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See page 18 for more PPPE highlights

Celebrity chefs Li Yongtai, Manu Fieldel, Wang Haiwei and Colin Fassnidge treated producers and exhibitors to a cook-off at PPPE.

Pig prices a challenge but Pan Pacific Pork Expo a success

PIG prices may be down but attendance numbers were strong when the Australian pig industry met for the Pan Pacific Pork Expo on the Gold Coast recently.

PPPE chair and South Australian producer Andrew Johnson said he was really pleased with the turn-out of more than 680 attendees and 44 exhibitors.

"It is really great that so many people came along, especially given how tough it is in this industry at present," he said.

"However, that's also why PPPE was so important, because it gave us time to focus on our industry, discuss what's happening, share and learn from each other.

"The focus was on what we, as producers, and the broader industry can do as we move forward."

The conference program included presentations from Australian and international guests, with topics ranging from advancements in technology to human resources, as well as learnings from the poultry and crocodile industries.

In the exhibition hall, attendees were able to meet up with suppliers and check out new equipment and technology.

Australian Pork Limited

CEO Andrew Spencer said the event had provided an opportunity for producers to gain a better understanding of the current pig price situation, and empowered them to make decisions confidently about their own futures.

"It looks like the tough times will continue for a few months yet," he said.

"PPPE provided a very valuable opportunity for people to get together and check in with each other.

"We also came together for a frank discussion about the state of the industry to start the program, which enabled producers to air their concerns and discuss how we move forward.

"We'll be taking away ideas, as well as continuing to

focus on growing demand.

"As the Pan Pacific Pork Expo continued, it became clear producers have their eye on the future.

"There are challenges now, but they're looking at how they can strengthen the industry into the future."

The Pan Pacific Pork Expo was held on May 30 and 31, 2018 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach, Queensland.

The Pan Pacific Pork Expo is the biennial conference of the Australian pork industry, which brings together producers, processors, retail, foodservice, researchers, scientists, educators, subsidiary service providers and government officials.



Colin Fassnidge, APL's Mitch Edwards and Manu Fieldel.

Bittersweet Pan Pacific Pork Expo – tough times exposed under the Queensland sun

THE last week in May was one of the most important weeks in the pork industry calendar over the past two years.

With the profitability challenges for our producers, the Australian Pork Limited Board meeting and our Delegates' Forum a day later were both focused front and centre on what we can do about improving the negative outlook faced across the industry.

The following days of the Pan Pacific Pork Expo were a bittersweet experience with what can only be described as a surprisingly successful PPPE among plenty of discussion about the realities for the future – which are not all good news.

While it wasn't on the formal agenda, the opportunity to bring the APL members and other producers together to brief them on the market outlook as seen from the perspective of APL management was too good to miss.

This happened on the Wednesday at 11am to an audience of 150 to 200 attendees.

We briefly presented the situation as we see it in terms of what's causing the price pressure, what we expect to happen to supply and demand in the near and medium term and what APL has been doing about it.

What I said is more or less summarised below.

Put simply, we are in the midst of a profitability crunch in our industry caused by low pig prices and increasingly high grain prices.

The low pig prices are a result of having about 7 percent more pork produced over the past 12 months compared to the same period beforehand.

This is on top of knowing that a year ago, we also had too much pork in the market.

Demand on the other hand is a good story, but at 5 percent year on year growth, it is not growing fast enough to overtake the increase in supply.

At APL, we see our responsi-



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



bility at this time to do as much as we can, as quickly as we can to create more demand for the product you produce.

We can and do influence demand.

Your product, Australian pork, is becoming more and more popular on dining tables across Australia.

With respect to supply, we see our job to put the best possible information in front of our pig farmers so you can make the right decisions for your business.

This happens through our Production Survey, which is distributed to contributors three times per year as well as the 'here and now' type information built from information from processors and contained in each of the Communiqués distributed to producer members weekly.

As I said at the impromptu meeting at PPPE, I'd love to be able to say that we've seen the worst of this and it will all be better soon, but I can't do that.

Our best information – provided by producers themselves – is there are no clear indications that our oversupply situation is changing and we have forecast that right up to October this year, which is as far forward as our survey looks.

Additionally, while we are not experts on grain marketing, I can't see grain prices coming down any time soon.

I don't think we have seen the worst of our difficulties yet – in

my mind, that is likely to unfold over the next few months.

Despite this, the positive attitude of some of our farmers never ceases to amaze me.

Even given today's business pressures, a number of producers approached me at PPPE, worried about but committed to our industry.

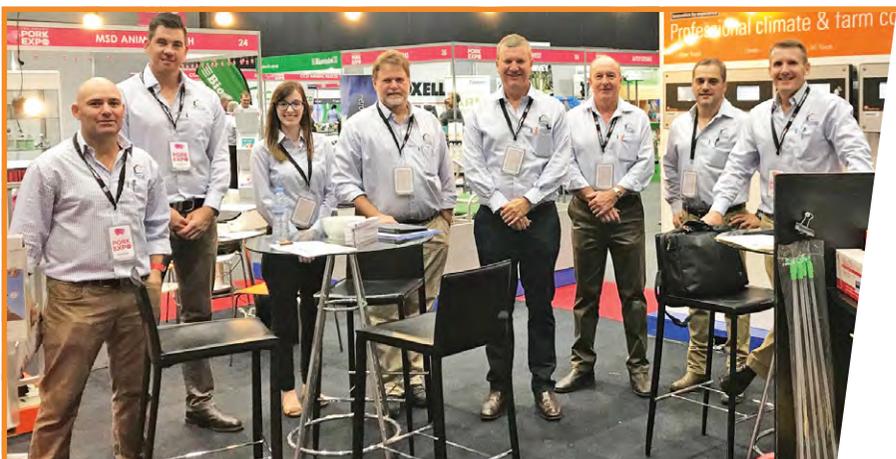
I feel very bad for the many pig farmers out there who are seeing the equity in their farms eroding week by week, waiting for some respite and not really knowing when it might come. With so much at stake and farmers being put under extreme stress day after day, it can be difficult to make the best decisions, so getting some help with those critical decisions is so important right now.

If you foresee that at some future point you might need some help with your financial planning given the current situation, my suggestion would be to go ahead and do it now. Do not wait.

This is a very stressful time for the industry and for those most affected by the current circumstances.

The right thing to do for all of us is to keep an eye out for each other and I encourage you all to do that.

If you need to speak to someone, you are welcome to give me a call or have a chat to those in your state pork organisations.



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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2018

JUN 13 - 14 – Alberta Pork Congress, Westerner Park Red Deer, Alberta, Canada www.albertaporkcongress.com

JUN 20 - 22 – VIV Europe 2018, Utrecht, The Netherlands www.viveurope.nl/en/Bezoeker.aspx

AUG 21 - 24 – Digestive Physiology of Pigs, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane QLD www.dpp2018.org

SEP 17 - 19 – VIV China, Nanjing International Exhibition Centre (NIEC), China www.vivchina.nl/en/Bezoeker.aspx

SEP 25 - 27 – PorkExpo 2018 Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil www.porkexpo.com.br

OCT 17 - 19 – Vietstock Expo & Forum, Saigon, Vietnam www.vietstock.org

NOV 11- 14 – Space 2018, Rennes, Francia, France www.space.fr

NOV 13 - 16 – EuroTier, Hannover, Germany www.eurotier.com/en

NOV 15 - 18 – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, Saint Paul, Minnesota, US www.ccaps.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, call 07 3286 1833 fax: 07 3821 2637, email: ben@porknews.com.au

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Energy and soils in focus

I'M pleased to advise that Australian Pork Limited now has a number of resources available to assist producers with understanding their environmental due diligence obligations.

For those who attended the Pan Pacific Pork Expo at the end of May, you might have seen these publications on display at APL's stand.

However, as many of you were unable to attend, I'll highlight these new resources that have culminated from our environmental R&D projects.

Understanding energy in pig production

Many producers were involved in the energy audit that was conducted on APL's behalf by the Energy Guys.

As electricity, fuel and gas prices have increased by 25-40 percent over the past few years in pig production areas, the need to reduce energy costs is high on the agenda of Australian pig producers.

The information and lessons learnt from this audit have now been published as a booklet.

This booklet contains details on how to monitor energy usage and provides key benchmarking data for lighting, heating, ventilation and pumping.

In addition, electricity tariffs and a series of case studies on biogas, boilers, LPG and solar energy are also presented.

Alternatives available to producers to reduce energy use include choosing the best tariff, managing power usage and considering alternate power sources.

Soil indicator guide

Sustainable soil management is a priority to the Australian pig industry and requires understanding of manure and effluent characteristics.

Application rates of nutrient-rich materials must be matched to soil requirements for agronomic and environmental goals.

All piggeries produce effluent and this can have a beneficial or harmful impact on soil health de-



by **HEATHER CHANNON**
Research and Innovation
General Manager



pending on how it is managed.

Growing crops in manure and effluent reuse areas removes nutrients from the soil.

However, the ratio of nutrients doesn't always match plant requirements and not all nutrients are available in the first year.

It is therefore important that clear information is available to enable producers to understand nutrient and soil interactions.

The soil indicator guide provides useful information on understanding and interpreting manure and effluent analysis results, as well as soil indicator results in manure and effluent reuse areas.

Also included are general soil indicators, agronomic soil indicators and environmental soil indicators.

Converting waste to revenue

Recent research into novel fertilisers and feeds has produced really interesting results from the University of Western Australia and the University of Queensland.

Stay tuned for more information about purple phototrophic bacteria and how it can potentially be used as a high-protein feedstock and the benefits of using digestate, compost and black stable fly castings as potential soil conditioners.

National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries

The third edition of the National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries is being published and will, very soon, be available both in hard copy and electronically via the APL website.

The NEGP provides siting and design guidance for indoor piggeries only, while the National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries provide similar guidance for outdoor piggeries.

This new edition includes updates based on the latest research and changes in acceptable design and management practices.

The NEGP provides information on topics including planning, site selection, separation and buffer distances, cleaner production, housing design and management, effluent management systems, reuse areas, nutrient content of effluent and manures, carcass disposal, monitoring, chemical storage and environmental management plans.

Extensive consultation with regulatory bodies, producers and consultants was undertaken throughout this review process.

Other media available for download from the APL website are the indoor and outdoor planning animations and the outdoor awareness program videos.

To order copies of these materials or to further discuss, please contact Denise Woods on Denise.Woods@australianpork.com.au or 0418 697 595.

2018/19 R&D proposals

The ability of the Australian pork industry to continue to innovate and address the myriad technical challenges we face is supported through investment in R&D.

This year's call for tender for R&D proposals has now closed.

A total of 39 submis-

sions were received, which indicates there is plenty of interest from the research community (some of whom we have not previously received proposals from!) to work with us to provide solutions and enable us all to keep abreast of new developments.

The areas included in this year's call for tender were:

- Revisiting technologies available to the Australian pork industry to improve production efficiencies;
- Reducing vaccine variability and improving efficacy;
- Precision livestock farming technologies – on-farm demonstration and industry implementation;
- Standardised methodology for testing effluent samples for NATA labs;
- Large-scale biogas to compressed natural gas;
- Net reporting tool to offset on-farm emissions;
- Small-scale biogas adoption;
- Small-scale syngas plant to use spent bedding; and
- Predictive shelf life tool for pork.

Australian Pork Industry Leadership Program

The first Australian pork industry leadership program is now under way, with the successful six applicants of the course being Tracy Anderson, Tristan Donaldson, Robert Hewitt, Andrea Dent, Hayden Stocks and Paul Ridgewell.

The judges for this program included APL Board representation, producers and consultants.

The first workshop was held on May 4-7 and was built around an outdoor experiential challenge, facilitated by Zoe Routh (Inner Compass).

All participants had extremely positive feedback, including that they gained more from the first workshop than they had anticipated!

Several participants attended the recent Delegates' Forum to learn the process and be more involved in industry decision making.

Planning is now under way for the second workshop, which will be held in Denmark in October.

• continued P3

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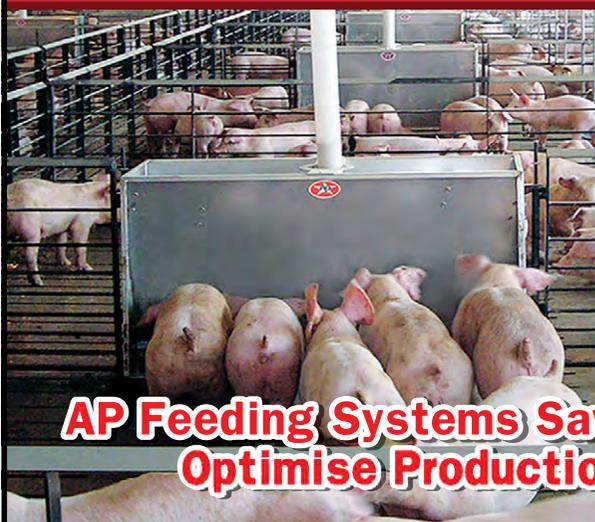
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Tough time to push productivity but no time like the present

IT was clear at the Australasian Pork Limited Delegates' Forum on the Gold Coast on May 29 that the industry crisis continues, with prices remaining low and still slipping, while grain and feed costs are heading north.

There was debate about the magnitude of the over-supply situation and when it may ease enough to positively affect price.

Estimates ranged, but many suggested it could run through to August next year.

I hope not.

Productivity pays

During times of plenty and like now, there is a tendency to forget about efficiency and productivity.

Also, while producing more pigs at such a time may seem like madness, let's not forget that more pigs sold per sow is one of the secrets to lower cost of production and sustainability.

Indeed, carcass weight sold per sow, per year is where the greatest opportunity exists for Australia to become more competitive.

On average, we sell about 1700kg per sow/year.

The US sells 2200kg and consequently has



Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL
CEO



much lower costs other than feed than we do.

Much of the difference is due to carcass weight, which is about 76kg here and 92kg in the US.

Heavy demand

While unlikely that we will ever get to 90kg, as the market demand here is markedly different, we may get to 80kg – the Brits did and they face a similar market situation to us.

Otherwise, we need to wean and sell more pigs per sow or do a bit of both.

Our best producers are weaning 11 and selling 24-25 per sow/year, so it can be done, with the right mix of superior genetics and good management.

Given our high grain and feed costs, the other factor we need to concentrate on is herd feed conversion.

We currently match the

rest of the world on HFC, which averaged 3.7 for our benchmarking group in 2016-17.

The best three herds reported HFC of 3.45.

The effects of these key business indicators across various scenarios on cost of production and breakeven price are

continued P4



Alice Weaver with Pork CRC CEO and Acting APRIL CEO Dr Roger Campbell after receiving the 2018 Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award at PPPE. Dr Weaver's University of Adelaide PhD was supported by Pork CRC and last year she was the first to be awarded an Industry Placement Program appointment under the SA Government's funding to Pork CRC.

Energy and soils in focus

from P2

Participants have been asked to provide a topic they would like to investigate further so the visit can be tailored based on these requests as each participant will be reporting back to industry about their learnings.

Opportunities arising from change – we bid farewell to Dr Pat Mitchell

Many of you will be aware (most likely through the pig industry's grapevine!) that Dr Pat Mitchell is leaving APL to take up a role with PIC Australia, with her last day being Friday, June 8.

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Pat for all her very significant (and too numerous!) achievements she has delivered on behalf of the Australian pork industry during her 10 years with APL.

Pat has always kept the producer as her primary focal point in all that she does – a critical legacy she leaves us with.

All of us in the R&I Division will greatly miss directly working with her and her 'can-do' attitude and we wish her every success in her new role.

Farewell, Pat!

I am also pleased to advise that I have been appointed General Manager of the R&I

Division and look forward to working with you all in my new capacity.

While talking about staff changes, Ashley Norval will commence her Masters/PhD through the University of Copenhagen over a four-year period commencing in mid-July.

Her studies will focus on using recent advances in adult learning to develop new and effective training strategies for stockpeople in the pig industry to drive the adoption of new technologies on-farm, while minimising productivity losses.

Her outcomes will certainly be of high relevance to the Australian pork industry.

Ashley's studies will require her to be located in Denmark for about eight months each year, returning to Australia for around four months.

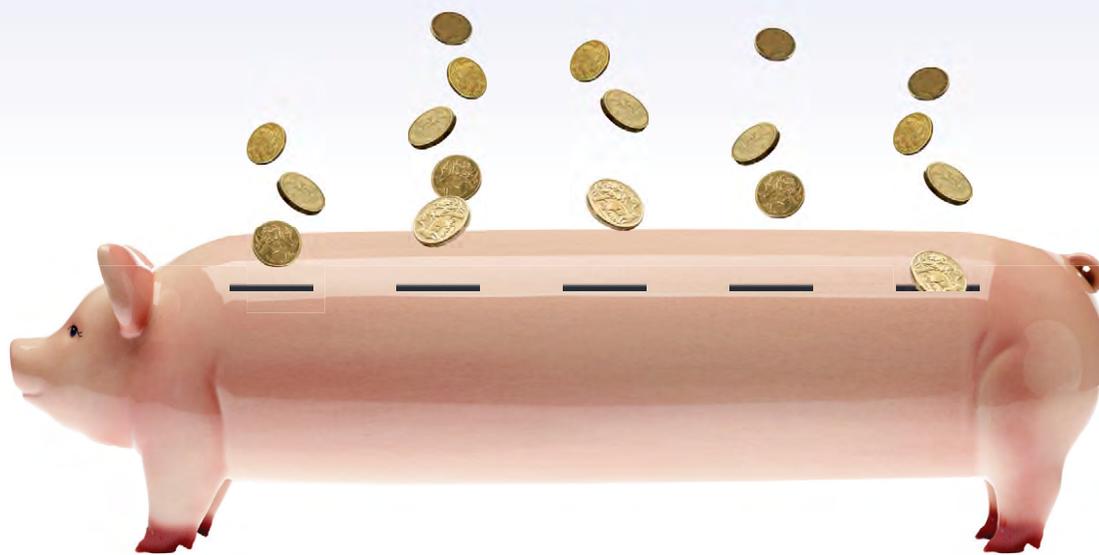
Ashley will not be leaving APL entirely – we are finalising arrangements for her to manage the industry's benchmarking program and oversee the industry's leadership initiatives.

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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Tough time to push productivity but no time like now

from P3

shown in Table 1.

I have assumed a feed cost of \$400/tonne in all scenarios.

Many herds are operating to the left of Table 1 and to become more sustainable, we need more to move to the right.

Plenty of producers are operating between scenarios five and six and heading for seven and maybe beyond.

Technology and know-how exists and researchers continue to seek advances in reproduction and feed efficiency.

Clearly, those to the right will weather the current crisis best and come out of it quicker than those operating to the left.

All need to move right in the short to medium term.

COP this

It is interesting to look at the sensitivity of COP to the different indicators.

For every extra pig sold/sow/year, COP improves by 5 cents/kg.

For every 1kg increase in carcass weight, COP improves by 1.5 cents.

While this doesn't seem much, it's easier to add 4kg (6 cents) than get an extra pig to market and we really need to do both.

For every 0.1 unit change in HFC, COP changes 4 cents and all three are additive.

Increasing volume also reduces HFC, so a double whammy on COP.

This is shown for pigs sold in Table 2 with feed at \$400/tonne and carcass weight at 75kg.

Costs other than feed vary across the industry and seem considerably lower for Sarah Willis's Queensland benchmarking group (\$1.04) than Pork CRC's benchmarking group (\$1.30), which has participants from every state.

There are plenty of ways to skin the cat, but remember productivity pays.

To be sustainable in a globally competitive industry, we need to get COP near \$2.40.

It does not mean you sell more pigs per year, but can achieve budgeted numbers with fewer

sows and at lower cost, while enhancing flexibility within the business and giving you a better chance of being a long-term player.

If you are cutting back matings, ensure it is the less-productive sows that exit the herd – every herd has 40-50 percent of these.

The best Australian herd in our benchmarking project in 2016-17 sold 26 pigs/sow/year, had a carcass weight of 84kg and HFC of 3.54.

It can and needs to be done.

Otherwise, I wish you all the best in these difficult times and hope the situation turns around sooner rather than later.

Weaver award

I was delighted on the first day of the 2018 Pan Pacific Pork Expo to see Alice Weaver receive the prestigious Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award.

Her PhD ('Effect of lactation and boar exposure immediately post-partum on ovarian function and expression of oestrus') at the University of Ad-

elaide under Dr Will van Wettere was supported by Pork CRC and last year Alice was the first person to be awarded an Industry Placement Program appointment under the South Australian Government's funding to Pork CRC.

These days Dr Weaver is research officer at the Braun family's Myora Farm at Mount Gambier, SA, where she is responsible for the piggery's research and development activities.

It also made me very proud to hear 2016 Ron Collins Award winner Rebecca Athorn, also a Pork CRC IPP and PhD, address PPPE prior to the announcement of Alice's success.

As part of her IPP, Rebecca enjoyed five months in Canada assessing the genomic aspects of lactational oestrus in primiparous sows with Prof George Foxcroft on a collaborative study between SARDI, Pork CRC and University of Alberta.

We now have something like 28 Pork CRC post-graduates, post-docs and IPPs employed in the industry.

Many are inspirational and all are giving back to the industry that has helped them on their way to big, bright futures.

These capable, smart young people are sharing the rough ride the industry is experiencing right now, but with their youthful enthusiasm, uncluttered by old baggage, they just might help us clear a path so we can all ride into a better future.

Let's hope so.
www.porkcrc.com.au

KPI/Scenario	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HFC	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4
Pigs sold/sow/y	20	22	22	24	24	25	26
Carcass weight (kg)	75	75	75	75	80	80	80
COP (\$/kg)	2.81	2.69	2.61	2.51	2.44	2.40	2.34
Breakeven	2.89	2.77	2.68	2.59	2.52	2.48	2.42

Table 1

Pigs sold	Costs other than feed (\$/kg)	HFC	COP
20	1.33	3.70	2.81
22	1.21	3.63	2.66
24	1.11	3.57	2.54
26	1.03	3.52	2.43

Table 2: Impact of pigs sold/sow/year on COP.



Well worth a read if wanting to understand more about pigs and us.

Waste not, want not

HAVING last month briefly referred to archaeologist Dr Pia Spry-Marques and her fascinating 2017 book *Pig/Pork Archaeology, Zoology and Edibility*, I thought I'd share a little more.

Pia's research originally took her across Europe and across time, from the late Iron Age back to the Ice Ages, when she identified, classified and decoded what was meant by animal remains in human-associated deposits.

Having tentatively touched on the sensitive topic of how best to handle food waste in May's column and, dare I say it, how feeding recycled, treated food scraps to our pigs needs more debate, I thought I'd delve a little deeper into one of Pia's chapters, appropriately titled 'Food waste and modern farming' to see what she had to say.

With exorbitantly high grain prices being experienced by Australian pork producers right now, coupled with low pig prices due to oversupply, I'm sure talk of alternative feed sources, even just supplementary, would be on the lips of many, albeit swill feeding is not only a prohibited pig feed but pretty much a prohibited subject.

Anyway, let's see what Pia touched on.

She says researchers are trying to come up with the most efficient (and law abiding) ways of turning food waste into nutritious and compact feed for pigs.

A number of projects in the US, for example, aim to advance dehydration technologies so voluminous restaurant waste can be transformed into tightly packed dry feed.

She reveals that research by Prof Robert Myer and his team at University of Florida has looked at the nutritional composition, digestibility and other health and safety assess-



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

ments of this kind of feed. One of their studies involved collecting 500kg of food thrown away by two Florida resort hotels and then blending it and drying it at 170-190C before mixing with soybean feedstock.

Nutritional analysis showed it to be moderately high in protein, high in fat and relatively low in fibre – all desirable pig feed qualities.

The concoction was fed to finishers.

Prof Myer and his team concluded that dehydrating food waste produced a safe, nutritious feed, provided it was heat treated appropriately and met requirements of the 1980 Swine Health Protection Act.

Anyway, in an exciting development on the food waste front a lot closer to home, I was delighted to hear Minister for Jobs and Innovation Michaelia Cash and Assistant Minister for Science, Jobs and Innovation Zed Seselja recently announce that the Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre had successfully attracted \$30 million in funding from the CRC program to

form an overall resource pool of \$133 million over 10 years.

The CRC will commence on July 1, 2018.

It is estimated that Australian households throw away almost \$4000 worth of unused food each year.

The Fight Food Waste CRC will support industry-led collaborations between researchers, industry and the community to address the issue of food waste and help the Government fulfil its National Food Waste Strategy commitment to halve food waste in Australia.

Senator Cash said the new CRC had great potential to deliver economic and social benefits: "As the Australian Government's longest-running grant program, the CRC program is at the heart of our efforts to bring researchers and industry together to focus on solving industry-related problems."

Senator Seselja said the CRC program had a proven track record in delivering tangible benefits for industry and the community: "It continues to be central to the Government's commitment to improving the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of Australian industries and this funding will be used to identify opportunities and solutions to reduce food wastage from paddock to plate."

Dr Steve Lapidge, Director of Food Safety & Innovation at SARDI and Deputy Chair of PIRSA's Food Innovation Taskforce, was the Bid Leader and is Interim CEO of Fight Food Waste CRC.

While I'm not sure if the new CRC's remit will cover ways and means of generating livestock feed from food wastage, I can only imagine (and hope) that it would.

Meanwhile, let's keep our trotters crossed on the food waste front.

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- A sound knowledge of what is required to work in and operate a modern nucleus herd production facility, including overseeing the operation of a gene transfer centre
- Be able to meet and exceed company production targets and KPIs
- Have exceptional stockperson skills and the ability to apply the highest animal welfare standards expected by the business
- Demonstrate the ability to work in a team-based environment and motivate and direct staff accordingly
- The ability to be proactive and innovative
- The ability to apply mandatory WHS and QA standards required by the business
- Certificate IV or higher in Agriculture or at least 5 years relevant work place experience would be highly regarded.

Expressions of interest should be emailed, with attached resume to:
Richard Evison richard.evison@westpork.com.au

The power of relationships

THESE tough and, for some, desperate times must cause us all to take a minute to consider what matters to us.

For some, that's helping others.

Westpork in Western Australia and SA Pork in South Australia have both taken proactive stances to provide donations of pork to charities.

This is a demonstration that while the plight of producers is bad, there are others suffering who need help too and we can play a role.

This also strengthens our industry's relationship with our communities.

And our relationships can also help us promote pork.

A couple of weeks ago, we sent all Australian Pork Limited members a cookbook by email and asked them to send it on to all their contacts.

At the Delegates' Forum, it was suggested that we should be doing this every week, which is a good idea.

What we didn't say at



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



the time is all the recipes on pork.com.au are shareable directly from the website to Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and by email.

So, all of us – including producers, vets, feed suppliers, equipment suppliers and employees – can help drive pork demand by sharing recipe inspiration.

In business, sometimes the cold hard facts are most important and in others relationships drive business.

The PorkStar team, led by Mitch Edwards, are experts at building relationships with chefs.

At the Pan Pacific Pork Expo on the Gold Coast, the PorkStar team got two of Australia's most recognisable chefs, Colin Fassnidge and Manu Feildel, to come and support pig producers in this tough time.

Both men did not charge

the fees they would normally, driven by that relationship with PorkStar and because they recognise there are people to whom they can 'give back'.

You can see the appeals they have made on Instagram at [instagram.com/p/BjYoMxJF6Zv](https://www.instagram.com/p/BjYoMxJF6Zv) and [instagram.com/p/BjYr7G3AwiD](https://www.instagram.com/p/BjYr7G3AwiD)

The next relationship we should touch on is the relationship between advertising and sales.

We have written before that the APL advertising strategy is always aggressive: our ads are on almost continuously.

One of the learnings from 2017 was we need to find better ways of forecasting.

We first focused on supply forecasting and Kathleen Pindsle, our Insights Manager, has focused on demand forecasting.

This has taken all our

sales data and calculated what are the most powerful drivers of sales.

It seems long-term factors such as population growth and the trend towards white meat and away from red meat are building sales most, while the second most powerful driver is consumer price (relative to other meat) and the third most is APL's spend on advertising.

At present, the most important relationships are those within our pig industry, particularly for producers who are finding these times desperate.

At the producers' meeting held at PPPE we saw a couple of outstanding examples of producers helping other producers when a situation became almost impossible.

In addition to these inspiring stories, the point was made that we all should take the 10 minutes to give our neighbours a call and check that they are OK.

Most of the producers I know are stoic and won't tell you they have a problem unless they are asked (and maybe not even then).

We can at least try to get the individuals who need support the expert advice they need.

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New wastewater pumps from Gorman-Rupp

GORMAN-Rupp, the world leader in solids-handling, self-priming centrifugal pumps, has released the most advanced pump for handling solids-laden liquids according to Australian distributor Hydro Innovations.

Called the Eradicator Solids Management System, the technology is ideal for the challenges facing wastewater pumps, including the handling of stringy solids such as rags, feathers and twine, which find their way into meat processing plant wastewater systems.

The new system comes as an option on the Gorman-Rupp range of Super T series pumps, and is also available as an upgrade kit on existing Super T pumps already in the field.

The Eradicator system features an aggressive self-cleaning wear plate incorporating a number of notches and grooves, as well as a patent pending lacerating tooth that helps break up stringy materials, scrape them off the impeller vanes and pass them through the pump – all without impacting performance or interrupting service.

A special cover plate with the system includes a smaller, patented lightweight inspection

cover that can easily be removed if necessary to inspect pump internals.

System benefits include improved operational efficiency, increased uptime, reduced maintenance costs, lower lifecycle costs and easier access to the impeller.

Operators will also find the lighter cover plate is easier and safer to work with.

Eradicator-equipped pumps do not require expensive chopper blades that need periodic replacement, but rely on passing large solids and stringy materials straight through the pump.

The system is available with carbon steel or hardened alloy steel wear plates.

Pumps can handle flows from 5l/s through to 200l/s and heads to 45m, and Gorman-Rupp Super T pumps are able to be mounted high and dry above the wastewater (up to 7.6m), so operators gain easy access without the need for cranes or other lifting devices.

More information on these pumps and the Eradicator system can be obtained from Hydro Innovations at info@hydroinnovations.com.au or by calling 02 9898 1800.



Tough times to continue

PRODUCERS are urged to consider their finances and opportunities for support as many face challenging times due to the depressed market for pig meat combined with high feed costs.

While producers draw on reserves from better times, Queensland producers face the highest feed costs in Australia and nothing looks like changing any time soon!

Pork Queensland Inc, supported by Australian Pork Limited and a Queensland pork farmer, met with senior Queensland Department of Agriculture heads to discuss the industry crisis.

The department was asked to consider any opportunity to reduce costs to producers as it appears the lack of profitability will last for a significant longer period, perhaps 12 to 18 months, and thus impact the sustainability of many producers.

I am aware of three who have left the industry and another three in dire straits, plus a significant number who have reduced or stopped mating.

These are tough times. As such and before adverse action is taken by suppliers of feed and other services, producers are urged to review their financial support and contact their banks or financial consultants and institutions for advice on restructuring farm debt.

The key message is: act now!

The following government programs may be of assistance to producers, their families and staff.

Farm household assistance

The allowance provides up to three years of income support for farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship.

Basic eligibility requirements are to:

- Be a farmer or the partner of a farmer;
- Meet an income and assets test;
- Be willing to undertake a farm financial assessment; and
- Be willing to enter into a financial improvement agreement to help improve your financial circumstances.

Phone 132 316 or visit humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance

Alternatively, call 1800 623 946 or visit qrda.qld.gov.au

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provides these references as a first point of call.

Call now as QRIDA is aware of the difficult times for the pork industry, its farmers and families and can help with applications.

Contact Brendan Egan on 0428 909 246 for support.

Here's a brief overview of some key QRIDA programs that may be of interest to producers:

- Farm Management Grants – can assist eligible Queensland primary producers or their relatives to offset the costs of

www.porknews.com.au

pork
QUEENSLAND INC.

President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



professional advice associated with succession planning. It's a rebate up to \$2500 per annum, per person.

• First Start loan scheme – low-interest loans up to \$2 million to assist young people to buy property from their parents or other family members, or enter a family partnership. The current one-year fixed rate on these PIPES loans is 3.2 percent.

• Sustainability loan scheme – low-interest loans up to \$1,300,000 to assist existing primary producers achieve a more productive and sustainable primary production enterprise. Indeed, the one PIPES loan approved this year for a pig producer in the North Burnett went towards construction and fit-out of a new grower shed facility focused on boosting productivity.

QRIDA also de-

livers natural disaster, drought and business improvement assistance on behalf of state and federal governments.

In addition, QRIDA now provides a suite of farm debt services including the Farm Debt Restructure Office (new offering since January 1), the mandatory Farm Business Debt Mediation program and the Queensland Rural Debt Survey.

For personal and family anxieties that result from the financial impacts, producers can contact Beyondblue (1300 224 636; beyondblue.org.au), Country Callback (1800 543 354; countrycallback.com.au) and Lifeline (13 11 14; lifeline.org.au).

If you just want to have a chat about the support options, call me on 0407 622 166. ☎



AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED

POSITION VACANT

Manager – Animal Health and Welfare

A challenging and exciting opportunity exists for a Manager, Animal Health and Welfare to join Australian Pork Limited's (APL) Research & Innovation (R&I) Division.

This permanent, full time position involves the management and further development of APL's animal health and welfare R&D portfolio, in keeping with APL's Strategic Plan and dissemination of the research outcomes to industry stakeholders. It includes all aspects of APL's research, development and extension (RD&E) activities to support continuous improvement in pig health and welfare, industry uptake of antimicrobial stewardship practices and oversee the industry's defence against biosecurity threats.

To be successful in this role you will:

- have a degree in Veterinary Science, Agricultural Science or a related discipline; post-graduate qualifications will be preferred
- have a strong practical knowledge of all aspects of pig production
- have experience in managing research projects and communicating their outcomes to a varied stakeholder base
- have a demonstrated ability to write and review technical reports
- identify potential RD&E projects
- identify opportunities and assist with preparing submissions for external funding of projects addressing APL's RD&E priorities
- have excellent verbal and written communication skills, and
- have experience in managing portfolio budgets.

Remuneration will be negotiated commensurate with experience.

For further information and a copy of the position description, contact Heather Channon, General Manager, Research & Innovation on heather.channon@australianpork.com.au or mobile 0423 056 045.

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APRIL advises pork research approvals

A FIRST call by Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited for research to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australasian pork industry has resulted in 14 proposals being funded to a value of almost one million dollars.

All successful proposals included a 20-25 percent cash contribution from applicants, giving a total cash budget for the first round of about \$1.2 million.

At its April 23 meeting, the APRIL Board also approved \$100,000 for education in 2018/19, which will support an Industry Placement Program, similar to that successfully initiated in Pork CRC, as well as top up postgraduate scholarships and honours projects.

The first APRIL honours project has been approved at University of Melbourne.

According to APRIL Interim CEO Roger Campbell, most R&D proposals were recommended with modification and all applicants have been advised.

"The research portfolio contains very innovative proposals and provides APRIL

with an exciting and positive start, with the first results expected within 12 to 18 months," Dr Campbell said.

The objective was to minimise any disruption to R&D and training activity in 2018-19 following completion of Pork CRC's investment in R&D in 2017-18.

Among the successful APRIL proposals were very innovative projects on reducing antimicrobial resistance and better understanding the gut microbiome in animal health and performance, and a couple on novel diagnostics and remote monitoring pig health.

"There were also some potential system-changing projects on improving reproduction and two on better understanding the capabilities of modern Australian genotypes and manipulating carcass fatness and improving feed efficiency," Dr Campbell said.

Dr Campbell noted APRIL was disappointed at the lack of proposals covering reduction of feed costs, enhancing feed efficiency and manipulating carcass fatness.

The APRIL Board and management would therefore

attempt to address these in the shorter term via a call for innovation proposals and in the longer term through discussions with relevant researchers and research groups.

Dr Campbell thanked all who submitted proposals and said their contributions would help sharpen researcher focus on APRIL priorities and industry needs and likely lead to more directed proposals in future investment rounds.

"I also thank members of the APRIL R&D Committee and the 75 or so reviewers involved in the process," he said.

"The time frame was tight but all went very smoothly."

APRIL's inaugural Education Committee comprises Prof Frank Dunshea (Chair), University of Melbourne; Prof John Pluske, Murdoch University; Dr Eugeni Roura, University of Queensland; Dr Darryl D'Souza, SunPork; Dr Rob Smits, Rivalea; Ms Heather Channon, Australian Pork Limited; and Dr Charles Rikard-Bell, Pork CRC.

APRIL, which replaces the Cooperative Research Centre for High Integrity Australian Pork, is fully member based with a budget in 2018-19 approaching \$3 million.

APRIL is actively seeking new science and creative new ideas for its three programs, which cover resilience, cost and return on assets.

www.APRI.com.au



Borrowdale Free Range Pork's Jamie Ferguson, Dave Harrison from St Bernard's and Richard Evison from Westpork after the Steak Your Claim presentation at the Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

Borrowdale Free Range Pork 'steaks its claim' as the best in Australia

BORROWDALE Free Range Pork has been named the winner of the 2018 'Steak Your Claim' competition.

The annual competition, run by industry peak body Australian Pork Limited, aims to discover the nation's best pork steak.

The pork loin steaks were expertly assessed in 'blind' judging according to very specific criteria.

The winner was judged on colour, visual appeal, marbling of the raw product, aroma, flavour, juiciness and texture.

Borrowdale Free Range Pork marketing manager Paul da Silva said, "The fact that Borrowdale Pork won the 2018 Steak Your Claim competition proves the effectiveness of using the highest standards of ethical production.

"The result is the superior flavour and tenderness of pork that is all perfectly natural.

"Borrowdale's winning entry was just part of our regular weekly production.

"It's great that it reflects the brand's mission for everyday consumers to rediscover the real taste of pork.

"Borrowdale customers are all enjoying the best pork on offer."

APL General Manager of Marketing Peter Haydon said, "Australians' appetite for pork continues to grow, and our farmers are continually looking to improve their already high-quality product."

"This competition seeks to find a really special product, and producers have responded by looking at different breeds and feeds to deliver a stunning pork steak."

The award-winning Borrowdale Pork comes from the Ladner family of free range pig farming pioneers based in Goondiwindi, on Queensland's fertile Darling Downs.

Their trademark low-stress animal husbandry practices and trusted CEFN Genetics make Borrowdale such succulent, tender and all-natural pork.

Borrowdale Free Range Pork is supplied to leading butchers and restaurants in Australia, including Dinner by Heston Blumenthal in Melbourne and Quay in Sydney.

Borrowdale is also exported to Singapore and Hong Kong.

Placing second in the Steak Your Claim competition was Westpork of Western Australia, while NSW's St Bernard's Free Range Pork came third.



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Biological control of intestinal parasites

A NEW Australian product on the cutting edge of scientific innovation could become a billion-dollar game-changer on a global scale for agriculture by eliminating the losses graziers face from intestinal parasites.

BioWorma is a biological worm control product that saves graziers time and money, both through limiting stock losses and also reducing the need for chemical drenches for pigs, cattle, sheep, goats and horses.

BioWorma uses a natural strain of fungus – duddingtonia flagrans – which seeks out and traps the larvae of parasites such as barber's pole worms, brown stomach worms, black scour worms and threadworms.

It acts by substantially reducing the numbers of

infective worm larvae (including multi-resistant larvae) emerging from manure onto pasture.

When fed to animals, the thick-walled spores remain inert (having no effect within the host animal) and resist digestion, passing through into the manure.

There they germinate and form trapping organs that capture, paralyse and consume emerging infective worm larvae (including multi-resistant larvae).

The spores are safe, non-toxic and residue-free.

Head of International Animal Health Products Chris Lawlor said it is using nature to fight nature, rather than chemicals to fight nature.

BioWorma is the result of over 20 years of painstaking scientific study and innovation, creating

a product that is the first of its kind, anywhere in the world.

Drenches currently used to fight intestinal parasites will be supported by BioWorma in reducing re-infestation onto pasture.

Mr Lawlor said BioWorma was in a class of its own.

"It does more than just barber's pole, and it does more than just sheep... it's in a new class," he said.

Mr Lawlor was first contacted about developing a fungal product to combat worms all the way back in 1997 by the CSIRO.

The idea immediately appealed to him as an opportunity for Australian agriculture to be ahead of the curve.

"Globally, the losses from parasites would be a billion dollars or more... so I didn't want to see this get developed overseas and then see Australian farmers having to buy it back," he said.

"It was something that had never been done before, so there was no rule book."

The next two decades involved 19 trials and three different safety studies, testing for everything

from environmental effects, toxicology and residues through to the simple questions of how to harvest thousands of tonnes of duddingtonia flagrans spores, and how to feed it to the livestock in a known dosage to then test the manure for the number of larvae remaining.

Mr Lawlor said there was rigorous testing to make sure the product was safe for farmers to handle, as well as safe for the livestock, the environment and even for earthworms and dung beetles in the soil.

Given that BioWorma works through interrupting the crucial re-infestation stage of the parasites' life cycle and reducing the amount of re-infection from contaminated pasture, Mr Lawlor said it works best when the livestock are moved onto fresh pasture.

"The product works particularly well within a rotational grazing system."

BioWorma is about to be approved for sale in Australia and New Zealand, and Mr Lawlor said it will be available in the US shortly and Europe within the next year or two.

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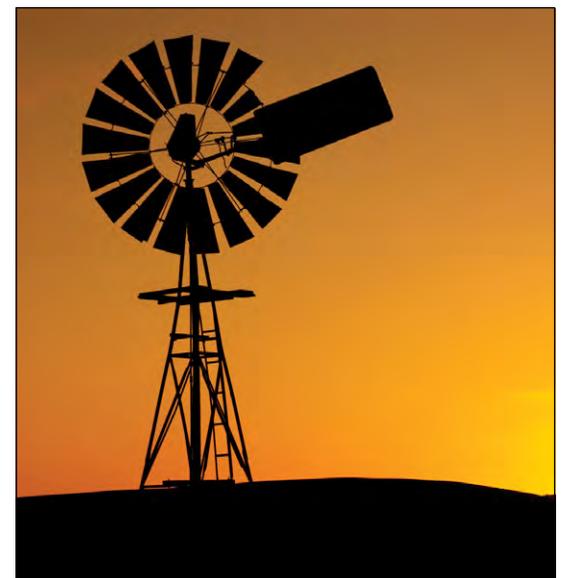
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Aussie farming jobs to boom by 2024

IT'S a great time to train for a career in agriculture, according to a study by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud welcomed the findings, which list managerial jobs, including farm managers, as the sector that will have the second-most number of job openings by 2024 – 10,100 per year or almost 81,000 total.

"The future looks bright for a job in agriculture," Minister Littleproud said.

"Farmers are the backbone of our regional communities, supporting local jobs and the social fabric of our towns.

"As farming gets more mechanised, so will the associated jobs.

"People with IT expertise, business savvy and specialised skills will be more and more in demand in and around farms.

"Farmers have always

been natural innovators, and advances in science, drones and smart devices are now playing key roles in making our farms more efficient and profitable.

"The good news is innovation and technology look set to create more jobs on our farms, not less."

The Government is working with industry to ensure full advantage is taken of these job opportunities, investing in research and development to improve farmgate productivity and profitability.

"Through our free-trade agreements we are also opening up new markets for our produce, creating more jobs and helping to lift our agriculture sector towards being a \$100 billion industry by 2030," Minister Littleproud said.

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research report can be accessed at ncver.edu.au

www.porknews.com.au

Pork wars – what do global trade tensions mean for Australian industry?

THE possibility of a trade war between China and the US is all over the news.

Though it's not certain if measures have yet been implemented, pork has been identified as a key target in the dispute.

If Trump's promised trade war eventuates, what will be the effect on world pork markets?

Australian Pork Limited has been watching this closely and trying to anticipate the impact on Australia's pork sector under a range of possible scenarios.

To recap – President Trump was elected promising to address the trade imbalance between the US and China, call out China's unfair trade practices and strengthen domestic industry.

In March 2018, the US Government announced plans to impose tariff duties on imported steel and aluminium.

This move was interpreted as targeting China specifically, and Beijing responded with increased tariffs of its own.

These tariffs would apply only to US-originating products, including a 25 percent increase to tariffs levied on pork.

The next day, the US doubled down with a list of China-specific tariffs on 1300 imported products worth \$US50 billion.

Only a few hours later, China published a corresponding list of tariffs on 106 US-originating prod-

ucts covering a similar value of imports.

This list included a proposed 25 percent tariff on soybeans, which is by far the largest agricultural commodity exported by the US to China, representing 60 percent of overall agricultural export value.

President Trump has asked his administration to come up with yet another list of \$US100 billion in Chinese imports to hit with tariffs in response.

So, things appear to have escalated quickly.

We hear China has begun to implement the promised tariffs on pork.

In relation to the soybean tariffs, China's Ministry of Commerce has said they would only take effect after the corresponding US measures were implemented.

At this point, the tariff announcements can be seen as a series of threats forming the backdrop for some hard-headed negotiations between Wash-



by **ANDREW ROBERTSON**
Senior Policy Analyst

ington and Beijing.

Senior officials from both sides are frantically engaged in talks.

Washington wants China to exercise some self-restraint in exporting to the US to reduce excess capacity in steel production, to grant reciprocal access for US investment in China, and to cease practices the US views as unfairly acquiring American technology.

Perhaps the two sides can clinch a deal – this is Trump's self-proclaimed forte, after all.

But if they can't, then we enter the unknown.

China is levying an additional 25 percent duty on all imported American frozen and chilled pork cuts, carcasses and offal.

The new tax greatly impairs US competitiveness in the China market, with Rabobank – a leading agricultural finance company – predicting that US exports of pork to mainland China could drop from an expected 300,000 tonnes in 2018 to as little

as 120,000 tonnes.

A question on the minds of many Australian pork producers is: where does all that extra product go?

Could it end up dumped in our market?

Let's remember that about half of US pork exports to China are offal.

So, we'll assume this product will not end up in Australia, no matter how cheap.

That leaves us with a theoretical volume of about 60,000 tonnes.

Most analysts think the US domestic market should be able to absorb most of this excess volume after discounting.

The Economist magazine has predicted US hog prices will drop by \$US6-8 per pig if the tariff is implemented.

If we then consider export markets to take up the remainder, there are other candidates, closer to the US, with stronger domestic pork prices (that are more attractive to exports).

For example, Mexico and Japan, the largest US pork customers by volume and value, respectively, are both well-placed to take on some additional US supply, as both markets have been performing well.

We conclude that the likelihood of an overwhelming surge of cheap US pork finding its way to Australian shores due to Chinese tariffs is small.

Having said that, there will likely be an impact

on global prices, and that might have indirect effects for Australia.

On the other hand, some Australian agricultural commodity exporters have expressed cautious optimism over the prospect of a trade war.

They believe it might improve their position in China relative to the US.

Australian wine, dried fruit and nuts, and some grains and pulses, all stand to gain market share against US competitors in China.

Australian pork, however, is unable to capitalise on any similar opportunity due to the absence of export protocols with China.

This means there is no immediate benefit for Australian pork from the lowered competitiveness of US-originating product in China.

Most analysts expect any gaps in that market will be filled by increased EU and Latin American supply in short order.

Longer term, the trade tensions will encourage China to accelerate its process of diversifying trade relationships to avoid reliance on any one partner – especially one that seems increasingly erratic.

This could provide additional incentive for China to accept Australia's market access request for pork.

Overshadowing this, unfortunately, is the political relationship between Can-

berra and Beijing.

There is little prospect for accelerated progress on any significant bilateral initiatives in the current climate.

APL is not expecting any sudden impact on the domestic pork market if an actual China-US trade war materialises.

There may be some downward pressure on global prices, but we assess the risk of a flood of cheap American imports being diverted to Australia as a result of tariff increases to be low.

Likewise, we do not expect any significant movement on our China market access request related to these events.

But we need to be vigilant.

These are very uncertain times in global trade, and Australia must be prepared to overcome any challenges that head our way.

This is one reason why APL is increasing our efforts to address structural problems in Australia's trade remedies system.

Anti-dumping investigations and countervailing duties are one mechanism

by which Australian industries can be defended against sudden waves of under-priced, imported goods.

But the record of this system in preventing harm to primary producers is not good because – for legalistically technical reasons – most farmers are excluded from seeking an anti-dumping investigation.

APL has long believed this system to operate unfairly, providing assurance to manufacturing, while leaving farmers exposed.

Together with the National Farmers' Federation, APL has asked the International Trade Remedies Forum (which oversees the anti-dumping system) to review the relevant legislation with a view to opening access to anti-dumping investigations for farmers.

Developments in the global trade environment underscore the urgency of addressing this issue.

My second article in this month's APN 'Making Australia's anti-dumping system work for farmers' provides more background on this initiative.



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Making Australia's anti-dumping system work for farmers

THE presence in our market of subsidised pork from overseas is a longstanding concern of Australian pig farmers.

Our producers do not benefit from subsidies or direct support programs, so why should we have to compete with imported product that has received government support in its country of origin?

It's just not fair. When these products are sold in Australia at prices below those of the home market, the product is deemed to have been 'dumped' – and the consequences can be severe for local producers.

Australia's anti-dumping system has been set up to provide relief to local industries that have been injured by dumped imported product.

The government can, if dumping has been deemed to have occurred, levy additional taxes or apply other measures in response to the dumped product.

The World Trade Organization's Anti-Dumping Agreement provides the basic framework for Australia's domestic anti-dumping arrangements, setting some guidelines around how to identify

dumping and which countermeasures can be used.

But beyond this, every market maintains its own set of anti-dumping rules, with specific methodologies to identify and measure dumping and the extent of injury to local industries.

When an Australian industry believes it is being injured by dumped overseas product, it can request the Australian Anti-Dumping Commission initiate an investigation.

Recently, the steel industry has been very active (and successful) in requesting anti-dumping relief.

The investigations and actions are targeting mainly Asian suppliers that have subsidised their way to massive over-pro-



by **ANDREW ROBERTSON**
Senior Policy Analyst



dustry that makes the exact same product (middles and/or legs) is eligible to apply for anti-dumping relief.

As pig producers do not technically manufacture middles and/or legs, they produce full pigs, it is the processors that are recognised as the Australian industry that produces the same product.

Pig farmers are excluded from forming part of the affected industry under the current arrangements.

Obviously, the idea that pig farmers are not part of the industry that produces pork cuts is nonsense, but that is the way the system works.

To compound the problem, the very processors eligible to seek relief from dumped products are the least likely to be damaged by them, as 1) they are importing the cheap products themselves for use; and 2) they can pass on any depressed prices to the Australian farmers.

APL has been aware of and frustrated by this problem for many years.

Our previous attempts to apply on behalf of industry for anti-dumping investigations into subsidised products from Europe and America have been stymied before they could even begin, as our producers are not seen as having any standing in the matter.

I made this point clear to Mr Dale Seymour, the Anti-Dumping Commissioner, when he spoke to pig producers in Toowoomba in March this year.

Mr Seymour told that group he agreed there were structural problems with the system that disadvantaged Australia's primary producers. As a result of this meeting, APL asked the National Farmers' Federation, through its membership on the International Trade Remedies Forum (a body that advises government on anti-dumping policy), to seek a review of the definitions of primary industries that are eligible to apply for anti-dumping relief.

The purpose of this review is to confirm the flaw in the governing legislation and recommend measures to address it. APL believes this will enhance the fairness of the system, providing avenues for the wider agricultural sector to access reasonable and appropriate trade remedies.

APL's discussion paper on the proposed review is currently under consideration by the Forum. We will keep you updated as it progresses. But it is important to note that even if we are successful in changing the legislation or its interpretation, that is not a guaranteed pathway to anti-dumping relief.

Indeed, it only means we are eligible to request the ADC commence an investigation. The results of any anti-dumping investigation are another matter altogether.

Only the domestic in-

duction, creating a need for excess steel products to be removed from their markets.

The dumped steel ends up in markets like Australia, causing great harm to local manufacturers.

Many pig producers believe the Australian pork industry has been injured by dumped product from North America and Europe – and they may be right – but they wonder why Australian Pork Limited has not sought to initiate an anti-dumping investigation.

The reason is that, under the current interpretation of the legislation enabling Australia's anti-dumping system, the pig production industry is not the same industry being affected by dumped pork products.

Seems counterintuitive, right? But let me unpack how the thinking works. Let's say Australia is importing pork middles and legs from Europe at dumped prices.

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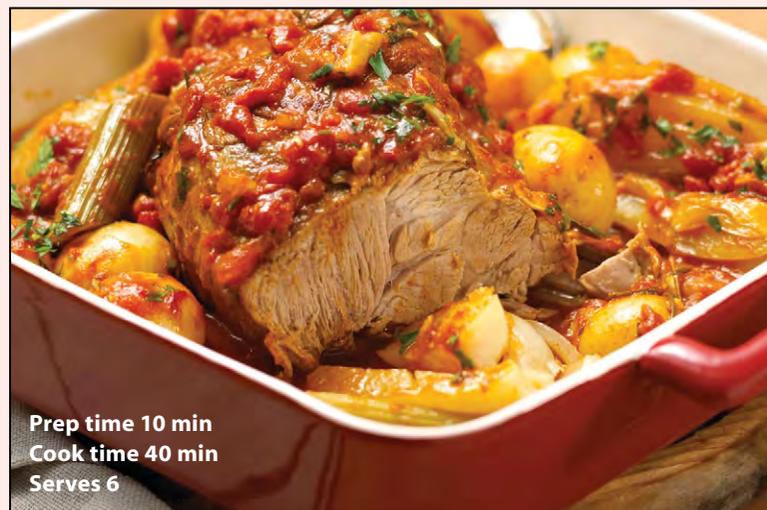
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Recipe



Prep time 10 min
Cook time 40 min
Serves 6

Italian pot roasted pork scotch with potato fennel and tomato

INGREDIENTS

- 1.5-1.8kg pork scotch roast, trimmed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, halved
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 400g can tomatoes, diced
- 1 cup white wine or chicken stock
- 3 bulbs fennel, washed and halved
- 10 chat potatoes, halved
- Chopped parsley to serve

METHOD

1. Trim pork roast well and season with salt and pepper.
2. Heat oil in a large deep pan over

medium heat and add the garlic to the pan. Brown the pork roast well on each side.

3. Add the herbs to the pan along with the tomatoes and white wine. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook covered for 20 minutes.

4. Remove lid and turn roast, add the fennel bulbs and potatoes to the pot cover and cook for a further 20-25 minutes until potatoes are tender.

5. Remove roast and allow to rest prior to slicing. Serve with fennel and potatoes and a little of the cooking liquid. Garnished with finely chopped parsley and crusty bread.

For more pork recipes, visit pork.com.au

Ingot Check the rolled gold of feed grain checks

WITH grain the major and costly ingredient in pig diets and contributing much of the dietary energy, Australian pork producers are increasingly demanding that grains they feed have been accurately measured for their available digestible energy.

According to Pork CRC Commercialisation and Research Impact Manager Charles Rikard-Bell, this is particularly the case today, with a megajoule of digestible energy worth \$20 to \$35, depending on the grain price.

“This is why AusScan’s pig faecal DE calibration, which predicts the DE of cereal grains with an accuracy of +/- 0.26MJ, has become vital to pig farming in Australia, as it allows nutritionists to formulate the most cost-effective diet,” Dr Rikard-Bell said.

A big advantage of using near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy calibrations is the speed of the result, with a laboratory with access to AusScan Online able to scan a sample of grain and download results in seconds.

However, Dr Rikard-Bell said while customers knew the calibrations were accurate, they also needed to be confident that the laboratory’s NIRS machine was accurate, routinely monitored and consistent.

“This is why Australian AusScan users recently joined Aunir UK’s successful quality assurance scheme, Ingot Check, which provides users with a monthly report on the stability of the NIRS hardware and calibrations that can then be submitted to auditors, providing independent proof of the laboratory’s competency,” Dr Rikard-Bell said.

“The key to Ingot Check’s success is the timely distribution of uniform reference samples to laboratories across the globe, with samples carefully prepared in the UK from a single source, identified and vacuum packed in high-quality, UV-resistant sachets, ensuring the samples reach target destinations in original condition.

“The uniformity of the Ingot Check sachets minimises sampling preparation errors and allows

variation within and between NIR machines to be properly examined.”

Graduate nutritionist and Pork CRC IPP Haylee Clifford manages AusScan at Alltech Lienert at Roseworthy, South Australia.

“Alltech Lienert welcomes the opportunity to be involved with Ingot Check and AusScan, as Ingot Check testing now allows us to benchmark our testing and find ways to improve the service we currently provide our customers,” Ms Clifford said.

While Ingot Check has operated in Australian laboratories since June 2017, in February 2018 Aunir technical director Chris Piotrowski and commercial manager Richard Wynn, along with Dr Rikard-Bell, held quality-assurance workshops for Australian users of AusScan.

The workshops also addressed laboratory-specific issues, provided training in other uses for NIRS machines and, according to Dr Rikard-Bell, the Aunir visit informed and satisfied nutritionists and feed formulators who use AusScan calibrations.

The monthly Ingot Check, which has superseded the much less frequent AusScan ring test, markedly reduces sample variation and is predominantly an internet-based service.

Aunir UK takes a central role in the preparation and distribution of reference samples for laboratories to scan and upload results through the Ingot Check online system.

www.porkcrc.com.au



Graduate nutritionist and Pork CRC IPP Haylee Clifford with grain samples for AusScan testing in the Alltech Lienert laboratory at Roseworthy, South Australia.

Faster, smarter, simpler: AustSafe’s new digital claims service goes live

AUSTSAFE Super members can now make insurance claims online, fast-tracking the claims process, with a user-friendly facility that guides members through the claim process and adjusts to claimants’ responses.

Powered by AustSafe Super’s insurance partner CommInsure, the dynamic online claims service allows members to lodge a claim online and track its progress as it is being assessed.

AustSafe Super chief executive Craig Stevens said the new digital service will simplify the claims process for many members and will lead to faster claims turnaround times, ultimately improving outcomes for members with insurance claims.

“AustSafe Super’s 100,000 members are spread throughout rural and regional Australia – including some remote parts of the country – so for them to be able to fast-track an insurance claim online is something we’re proud to be offering,” he said.

“Our members still have the option of lodging claims the traditional way... the new offering

further supports our member services initiatives by providing greater flexibility and access for members wishing to make a claim.”

The digital claims service is a web-based app for income protection, total and permanent disability and terminal illness claims, and will lead to claims being received by the insurer within minutes and removing the need for paper-based forms.

CommInsure general manager for Life Product and Distribution Craig Harrison said AustSafe Super members will find lodging and managing an insurance claim so much easier with this industry-leading platform.

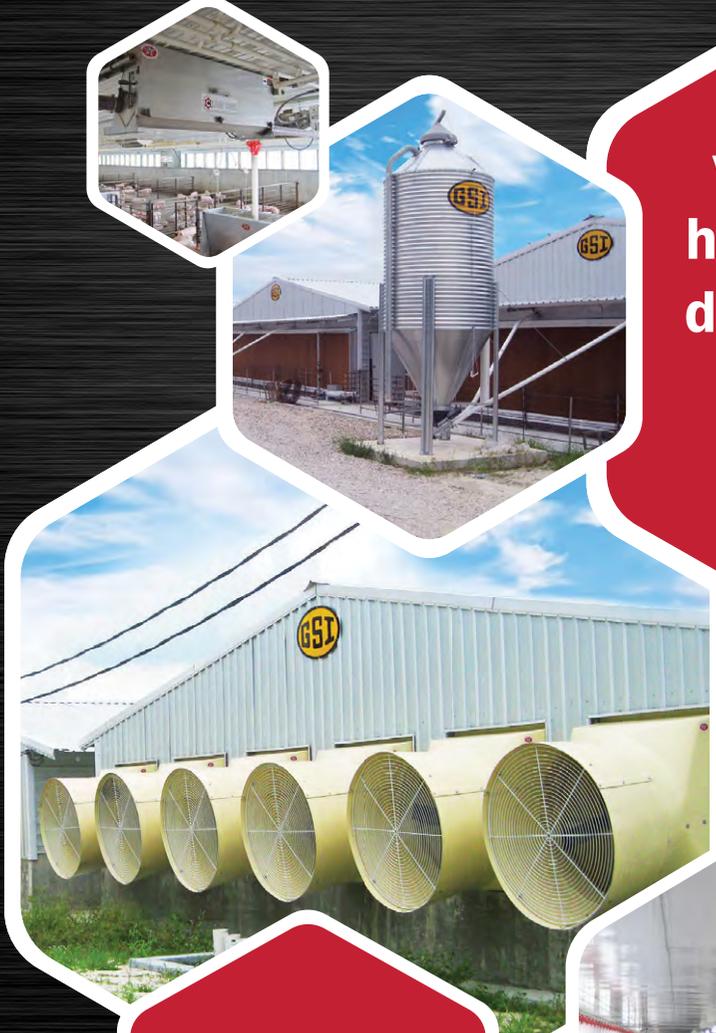
“We involved members extensively in design and testing to make this a user-friendly facility for members to lodge a claim and then show them exactly where they are in their claim journey.”

Now in its 30th year of operation, AustSafe Super is the industry super fund for rural and regional Australia and looks after more than 100,000 members with \$2.4 billion funds under management.

Visit austsafe.com.au for more information.







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New ETW SmartCycle biomethane plant in operation in France

IN April 2018, energy plant constructor ETW Energietechnik from Germany installed its first biogas processing plant in Scherwiller, France on a Rytec plant.

The plant has been in continuous operation since mid-April.

This is a compact model of the biogas treatment system ETW SmartCycle PSA developed by ETW.

With a processing capacity of 230 to 385 standard cubic metres of biogas per hour, this plant model has been specially developed for the French market.

Plant manufacturer Rytec from Baden-Baden is responsible for the entire project development and the installed fermentation line.

Biomethane on the advance

ETW Energietechnik GmbH managing director

France Marco Weiss said France is currently one of the most important markets for biomethane plants in Europe.

"Biomethane is currently gaining ground in the neighbouring country," he said.

"Energy experts assume that by 2030 France will be able to cover one-third of its gas requirements with biomethane.

"An essential prerequisite for the implementation, however, is the application of efficient and practice-proven processing technologies.

"In the recent past we had a strong demand for compact plants in the performance class up to about 500 standard cubic metres of biogas per hour.

"Together with our French partner GASEO, we have decided to integrate our ETW Smart-

Cycle technology, already proven on larger systems, into a compact, flexible and energy-efficient container concept.

"In addition, this technology will enable us to establish ourselves in many other markets with similar development potential."

The compact design reduces space requirements and assembly times on the construction site.

Flexible operation, self-regenerating process

Moreover, the flexible operation of the plant allows the operator to adapt directly to biogas production without having to accept losses in biomethane quality.

The 'smart' process control reacts fully automatically even to large-volume flow fluctuations and changing raw gas qualities.

This means there is no loss in yield or quality of the biomethane produced.

The self-regenerating, dry gas treatment process has been continuously established in the industrial gas sector since the 1980s due to its extremely high availability.

With this property, the process is predestined for use in France.

ETW sales manager for Biomethane Plants Dr Oliver Jende said, "This is where biogas quality is less predictable because large amounts of residues and waste end up in biogas plants."

"While in other systems an increased risk of efficiency losses and plant downtimes can be expected due to the presence of contaminants in the biogas, we can handle these conditions on the basis of our ETW SmartCycle

PSA technology."

Low lifecycle costs

A high-quality industry standard paired with the special process advantages of the ETW SmartCycle PSA process, such as the lowest energy consumption of all treatment processes, results in the lowest lifecycle costs of all biogas upgrading processes available on the market.

"With more than 150,000 operating hours, our PPE processing systems have a total availability of over 99 percent," Dr Jende said.

Plant operator Bernard Winterhalter is also optimistic about the future.

With the support of Rytec, he has been working intensively on various processing methods since 2016.

"At that time it quickly became clear to us that

we needed a dry process – simply because of the reduced operating costs compared to wet alternatives," Winterhalter said.

"Therefore, only the membrane and PSA technologies were available as options.

"However, it was just as important to the operator to minimise risks caused by possible impurities in such a way that the operator could ultimately choose substrates freely.

"Therefore, the PSA process convinced us not only because it systematically regenerates, but also because the molecular sieve, due to its very high mass, is significantly less susceptible to impurities."

Second plant under construction

And so it is no coincidence that ETW Energietechnik and GASEO are currently building the second plant for the French market at Arcis-sur-Aube in the northeastern French department of Aube.

Here, the treatment capacity will be 870 standard cubic metres of biogas per hour from a waste fermentation plant.

The biomethane plant will be installed before the end of this year.

Company profile

ETW Energietechnik GmbH has been developing and producing energy plants in Moers, Germany since 1997.

The company's core

business comprises the construction and maintenance of combined heat and power plants in the output range of 400 to 4600 kW_e, as well as highly efficient biogas upgrading plants that produce pure biomethane out of raw biogas using a high-end PSA technology.

The company is a one-stop provider: from the transfer of biogas to the feed-in of power into the grid and the provision of heat, ETW also takes care of the construction, commissioning and maintenance of CHP and biogas upgrading plants.

The clientele of ETW Energietechnik GmbH includes large energy suppliers, agricultural plants, municipalities and industrial businesses of various types and sizes, all of which attach importance to eco-friendly, economic energy generation.

One of the strategic highlights is the implementation of economic, sustainable plant concepts that are planned individually and adapted to the respective requirements.

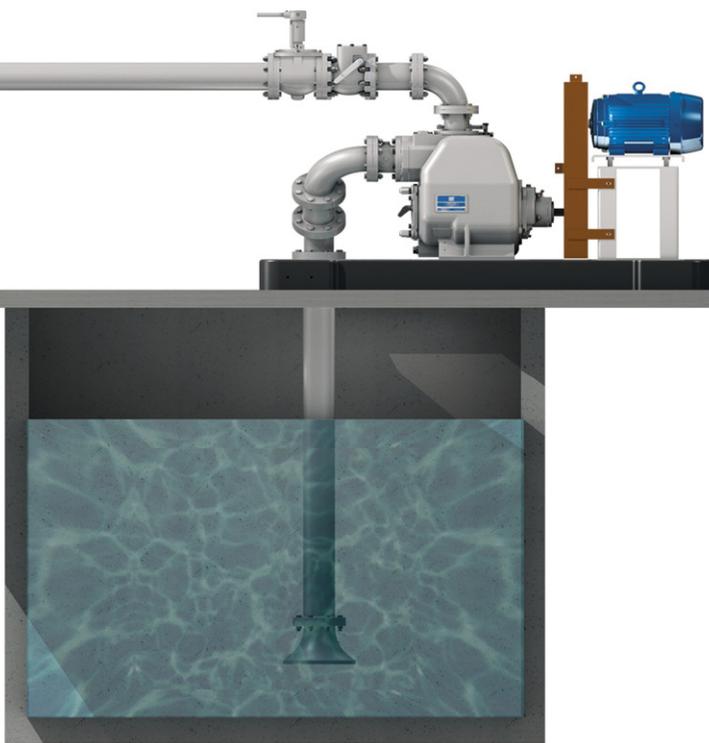
A qualified service team ensures operational reliability and maximum availability of the plants.

The medium-sized, family owned enterprise employs a staff of 80 and is managed by its founder Helmut Weiss and his two sons Marco and Carsten.

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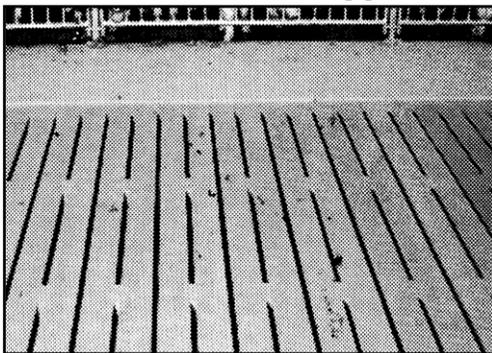
In April 2018, biogas upgrading plant constructor ETW Energietechnik installed its first biogas processing plant in Scherwiller, France.

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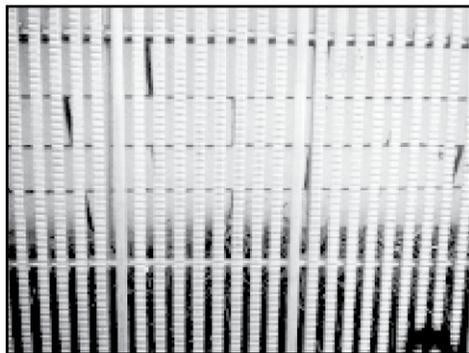
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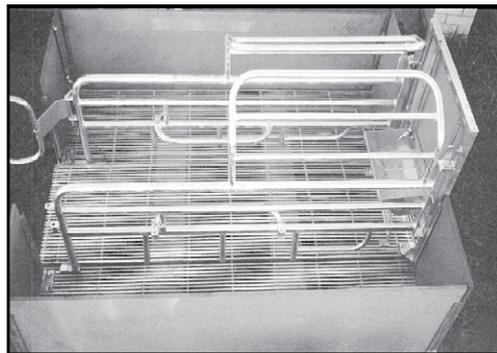
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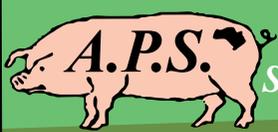


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Aussie Pumps' GMP semi-trash pumps are the ideal solution for piggery operators using organic effluent for greener paddocks.

Piggery effluent pump

PIGGERY effluent is a valuable source for providing organic fertiliser.

One challenge is providing enough flow and pressure to clear the stalls.

Moving the effluent with compressible solids, straw and other waste material is another challenge.

Aussie Pumps has come out with a range of 3" high-pressure semi-trash pumps that can provide both high pressure and the ability to handle large volumes of contaminated water.

The G3TMK delivers flows of up to 1100l/pm and heads as high as 54m.

Best of all, the pumps self-prime from depths as low as 6m.

Aussie Pumps' Neil Bennet said, "We have interviewed piggery operators who seem reconciled to having to repair pumps on a regular basis."

"That is generally because the pumps they are using are either too small or can't handle the solids requirements of the job.

"Long-column sump pumps, traditionally used in this application, often suffer from bearing damage.

"That results in shaft oscillation with the result that the pump needs to be pulled out for repair."

Bennett stressed that the self-priming pump mounted above the sump can be easily repaired without removal from the pit.

The Aussie semi-trash pumps are designed with big open impellers, and

construction is heavy-duty cast iron.

There is even a 316 stainless steel option.

A non-clog style impeller means passing of compressible solids is easy.

The front-mounted clean-out port means clearing clogs without having to undo pipework or hoses.

The big 3" pumps come with silicon carbide mechanical seals with alumina counterface and nitrile rubber seals as standard.

A tungsten carbide Viton is also available.

All pumps feature a 316 stainless steel motor shaft and a stainless steel wear plate fitted to protect from erosion or body wear.

The big pumps start with 3" port units of 4kW and go all the way up to 15kW 4" versions.

They will handle up to 2300l/pm and can produce heads up to 30m around 50psi.

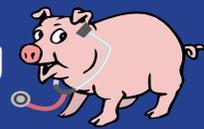
Aussie Pumps says the best news for piggery operators is the low prices for a top-quality product.

All GMP pumps are made to ISO 9001 quality standards and warranted to be free of defects for three years.

"Even the Australian Army uses Aussie GMP semi-trash pumps for some of its tough applications," Bennett said.

Further information including a comprehensive data pack is available from Aussie Pumps or authorised distributors throughout Australia.

Pig Farm Perspective by Bruce the brainy pig



WHERE are we at with post-cervical artificial insemination?

Is the uptake increasing?

What sort of production results should we expect?

These are all questions that have been raised regularly of late, particularly in herds looking to maximise efficiencies as much as possible.

While PCAI has been researched and around in the US since the late-1980s, it has only been in the past five or so years that uptake has increased significantly in both Australia and the US.

Currently it is estimated that over 600,000 sows are mated using PCAI techniques on US farms.

What is PCAI and how is it different to

traditional AI?

Traditional AI in pigs involves semen being deposited at the start of the cervix.

From here, the semen must make its way through the cervix, assisted by sow contractions, where it passes into the uterus for fertilisation.

PCAI on the other hand, involves the use of a smaller catheter within the traditional AI catheter, allowing semen to be deposited directly where it needs to be – the uterus.

While heat detection with teaser boars is still a critical component of PCAI, boars should not be present near the sows when mating takes place.

In fact, it is important that the boars have been away from the sows for a minimum of 30-45

minutes before mating, otherwise the sow's cervical contractions stimulated by the boar will make it impossible to pass the smaller AI catheter through the cervix into the uterus, risking trauma to the sow.

In a practical sense, on farm this tends to involve heat detection with a boar first thing in the morning.

Any sows identified as being on heat are marked, and the boars are put away and staff can have morning smoko.

After smoko, the boars have been away from the sows for a sufficient amount of time, and the sows can be mated.

The PCAI process is not too dissimilar to that of traditional AI.

As the small catheter is being passed into the uterus itself, it is criti-

cal that a high standard of hygiene is maintained to prevent uterine infections and discharges, particularly ensuring the vulva is clean and free from debris and that lubricant is clean and not contaminated.

The process involves locking the larger catheter into the cervix as with traditional AI, and after waiting about 30 seconds the sow's cervix relaxes, allowing the smaller catheter to be passed directly into the uterus.

Different to traditional AI, PCAI allows for the semen to be squeezed in, as there is no risk of backflow out of the uterus.

As such, PCAI can often reduce mating times by five or more minutes per sow, as there is no need to wait for the sow

to draw up the semen herself.

This allows for staff to spend more time in other areas (such as focusing on other critical areas including day one pig care) and also gives time for the more experienced/successful breeders to breed more sows.

Will it affect my production?

Research available suggests equivalent results in reproduction on most farms, however anecdotally a number of farms have reported significant increases in breeding herd production figures, culminating in increased farrowing rates and increased total born.

While it may not be for everyone, there is potential in Australia to further increase on-farm efficiencies through implementation of PCAI.



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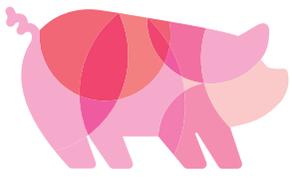
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Best Stand Awards



The Polytex Tarpaulins stand won first place in the Best Stand Awards and scored \$1000 to spend on advertising in *Australian Pork Newspaper*.



BASF's clean and modern stand received second place and \$750 to spend on advertising in APN.



Stockyard Industries picked up third place and \$500 to spend on advertising in APN.



Kat Vallance (pig), Gabby Brooke, Jim Walsh and Kerry Hill.



Neil Ferguson, Westpork; Nathan Sandral, Rivalea; Darryl Meaney and Nathan Lister, Biomin.



Dean McDonald (right) of OZmist showed a producer how OZmist works.



The FarmMark and Skov team of James Beirn, Shane Devires, Hans Ulrik Jensen and Byron Mellet.



Henk Vereyken, Vereyken Brothers and Mick Malloy.



Tom Cowper and John Reeves dressed for serious business.



Peter McKenzie, Mike Stubard and Matt Henery, Kemin.

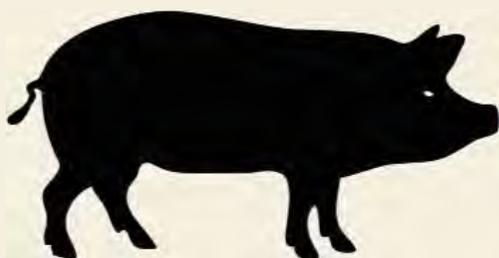


Melikiseteki Naisausau, Fiji and Roger Campbell, Pork CRC.

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Barbora Jabloncikova; Avril Grieve, Elanco; and Christian Pyke.



Robert Johnston, Rick O-Reily and Paul Noone of PIC.



Melissa Palviainen, Leigh Pronk, Rick Clarke, Leon Hall and Camille Coleman.



Tony Edwards, Mark Ledner, Trent Hindman and Andrew Spragge talk pork, or was that fishing?



Ben Collins, APN; Alice Weaver, 2018 Ron Collins Award winner; and Wayne Bradshaw, Jefo.



Gerald Fong, Chris Cameron, Jill Ramsey, Steve Yee and Melikiseteki Naisausau.



Philip Lambeth and Jonathon Doubleday, Auspac with producer James Goodfellow.



Michael Brennan, Malcolm Neill, Andrew Janja and Andrew Kimball on the AFS stand.



The Boehringer team comprised Sam Custodio, Gabe Crane, Meg Donahou, Phillip Marr, Susan Schryver, Puel Pagoto, Kitty Wong and Chantel Wakenshaw.



Producers Darryl Ellis and Lynne Black enjoyed the expo.

20 years on and Marcus Jones, Stockyard Industries; and Wayne Bradshaw, Jefo are still passionate supporters of the Australian pig industry.



Donna and Jared Seiler with Rob van Barneveld of SunPork.

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Naturally ahead

Stay tuned for more PPPE highlights in the next edition.

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