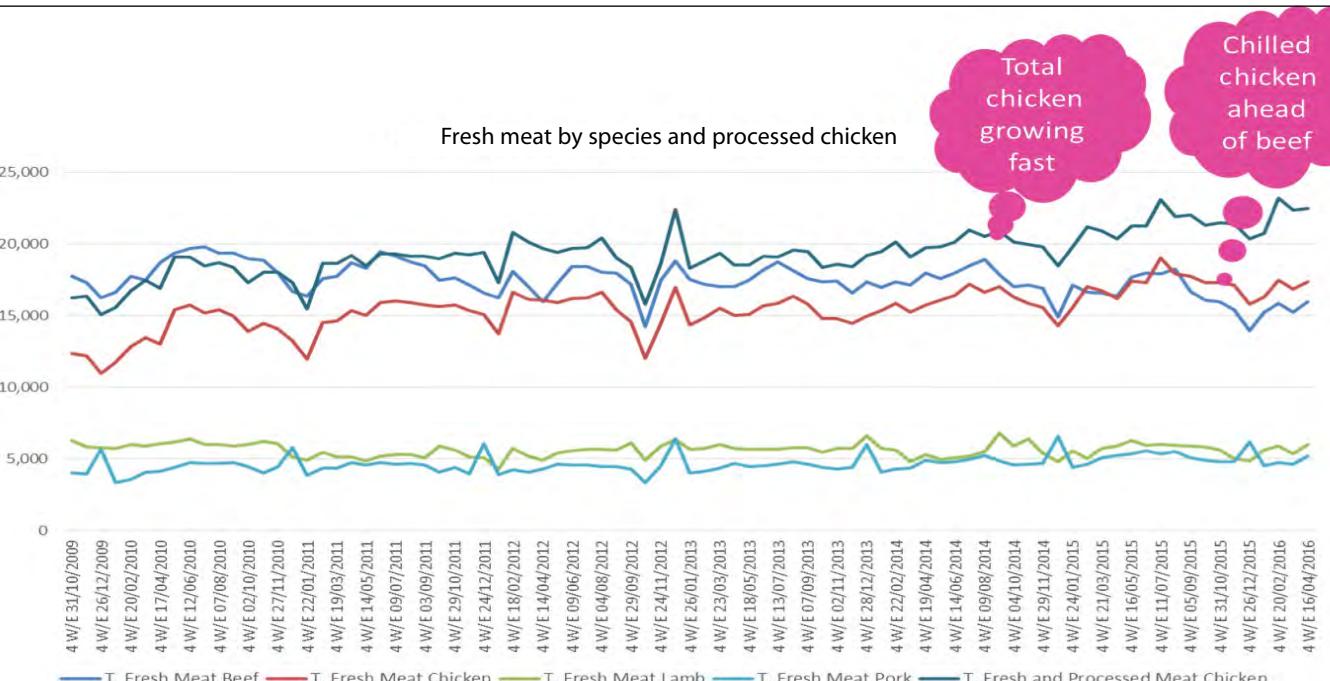


Figure 3

Forecast: Currently sunny with a cloud or two on the horizon

AUSTRALIA has enjoyed growing pig prices every year since July 2011.

While there are differences internationally, Australia has tracked a broadly similar trend until February 2014 when Russia banned pork imports from the EU, along with a separate ban on US pork.

This ban caused an oversupply in the European countries and consequently has driven down prices in the northern hemisphere.

An increase in exports to China has not been sufficient to offset the decreased demand from Russia.

Conversely, growing demand for Australian pork has consistently grown pig prices in real terms (taking out food inflation) since 2011.

The combination of demand already growing faster than supply and the significant increase in beef prices since December 2014 has caused Australian pig prices to decouple from the prices of the major exporting nations.



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



This makes Australia a very attractive place to be a pig producer right now.

However, markets are supposed to be self-balancing; basically what goes up might come down.

This has helped create two clouds on the horizon.

The first is that beef has become roughly the same retail cost per kilogram as pork and lamb, while chicken has remained at a lower price to the consumer than in 2009.

This has in turn increased chicken consumption both in the already hot, roasted and convenient whole bird format (included in processed chicken in Figure 3) as well as chilled chicken for at-home cooking.

This first cloud on the horizon is that when people are changing their behaviour, ideally we would have more pork available to help us take advantage of the changes.

We know that most meals are cooked out of habit, so it's difficult to get into the meal repertoire, but once in, it's tough for competitor species to get us out.

The second cloud on the

horizon is when prices in Australia are higher than average and prices overseas (except for China) are lower than average, markets and supply chains find new ways to take advantage of the more attractive prices.

There has been evidence for some time that pulled pork is being made from imported meat, cooked for the required amount of time to the required temperature and distributed, often but not exclusively, in foodservice channels.

There is more recent evidence with both imported bellies and ribs (the latter using a flexible type of packaging with ribs being treated similarly to canned products, which is allowed) also beginning to be locally cooked, which is affecting wholesale prices.

As part of the system, any increase in supply can affect all parts of the supply chain.

The Australian Pork Limited Board has allocated funds to allow us to investigate what is happening to imports and APL will do that as quickly as possible.

The next generation of rodenticide is here

SELONTRA Soft Bait Rodenticide is the next generation of rodenticides developed by BASF.

It is powered by the active ingredient cholecalciferol, a non-anticoagulant that significantly reduces the risk of residues, secondary poisoning and site contamination.

Selontra has been developed into a soft block formulation.

This technology overcomes the drawbacks historically associated with other non-anticoagulant baits, resulting in an effective palatable formulation.

Each soft block is individually encased in a non-absorbent, flavour-permeable, polyolefin shrink film.

This ensures palatability is maintained and allows Selontra to be adequately secured in bait stations, minimising the risk of bait hoarding and bait contamination around the site.

Selontra is highly effective against rats and mice, including those rodents resistant to anticoagulants.

Due to the unique mode of action and palatable formulation, Selontra also controls

rodents quicker than anticoagulant baits, with fatality occurring within two to four days after a lethal dose is ingested.

The active ingredient in Selontra, cholecalciferol, also has a stop-feeding effect, ensuring rodents do not over-consume baits and do not feed on non-bait sources around the site.

CCD Animal Health business manager Peter Nicholson said, "We are very pleased with the positive feedback we've had regarding the palatability and efficacy of Selontra."

"A wide cross section of producers across the country have switched to using Selontra and the results have been outstanding."

The Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority has issued an Emergency Use Permit (Permit # 81758) for Selontra Soft Bait Rodenticide for the control of rodents in commercial pig production facilities.

Selontra Soft Bait Rodenticide is available through CCD Animal Health (call 1300 791 009). ☺

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Aussie Fireman firefighting pump

A NEW high-performance engine-drive pump, designed for domestic outdoor firefighting, has been released by Aussie Pumps.

Called the Aussie Fireman, the new Honda-powered pump delivers heads of up to 60m and flows to 450l/pm.

That high pressure, coupled with high flows through the performance curve, means the pump is capable of providing first-class firefighting capability, particularly in the area of 50-65psi of pressure.

The pump is smaller than its 'big brother' the Aussie Fire Chief.

The Aussie Fire Chief is lauded as the world's best lightweight portable fire pump and comes with a range of Honda engine options from the 5.5hp GX series right through to the big 13hp electric-start GX390 Honda industrial engine.

This new Fireman pump, on the market at a substantially lower price than the Fire Chief, represents a 'no compromise'

attitude to engineering.

For example, the pump features a superb hydraulic impeller volute design that produces excellent performance.

It is perfectly matched tested to the Honda GP160 engine to which it is fitted and has been approved by Honda's stringent application engineering program.

The impeller is a single-stage, one-piece, heavy-duty aluminium design, following the Fire Chief concept, and built to extend pump life.

The three-way discharge port, with one 1.5" and two 1" outlets, is designed for flexibility, making the pump suitable for firefighting, wash down and high-pressure water transfer.

Its big, bold, body design provides a high flow to pressure ratio, getting more water through the pump without creating any extra engine load.

Like the Fire Chief, the unit comes mounted on skids with anti-vibration mounts for stability in the field.

A handy carry handle is

also provided for ease of lifting.

Aussie Pumps' Brad Farrugia said, "We are very excited about the introduction of the Aussie Fireman."

"We're able to provide a pump end with superb performance at a value packed price.

"Not only that, but consumers will also have the satisfaction of knowing they still get our exclusive five-year warranty, which remains a world first."

The pump is powered by Honda's new GP160 domestic engine featuring 3.6kW (4.9hp) of power at 3600rpm.

The new Honda engines are designed for domestic and/or infrequent use, making the GP160 entirely suitable for emergency firefighting applications.

Honda's GP160 is very similar to the heavy-duty GX160 industrial engine.

Honda says the modification of some components puts it into a price and value area where running requirements would be up to 150 hours per annum of normal use.

"We think Honda did a

good thing by producing this lower-cost engine," Farrugia said.

"It's given us the ability to put a top-quality product on the market at a new value point.

"Price-conscious consumers don't have to be driven to doubtful third-

world product now that the Aussie Fireman has hit the market."

Further information including a full fact sheet is available from ausiepumps.com.au, or by emailing the company or any authorised Aussie Pumps distributor.



Aussie Pumps' Brad Farrugia with the new portable Aussie Fireman on a Honda GP160.



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Adrian Navie, Steam Frydkjaer, owner director Martin Liese, Gordon Spurrell and Claus Martinsen of Skiodl & VMS were first place winners in the Best Stand Awards.

PPPE Best Stand Awards



Amanda Vardanega from MSD Animal Health with the second-place prize.



Joe Grace from Spanlift claimed third in the Best Stand Awards.

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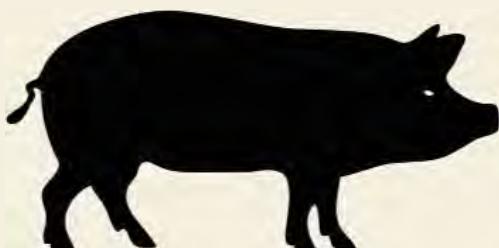
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Pork CRC/APL student workshop – PPPE 2016



Students worked in groups during the Pork CRC/APL student workshop at PPPE 2016.



Plenty of fun was had by the students when Robyn Terry ran what she termed 'The Great Pork Quiz'. Some of the answers to the questions were enlightening, while others were just plain amusing.



Pork CRC University of Adelaide PhD candidate Patricia Condous (left) headed up her group's transformation presentation, which focused on transforming waste into pig feed to reduce feed and production costs.



It was time to relax at the dinner after the student workshop.



Alice Weaver (left), Pork CRC Industry Placement Program at Myora Farm, SA, assisted Megan Hawley, Pork CRC PhD candidate at Flinders University, during one of the student workshop's group activities.



Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell chatted to University of Adelaide student Alice Rainsford and Pork CRC Industry Placement Program Tanya Nowland of the South Australian Research and Development Institute.



APL's Dr Pat Mitchell enjoyed catching up with Pork CRC PhD candidate Evan Bittner at the student dinner. From July 1, Dr Mitchell will lead Pork CRC Program 2: 'Herd health management'.



Evan Bittner made a point during his group's transformation presentation. Evan's PhD, supervised by Prof Frank Dunshea, is about expansion of Australian pork into the Asian market.

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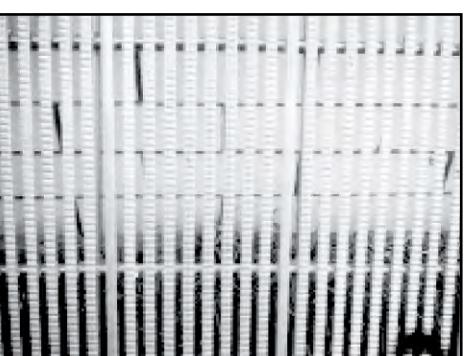
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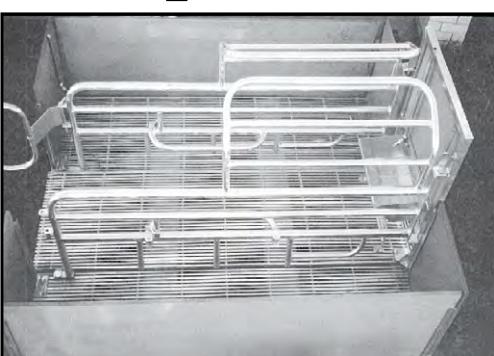
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