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# Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

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Passionate pork product sponsor and Berkshire pig farmer Catherine Hamson from Hamlet Pork and chef Chase Weber got into the spirit and the dragons as part of the Chinese Year of the Pig theme.

## Nothing standard at The Standard

PERTH'S PorkStar event rocked on May 27 and was its usual feast for the senses, albeit minus its usual signature 'dish' in the form of host and 'rock star' Mitch Edwards.

I understand Mitch has taken leave of absence for a while from Australian Pork Limited as he pursues a more public profile and a much bigger audience than PorkStar can ever offer him.

While Mitch has long been the foundation block on which the incredibly successful pork showcase that is PorkStar has been built, his understudy at The Standard in Northbridge, Western Australia was APL's very able Kylie Roberts.

While PorkStar events are a showcase for chefs, including, in this case, The Standard's head chef and PorkStar Chase Weber, along with his fellow culinary kings and queens, it's also dotted with a few industry types, including the likes of the author.

I chatted over a wine or two (well, maybe three, as the 2018 La Kooki Ten Foot Tempranillo from the Ferguson Valley was



**Cant Comment**  
by  
**BRENDON CANT**

soooo good) and yummy pork street food with the likes of APL chairman David Lock and fellow Board member David Plant, Westpork's Richard Evison and Taya Clarke, Craig Mostyn Group's Peter Spackman, D'Orsogna's Jamie Neri and Wendy Wang and Mondo's John Thompson.

While Westpork these

days supplies almost half of WA's primary pork production, hence represents a big chunk of the on-farm offering. PorkStar events are usually not studded with too many farmers.

It's more about the other end of the industry that is chefs and food service.

The Standard was transformed into a Year of the Pig-themed festival, with street stalls showcasing Chinese-inspired dishes and lining the restaurant walls all the way out the back to the laneway where the loud and colourful dragon dance took place.

Partnering with The Standard for this epic feast were local restaurants Billy Lee's, Sweetwater Rooftop, Dainty Dowager and Chicho Gelato.

The PorkStar program was developed 14 years ago by APL to highlight the best chefs in the country (100 or so attended the 2019 Perth event) and highlights pork's versatility while stimulating chefs to be a little adventurous with how they prepare pork from nose to tail.

PorkStar's Kylie Roberts

continued P4

## Big biosecurity business at the Forum

THE Australian Pork Limited delegates, Board and management met for our half-yearly Forum in Adelaide on May 9 for the normal full and frank discussions about the big issues in Australia's pork industry.

Many subjects were covered including pork promotional planning for the next period, the outcomes of the recently conducted Innovation Review, the Pig Standards and Guidelines Review and the three-yearly and forthcoming delegate nomination and election process.

Most of the day, however, was focused on two critical biosecurity issues affecting our industry.

The first was the threat of the African swine fever outbreaks in Asia and in particular China.

The world seems to be slowly awakening – through increasing media reporting – to the implications of what is happening to the pig industry in China and other parts of Asia.

We heard from Rupert Claxton of the Gira organisation (an independent economic and market research consultancy specialising in meat) that ASF is creating a hole in China's annual pork production (normally in the vicinity of 60 million tonnes) to the magnitude of potentially between 15 and 20 million tonnes.

This amount of pork represents somewhere close to 5 percent of the total meat production globally and for this to disappear through a disease crisis puts us in uncharted waters – we've never really seen this happen before.

The rest of the world does not have the capacity to increase production in the short term to fill this hole, so it's likely that not only pork but most meat prices will rise globally in response.

There are some opportunities in this for Australia's pork industry, despite the fact we cannot export pork to China yet.

Any increase in global demand will create a domino effect of positive market changes increasing the desirability



### Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



of our product.

That is, however, according to one important condition – that we ourselves do not get this disease in our country.

At the Forum, we heard from Robyn Martin of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources outlining how this disease threat has mobilised teams and increased targeted activities to address the areas of greatest risk.

This included the commencement of testing of seized and declared pork and meat samples for ASF and other diseases.

More than 40 positive samples for ASF (and two for foot and mouth disease) were found, emphasising the proximity and currency of this disease threat.

Our aim as an industry needs to be firstly to keep the disease out of Australia at all costs.

Despite recent media reports, it is not a matter of time before we get this disease.

We need to continue to do everything we can to prevent it getting here – we all have a role to play including the DAWR who are responsible for ensuring contaminated material doesn't get past our borders.

The pig farmers' role is to ensure contaminated material doesn't get near a pig by managing on-farm biosecurity.

The other big biosecurity issue discussed was the situation with illegally imported genetics in Western Australia.

There has been a lot of concern expressed through the industry around the discovered existence of these genetics in the GD Pork herd and the sub-

sequent sale of this herd to Westpork.

In talking to delegates and other producers, the key concerns around this seem to be (1) the threat to our ongoing biosecure status from illegal imports such as these; (2) therewith the threat to our ability to continue to protect ourselves from global disease threats through strong biosecurity import protocols; and (3) the perception that there is now an ongoing unlevel playing field through the industry with different genetics bringing different levels of productivity for different producers.

APL has since November last year stated our clear position that we don't believe these genetics should be allowed to persist in the Australian herd because they came here illegally.

To this point, for a multitude of reasons, we have been unable to find a pathway to achieve their destruction.

The end point of the discussion at the Delegates' Forum was a request for APL to reopen negotiations with Westpork to find a mutually acceptable pathway for a compensated depopulation of the herd, which we have since been following up.

We'll be reporting back on how this goes.

I encourage all pig farmers reading this column to also read that by Deb Kerr in this APN edition which goes into a bit more detail about what to expect if we were to get an ASF outbreak here.

In the meantime, we all should be working to ensure it doesn't happen.

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Stockyard Industries are proud to be SILVER sponsors for the 2019 Victorian Pig Fair – Tuesday 18th June at the Bendigo Harness racing facility. The Stockyard Team are looking forward to catching up with all producers and the broader industry for a great social evening to discuss any equipment and building requirements.



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## Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2019

**JUN 12-13** – Australian Biosecurity Symposium, Gold Coast, QLD [www.biosym.com.au](http://www.biosym.com.au)

**JUN 18** – Victorian Pig Fair, Bendigo Harness Racing Facility, VIC E: [vicpigfair@gmail.com](mailto:vicpigfair@gmail.com)

**JUN 23-26** – International Symposium on Emerging and Re-emerging Pig Diseases, Santiago, Chile [www.emerging2019.com/en](http://www.emerging2019.com/en)

**JUN 26-28** – Livestock Philippines Expo, World Trade Center, Manila, Philippines [www.livestockphilippines.com](http://www.livestockphilippines.com)

**AUG 11 - 14** – The International Conference on Boar Semen Preservation, Hunter Valley, NSW [www.boarsemen2019.com](http://www.boarsemen2019.com)

**AUG 25 - 28** – Asian Pig Veterinary Society Congress, Busan, South Korea [www.apvs2019.com/invit.html](http://www.apvs2019.com/invit.html)

**AUG 26 - 29** – SafePork Conference, Berlin, Germany [www.safepork-conference.com](http://www.safepork-conference.com)

**SEP 21 - OCT 1** – Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne Showgrounds VIC [royalshow.com.au](http://royalshow.com.au)

**OCT 19 - 21** – Lemman China Swine Conference, Zhengzhou, China [www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference](http://www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference)

**NOV 13 - 15** – 2019 Pig Welfare Symposium, Minneapolis, US [www.pork.org/events/pig-welfare-symposium](http://www.pork.org/events/pig-welfare-symposium)

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

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# Keeping out African swine fever together

AT the end of April, Manager Production Stewardship Lechelle van Breda travelled to Ottawa, Canada to attend the 2019 African swine fever forum hosted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

CFIA organised the forum to: launch international efforts to manage the risk of ASF in the Americas; learn from the recent outbreaks in Europe and Asia; enhance regional co-operation and collaboration in the prevention, mitigation and response to the possible impacts of ASF in the Americas; and develop a roadmap for government, industry and international organisations to prevent and respond to ASF.

The forum provided a great opportunity for us to meet with and learn from our colleagues in the Americas and representatives from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organisation to strengthen Australia's preparedness for ASF.

While the framework developed was specific to the Americas, it is very applicable to Australia.

The key areas identified also need to be considered by Australia to we are ASF-ready.

Some of the key points were as follows.

Planning preparedness to ensure countries have a high state of readiness to allow them to swiftly control ASF should it enter their region.

Like the Americas, Australia is free of ASF – this provides us with a window of opportunity to act decisively and co-ordinate in our preparation.

To achieve this, the following actions are required:

- Validate ASF plans and test response capabilities through simulation exercises involving stakeholders.
- Find solutions to infrastructure deficiencies to respond to ASF outbreaks. Governments should have contingency plans in place for mass disposal, and each farm should have disposal plans. Consideration should also be given to mental health risks for people involved, social acceptance of disposal methods and environmental issues as-



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



sociated with disposal and depopulation.

- Optimise rapid ASF detection by ensuring capability for surveillance.

Passive surveillance (done by farmers) is 55 percent more effective than active surveillance, as long as people are trained to recognise the signs and symptoms of ASF.

- Consider farmer compensation for reporting the disease and financial incentives for hunters to report disease/carcasses in wild/feral pig populations – this was done in the Czech Republic.

- Collaborate internationally to identify and prioritise critical ASF research to create or improve response tools. Of course, an effective vaccine would be a game-changer in the global response to ASF. The ASF virus is large and complex – it's not known what the majority of genes (around 150) do. Greater research effort and investment on a global level is needed not only in vaccines but also in improved diagnostics. The 87th General Assembly of OIE National Delegates, held from May 26-31, 2019, called for the establishment of a global initiative to control the disease (and hopefully eradicate it) and to reduce its devastating economic impacts on the pig industry. This initiative will be co-ordinated by the OIE and Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Enhanced biosecurity measures need to be in place to prevent the entry of ASF into domestic and wild pig populations and mitigate its spread within these populations.

It is important that biosecurity strategies must be constantly adapted, both on-farm and at the border. The key actions are to:

- Identify key threats,

gaps and best practices in national border biosecurity, including establishment of appropriate level of activity, informed by risk.

- Establish effective collaborations between border authorities to share intelligence and best approaches to prevent the entry of ASF.

- Communicate to all stakeholders what their responsibilities are with biosecurity to foster a culture of compliance with biosecurity policies by travellers.

- Involve stakeholders in government, industry and academia to gain an understanding of epidemiology of feral/wild pig populations and share management practices at borders and the interface with domestic pigs.

Ensuring business continuity and mitigate the trade impacts of ASF on the pig sector, both nationally and internationally, while controlling and eradicating the disease by:

- Risk-based domestic movements of animals and animal products to keep industry viable in the event of an outbreak.

- Providing guidance and technical support to develop common standards to support the establishment of zones.

- Proactively negotiating the recognition of zoning approaches with trading partners to reduce impediments to market access. It is recognised that these conversations should take place before the disease enters the country and will also require strong partnerships between industry, regulators and veterinary services so these can be implemented.

- Work with international partners and the OIE to develop globally recognised and accepted guidance on the application of compartmentalisation for

ASF, both in infected and uninfected countries. Understanding of our trading partner requirements is needed in order to be considered free of a disease.

Co-ordinated risk communications on ASF are required with target audiences to encourage informed decision-making, behaviour modification and trust in governments and industry.

As recognised by the OIE, clear and transparent communication is essential for all of the different sectors (including regulators, border control, pig producers and processors, pig veterinarians, stock-feed manufacturers and suppliers, transporters, hunters, research providers and tourists) to fully understand their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the measures required.

To enable this, we need to:

- Develop a consistent approach to communicating risk, adapted to the specific needs and circumstances of countries through a range of strategies. Messaging should be consistent and uncomplicated, widely available, accurate, regular and available in multiple languages.

- Identify or develop platforms and mechanisms for ongoing co-ordination of messaging and sharing of communications-related information between countries.

- Establish mechanisms for monitoring public dialogue on ASF, and to detect and correct to ensure narrative in media and social media is accurate.

### Key recommendations and next steps

- Conduct exercises to test country preparedness plans for ASF and establish a mechanism to share lessons learnt across the region.

- Promote a regional partnership to share reference material, laboratory services, and to transfer diagnostic capacity to facilitate early detection and development of new, rapid diagnostics and field testing. This partnership should support countries in assessment of readiness for ASF and share tools and build rapid risk assessment capacity. It should also support the

global ASF Research Alliance to continue to co-ordinate research efforts to address gaps, particularly for the development of an ASF vaccine.

- Establish a standing group of experts on ASF to build a closer co-operation among countries in preparing for ASF. The group should be multidisciplinary, with expertise in areas like feral/wild pig control and biosecurity, arthropod vectors (ticks), border security, epidemiology, disease modelling and laboratory science.

- Encourage the international Liaison Group on Risk Communications Focal Points to serve as a resource and co-ordination platform to facilitate information sharing related to ASF risks.

- Request the OIE develop specific guidance on the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation for ASF.

### Australian African swine fever summit

While Canada was holding its ASF forum, the ASF summit was held on May 3 in Adelaide.

Attendees included Australia's chief veterinary officer Dr Mark Schipp, state and territory CVOs, representatives from Animal Health Australia, pig veterinarians, processors, feed manufacturers and government and state representatives and officials.

The aim was to collectively identify gaps and opportunities (including opportunities for further collaboration), prioritise further activities and inform co-ordinated ASF preparedness plans.

Much work is required to action the outcomes identified and discussed at the summit.

These are being progressed by Australian Pork Limited in collaboration with the state CVOs, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, pig veterinarians, Animal Health Australia and Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia.

Further details will be provided over coming weeks.

For more information on items discussed in this article, please contact me on 0423 056 045 or [heather.channon@australianpork.com.au](mailto:heather.channon@australianpork.com.au)

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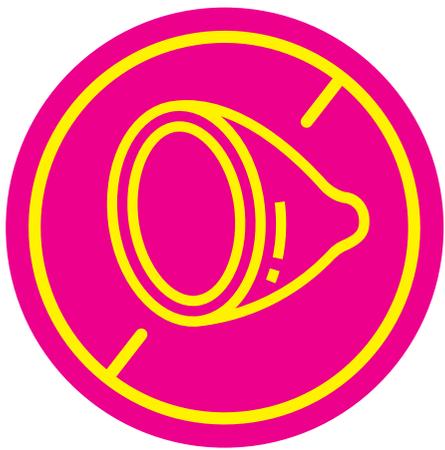
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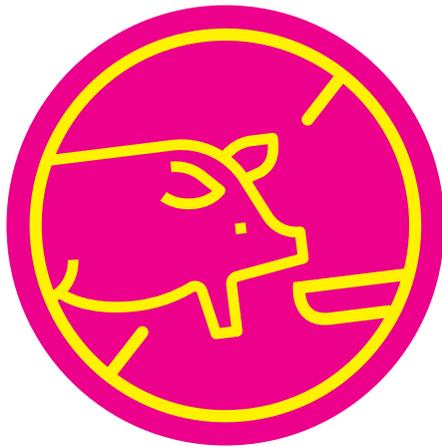
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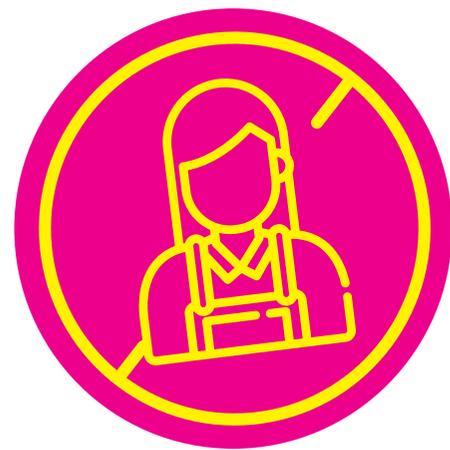
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Celebrating the success of Perth's PorkStar event that set new street food standards at The Standard were Luke Hamson, Kylie Roberts, Catherine Hamson and Andrea Kavanagh.



Celebrated chefs Neal Jackson ('Jackson's') and Stephen Clarke ('Clarke's of North Beach') caught up with media man and *Menu Magazine* publisher Scott Arnold-Eyres and chef Melissa Palinkas ('Young George').

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# Nothing standard at The Standard

from P1

described the Perth menu as a roaming feast, reflecting the innovation currently taking the industry by storm.

"From intricate dishes such as char sui pork with handmade noodles to the indulgent creation of whisky and lard gelato with pork toppings, the dishes served tonight were prime examples of the ingenuity these chefs possess," she said.

The pork featured on the menu was supplied by Hamlet Pork, fittingly a small producer.

Chasing a dream and a future for their family, Luke and Catherine Hamson found their hamlet (a village without shops) and planted their macadamia orchard in 2008 after Luke's last tour to Afghanistan (he served more than 15 years in the Australian

Army and six years in the SAS Regiment in Perth).

Even before they'd thought of pigs, the farm was christened 'Hamlet' and now, true to its name, Hamlet is the home of many gentle heritage Berkshire pigs.

Inspired by the local Italian culture in Waroona and difficulty sourcing tasty pork locally, Luke extensively researched pig breeds and found a farmer in WA who bred Berkshires.

After a few years of breeding, Hamlet Pork began in 2014 with deliveries to family and friends in Perth and Mandurah and all over the South West.

Here's what they proudly have to say about their Hamlet Pork pigs: "Our Berkshire pigs are free range and locally raised in Coolup (between Pinjarra

and Waroona), WA. They are hormone and antibiotic free, happy and healthy and from the best stock in Australia. They are treated with the utmost respect, are grass fed and enjoy other nutrient-rich food, including high-protein pig pellets, windfall local fruit, whey from cheese making and macadamias from our on-farm orchard. Pasture-raised pork has a great nutrient quality, as the pigs, like humans, synthesize vitamin D in their skin

and fat when exposed to sunshine."

Anyway, a great night it was, so I'll let APL's Kylie have the last word.

"Tonight was truly something special," Kylie said.

"Chase created incredible dishes, such as the confit pig's head, turmeric wafer, tamarind and roasted peanuts dish.

"It went down a treat with the chefs in the room and is a true testament to why he is part of the PorkStar program."



Jamie Neri and Wendy Wang, both of D'Orsogna, couldn't go without sampling the whisky and lard gelato with pork toppings.

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## MENU

- Snacks**  
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Cured pork - *Evan Hayter*
- 2018 CORYMBIA CHENIN BLANC, MARGARET RIVER**
- 2018 LA KOOKI TEN FOOT TEMPRANILLO, FERGUSON VALLEY**
- Stalls from friends of The Standard**  
Charcoal grilled pork skewers - *Billy Lee's*  
Pork shitake & garlic chive dumplings - *Sweetwater Rooftop*  
Pork belly lechon buns with special sauce - *The Standard*  
Char sui pork & handmade noodles - *Dainty Dowager*  
Whisky & lard gelato with pork toppings bar - *Chicho Gelato*
- 2014 IPSO FACTO CHENIN BLANC, MARGARET RIVER**
- 2018 DORMILONA CABERNET SAUVIGNON, MARGARET RIVER**
- Walk arounds by The Standard**  
Smoked hock ramen, pork noodles, whipped pork fat, egg  
Crispy fried neck with black pepper sauce  
Confit pigs head, turmeric wafer, tamarind, roasted peanuts  
Sisig fried rice



Yum yum pig's bum! The Standard Perth PorkStar Menu 2019.

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

# African swine fever 'light bulb' moments

"I HAVE a 500-sow pigery and have noticed my pigs are looking a bit ill, running the odd high fever and off their feed. While this is a bit unusual, it could be any one of a number of endemic diseases. I have also noticed a bit of a spike in mortality rates across my different pig groups. I've spoken to my vet and now have government vets on site taking samples for testing. While we are waiting on these, they have quarantined my farm as they are concerned this is African swine fever and imposed strict controls for the entire immediate area."

This scenario could be faced by any pig producer should an exotic disease incursion occur in Australia.

At a couple of recent producer forums, these issues suddenly and starkly became a light bulb moment.

Producers expressed concern about how they might manage their business and normal family activities if their farm was quarantined – and distress that they may have to euthanise all their pigs.

In an exotic disease outbreak, there are clearly competing objectives between containing, controlling and stamping out the disease – and that of normal business operations particularly for apparently disease-free farms.

Governments will impose stricter conditions on those farms in the immediate vicinity of an infected farm (called a restricted zone), with some lesser conditions on the area around these (called a control zone).

This may mean no pigs, equipment, vehicles, trucks or people will be allowed to leave or enter the infected or suspect farms or these management zones.

As in the example above, if tests confirmed the exotic disease, then governments are highly likely to impose at least a 72-hour pig and product standstill – and this may extend from restricted and control zones to the entire state or multiple states.

For the eastern seaboard, given the movement of pigs between states for slaughter, this is likely to extend across a number of states.

This timeframe is likely to be the minimum required to enable the authorities to get a handle on the extent of the disease's spread, and to trace all potentially infected pigs.

Producers should expect this could be extended for longer timeframes.

Many producers might ask whether this is all needed.

The staggering statistic is that 46 percent of the first 68 ASF incursions in China were the result of contaminated vehicles and workers, 34 percent by swill feeding and 19 percent by the transport of infected pigs and pig products.

To ensure your business is prepared, it is critical every producer has a business continuity plan that

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Point of View

by DEB KERR  
General Manager Policy



describes how you will manage your business in such events.

For example, if you had to slaughter all your herd, do you have a suitable location and the capacity to bury, compost or burn the carcasses as directed by government officials managing the disease event?

Have you thought about organising a pre-approved route to slaughter permit from your state department of agriculture or equivalent?

If you are located outside the immediate management zones, this will be required.

Having this route pre-approved will save time during a standstill (remember that government employees will be dealing with the disease, tracing pigs and so on and these permits will be a lower priority).

Have you thought about how you might receive your next shipment of feed or veterinary supplies, or even semen?

If you had to hold all your pigs on farm for three, seven, 10 or 14 days, how would you manage this?

Do you have the ability to put up temporary outside fencing, shelter and watering points, or are you able to order and have delivered a maintenance diet?

And have you thought about managing trucks and other biosecurity on farm?

That is, if you use your own truck, how will you decontaminate it on return from the abattoir or saleyards.

If you use a transporter, what have they done to ensure the trucks brought to your farm have been decontaminated?

What will you do to manage contracts for pigs you supply, and the impact to regular income streams to your business?

And how will you pay your suppliers?

All the above are important considerations.

Quite simply, a business continuity plan requires each business to assess what could go wrong, what is the worst-case scenario (identify), what are the impacts on your business (assess) and what will you do to manage these impacts (control).

Some of the components may include identifying the critical business functions and services such as goods and services, operations, equipment and personnel vital to the continued operation of your business and services and goods provided by external suppliers.

More information on surviving an emergency animal disease outbreak can be found at the Farm Biosecurity Website ([farmbiosecurity.com.au/news/surviving-an-emergency-disease-outbreak](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au/news/surviving-an-emergency-disease-outbreak)).

# Online saleyard not a viable solution for pig sales

THE reduction in the number of saleyards in recent years prompted Australian Pork Limited to look at alternative sales channels that may provide viable options for producers.

APL is concerned about the growing number of unregulated online sales and sought the services of AuctionsPlus to investigate the possibility of using regulated online auctions as one alternative.

The investigation intended to:

- Examine the technical feasibility of the AuctionsPlus platform for selling pigs;

- Examine the interest in the market for using AuctionsPlus as an alternative selling mechanism;

- Conduct six pilot sales in Victoria to prove both the technical feasibility and market interest of the platform; and

- Provide a report including an assessment of the trial and any recommendations.

Following the conclusion of the trial, APL would be in an informed position about whether there was feasibility in the use of a regulated online sales platform that would reduce biosecurity issues and pro-

vide an alternative sales option for producers.

The investigation unfortunately found a lack of producer and buyer support for an online auction facility.

This was primarily due to the unique characteristics of pig trading, the decreasing number of commercial producers seeking auctions and the general unsuitability of intensive, meat-producing livestock to a digital marketplace.

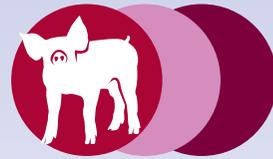
AuctionsPlus also decided conducting pilot auctions would not yield any further information about producer or buyer

intentions than the stakeholder engagement found, and the auctions therefore did not take place.

Moreover, AuctionsPlus was not able to find livestock agents or assessors who were qualified and interested to operate the pilot auctions.

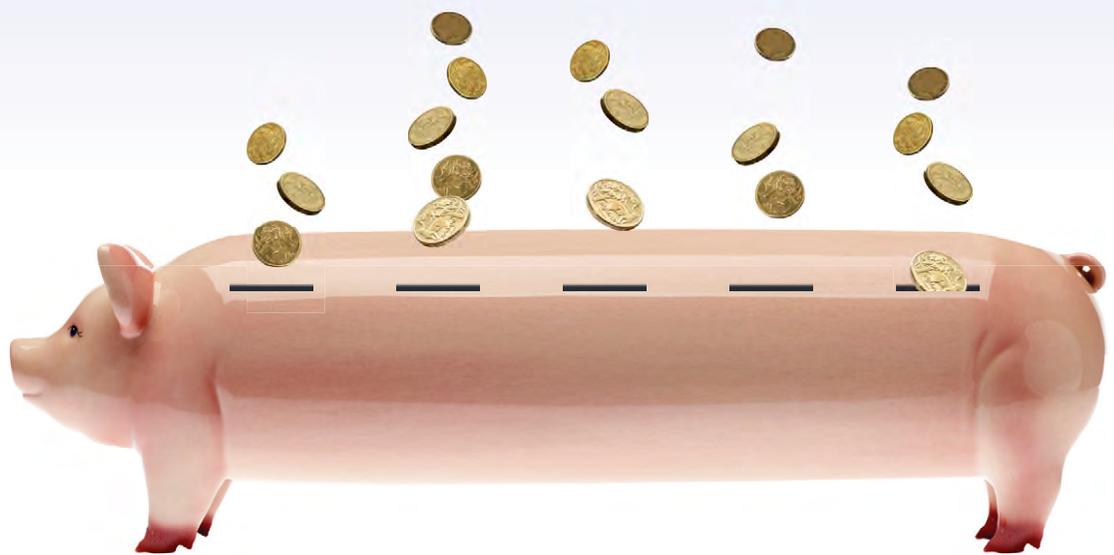
The report summary of the trial is available on the APL website at [australianpork.com.au/latest-news/auctionsplus-online-saleyard-pilot-report](http://australianpork.com.au/latest-news/auctionsplus-online-saleyard-pilot-report)

For any further information about the trial, please contact Alister Oulton on 02 6270 8832 or [alister.oulton@australianpork.com.au](mailto:alister.oulton@australianpork.com.au)



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# Antimicrobial stewardship in pigs – a UK perspective

DR Amanda Nevel, Senior Veterinary Manager at the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board (AHDB Pork – the UK's equivalent of Australian Pork Limited) is visiting Australia from July 31 to August 9.

At AHDB, Mandy is responsible for the health

and welfare team and leads the AHDB antibiotic use group across cattle, sheep and pigs.

Mandy will be the keynote speaker at the Australian Pig Veterinarians Annual Conference being held in Cairns from July 31 to August 2, where she will be making several presentations

on antimicrobial stewardship.

These presentations will cover the approach taken to reduce antimicrobial use in UK pig production, the introduction of the antimicrobial use recording system, barriers to uptake, how barriers were overcome and results to date of their stewardship program.

The Australian pork industry does not currently have recording systems in place to capture usage information.

The UK's pig industry has successfully implemented recording systems, with antimicrobial use declining by over 50 percent since 2015.

In 2015, usage was 278mg/PCU (population correction unit), reducing to 110mg/PCU in 2018.

This puts the UK industry well on track to

achieve their target of 99mg/PCU by 2020.

To assist with interpretation, PCU is a unit of measurement developed by the European Medicines Agency that takes into account the animal population as well as the estimated weight of each particular animal at the time of treatment with antibiotics.

In addition to Mandy's presentations at the 2019 Australian Pig Veterinarians Conference, APL is organising a number of meetings around Australia for veterinarians, producers and other industry stakeholders to meet Mandy and obtain information to support the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship by the Australian pork industry.

The dates and locations for these meetings are as follows:

- July 31-August 2 – attending and presenting at the 2019 Australian Pig Veterinarians Conference, Cairns, Queensland.

- August 5 – Toowoomba, Queensland.

- August 6 – Young, NSW.

- August 7 – Bendigo, Victoria.

- August 8 – Roseworthy, South Australia.

- August 9 – Perth, Western Australia.

Industry meeting times and locations will be finalised shortly and will be provided in the APL Communique.

For further information on Mandy's background, please see [ava.com.au](http://ava.com.au)

To RSVP or obtain further information, please contact Lechelle van Breda on 02 9270 8816 or [lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au](mailto:lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au)



Dr Amanda Nevel



Dr Peter Yates AM delivered the Ralph Slatyer address on science and society at the opening of 'Collaborate Innovate 2019'.

## Fake news and pseudoscience under the microscope

PETER Yates AM, co-founder and chairman of the Australian Science Media Centre and the Royal Institution of Australia, which includes Australian Science Channel and *Cosmos* magazine, delivered the prestigious Ralph Slatyer address on science and society at the opening of 'Collaborate Innovate 2019'.

The annual conference of the Cooperative Research Centres Association at the Adelaide Hilton from May 28-30 joined researchers, educators and industry with a diverse community of CRCA members.

Ralph Slatyer AC significantly contributed to Australia in the science and public sectors, advocating moving to a knowledge economy, rather than heavily relying on agriculture and mining for exports.

He convinced the Hawke Government to set up Cooperative Research Centres in 1990, the year in which Bob Hawke's campaign was arguably the first to introduce 'science' into the political campaign theatre under the spectre of innovation.

Using the Office of the Chief Scientist, Slatyer managed a successful communications strategy.

Dr Yates' address posed the question: would this be possible today?

"Science communication has tended to be institutionally based, with a heavy focus on evidence," Dr Yates said.

"Even in the old media world, this of itself created communications challenges, with scientists then expressing disappointment about the amount of science content in daily media."

"In the past 20 years, the media and communications landscape has completely changed, moving from a media industry with a small number of institutional producers and distributors to multiple producers, from commercial companies to individuals with their own social media channels, creating

a vast array of distribution outlets.

"This de-institutionalisation of media precipitated a new science communication challenge, including the large number of specialist science reporters who lost their jobs."

Dr Yates said almost unlimited distribution outlets opening up has unleashed the dilemma of fake news and selective information including pseudoscience.

"Such misinformation has impacted on the credibility of all forms of media that focus on evidence such as science communication," he said.

"At the same time, politicisation of climate change science has demonstrated a new dilemma for science communication, with evidence that the emotional bias of people towards the issue is as strong among highly educated and informed people as it is among less-informed people."

"More evidence or facts do not change their view."

"This suggests that today, effective science communication may need to be as much persuasion based as evidence based."

"In just 20 years, the fundamental tenets of science communication have been tipped on their head."

In his Ralph Slatyer address, Dr Yates discussed how the communication of science can deal with this new paradigm.

Dr Yates has been at the forefront of the challenges for science communication brought about by the digitisation and de-institutionalisation of traditional media for the past 15 years.

Prior to establishing the Australian Science Media Centre in 2004, he was CEO of Kerry Packer's listed media and gaming company Publishing and Broadcasting Limited where he oversaw Channel 9, many of Australia's leading magazines including *Women's Weekly*, *Crown Casino* and *Ninemsn*.



### APL Membership:

### Leveraging your pig levy

- If you're an Australian Pig Producer and you've paid the Pig Slaughter Levy in the 2018-19 financial year, from **1 July 2019** you're eligible to apply or renew your APL Producer Membership.
- As a member you gain access to a range of benefits – including voting for your representative in the upcoming Delegate Elections
- **Being a pig producer or having a PigPass account does not automatically make you a Producer Member.** Why? APL has an obligation to confirm its Members' details and eligibility for membership every three years.
- Learn more about membership at [www.australianpork.com.au/members](http://www.australianpork.com.au/members)



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PQI representing Queensland pork producers

PORK Queensland Inc is a not-for-profit membership representative for all Queensland pig producers, contract growers and Pig industry associates. What does PQI offer members?

- PQI provides a representative role for all members, taking up issues that impact on the broader pork industry.
- PQI holds associate membership with Queensland Farmers' Federation to gain a collective voice with other intensive farming industries as well as engaging with Australian Pork Limited to address specific Queensland issues around legislation and key issues impacting Queensland producers.
- PQI sits on a number of Queensland DAF/Government industry representative committees including biosecurity and animal welfare and farm raid/police



President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



- and industry taskforces.
- PQI provides an additional channel for industry to have its say as a state farming organisation interacting with producers and delegates to better present issues to the national pork industry body APL or to Queensland Government.
- What has PQI achieved in the 2018/19 year?**
- PQI has gained a position on the DAF Biosecurity Reference group.
- PQI has a position on the Ag Ministers Biosecurity and Welfare Advisory Group.
- PQI was a key indus-

try member in challenging the Mister of Agriculture to increase the penalties for trespass and the new on-the-spot fines for breaches of the Biosecurity Regulations.

- PQI gained a seat on the QFF Animal Welfare Advisory Council.
- PQI provided assistance to producers looking to get drought relief.
- PQI also provides a conduit for producers to raise issues with government around the laws applying to pig farmers.
- PQI provides a conduit to APL for farmers not represented by a delegate.

- Skilled labour shortages; and
- Activism threats and the need for trespass prosecutions.

**What is being offered?**  
During 2017/2018 due to the impacts of the continuing pork industry crisis and ongoing drought conditions, Pork Queensland Inc offered a complimentary 12 months' membership to any Queensland pork producer.

While the impacts of the drought are far from over, PQI is calling on Queensland pig farmers to support the representative organisation and renew or join membership for the next financial year.

**Membership fees and structure for 2019/20 year**

- Pig producers with up to 300 sows or contract growers: \$150 per annum.
- Pig producers with more than 300 sows: \$300 per annum.
- Pig industry associates (feed suppliers, vets, equipment suppliers): \$200 per annum.

With the interests of the Queensland pork industry at heart, Pork Queensland Inc calls on producers and associates to renew membership or become a new member today.

For any more information, call me on 0407 622 166, email me at john.coward1@gmail.com or get in touch via robyn.boundy@bigpond.com

**How can you become involved?**

Membership for PQI for 2019/2020 is due for renewal and your support and contribution is required for PQI to continue to work for you, as many challenges still lay before us, these include:

- Grain prices due to the ongoing drought;
- ASF and biosecurity plans;
- Australian border control of ASF;

**Aussie pork producers join the fight against motor neurone disease**

AUSTRALIAN pork producers have teamed up with Coles and FightMND from May 8 to June 16 as 10c from every fresh pork product sold will go directly towards helping to find a cure for motor neurone disease.

MND gradually takes away patients' use of their arms and legs, their ability to eat and swallow, their speech and ultimately their ability to breathe.

The average life expectancy from diagnosis is just 27 months and on average two to three Australians are diagnosed and another two to three lose the fight against the disease each day.

FightMND's campaign director Bec Daniher said the support of Coles and Aussie pork farmers is incredibly important in the fight against MND and the continued pursuit to discover effective treatments and a cure for the disease.

"Having Coles and Aussie pork farmers rally behind us to get the message out about the fight against MND is making an impact.

"We are fighting back, we are starting to land some blows and with the public's help, we know we will find an answer.

"The significant contribution is helping to continue to fund vital research projects in the hopes to find treatment and cure for motor neurone disease."

The donation applies to about 40 different types

of packs of Coles Brand fresh pork sold at Coles, from spare ribs to sirloin steak, scotch fillet, loin chops, roasts, schnitzel, cutlets and mince.

Australian Pork Limited's general manager Marketing Peter Haydon said he is proud of the industry for making a stand to support such a worthwhile cause.

"Proving their commitment to this campaign, Australian pork producers have also pledged to donate to FightMND during the appeal period," Mr Haydon said.

"We encourage Aussies to follow in their footsteps where they are able to."

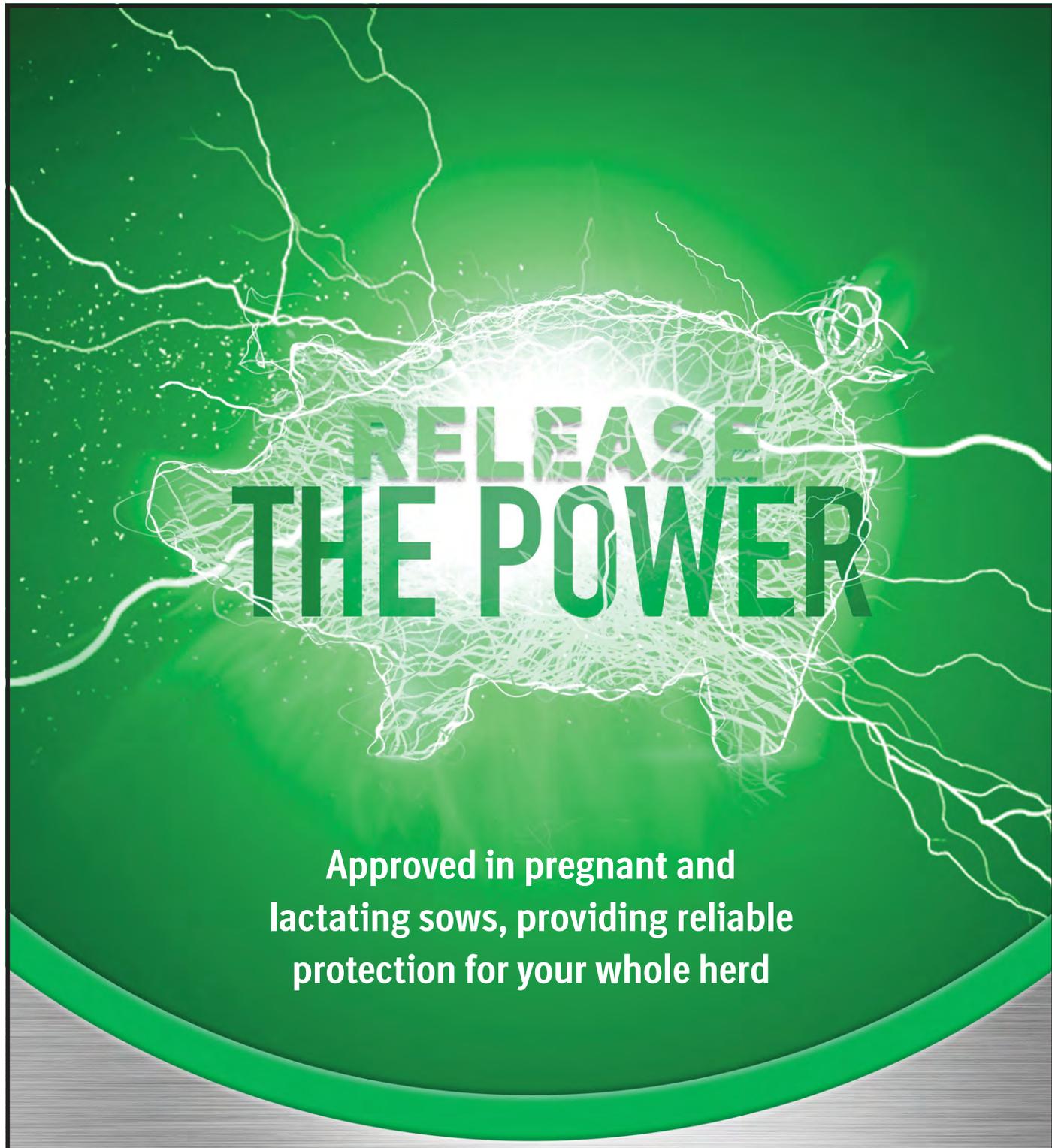
Coles chief operating officer Greg Davis said he expects customers will embrace the opportunity to support MND by buying pork during the appeal.

"We're delighted to band together with our pork farmers to take the fight against MND to the supermarket aisles.

"Customers can buy Coles Brand fresh pork during the appeal knowing they will be contributing to a very worthy cause."

To support FightMND and Australian pork producers as they unite against MND, visit any Coles store nationwide during the campaign and look for the sticker on packs of fresh pork.

For more information on MND and other ways in which you can help, visit [fightmnd.org.au](http://fightmnd.org.au)



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# Preparing for the next wave

FOR producers, there is always plenty to think about in the short term when running successful businesses.

For example, attending to everyday details such as feed quality and cost, the daily care of each pig, training and keeping good staff as well as agreeing commercial terms with buyers.

It's a similar situation at Australian Pork Limited.

It's easy to get wrapped up in what is happening today – changing ministers, new regulations, a different approach to R&D and the best marketing mix for the particular balance of supply and demand that seems likely to occur in coming months.

Also, the outbreaks of ASF around the world and the production survey responses suggesting that



production will moderate in the coming months from around 5.4 million pigs per year to about 5.1 million offer both threat and opportunity.

But every now and then – and 2019-20 will be one of those years – we need to lift our heads, focus on the horizon and work out where we want to be in 2025 or 2030.

The coming year is a strategic planning year.

If we take a long-term view, what has occurred in the past five to 10 years that we should take note of?

Well, the industry revenue graph looks like Figure 1.

In the 2010-2016 period the industry saw revenue growth that appears not to have been caused by external factors (like the opening of Singapore in 2000).

That growth appears to have been driven by 'positive for pork' changes in population growth, growth in domestic demand and other factors we do not have data to explain.

Marketing activity tends to fit into a number of buckets.

Changes in relative price and distribution tend to affect short-term volume and revenue, whereas consumer promotion and product quality tend to have more impact on long-term volume and revenue.

Looking at domestic demand, we know industry media activity (promotion) caused about 18 percent of the growth and while we don't have evidence, I believe the industry supply chains have improved significantly in new added-value products (marinated, convenient and part-cooked products) and that has also fuelled growth.

However, demand grew fast – enough to cause high prices – but in 2017-18 we found we could not grow it fast enough to keep up with supply growth caused by improved profitability.

That not only caused a price crash, but it also caused raw product quality to suffer.

Coming out of the 2017-18 price crash, not only do we need to trial increasing our industry's sources of demand in ham, bacon and international markets, we also need to increase

our product quality.

Fortunately, Dr Heather Channon has completed eating characteristics research that suggests by changing five factors we can move our overall eating score for Australian pork from a base of 52 percent to 65 percent.

At the same time, Kathleen Pindslie has identified the consumer interactions with pork that seem to matter most (the eating experience and in-store selection point).

As a result, we are embarking on a project aiming to improve consumers' eating experience.

This requires collaboration and moving forwards together with producers, abattoirs, boning rooms and retailers.

While we have recruited an ex-Woolworths and MLA specialist to help us with this, there are things that producers can do to help.

One of the key 'good eating characteristics' is the level of acidity or alkalinity of the meat in the abattoir.

This is largely affected by treatment on-farm, in-transit and at the abattoir.

So, while producers focus on recovery of their businesses and rebuilding their resources after the financial nightmare of the past two and a half years, part of APL's strategy will be aimed at building another price growth curve that is less of a peak but nevertheless an attractive and sustainable revenue story.

## Are you protected by Queensland's new biosecurity laws?

QUEENSLAND producers are being urged to review their biosecurity management plans and signage to ensure new biosecurity laws can be enforced against unauthorised entry to their properties.

Queensland's biosecurity laws have been changed to allow police and biosecurity officers to issue immediate fines to those who do not comply with a property's biosecurity management plan and who put on-farm biosecurity at risk.

To support enforcement of the new biosecurity law, farmers, livestock producers and others who keep animals are encouraged to:

- Ensure they are registered as a biosecurity entity with Biosecurity Queensland. Anyone with a Property Identification Code on July 1, 2016 was automatically registered as a biosecurity entity. Call 13 25 23 to check your status.

- Have an up-to-date biosecurity management plan in place. You may need to update your current plan to en-

sure it aligns with the new biosecurity laws. A checklist of information you must have in your plan is available on the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website.

- Have appropriate clear signage at the entry points to their property. You can download an approved sign from the DAF website ([daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurityplan](http://daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurityplan)).

The new biosecurity laws and fines are in addition to existing trespass laws and penalties, which include fines and possible jail time.

The change was fast-tracked after an escalation in unauthorised entry to properties by animal and vegan activists.

This is an interim measure – more changes to protect the livestock production industry are likely.

Find out more information about the new biosecurity laws and what you can do at your place ([daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-plan](http://daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-plan)).

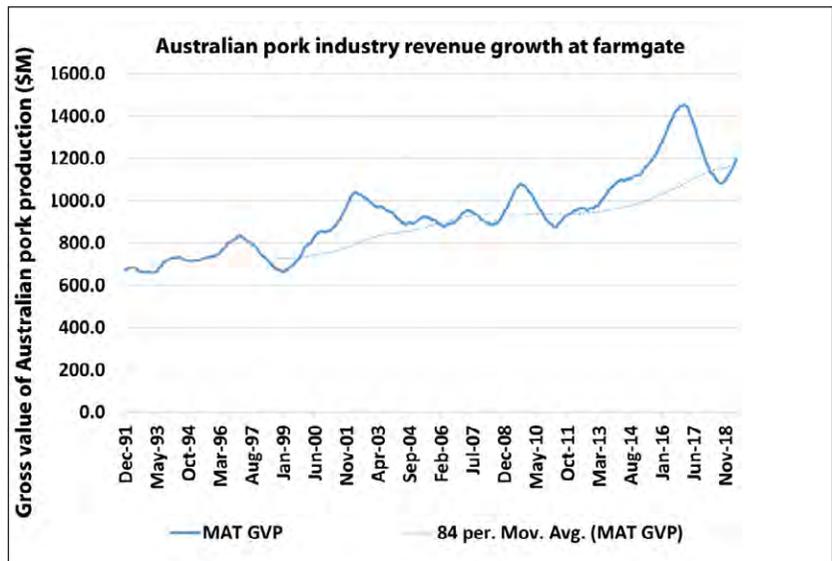
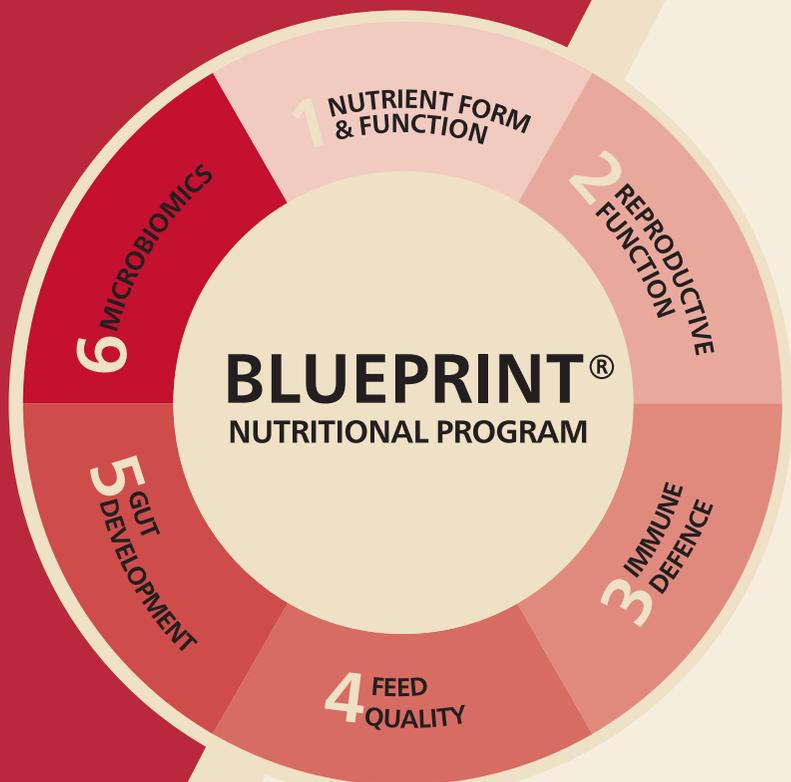


Figure 1

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Dr R. Dean Boyd - A.C. Dunkin Memorial Lecture: Innovation through research in the North American pig industry.



Prof Carol Bagnell - Review: Maternal programming of development in the pig and the lactocrine hypothesis.



Prof Mike Tokach - Review: Nutrient requirements, with an emphasis on amino acid requirements, of the modern high-producing lactating sow.



Dr Clay Lents - Review: Kisspeptin and reproduction in the pig.

## APSA welcomes invited speakers for 2019

WITH just five months until the 17th Biennial Australasian Pig Science Association Conference, the APSA Committee is preparing to welcome 10 invited speakers from Australia and around the world to present their reviews and symposia on a range of engaging topics.

Dr R. Dean Boyd – A.C. Dunkin Memorial Lecture: Innovation through research in the North American pig industry.

Research is key to driving innovation.

The North American pig industry has significantly benefitted from applying research innovation over the past decade.

While many of these innovations were developed in North America, some have been adopted from abroad.

**Dr Boyd is set to present the A.C. Dunkin Memorial Lecture and will detail innovations considered to be milestones for the North American pig industry.**

Some of these include: the identification of a major gene for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus; post-cervical insemination; advances in nutritional science to reduce seasonal infertility; as well as precision nutrition advances and technological developments to detect and identify pathogens easily and cost effectively.

All these research discoveries are being integrated into practice and have contributed to improving pig production in North America.

Dr Boyd is the former technical leader for the Hanor Company and Triumph Foods group (2002-2017).

His team managed the nutrition program for 90,000 sows and 2.45 million pigs.

He holds adjunct professorships in animal nutrition at North Carolina State and Iowa State universities.

Dr Boyd's research has led to a better understanding of energy and amino acid nutrition, ingredient mitigation of disease stress on growth and the profound lifetime effects of low weaning age.

His team proved seasonal infertility could be alleviated by specific amounts of essential fatty acids.

Dr Boyd has published more than 200 scientific papers in scholarly journals, book chapters and conference papers and in 2016 received the Animal Nutrition Research Award for distinguished contributions.

**Prof Carol Bagnell – Review: Maternal programming of development in the pig and the lactocrine hypothesis**

Maternal effects on development are profound.

Together, genetic and epigenetic maternal effects define the developmental trajectory of progeny and, ultimately, offspring phenotype.

Maternally provisioned environmental conditions and signals affect conceptus, fetoplacental and postnatal development from the time of conception until weaning.

Prof Bagnell's review will focus on maternal lactocrine programming of postnatal reproductive tract development in pigs by way of mother's milk – the 'lactocrine hypothesis'.

The importance of nursing from birth on reproductive development and performance is emphasised, with data on both short-term effects in the neonate and long-term effects in adults.

These data support the lactocrine hypothesis and milk as a conduit for delivery of maternally derived bioactive factors driving postnatal development.

Observations to date suggest lactocrine-dependent maternal effects program postnatal development of the porcine uterus, endometrial functionality and uterine capacity, and play a major role in the future fecundity of female offspring.

Dr Bagnell is Professor of Reproductive Biology in the Department of Animal Sciences at Rutgers University, New Jersey.

She has served as department chair and is currently Graduate Program Director in Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences.

Her studies, using the pig as a model, focus on improving our understanding of maternal programming of development by testing the lactocrine hypothesis.

**Prof Mike Tokach – Review: Nutrient requirements, with an emphasis on amino acid requirements, of the modern high-producing lactating sow**

Sow productivity improvements continue to increase the metabolic demands on the sow, especially first-litter sows, during lactation.

Energy requirements increase by 60 percent and amino acid needs to increase by 150 percent during the peripartum period and as litter size has increased, research on peripartum sows has focused on increasing birth weight, shortening farrowing duration to reduce stillbirths and improving colostrum composition and yield.

Prof Tokach's review will focus on the changing nutrient and energy requirements of sows during this critical period, with a particular focus on the supply

of dietary amino acids (especially lysine) to improve milk protein output and reduce muscle protein mobilisation.

Named among 50 people who have made the greatest impact in the US swine industry in the past 50 years, Prof Tokach is a swine nutrition researcher and extension specialist at Kansas State University.

He joined K-State in 1991, and in 2013 earned the title of university distinguished professor.

He is the author of more than 310 articles in scientific journals, eight book chapters and more than 1000 extension and non-refereed articles.

Prof Tokach has received more than \$18 million in research grants and gifts, has been awarded seven patents for his research and given more than 300 invited lectures at national and international conferences.

Prof Tokach has also advised and mentored over 100 advanced-degree students and visiting professors since joining the university.

**Dr Clay Lents – Review: Kisspeptin and reproduction in the pig**

Activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary axis is critical for initiation and maintenance of reproductive cycles in pigs and is influenced by a number of factors such as nutrition, metabolism and gonadal steroids.

Kisspeptin in a neuropeptide that is expressed in discrete regions of the porcine hypothalamus and is positioned to mediate the action of many of these factors.

Expression of kisspeptin in the pig hypothalamus does not appear to be regulated by gonadal steroids in the same way as other species.

It is unclear if kisspeptin is mediating nutritional or metabolic effects on gonadotropin secretion in pigs.

There appears to be little genetic diversity in kisspeptin or its receptor that is useful for improving reproduction in swine.

Both peripheral and central injection of kisspeptin strongly stimulates secretion of gonadotropin hormones, LH and FSH in gilts.

Similarly, synthetic analogues have been developed and show potential promise as tools to manage reproductive cycles in gilts and sows.

Dr Lents' review of the literature nonetheless reveals that research on kisspeptin and its function in controlling reproduction in pigs has lagged far behind that of other livestock species.

Dr Lents is a research physiologist for the USDA in the Reproduction Re-

search Unit at the US Meat Animal Research Center.

Dr Lents has a unique and diverse background ranging from neuroanatomy to endocrinology, reproductive physiology, metabolism and transcriptomics.

His current research focuses on integrating information from both applied and basic research to discover key mechanisms controlling growth and reproduction, which is used to develop approaches to improve reproductive development, performance and lifetime productivity of gilts.

**Dr Steve Little – Review: Water medication of growing pigs – sources of between-animal variability in systemic exposure to antimicrobials**

To manage health it is common for pigs to be medicated through their water.

However, this cannot be assumed to deliver an equal dose to each animal.

There is between-animal variability in systemic exposure to an antimicrobial, resulting in under-dosing or over-dosing.

Three sources of between-animal variability are: (1) concentration of the antimicrobial product available at drinkers over time; (2) medicated water consumption patterns of individual pigs; and (3) pharmacokinetics (that is, bioavailability, volume of distribution and clearance).

Dr Little will provide some insight into factors that influence the exposure to an antimicrobial for consideration when designing and implementing antimicrobial programs that reduce under-dosing and over-dosing and therefore achieve more clinical efficacy with less development of resistance.

Dr Little graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from The University of Melbourne.

He has worked for 30 years in the commercial Australian stockfeed and animal production sectors in field and technical management roles and as a consultant.

Dr Little's strong interest in (and frustration with) the uncertainties related to farm drinking water systems and mass-medication of pigs through their drinking water to control and treat diseases has motivated him to return to the vet school at the University of Melbourne to undertake a PhD with support from the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship.

**Dr Kristy DiGiacomo – Review: Insect meal – a future source of protein feed for pigs?**

Are insects the farm animal of the future?

The Australian pork production systems that efficiently use available resources (such as feed and energy) and limit the production of emissions (such as manure waste and greenhouse gases).

Invertebrates (insects including black soldier flies) are naturally consumed by monogastric and aquatic species, yet the large-scale production of insects for feed (or food) is yet to be exploited.

Insects are low GHG producers and have low land and water requirements.

The large-scale production of insects can contribute to a circular economy whereby food and feed waste (and potentially manure) is reduced, or ideally eliminated via bioconversion.

While the concept of farm-scale production of insects as domestic animal feed has been explored for decades, significant production and replacement of traditional protein sources has yet to be achieved.

Dr DiGiacomo's review will focus on the potential role of insect-derived protein as a feed source for the Australian pig production industry.

Dr DiGiacomo graduated with a Bachelor of Animal Science and Management (Honours) from the University of Melbourne and went on to receive her PhD from the University of Melbourne examining the physiological and metabolic responses to heat and dietary betaine in ruminants, under the guidance of Prof Frank Dunshie and Prof Brian Leury.

Dr DiGiacomo is a lecturer in production animal nutrition and physiology at the University of Melbourne and is a veski sustainable agriculture fellow.

Her research involves a variety of species and focuses on livestock nutrition, physiology and adaptation to the external environment.

**Prof Robyn Warner – Review: The process, drivers and challenges for cell-based meat production**

Cell-based meat, also called 'clean', lab, synthetic or in-vitro meat, has attracted much interest recently.

The drivers for cell-based meat production include food security, environment and sustainability, consumer and public health/safety and animal welfare problems associated with meat production.

Challenges for cell-based meat products include industry scale-up, a reliable muscle tissue source, IP sharing and

Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc)

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conference  
adelaide australia

17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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in your calendar

17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The Australasian Pig Science Association  
is pleased to announce that  
the 2019 APSA Biennial Conference  
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from  
17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Registrations  
Open Now

Registration Prices  
Early bird ends  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

REGISTRATION TYPE		Early Bird	Full
<b>APSA Member</b>	Full Registration	825.00	995.00
	Day Registration	455.00	455.00
<b>Non-Member</b>	Full Registration	1025.00	1325.00
	Day Registration	555.00	555.00
<b>Student APSA Member</b>	Full Registration	380.00	380.00

Visit the website for more details  
[www.apsa.asn.au](http://www.apsa.asn.au)



Dr Steve Little - Review: Water medication of growing pigs – sources of between-animal variability in systemic exposure to antimicrobials.



Dr Kristy DiGiacomo - Review: Insect meal – a future source of protein feed for pigs?



Prof Robyn Warner - Review: The process, drivers and challenges for cell-based meat production.



Prof Mark Hutchinson - Symposium: What might be possible if we could quantify the illness response?

## The Australasian Pig Science Association welcomes invited speakers for 2019

from P10

regulatory hurdles, the simulation of texture/mouthfeel and flavour of animal-derived meat, the cost, and consumers' acceptance of the technology and chemical ingredients used in culture media.

Prof Warner's review discusses the process of cell-based meat production and summarises the significant challenges for appearance on retail shelves.

Prof Warner works in Meat Science at the University of Melbourne where she applies her meat science and muscle biochemistry training to problems confronting the meat industry, supervises postgraduate students and teaches Meat Science.

Prof Warner has published over 100 papers in refereed journals, has given invited lectures in countries around the globe and serves as an editor for the journals 'Meat and Muscle Biology', online Food journal and 'Animal Production Science'.

She was the winner of the 2014 American Meat Science Association International Lectureship Award and has also received national and international awards for her role on the Meat Standards Australia food grading scheme.

**Prof Mark Hutchinson – Symposium: What might be possible if we could quantify the illness response?**

How do you know you are sick?

How does an animal know it is sick?

These may appear to be simple questions, yet it has taken more than 40 years for the fields of immunology and neuroscience to capture the potential impact of this mechanistic understanding.

Moreover, the understanding of the bi-directional communication

between the brain and peripheral immune system has evolved to capture an understanding of how mood can alter immune function and vice versa.

These concepts are rapidly evolving the field of psychiatry and medicine as a whole.

However, the advances in human medicine have not been capitalised upon yet in animal husbandry practice.

Of specific attention are the implications these biological systems have for creating and maintaining heightened pain states.

Prof Hutchinson's review will outline the key concepts of brain-immune communication and the immediate opportunities targeting this biology can have for husbandry practices, with a specific focus on pain.

Prof Hutchinson is the director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics, a professor within the Adelaide Medical School, and an ARC Future Fellow at the University of Adelaide.

Prof Hutchinson returned to the University of Adelaide in 2009 as an NHMRC CJ Martin Research Fellow and established the Neuroimmunopharmacology research laboratory.

From 2005 to 2009 he worked in the world-leading laboratory of Prof Linda Watkins in the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Here he pioneered with Prof Watkins the research that has led to the discovery of novel drug activity at innate immune receptors.

Prof Hutchinson's research has implicated the brain immune-like cells in the action of drugs of dependence and the negative side effects of pain treatments.

His work has enabled the translation of compounds at the lab bench to clinical agents used at the bedside.

Prof Hutchinson has published over 160 papers in journals and refereed conference proceedings.

**Assistant Prof Tomas Norton – Symposium: Precision livestock technologies for the pork industry**

Precision livestock farming is about making the most of farmers' expertise by supporting their processes with state-of-the-art information and communication technologies.

PLF is now in action on many farms across the world and farmers are beginning to trust the technology.

However, many questions still remain, such as will PLF drive the animal and human bond further apart?

Will PLF drive family farms out of existence?

And will PLF deteriorate the skill of the future generation of farmers?

This presentation will discuss the state-of-the-art technologies in PLF and will give an opinion on where PLF sits with respect to the future of sustainable pig production.

Assistant Prof Norton is based in the Division of Animal and Human and Health Engineering (group of M3-BIORES) at the KU Leuven.

He holds a PhD in Biosystems Engineering from University College Dublin, Ireland.

His current research focus is on precision livestock farming applications, focusing on real-time modelling and control of animal bio-responses.

He is PI and co-PI on collaborative national and international projects funded by the Belgium government, EU-H2020 and USDA, and is coordinator of courses on

Measuring, Modelling and Managing Bio-responses and Sustainable PLF, and Animal Production Engineering at the KU Leuven.

Since 2018, Assistant Prof Norton has been a member of the Flemish scientific team on air emissions from livestock buildings, Chair of Section 2 of International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and a member of the CIGR executive board.

**Mr Chris Piotrowski – Symposium: The potential of portable near-infrared spectroscopy for assuring quality and authenticity in the food chain**

Recent advances in miniaturisation have led to

a significant number of hand-held near-infrared devices being developed, providing the freedom to use these devices at many different points along the supply chain, allowing decisions to be made earlier, significantly reducing time and costs.

Currently the most common methods used for assessing meat quality and authenticity are laboratory analysis of the fatty-acid composition of melted subcutaneous fat using gas chromatography and DNA genetics checks.

This is reliant on getting a sample to the point of analysis, which can be some distance from the slaughterhouse, incurring considerable time delays

and meaning the carcasses could be processed before the results are available.

Mr Piotrowski will discuss a study looking at the use of portable NIR instruments to assess on-site quantitative (fatty acid profile) and qualitative ('premium' and 'non-premium' categories) of individual Iberian pork carcasses at the slaughterhouse.

NIR calibrations for fatty acids and classification as premium or non-premium based on measuring the carcass fat in-situ were developed using a portable NIR.

Mr Piotrowski is currently a director at Aunir, a leading NIR calibration development company and part of AB Vista, and has

been working in the feed industry for 40 years.

An analytical chemist by training, Mr Piotrowski introduced the first NIR network in the UK in the 1980s.

He now leads the technical development of near-infrared calibrations and applications at Aunir and has been instrumental in bringing innovative on-farm NIR applications to the animal nutrition market.

Mr Piotrowski is widely recognised globally for his contribution to the development of NIR calibrations for agricultural applications, including many novel applications based on animal in-vivo studies.



Assistant Prof Tomas Norton – Symposium: Precision livestock technologies for the pork industry.

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Mr Chris Piotrowski - Symposium: The potential of portable near-infrared spectroscopy for assuring quality and authenticity in the food chain.

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## As much as necessary, as little as possible

### ■ Deaths down by 60 percent, antimicrobial use down by 30 percent on a Queensland farm

HERE'S a good example of ways to reduce mortality rate.

This case study is drawn from a contract grower site producing 500 pigs on a three-week cycle.

This Queensland herd is under the veterinary control of Dr Andrew Morris who provided the data.

The farm reduced their overall antibiotic usage while improving overall herd mortality rates by using targeted vaccinations and the addition of probiotics to the diet.

Clearly the health responses are the result of a tailor-made solution.

"We decided on this approach because pig flow changes were not possible, so we focused on increasing the background health

of individual pigs through novel (off-label) vaccine use and reducing the microbial load in water," Dr Morris said.

The farm is a medium-sized contract grow site in southern Queensland.

Pigs come in at seven to eight weeks of age and are sold for slaughter at 20-22 weeks of age, weighing 110kg.

The water source is surface water.

The site is well ventilated.

Staff are diligent and focus on maintaining open blinds wherever possible.

There's nothing special about the health challenges here.

The herd has a conventional health status.

Strep suis meningitis,

mycoplasma pneumonia, brachyspira and pasteurella pneumonia are the dominant diseases.

Before 15 weeks of age, strep suis causes the most deaths.

After 15 weeks of age, pasteurella is the offending pathogen.

The mortality rate averages 16 per week (3.2 percent) but sometimes spikes as high as 40 pigs (8 percent) per week during extreme disease episodes.

This farm keeps track of its antimicrobial use.

It was relatively high at 2.6g/kg of liveweight produced.

#### The plan

Pig flow changes would have made the biggest difference but that just wasn't going to be possible considering the design and output style of the operation.

"Instead we focused on increasing the background health of the pigs so disease would have less chance to flourish or establish easily," Dr Morris said.

Bacillus subtilis (Alterion), a probiotic, was added in all feeds throughout the system from birth to slaughter and breeder herds to stabilise the herd's microbiome – the normal necessary but 'friendly' population of bugs carried by pigs.

The probiotic is integrated into the vitamin and mineral premix to

reduce cost.

Fysal MP (a feed acid) was included into feeds at 1.5kg per tonne from 16 weeks of age and above.

This inclusion was based on trial data from the Pork CRC.

Also, at 16 weeks, piglets were vaccinated with a live pasteurella multocida vaccine (under a vet script) at 0.7ml per pig.

Water is treated with Selko PH (an acidifier) for pigs over 17 weeks of age.

This improves the microbial balance in the gastrointestinal tract and helps to further reduce and replace antibiotic use.

#### The result

"The mortalities have dropped significantly and now average six (1.2 percent) rather than 16 per week," Dr Morris said.

That's an estimated improvement in gross revenue of about \$3000 per week.

Carcass quality has also improved, an unexpected bonus.

Current antibiotic usage has dropped by 32 percent.

"Hence, there has been significant improvement in both mortality rate and carcass quality with corresponding decreases in antibiotic usage," Dr Morris said.

"And we can see further opportunities to reduce treatment costs with modifications to plumbing infrastructure."

Ross Cutler

## Antimicrobial stewardship: a mindset change

IN the Netherlands, changes in antimicrobial policy began with an outbreak of Q fever in people, which was followed by an inquiry into animal production practices and the use of antimicrobials in animal production.

Then, in 2009, an extremely resistant stomach infection spread in people across the country.

The source was found to be bacteria from food animals resistant to specific antibiotics.

At that time the minister for agriculture Gerda Verburg, in a press interview, made an off-the-cuff commitment to reduce antimicrobial use in animals within a specific time frame.

Her sudden announcement became policy.

This led to greater transparency in recording and benchmarking antimicrobial use on farms, benchmarking prescribing practices of vets, strengthening the role of vets, promoting animal health initiatives and the prudent use of antimicrobial medicines in line with official reduction targets.

The Dutch started with a plan developed by a working committee involving farmers, vets, feed companies, slaughterhouses and the animal health service.

Preventive dosing stopped.

Antibiotics could only be given after a veterinary inspection.

And farmers would be expected to cut their use of antimicrobial medicines for animal health severely.

Between 2009 and 2015 the Dutch cut their use of antimicrobials in farmed animals by 58 percent.

Their ongoing strategy is about further enhancing pig health by improving farm management through a traffic light system, rewarding low antibiotic use (green) farms by market rewards and lighter regulation and providing extra assistance to high using (red) farms.

The Dutch are also investigating tools that measure the effect of lower antibiotic use on antimicrobial resistance as well as a system to monitor diseases on farms.

They are also continuously researching animal nutrition strategies that could reduce the need for antimicrobial use.

Lowering antimicrobial use requires a change in practices.

This means behavioural changes for prescribing vets, owners, managers and farm staff.

Changing human behaviour is tough, especially when it means changing things done every day.

Any change process involves awareness of both the need and intention to change behaviour.

This intention to change must transition into action, followed by a maintenance

continued P13



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GRAIN & PROTEIN

# UK pig industry halves antibiotic usage in two years

FIGURES from the United Kingdom show their pig industry has halved antibiotic usage in two years.

UK figures show the pig industry reduced antibiotic usage by 34 percent over the 2015-16 period and by a further 28 percent in 2016-17, bringing the total reduction in two years to more than 50 percent.

The news has been welcomed by the UK's Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, which has worked closely with the National Pig Association, the British Pig Association, Pig Veterinary Society, meat levy bodies Quality Meat Scotland Northern Ireland

Pork and Bacon Forum and Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales, as well as the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance to help cut the use of antibiotics.

AHDB's senior veterinary manager Mandy Nevel said: "This is a great industry effort with all parties fully engaged and determined to demonstrate responsible use of antibiotics in pigs."

It comes just seven months after targets were announced by the Targets Task Force, set up by RUMA, to reduce antibiotic usage in the pig industry by over 60 percent between 2015 and 2020.

Analysis of the latest data from the UK's elec-

tronic Medicine Book, which represents 87 percent of pigs slaughtered in the UK, states antibiotic usage on pig farms dropped from 183 units per pig to 131 units per pig within 12 months to the end of 2017.

Mandy Nevel, who's coming to Australia for a series of talks and workshops about antimicrobial resistance stewardship in August, says the achievements are the result of high-level collaboration across the industry to deliver on a challenging and rigorous ongoing plan to reduce and refine antibiotic use, while maintaining the health and welfare of pigs.

Mandy recognises the challenges faced by various

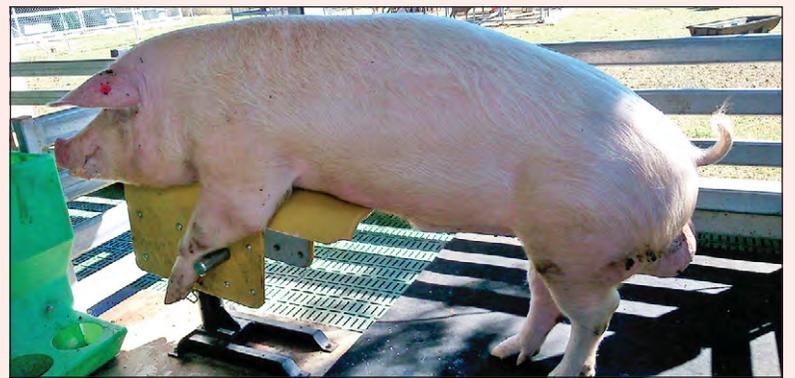
industry sector leaders in meeting the agreed reduction targets but says the pig sector is rising to that challenge and making progress every day.

"There is still work to be done to reduce antibiotic use, such as improved collaboration between farmers to tackle endemic disease," Mandy said.

"The results also show the importance of data.

"Small datasets are interesting but can be misleading.

"In complex supply chains a complete data set is required so antimicrobial stewardship plans can be properly developed at both a farm and whole of industry level."



## Antioxidants protect hot hogs from sperm DNA damage

JAMES Cook University researchers have developed a diet that yields healthier pig sperm, which should mean healthier embryos and larger litter sizes to overcome summer infertility.

Dr Damien Paris, Prof Bruce Gummow and PhD student Dr Santiago Peña Jr from the Gamete and Embryology (GAME) Lab at James Cook University, recently discovered tropical summer weather causes a 16-fold increase in DNA damage and reduces concentration of pig sperm.

"This level of sperm DNA damage is known to decrease embryo survival, farrowing (birth) rates and litter sizes in pigs," Dr Paris said.

"We wanted to develop a food supplement to mitigate the damage caused during summer to improve productivity."

Pork is the most widely eaten meat in the world, with tropical countries such as Brazil, Vietnam, The Philippines and Mexico among the top-10 pork producers.

However, summer infertility costs the pig industry millions of dollars each year in productivity losses.

The JCU researchers, in collaboration with Assoc Prof Anthony Parker (College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University), developed a custom-made multi-antioxidant supplement that restores the fertility of boars by protecting their sperm DNA from damage induced during the tropical summer.

"Antioxidants (such as Vitamin C and E, zinc, selenium and so on) are substances that inhibit oxidation and ultimately cellular and DNA damage by neutralising free radicals," Dr Paris said.

"Some are also known to bolster DNA synthesis and packaging in sperm."

The quality of sperm was compared to samples collected from the same boars during the previous summer without antioxidant supplementation.

"We found the antioxidants more than halved

sperm DNA damage, from 16 percent down to 7 percent after 84 days' treatment," Dr Peña said.

"Healthier sperm should mean healthier embryos and larger litter sizes, so this diet has enormous potential for improving pig production and food security in the tropics."

The work was supported by an Australia Awards Scholarship awarded to Dr Peña.

It has just been published and is freely available (along with the antioxidant formulation) in the scientific journal PLOS ONE (doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0216143).

Dr Paris said the JCU team is keen to further test the efficacy of the antioxidant therapy on boars during periods of summer infertility, and is seeking collaboration with the pig industry to conduct on-farm field trials.

To support this initiative or learn more about this work, contact Dr Paris by email damien.paris@jcu.edu.au or phone 07 4781 6006.

# 2019 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship 'next gen' winners announced

THE AgriFutures team is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship.

Twelve young people from across Australia are recognised for their talent and commitment to the future of agriculture.

The scholarship provides \$10,000 to assist with study and living expenses for the final two years of the students' agricultural-related degree.

On top of the bursary, students also receive professional development workshops and work placements to kick-start their career in agriculture, access to industry leaders and opportunities to network and gain knowledge at a range of industry events.

### 2019 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship recipients

- Anna Drake, Beroft NSW, University of Sydney, sponsor GRDC.
- Emma Rice, Parkes NSW, University of New England, sponsor GRDC.
- Kellie Maybery-Reupert, Oakleigh VIC, Monash University,

sponsor GRDC.

- Matthew Nevison, Gordon NSW, University of Sydney, sponsor AgriFutures Australia.

- Montana Coombes, Melba ACT, Australian National University, sponsor AgriFutures Australia.

- Natasha Reading, Warraloo East VIC, University of Melbourne, sponsor MLA.

- Sacha Pulsford, Hackett ACT, Australian National University, sponsor AgriFutures Australia.

- Sophia Thatcher, Armidale NSW, University of New England, sponsor AgriFutures Australia.

- Tom Grills, Barwon Heads VIC, University of Melbourne, sponsor GRDC.

- William Foster, Ross TAS, University of Melbourne, sponsor GRDC.

- Harrison Goy, Harkaway VIC, University of Melbourne, sponsor Hort Innovation.

- Mikaela Tilse, Gundy NSW, University of Sydney, sponsor AgriFutures Australia.

AgriFutures Australia managing director John

Harvey congratulated the 12 students on their success and welcomed them to the AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship program.

"We are thrilled to welcome the 2019 winners, selected from a talented pool of more than 130 applicants," Mr Harvey said.

"We have hand-picked these young people because of their vision and commitment to the ever-changing world of agriculture."

Mr Harvey said the Scholarship program gives students extraordinary opportunities.

"We pair them with industry sponsors which gives the students unprecedented access to the decision makers in agriculture," he said.

"They will learn life skills such as relationship building, networking and the power of collaboration in our tech-savvy, start-up world."

Mr Harvey also paid tribute to new and returning Horizon sponsors and acknowledged their significant contribution to

the program, particularly in offering valuable exposure to the agricultural sector.

"Our sponsors provide the scholarship winners with hands-on work placements so they can be part of the innovations taking place in global markets," Mr Harvey said.

The successful recipients will begin their journey by attending a four-day workshop in July focused on leadership and personal development.

This year's workshop will be in Adelaide and features special guest speakers, industry experts, field trips and the opportunity to network, meet sponsors and discuss innovations and challenges in the agricultural sector.

For more information, visit [agrifutures.com.au/horizon](http://agrifutures.com.au/horizon)



## Antimicrobial stewardship: a mindset change

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phase where relapse into old behaviours should be prevented.

The stimulus to change is driven by a person's beliefs.

These are related to attitude, perceived normal behaviours of others and one's abilities.

The more producers and vets believe in their abilities, and experience positive outcomes in controlling animal diseases with less or even no use of antimicrobials, the higher their intention becomes to

actively engage in practices that reduce antimicrobial use.

The same applies in Australia.

The message here is to make the changes bit by bit.

For Australian producers and their vets, the starting point is to create a farm environment that presents healthy animals.

The Dutch have shown a combination of policy – setting strict reduction targets for antimicrobial use – and supportive measures such as education and

peer pressure can have a huge effect on the level of antimicrobial use in farm animals.

Benchmarking of antimicrobial prescribing and use enables farmers and veterinarians to compare their use with other farmers and vets.

In both Denmark and the Netherlands, this has shown to be very effective.

It opens discussions between farmers and vets around the level of antimicrobial use and specific antimicrobial use practices.

Ross Cutler



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## Stockyard Industries expands its team and welcomes Tin Phung

TIN Phung will take on the role of territory sales representative for Stockyard.

Tin has come from more than 20 years' experience in the poultry industry.

After graduating from an Agricultural Science degree at the University of Melbourne in 1998, Tin then worked with broiler breeders for eight years.

In 2007 he switched to the layer industry, working for Hy-Line Australia.

Tin joined Hy-Line International in 2013 as technical service manager for South-East Asia covering 12 countries.

Tin will be based in Bendigo, Victoria but will travel extensively throughout Australia to service Stockyard Industries' customer base.

Tin can be contacted on 0400 075 193 or tin@stockyardindustries.com

Tin has always enjoyed working in the poultry industry and is eager to start his next chapter in his career and meet our poultry and pig customers to discuss equipment and project needs.



Tin Phung



## Early career scientists reveal research with a difference

DYNAMIC, innovative and enthusiastic best describes the five talented early career researchers who presented at 'Collaborate Innovate 2019', the annual conference of the Cooperative Research Centres Association at the Adelaide Hilton, May 28-30.

They delivered five-minute oral pitches on their research, covering low-carbon housing, renewable energy, brain disorders, outer space and ulcers as the finalists in an outstanding field of 41 video entries.

CRCA CEO Dr Tony Peacock said entrants submitted 30-second videos demonstrating they could convey the aim of their research clearly and effectively.

"Judges then looked for entrants who demonstrated excellent oral presentation skills and most favourably those who could best articulate research likely to make a difference," he said.

"In Australia's competitive research landscape, young scientists often face uncertainty in funding and job security.

"The awards, sponsored

by CQ University, recognise and support early career researchers who've demonstrated excellence not only in the laboratory but in communicating their science."

The finalists are Tanya Babaeff and Lio Hebert, both of the CRC for Low Carbon Living; Ricardo Mesquita, Edith Cowan University; Joseph O'Leary, Space Environment Management CRC; and Christina Parker, Queensland University of Technology.

Ms Babaeff, in her presentation 'Mainstreaming low carbon housing precincts' said cities were major contributors to climate change.

"So, changing the way we develop our neighbourhoods is critical to survival, yet contemporary planning and development practices fail to meet this challenge, still producing unsustainable housing precincts," she said.

"To assist urban planners and developers to better facilitate institutional change, my research identifies how a recent residential development project, which began

with a business-as-usual approach, ended up transforming towards innovation."

Mr Hebert, in his presentation 'New approach to integrate renewable energy into our network' said renewable energy and particularly customer-owned rooftop solar greatly helped countries reduce their carbon footprint and customers reduce their electricity bills.

"However, utilities struggle with the way renewables are integrated into our grid and the latter might either collapse or limit the amount of renewable," he said.

"I've taken a new approach, developing a business model for solar and battery to optimise the grid, reduce our electricity bills and unleash the potential for a zero-carbon future."

Mr Mesquita, in his presentation 'These nerve cells are on fire - are they?' said the mechanisms from the brain to the muscle that underpin fatigue were not yet fully described.

"Your brain does not directly command your muscles to move," he said.

"Halfway, we have amazing nerve cells that speed up the information that is sent to the muscles.

"I aim to find if this increase in signal speed is impaired during exercise.

"The techniques I use will potentially be used in the clinic to assess people with neurological disorders."

Mr O'Leary, in his presentation 'General relativistic and post-Newtonian dynamics for near-earth objects and solar system bodies' said classical theories of gravity were not sufficient for describing the motion of near-earth objects such as GPS satellites.

"Small departures from Newtonian gravity require that general relativistic effects be taken into account for accurate time-keeping and satellite orbit prediction," he said.

"My PhD focuses on the mechanics of near-earth objects in a relativistic framework, simulating satellite orbits and comparing with classical models."

Dr Parker, in her presentation 'Predicting the likelihood of non-healing: A venous leg ulcer risk assessment tool' said her research had identified early predictors of non-healing in venous leg ulcers that had contributed to an innovative tool for their early detection of these ulcers.

"This tool has shown good results for reliability and validity and is being tested internationally," she said.

"Identifying risk factors for delayed healing is an opportunity to implement adjuvant interventions and routine care at an early stage and determine realistic outcomes for patients and guide decisions on tailoring treatment."

The annual conference of the CRCA at the Adelaide Hilton from May 28-30 joined researchers, educators and industry with a diverse community of CRCA members.

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The Margaret River Fresh trademark is registered with IP Australia to Western Meat Packers Group and is used exclusively to package its premier beef products, as displayed at 'Food and Hotel Vietnam'.

## Margaret River Fresh beef in Vietnam

WESTERN Meat Packers Group recently participated in and exhibited at Vietnam's leading food and hospitality event 'Food and Hotel Vietnam'.

WMPG CEO Andrew Fuda said the response of existing and prospective WMPG customers this year was beyond all expectations, with orders taken and considerable interest shown in the company's 'high-end' Margaret River Fresh beef product.

"While the Margaret River region has long been globally recognised for its fine wines, it is now also acknowledged for its fine food and our Margaret River Fresh branded beef is leading the way by giving our customers a taste sensation second to none," Mr Fuda said.

"We've always made a

point of taking every opportunity to spend time with customers and prospects in all our export markets.

"Building strong relationships is particularly important in South-East Asian countries such as Vietnam where the people and cultures put a high price on trust between seller and buyer.

"As a family owned company since 1983, WMPG has always treated our customers like family, where trust and honesty is all important."

Western Meat Packers Group promoted its exclusive Margaret River Fresh brand at Food and Hotel Vietnam.

Now in its 10th year, the event is held at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center, Ho Chi Minh City.

WMPG also participated in 2017.

The Margaret River Fresh trademark is registered with IP Australia to WMPG and used exclusively to package the group's premier products according to WMPG CEO Andrew Fuda, who hosted the company's stand at the event.

Cattle are selected after grazing on their natural pastures and then raised and fattened almost exclusively on pasture, before carrying the Margaret River Fresh brand after processing at the WMPG abattoir located on 250ha in the Margaret River region.

"In all our export markets, including Vietnam, Japan, Korea, the US, Hong Kong and Singapore, there is high demand for sustainably sourced, clean products and the Margaret River region is renowned for

these qualities," Mr Fuda said.

"We've built on this reputation and the growing consumer trends around sustainability, hormone-free and animal welfare by ensuring we meet these expectations."

Looking to further their reach into other export markets beyond their established partnerships is part of the current focus for growth within WMPG.

WMPG, which has an annual turnover of more than \$150 million, is 100 percent owned by Rod Russell and his wife Shana.

They started the business in 1983.

It employs 450 people across its Osborne Park processing and packing headquarters, Margaret River abattoir and Bibra Lake value-adding facility.

www.wmpg.com.au

## 4" piggery effluent pump

MOVING large quantities of piggery effluent contaminated with compressible solids, straw and other waste material is a challenge.

Traditionally long column sump pumps are used for this application but can be susceptible to bearing wear.

Aussie Pumps has a cost-effective, robust cast iron electric pump that is ideal for handling piggery waste.

Called the Aussie B4XR-A/ST, it is a 4" semi-trash pump and has the ability to handle large volumes of contaminated water.

Surface mounted, it is simple to service with a large front-mounted clean-out port.

This enables access to wash out the pump internally without the need to disconnect the pipe-work or hoses.

Aussie Pumps' Neil Bennett 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 keep up with the solids handling requirements of the job."

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

"This results in the pumps needing 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 big Aussie 4" pump delivers flows of up to 2300l/pm and heads as high as 29m.

Best of all, the pump self-primers from depths as low as 6m.

The Aussie GMP 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 semi-trash pumps come with silicon-carbide mechanical seals with alumina counter-face and nitrile rubber seals as standard.

A tungsten-carbide Viton is also available.

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

The big pumps are powered by 15kW two-pole electric motors with a 55 IP rating against moisture and dust ingress.

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.

"We can supply these as bare shaft pumps for installation on existing engines, or for converting conventional electric-drive pumps to self-priming semi-trash versions," Bennett said.

"We even do a hydraulic-drive pump for mobile applications."

Further information including a comprehensive data pack is available from Aussie Pumps (aussiepumps.com.au) or authorised distributors throughout Australia.



Aussie Pumps' GMP semi-trash pumps are the ideal solution for piggery effluent.

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The FOG blanket formed by EDUR pumps at a process plant in Europe.

## Improve your DAF system

FOOD processing companies can improve the reliability of their DAF system and reduce maintenance costs by throwing out their compressor and air saturation (pressure) vessel and replacing their existing pump with an EDUR multi-phase pump, according to Australian distributor Hydro Innovations.

The EDUR multi-phase pump is unique in that it is capable of pumping an air/water mixture, so installing this pump enables DAF system owners to disconnect their compressor (to free it up to use elsewhere or work it less and save on maintenance costs).

They also don't need the ongoing maintenance and recertification for the air saturation pressure vessel.

With the pressure vessel, they can remove or bypass it,

or incorporate it into the new system.

If they choose to incorporate it, it just becomes part of the pipe system and will not be a pressure vessel requiring certification.

The heart of the new system is the EDUR multi-phase pump.

The setup is simple.

It is set up with a throttle valve and 'air snorkel' on the suction side of the pump, and a solution line (or reuse the existing air saturation vessel) and throttle valve on the discharge.

The pump draws water from the 'clean' side of the DAF tank, and with the negative pressure created by partially closing the suction throttle valve, also draws atmospheric air into the pump.

The pump shears and mixes the air with the water and dis-

charges it (under pressure created by the discharge throttle valve) through the discharge solution line.

The pressure created and the time spent in the solution line 'forces' the air into solution.

When the air/water solution reaches the lower pressure in the DAF tank, the air comes out of solution to form tiny micro bubbles (30-70 micron).

The micro bubbles attach to fat, oil and grease (FOG) particles and float them to the surface of the DAF tank.

A FOG blanket is formed and mechanically scraped away (as with conventional systems).

The major benefits of changing to an EDUR system are the simplicity of a 'set and forget' arrangement and the ongoing maintenance cost savings.

No more compressor needed means lower maintenance on the compressor.

The removal of the pressure vessel means a reduction in maintenance costs and elimination of the need for yearly certification of the pressure vessel.

The removal of the pressure vessel also improves WHS around the system.

More information on the EDUR pump/system may be obtained from Hydro Innovations at [hydroinnovations.com.au](http://hydroinnovations.com.au)



The bank of EDUR pumps producing the 'blanket'.

## New 'no rules' trading environment unsettles Australian agricultural exports

NEW research shows uncertainty from ongoing bilateral trade wars between China and the US have set the global trading environment back decades and undermined Australian agricultural exports.

A comprehensive AgriFutures Australia-funded report released recently gives policy-makers, industry peak bodies and primary producers a roadmap as to how a less-predictable trading environment may impact export markets.

AgriFutures Australia managing director John Harvey said the ITS Global analysis, Bilateral trade wars: Understanding the implications for Australian agriculture, gives the industry a firm footing for policy creation.

"This robust analysis gives Australian exporters the knowledge they need to take a leadership role in attempting to restore stability for agricultural commodities in the current global trading environment," Mr Harvey said.

"The findings show unilateral moves by the Trump administration to renegotiate existing trade agreements have threatened World Trade Organization principles of a rules-based trading system, creating uncertainty for Australian agriculture."

The report identified a wide range of risks and opportunities for Australia's agricultural interests arising from the current trade wars, finding some Australian products are likely to fare better than others.

AgriFutures Australia senior manager Business Development Jen Medway agreed that while some industries will prosper and others may feel the pressure from these trade wars, understanding the potential

impact is fundamental to creating stability in an unsettled trade environment.

"Australia's dairy industry is one industry that could potentially benefit from trade opportunities with China on the back of additional tariffs imposed on US dairy products," Ms Medway said.

"On the flip side, a prospective US-Japan free trade agreement could negatively impact the dairy industry as US producers disadvantaged in the Chinese market could gain improved access to Japan.

"For the Australian wool industry, the bilateral trade wars may not have a noticeable impact, despite China implementing retaliatory tariffs on some US wool products.

"The relatively small size of the US wool export market to Asia will buffer any significant uncertainty for Australian wool exporters as a result of the increased tariffs."

This is similar for Australian sheep and goat meat exports, primarily lamb, where the aftermath of the trade wars are expected to be minimal.

These products have not been the focus of additional tariff actions, however a US-UK FTA (following the UK's exit from the European Union) would have a negative impact on some Australian markets.

"The UK is a leading sheepmeat exporter and the US is Australia's most important market," Ms Medway said.

"Any improvement in access for UK product into the US would be damaging to Australia's export interests."

Another area we may see increased competition is in Australia's fresh, chilled and frozen beef exports

due to risks identified in Australia's two biggest beef export markets – Japan and the US.

"The US is increasingly eager to expand its export reach of beef products into Japan, with the US having very limited access to China and the EU due to a ban on hormone growth promotants," Ms Medway said.

"With the US and Japan edging closer to negotiating a bilateral FTA, Australian beef exports to Japan may suffer."

Mr Harvey acknowledged the importance of the report findings, noting they are critical to putting rigor around our understanding of the top line impacts for agriculture products as a result of trade wars.

"It will inform Australian industry input on how best to ameliorate the detrimental side effects of current and possible future trade measures," Mr Harvey said.

Mr Harvey added the take-away message from the research is trade wars breed uncertainty.

Uncertainty is bad for business and leaves agricultural producers, traders and buyers struggling to manage a shifting policy landscape.

"The longer this period of uncertainty lasts, the more commercial decisions will need to be made by Australia's agricultural stakeholders facing the prospect of sudden and unpredictable policy changes at the global level," Mr Harvey said.

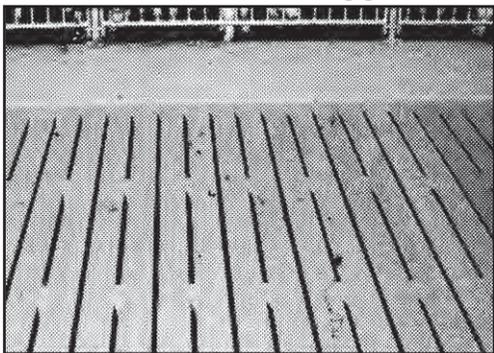
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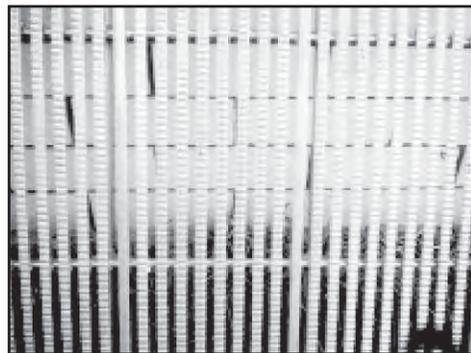
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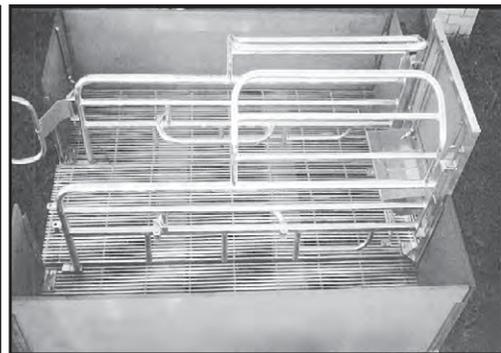
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# AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

## African swine fever summit brings together industry experts in Adelaide

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited hosted an African swine fever summit on May 3 at the Science Exchange in Adelaide, with Australian chief veterinary officer Dr Mark Schipp chairing the summit.

The event brought together each of the state and territory chief veterinary officers, other government representatives, private vets and others in the pork supply chain.

A range of presentations set the existing situation and activities, and covered the import pathway risks, the international situation on the spread of ASF, diagnostic and regional perspectives and state and territory prepared-



ness and extension programs.

APL, the Australian Pig Vet Group, state farming organisations and the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia also discussed the activities being undertaken by each sector.

The day concluded with a facilitated risk analysis session to identify any gaps and opportunities stakeholders can exploit, and a prioritisation of further

activities and co-ordinated plans.

A summary of the event will be published on APL's website and in the weekly Communique.

The unedited video recording of the event is available on APL's YouTube channel titled 'ASF Summit 3rd May 2019'.

Search for Australian Pork Limited and select the Videos tab.

The description section outlines the speakers/sessions and video time should you only wish to review certain presentations.

For any questions please contact Deb Kerr, General Manager Policy on 02 6270 8803 or deb.kerr@australianpork.com.au

## Vietnam culls two million pigs and urges whole nation to fight swine fever

VIETNAM said on May 31 it had culled two million pigs in a bid to curb an outbreak of deadly African swine fever and called on the entire nation to join the fight against the rapidly spreading disease.

The ASF virus had spread to 48 of the country's 63 provinces, agriculture minister Nguyen Xuan Cuong said at a meeting of parliament, upping the number of pigs culled from 1.7 million less than a week prior.

Pork accounts for three-quarters of total meat consumption in Vietnam, a country of 95 million people where most of its 30 million farm-raised pigs are consumed domestically.

"This is an extremely dangerous disease... and we have to take the fight

seriously," Cuong said.

"The whole political system has to get engaged in the fight."

Cuong also called on local consumers not to turn their back on pork consumption and encouraged businesses to stockpile pork in anticipation of shortages in the second half of the year.

"We shouldn't expand the pig herd at the moment, but instead, shift the focus on expanding cattle, poultry and aquaculture production," he said.

Vietnam's pork industry is valued at about 94 trillion dong (\$US4 billion), accounting for nearly 10 percent of the country's agricultural sector.

Cuong said the outbreak is threatening to expand to the rest of the country as the virus remains dormant in the environment for a

long time and can spread through complex and varied means.

African swine fever was first detected in Asia last August in China, the world's largest pork producer, where Rabobank has estimated up to 200 million pigs could be culled or die.

Other analysts do not expect such a large impact.

South Korea also said on May 31 the disease has

been detected in North Korea near its border with China.

Earlier this month, Vietnam said it will mobilise its military and police forces to help combat the outbreak.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in March advised Vietnam to declare the swine fever outbreak as a national emergency.



## South Korea ramps up disinfection as first case of swine fever detected in the North

SOUTH Korea will boost disinfection measures to prevent an outbreak of African swine fever from spreading to its pig herd after the disease was found in North Korea, the agriculture ministry announced on May 31.

There is no vaccine for the highly contagious disease that is fatal to pigs but does not affect humans.

It spread rapidly across China after being detected there last August, and has also been reported in Vietnam.

According to the latest Reuters report, the North's outbreak was confirmed on May 25 at a farm in its province of Jagang near the border with China, South Korea's agriculture ministry said in a statement, with more than 20 hogs culled and more than 70 dead from the virus.

Agriculture ministry director general Oh Soon-min said, "There is a possibility the virus could spread to the South and we plan to carry out extra disinfection measures."

Measures will include stepping up disinfection in areas near the shared border, the ministry said.

South Korea's unification ministry said it would make use of a liaison office with its reclusive neighbour to work out detailed protection measures with the North.

Pork, cheaper than beef, is a popular meat in South Korea, which had about 11.2 million pigs in the first quarter, data from Statistics Korea shows.

North Korea has not confirmed the swine fever outbreak, but the state-run *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper on May 31 carried three articles on the risks posed by the virus and its rapid spread.

However, South Korea's agriculture ministry said its neighbour had reported the outbreak to the Paris-based World Organisation for Animal Health on May 30 and took steps to control its spread, including disinfection.

### Lack of prevention capability

The North's outbreak comes as it grapples with food shortages, when four in 10 citizens are going hungry after the worst harvest in a decade, the United Nations said recently.

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in China and North Korea Vincent Martin said, "The food and nutrition insecurity situation in North Korea is worrying and the African swine fever outbreak puts additional pressure on the availability of proteins of animal origin."

Kwon Tae-jin of the GSNI Institute said the North's pork consumption

had increased recently as leader Kim Jong Un pushed to increase meat supply.

"The outbreak will mainly affect the elite because not every North Korean can easily eat pork or other types of meat," he said.

"The biggest concern is lack of sanitary and prevention capability."

North Korea raises mainly chicken, ducks and rabbits, but its pig population in 2017 rose 8.9 percent to 2.6 million, according to Statistics Korea.

South Korean pork producers worry that wild boars near the border could carry in the virus, hitting pig farms.

Korea Pork Producers' Association official Oh Yu-hwan said, "Prevention is the best way to counter the virus."

"The government should step up controlling wild boars, otherwise it could threaten the foundation of the industry."

The government plans to build more fences to protect farm animals from wild boars and relax rules on hunting them,

the ministry said.

However, the average retail price of pork belly changed little in South Korea, standing at \$US1.57/100g on May 30 from \$US1.56 a year earlier, data from state-run Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corp shows.

Shares of South Korean animal medicine suppliers, Eagle Veterinary Technology and Cheil Bio rallied as much as 23 percent and 16 percent, respectively, while those of animal feed maker Woosung Feed jumped more than 12 percent.



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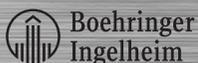
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