

Australian



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Dr Jonathan Van Dissel with Pig Club veterinary students Emily Edwards, Bonnie Homer, Ruth Khaw, Lili Du, Gypsy Entriken and Jackson Judd

Pig club placements

■ South Australian veterinary students in Victoria

PORK SA provides annual pig industry funding to support the Adelaide University's Pig Club student membership to complete a number of extracurricular activities, with a focus on exposing the students to the commercial pork sector and the range of career opportunities it can provide to agriculture, animal and veterinary science graduates.

In late December 2024, Pig Club funds sponsored an invaluable placement opportunity for six Doctor of Veterinary Science students, where they undertook

Pope's Perspective by **GRAEME POPE**



veterinary placement in Victoria under the guidance of Dr Jonathan Van Dissel from Apiam's ProSwine team.

The week consisted of shadowing Jonathon as he conducted veterinary visits to three different outdoor pig farms.

Overwhelmingly, all students had an excelable insights and practical skills they could apply in their future careers, either in mixed animal practice or as pig specific veterinarians.

Testimonials from Pig Club students Jackson Judd

A good combination of a fun trip merged cational outcome - this pig placement is a solid choice for anyone going into mixed practice or intensive farming with a focus on pigs.

The chance to visit multiple outdoor pig farms, learn about the many aspects of running a successful outdoor pig farm and the opportunity to refine pig knowledge and practical skills proves how invaluable this placement is.

I would highly recommend this placement to anyone considering mixed or large animal practice, as well as those interested solely in pigs.

Reflections from delegates forum

LAST month pork producers, delegates, the Australian Pork Limited Board and state pork organisations came together in Adelaide for APL's first delegates forum of 2025.

These forums are a vital platform for discussing the key issues and opportunities shaping our industry and for sharing APL's work across research, innovation, policy and marketing to support a thriving pork sector.

These gatherings also provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from producers at the farmgate.

Discussions covered biosecurity, farm security and animal welfare, as well as marketing and research, innovation and extension priorities for the future.

Encouragingly, it's exciting to see us heading into a new financial year in a strong position.

Domestic production is forecast to hit a record 478 thousand tonnes in 2024-2025, with growth expected to remain stable through 2025-2026, driven by increased slaughter weights.

Progeny slaughters in the year to mid-November are also forecast to remain consistent with 2024 levels, with a slight increase year-to-date. Overall, meat con-

sumption in Australia

AUSTRALIAN Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO

has remained steady, with pork reaching over 26kg per person annually. It's also promising to

see pork consumption steadily increasing for lunch and dinners in the foodservice space, indicating an improvement in consumer confidence and a slow but steady recovery in foodservice.

Despite upward price pressures and competition from other proteins, pork remains competitive both domestically and internationally.

Export volumes grew 4.8 percent yearon-year to February 2025, putting us in a strong position as we look to expand our export markets in the near future.

As ever, biosecurity remains a critical focus, as producers continue to face Japanese encephalitis.

APL is committed to working with government, the APVMA and others to keep pushing for a solution.

This delegates forum was also an opportunity to look ahead, as APL gears up to launch the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.



A special thank you to all our producers and supply chain partners who attended our consultation sessions held over the past eight months around the country.

The APL team and board have been working diligently to listen to feedback and directions from industry and bed down our key priorities, which we will share in the coming months.

As we move towards a new financial year, new strategic plan and another term of Labor Government, APL will aim to continue to position pork strongly and demonstrate the industry's strong leadership on key priorities, including biosecurity, animal care, environmental solutions, workforce and trade and market access ensuring the story of pork continues to be told.

APL appreciates the time and service of all our delegates and we look forward to continuing these conversations at the next delegate forum in Melbourne this October. 🖙



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2025

JUN 18-19 – Ontario Pork Congress Ontario, Canada. https://www. porkcongress.on.ca/

JUN 25-28 – Livestock Philippines – Pasay City, Philippines. https://www. livestockphilippines.com/

JUN 26 - Iowa Swine Day - Ames, Iowa, USA. https://www.ipic.iastate.edu/ iowaswineday.html

JUL 13-16 – National Pork Industry Conference – Iowa, USA. https://www. porkconference.com/

JUL 23 – National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo -Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. https:// renewablesinagconference.com.au/

AUG 15-16 – Kingaroy BaconFest – Kingaroy, Australia. https://www. kingaroybaconfest.com.au/

AUG 22 - SA Pig Industry Day - Venue TBC. https://www.porksa.com.au/ upcoming-events/

SEP 20-23 - Allen D. Leman Swine Conference – Minnesota, USA. https:// lemanconference.umn.edu/

OCT 15-16 – Dutch Pork and Poultry Expo Den Bosch, Netherlands. https://www. porkpoultryexpo.nl/en/

OCT 18-20 – Leman China Swine Conference and World Swine Industry -Changsha, China. https://www.lemanchina.

NOV 17-19 – APSA Conference Melbourne, Australia. https://www.apsa.

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 0450 672 553 or email design@collins.media

porknews.com.au 0450 672 553

Pig club placements

rfrom P1 Lili Du

After visiting three of Pastoral Pork's outdoor farms, I gained valuable insight into the challenges and benefits of free range pork.

Engaging with the farm managers and staff was invaluable, and their willingness to engage in student participation made the week enjoyable and productive.

We worked alongside Dr Van Dissel, whose vast knowledge and skills were shared in a supportive and relaxed environment.

The placement has certainly encouraged my interest in the pig industry and opened yet another door to a potential career path.

The experience was unlike any other placement I've attended during my degree course.

Bonnie Homer

The hands-on practical experiences particularly were valuable, with the opportunity to perform numerous post-mortems, sample collection of different aged pigs, blood sampling in growers, euthanasia techniques and saliva sample collec-

I highly recommend this placement opportunity to future veterinary students who are interested in the pig industry or mixed practice and who want to gain more knowledge and experience with pigs. Ruth Khaw

This placement was eye-opening as it provided us all with the opportunity to complete a lot more practical work with pigs.

Everything that was presented was realistic and pragmatic

Gypsy Entriken

I had a great week and came away with many pig-specific differentials skills.

I really appreciated the experience on outdoor farm systems, and the welfare of the pigs was evident.

Throughout the week, we had exposure to post mortems and euthanisings.

I felt my post mortem confidence improved, as did my knowledge of 'normal' versus 'abnormal' findings.

Again, conducting post mortems is a valuable skill that I can apply to pigs as well as other production animals. 🦈



Students engaged in consultation with free range pig farm manager.



national environmental guidelines and advocate for their incorporation into regulatory frameworks.

Updated national environmental guidelines

AUSTRALIAN pork has a great story to tell.

Australian consumers can enjoy their favourite pork meals knowing the industry is committed to the highest standards, including for animal welfare and environmental management.

The industry has an embedded culture of constant improvement. driven by science, data and innovation.

The industry is further supported by practical guidance documents producers can apply across their operations.

The industry's innovative culture has delivered significant environmental and productivity gains through feed efficiency, herd productivity, housing and manure management practices, and reduced water and energy efficiency.

This has decreased greenhouse gas emissions by 73 percent, fossil fuel use by 58 percent and water consumption by 80 percent.

It is this record of innovation, good guidance and achievement that has allowed the pork industry to engage effectively with state and federal regulators in recent years, supporting better evaluation and reducing

green tape.

The recently released update of the National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries - Siting and Design and the National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries - Siting and Design continue this work.

These resources provide opportunities for producers to achieve further positive environmental outcomes and support businesses with the siting and design of new piggeries or extensions to existing piggeries.

They are the culmination of significant input from regulators, researchers, specialist consultants, producers and Australian Pork Limited.

These guidelines are also designed to streamline the development and assessment of project proposals by regulators.

APL will work with governments and regulators to promote them and advocate for their incorporation into regulatory frameworks.

Each state has different legislative and regulatory requirements for planning and environmental management, and the

unnecessary red and recently updated APL state planning guide will also help producers to better understand what will apply to their existing or proposed site.

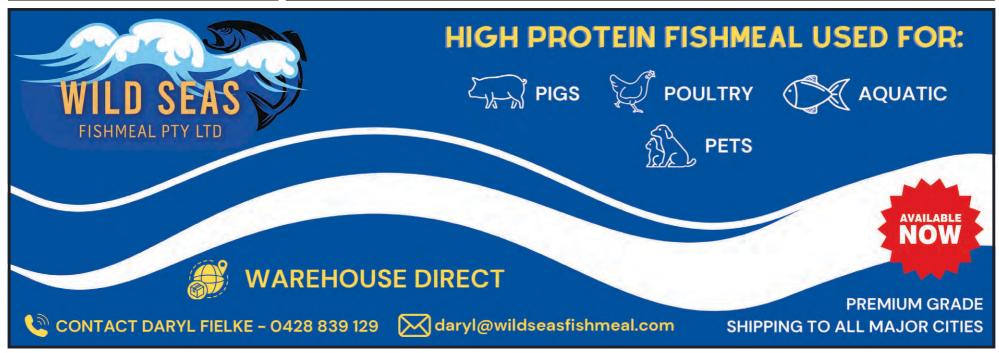
> All resources are available on the APL website. To further support producers, APL has commissioned the development of two new resources focusing on the environmental management required to maintain high-standard best practice facilities - the NEGIP and NEGROP Management Guides.

These guides will build on the current Piggery Manure and Effluent Management and Reuse Guidelines (PMEMRG) (APL 2015c), which provide management information and other technical resources found on the APL website.

These new resources will include updated information on resource efficiency, sludge management, biogas, composting, odour, dust and noise, and nutrient management in pork production systems.

If you would like to learn more about the updated NEGIP-SD or NEGROP-SD, contact APL policy advisor John McGoverne.

Australian Pork Limited



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The National Feral Pig Conference 2025 was attended by 193 in-person and 30 virtual delegates.



Australian Pork Limited CEO Margo Andrae, Queensland Minister for Primary Industries Tony Perrett, the author, Remarkable Natural Resource Management and National Feral Pig Action Plan Implementation Committee chair John Gavin and Member for Burnett and Primary Industries and Resources Committee chair Stephen Bennett.



The author with John Gavin and National Feral Pig Program support officer Narelle Dybing.

People, pigs and practical insights

THE National Feral Pig Conference 2025, held from March 24-26 in Surfers Paradise, was a great success.

The conference was formally opened on the Monday by Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Julie Col-

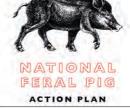
It was attended by 193 in-person and 30 virtual delegates, including primary producers, governments, industry, Natural Resource Management agencies, Indigenous organisations, local community groups, vertebrate pest contractors, not-for-profit organisations and hunters and shooters.

With 11 invited speakers, 30 submitted papers and two discussion panels, this allowed a wide diversity of feral pig-related topics to be addressed.

On the Tuesday, delegates were joined by Minister for Primary Industries Tony Perrett and Primary Industries and Resources Committee chair Mr Stephen Bennett, who announced new feral pig initiatives for Queensland.

Excitingly, new relationships and collaborations were formed, with many delegates willing to share knowledge and data to optimise its use in improving the efficacy and efficiency of control and monitoring programs and strengthen predictive models.

With the variety of topics covered, those in attendance were informed of different management approaches being applied, how to



by **HEATHER CHANNON** National Feral Pig Management Coordinator

better engage land managers to work together and new research and development insights. The conference pro-

ceedings are available for download by scanning the relevant QR code below. Many of the presen-

tations emphasised the successes and learnings to focus on, even when challenges in feral pig management happen along the way.

Key takeaways from the conference included:

• Resourcing remains a key constraint, particularly over the long term

• We have the tools – we need to get better at collaboration, knowledge sharing, data collection and impact monitoring to achieve successful adaptive feral pig management

• There's no silver bullet - attendees valued how innovative and emerging technologies (including thermal imaging, thermal assisted aerial culling, drone monitoring, acoustic detection and spatial movement monitoring) were being applied to improve management outcomes, inform biosecurity preparedness strategies and engage land manager to work together



• Information sharing between all those dealing with feral pigs and their impacts is power

• Consistent communication and engagement with all land managers over time is critical to keep everyone involved in local programs.

Landholders involved in assorted agricultural industries faced different challenges with feral pig management.

In many areas, impacts may be experienced by landholders at various times of the year, depending on their land use.

Their interest and availability to working together with other landholders at times of the year when they are not being personally affected can be an issue.

With feral pig management being all about people, the human perspective is more important to manage than the feral pigs themselves.

In his invited presentation, John Nolan from Murray Local Land Services based in Deniliquin NSW provided his practical and valued insights into how land managers could be successfully engaged and motivated to participate in local feral pig management groups.

John highlighted the importance of local coordinators building strong relationships with landholders, establishing trust, setting clear goals and working together toward shared outcomes.

He noted that any agreed management approaches must be flexible and practical.

Consistent messaging, applying simple strategies such as 'free feed, free feed, free feed and then free feed' when baiting or trapping and starting small can help to build momentum among landholders.

Upskilling landholders and other stakeholders involved by conducting training workshops and learning from other landholders can also help people feel equipped and confident.

Patient ongoing engagement turns early adopters into advocates.

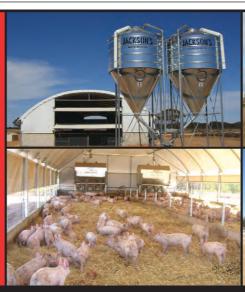
John related his experiences across the Murray LLS region of NSW and that when landholders are supported and see real results often through camera monitoring and/or wellplanned baiting strategies - they take ownership of their program.

Whether it's generational trappers trialling other control methods such as baiting or landholders embracing fixed bait stations as part of their management plan, the key is collaboration.

Tools such as remote cameras, mapping and data collection make programs easier to manage and more effec-

continued P5

- Animal Shelters
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Pump as good as Arnold Schwarzenegger

THE Herd Group is an Australian-owned company processing high-quality lamb, mutton, veal and beef for both the domestic and export markets.

With the local consumer market at its doorstep, easy access to Melbourne ports and prime livestock grazing country at its hinterland, MC Herd's location in Geelong has been ideal.

Founded in 1951, the company employs over 380 staff and is continually striving to excel in all it does, and is committed to quality at every stage of its processing.

As such, it uses only the best equipment to ensure the best performance in all stages of the process.

When Hydro Innovations' Victorian regional manager Graeme Spence called in to see what was used for wastewater pumps, he met with engineering

manager Trevor Egan.

Trevor was kind enough to describe his wastewater system to Graeme and promised to send some photos.

Good to his word, Trevor sent the images to Graeme and pointed out that all the wastewater pumps were Gorman-Rupp brand and some had been in service for about 30 years.

He said, "The pumps twenty-four operate seven."

"They may look like [beep] but pump as good as Arnold Schwarzenegger."

Trevor's pumps were part of Gorman-Rupp's 'Classic T' range of self-priming wastewater pumps, which have since been superseded by Gorman-Rupp's Super T line-up.

Internal clearances can be adjusted in minutes without having to disconnect the pump from piping or without

even opening the pump.

This means that pumps can maintain peak efficiencies for the life of the installation, delivering asset owners with energy savings.

Gorman-Rupp pumps are heavily used in the food processing industry, particularly by those companies that don't compromise on safety and reliability.

Because they are surface mounted, operators can access them easily for monitoring and maintenance, and because they are cast, machined, assembled and tested in the US, reliability, performance and parts support is guaranteed.

For more information about Gorman-Rupp's self-priming pumps or to explore how Hydro

Innovations can help with your water and wastewater needs, contact 02 9898 1800 or visit hydroinnovations. com

Hydro Innovations remains dedicated to delivering reliable solutions that help facilities operate smoothly and efficiently for the long term. 🖘



The Gorman-Rupp Classic Ts pump as good as Arnie.



While they don't look the business, the pumps operate twenty-four seven.

People, pigs and practical insights

Celebrating local wins, staying in touch and using images and results to tell the story keeps the momentum going.

For lasting success, it's not only about the method - it's about the people behind it.

An insightful presentation by Graeme Oats of Burdekin Shire Council highlighted how challenges in their feral pig program yielded unintended positive learnings.

The council obtained funding from the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative Round 6 to broaden their existing feral pig control area, form cluster groups to engage stakeholders, encourage greater participation and improve collaboration.

However, inconsistent involvement from land managers and limited coordination cluster groups was experienced.

With not all landholders taking part, gaps in coverage created safe havens for pigs, ultimately undermining their control efforts.

While the program didn't fully achieve its intended objectives due to time constraints, communication challenges and competing priorities, it delivered important outcomes.

From this project, the team obtained a clearer understanding of its operational capacity, enhanced skills, improved data collection capabilities and adopted new technologies to strengthen field opera-

The value of targeted concentrated efforts. more flexible scheduling of management activities and pinpointing problem areas within clusters for future control work were highlighted.

Overall, this work demonstrated the importance of perseverance and acknowledging that valuable learning still occurs, even when things don't go to plan.

We look forward to building on the learnings from the conference and the new partnerships that continue to be formed.

For more information on other presentations made during the conference, scan the relevant QR code below.

If you have any questions related to effective feral pig management or the National Feral Pig Conference 2025, contact me on heather. channon@feralpigs.com. au or 0423 056 045.



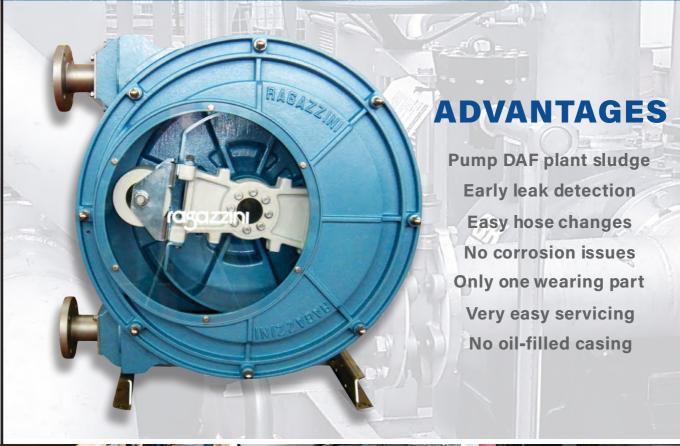
Scan for the 2025 conference proceedings.



Scan for information on other presentations











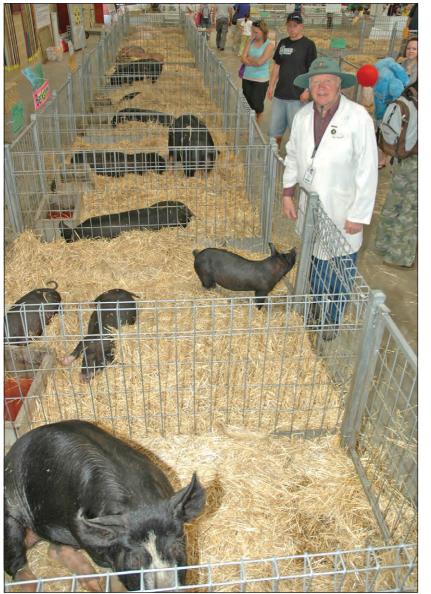




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The author hopes heritage pig breeds including Berkshires are not eventually consigned to memory

Passionate pig farmers love their heritage breeds

LOVE is a word not often aligned with livestock production, including pigs, but for academic and author Catie Gressier it became pivotal when she researched and

ew nutrition

Comment



Cant by **BRENDON CANT**

wrote Saving Heritage Breeds: A Love Story.

An adjunct research fellow in the School of Agriculture and Environment at the University of Western Australia, she argues that heritage breed farmers are motivated by one of the most powerful conservation tools we have, and that is love.

I must say, I relate to that view and have personally long been an admirer of those few dare I say rare – pig farmers who persevere with heritage breeds, despite the odds.

Dr Gressier believes an extinction crisis has been quietly unfolding on our farms since midlast century, with advancements in animal husbandry resulting in the global adoption of a small number of fastgrowing high-yielding livestock types.

While performance and profitability gains have been extraordinary, they've led to the extinction of a unique livestock breed globally each month for more than three decades.

According to the publisher book's UWA Publishing, Dr Gressier's 2025 book tells the story of those Australian farmers working hard to save the remaining heritage breeds of pigs, cattle, sheep and poultry.

She dedicates a chapter to pigs, and also of course to cattle, sheep and poultry.

All are good reads but we'll cover, albeit briefly, some of her porcine points.

The Large Black pig was first imported to Australia from the United Kingdom in the early 1900s.

As hardy grazing pigs

fallen fruit and byproducts from dairying, they were economical to keep and produced highly valuable lard and meat.

Since the 1960s, the exponential growth of intensive profit-driven farming has led to the dominance of hybrids of the Large White, Landrace and later Duroc breeds, which have been selectively bred for performance traits such as fast growth, prolificacy and feed efficiency.

Large Blacks, along with Tamworths, Berkshire and Wessex Saddlebacks soon lost popularity, as commercial pig farmers switched to the new model of indoor farming, which promised greater efficiencies and high yield from the productive white hybrid pigs.

The Gloucester Old Spot, Poland China, Middle White and Welsh pigs are now extinct in Australia, their bloodlines lost forever.

There are now less than 167 registered purebred Large Black breeding sows in Australia and even fewer registered purebred

continued P7



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While white pigs dominate today's pig production, reintroducing some colourful mixes with heritage breed bloodlines might be worthwhile.

Crisafulli Government takes action against feral pigs

THE Crisafulli Government is delivering \$2 million in new funding to help manage Queensland's feral pig problem, easing the burden on regional communities.

After years of Labor neglect, feral pig populations have exploded across Queensland, causing severe damage to agriculture, the environment and waterways.

Half of the new investment will be spent on a Queensland feral pig action plan, developed with key stakeholders and designed specifically for different regions.

The other half of the

funding will go towards developing new feral pig control methods over the next three

The announcement is additional to the Crisafulli Government's \$50 million investment over the next four years to beef up biosecurity.

In 2023, Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences revealed feral pigs caused \$95 million of production losses and direct control costs in Queensland.

Earlier this year, statefunded regional feral pig coordinators hit the ground in six Queensland regions, working alongside primary producers, local government and other stakeholders to reduce feral pig numbers, including the monitoring, baiting, trapping and shooting in targeted areas.

Minister Primary Industries Tony Perrett said feral pigs were a national problem and it's going to take investment and innovative control methods to reduce feral pig numbers.

"We need to make a dent in feral pig populations, not only to protect primary production but to mitigate biosecurity risks," Minister Perrett said.

"Feral pigs cost primary producers millions of dollars every year and the Crisafulli Government is focused on bringing their numbers under control.

"We know the only way to get on top of this growing problem is to have a coordinated plan with everyone, from landholders to the government, working together.

"Whether you're a grazier out west, a sugarcane farmer up north, a strawberry grower on the granite belt, a natural resource manager in the Wet Tropics, a Traditional Owner on the cape or part of a local, state or Commonwealth government agency – your ideas, expertise and action are essential."



Minister Primary Industries Tony Perrett said feral pigs were a national problem, one that requires investment and innovative control methods.

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DESIGNING SEPARATION SYSTEMS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Passionate pig farmers love their heritage breeds

from P6

Tamworths, Hampshires and Durocs.

One of the biggest challenges small-scale livestock farmers currently face is accessing abattoirs and processing infrastructure.

Countless small regional abattoirs have shut down as the industry has centralised, with in-house slaughter

part of the vertical integration model of major pig producers.

As we have seen with other livestock species, loving animals does not preclude eating them.

Pork is a rich flavourful meat that is the most consumed globally alongside chicken.

Among many little gems in Dr Gressier's pig chapter, this is my favourite quote and an appropriate note to end on... "I've heard more than one reformed vegetarian say that it was bacon that broke their resolve."

I must, tongue in cheek, add a personal caveat to the above though – my partner is a vegetarian and faces plenty of bacon cookups in our kitchen but

remains steadfastly unconverted.

While I sometimes make the point that life is easier when you eat everything – that's almost anything in my case – it's not an argument worth pursuing.

Life is, after all, about balance and compromise.

Meanwhile... feed a man meat, I say.



Caleb Smith



Renewables driving down costs and emissions in agriculture

WITH floods in Queensland and droughts in both South Australia and parts of Victoria, cutting input costs is key to building a resilient sustainable future for Australian agriculture.

On-farm renewable energy is proving to be a powerful tool to help farmers get there.

With consumers demanding lower-carbon products and farmers facing rising energy costs, the integration of solar, bioenergy, renewable diesel and electric machinery is no longer a vision of the future – it's happening now.

These innovations and more will take centre stage for the first time in Victoria with the National Renewables in Agriculture Conference 2025 taking place in Bendigo on July 23.

Among the speakers is Caleb Smith, a piggery farmer in Victoria.

Caleb has embraced the concept of a circular economy as a core part of his operations, capturing pig effluent to create power, which is helping to reduce the farm's electricity bills.

"We were spending about \$300,000 on

electricity across three sites at the farm, so wanted to use the captured biogas in the effluent ponds to produce power and heat, which we'd then use to warm the piglets," he said.

As well as tasting Caleb's pork products at the conference, delegates are given the opportunity to visit Caleb's farm the next day for a tour of the biogas generator.

"Quite often farmers would like to do something like this, but they don't," Caleb said.

"I think the reasons we often don't is because of the unknown. "What we don't know

is scarier.

"So, speaking about what we've done, plus having people come to see how simple it is and showing it can be done, will hopefully encourage others to do the same."

The 2025 conference will bring together farmers, energy experts, researchers, industry leaders and government representatives to explore the practicalities, opportunities and challenges of renewable energy in agriculture.

New Zealand farmer Mike Casey will talk through his journey to electrify his farm, having the first electric Monarch tractor in the southern hemisphere.

He also recently installed batteries on his farm and converted a ute to electric.

Mike said, "We have a six-hectare cherry orchard in Central Otago with 21 electric machines that save about \$40K a year in energy costs, which is a huge number of inputs."

"Solar and batteries are at such good prices now that rolling those out will reduce our cost of operations on farms, as well as the cost of living in general.

"I'm on a wholesale electricity contract now, so I can use my large batteries for protection against exposure to the open power market and that means I can turn what has always been considered a risk into an opportunity for farming.

"My batteries will actually earn an income for the farm over the year.

"That's a whole new revenue stream for farming and a significant opportunity for farmers," he said.

Conference founder and farmer Karin Stark said momentum was building across the sector.

"Farmers are in-

creasingly turning to renewables to tackle the challenge of rising diesel and electricity prices," Ms Stark said.

"But there's still work to be done in making the right technologies available and ensuring regional contractors and services are equipped to deliver."

She added that the conference would also explore agriculture's growing role in decarbonising the electricity grid.

"We'll be discussing the evolving distribution network and microgrids, and the potential for smaller distributed solar projects on farms – say 5MW systems – feeding directly into the local network.

"There are also emerging opportunities for farmers to be paid for providing energy services as new markets develop."

The event will also feature a site tour to Caleb's circular economy piggery, offering a firsthand look at how bioenergy can be used to create valuable power in a closed system.

To learn more about the National Renewables in Agriculture Conference 2025, visit renewablesinagconfer ence.com.au 🖘

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AUTHORITIES in Taiwan found traces of the veterinary drug ractopamine, which were detected in two batches of frozen pork knuckles imported from Australia.

According to the country's Food and Drug Administration, the two shipments totalling 47.25 tonnes, contained 0.002ppm and 0.003ppm of the substance – below Taiwan's maximum residue limits.

The legal limits for ractopamine in pork are 0.01ppm for meat and fat and 0.04ppm for organs.

The findings came only days after a shipment of imported pork, also from Australia, tested positive for the feed additive at Taiwan's border for the first time since a ban on pork with ractopamine was lifted on January 1, 2021.

TFDA director-general Chiang Chih-kang said the latest two batches were produced by the same manufacturer as the previous batch but were imported by a different trading company.

In a statement, the importer of the latest two shipments Huahung International Trading Co apologised for importing pork with ractopamine residue and pledged stricter controls to prevent similar incidents.

For beef, which has been allowed into Taiwan with minimal traces of ractopamine since 2012, 249,609 batches were tested at the border for ractopa-

mine, with 2493 testing positive for the substance.

Of those, only six contained amounts over the maximums and were destroyed or returned.

Beef and pork imports are inspected with the same emphasis on food safety, with scientific analysis backing the requirements, Mr Chiang

Ractopamine, which promotes muscle growth in animals, is allowed as a feed additive for pigs in 26 countries, including the US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

The European Union and China ban the use of the substance, due to concerns that it harms animal and human health.

Taipei Times

www.porknews.com.au

Pork producers still waiting on JEV vaccine

THREE years after the mosquito-borne disease first emerged in the country, Australia's \$6 billion pork industry is still without a vaccine for Japanese encephalitis virus.

Since the outbreak in 2021, JEV has claimed nine lives, including two deaths in Queensland this year.

While a vaccine is available for humans, Australian pig farmers are still waiting for approval of two separate vaccines for livestock.

Both remain stuck in the federal regulatory process, despite mounting pressure from the industry.

Producers across the country have been battling the virus, which causes severe reproductive issues in sows and has already cost millions in lost productivity.

Waiting for the green light

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has confirmed it is currently reviewing emergency use permit applications for the two pig vaccines.

The vaccines have been developed separately by the University of Queensland and veterinary firm Apiam Animal Health.

Apiam chief executive officer Chris Richards expressed deep frustration over the regulatory delays, and said the APVMA told him the review for an emergency permit could take up to 13 months.

Mr Richards said the government was not serious about trying to reduce the disease in the pig industry, nor was it obviously concerned about the deaths of people occurring in the community as a result of JEV.

Adding that Apiam could begin protecting tens of thousands of animals immediately if the vaccine was given the go-ahead.

"If we got an emergency use permit today, we'd be able to vaccinate most of those sows that are in the affected areas in the next two weeks," he said.

"I think that there's just a lack of understanding of the significant impact that this disease is having in rural Australia."

Not front of mind

In the absence of a vaccine, pig farmers have been relying heavily on mosquito control to keep their herds safe, with limited success.

The most recent case

of JEV was detected at the Betta Pork facility in Biloela central Queensland.

Director Laurie Brosnan said he's doing everything possible to follow best practice but it's no substitute for a vaccine.

"We also treat the animals to protect them against JEV," he said.

"It's just unfortunate that there's only so much you can do."

His farm hires independent contractors to spray standing water and breeding sites, but he said the rising costs and lack of vaccine support has left him feeling overlooked.

"I can't help but feel that the pig industry is not front of mind," Mr Brosnan said.

"I feel the government isn't prioritising or even giving the pig industry a fair go." Industry calls for

action

Australian Pork Limited CEO Margo Andrae said JEV remained a critical concern for

pork producers.

"The previous outbreak in 2022 cost the industry millions of dollars and significantly impacted operations for piggeries across four states," she said.

"Three years later, JEV continues to contribute to losses for producers and their communities.

"We will continue pushing for a vaccine that will help keep our herds safe and healthy, and help safeguard our producers' livelihoods."

Urgency grows as floodwaters fuel mosquito surge

Associate Professor Jody Peters from the University of Queensland, who helped lead the development of one of the vaccines, said her team had already gathered the necessary safety and efficacy data.

"The initial trials occurred at the end of 2022, and some additional trials occurred in 2023," Dr Peters said.

"I think we have sufficient data to prove that it is effective, and it is safe.

"But ultimately it is up to the regulatory bodies to determine whether we have produced enough data to date."

She warned that the recent flooding across parts of the country was likely to fuel a spike in mosquito numbers, increasing the risk of further JEV spread.

"With all of the flooding that's occurred recently, the mosquito that is likely the culprit for transmitting the virus would have bred up huge populations," she said.

"I am incredibly frustrated, as are pig farmers, with how long it is taking to get these approvals across the line.

"But I do believe that we will have a vaccine on the market in the future."



Pork industry still waiting for JEV vaccine. Photo: Mali Maeder



Betta Pork director Laurie Brosnan.



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LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION





APRIL's Dr Sophie Ward spoke with Dr Brett Ruth from Ruth Consolidated Industries on the latest in NIR calibrations.



Dr Charles Rikard Bell with Dr Malcolm Mottram and Dr David Cadogan from Feedworks Australia.



Professor Robert van Barneveld presented 'Protein production into the future: challenges and opportunities'.

APRIL recaps 2025 AMN conference

THE 2025 Advancing Milling and Nutrition conference held in Melbourne on May 13-14 was an opportunity to share the latest innovations, challenges and research in the nutrition and milling space.

As a silver sponsor, and one of the 42 sponsors of the event, Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited was there to promote the latest AusScan NIR calibrations to poultry, beef and pig nutritionists.

This year, AusScan celebrates 10 years of application in commercial feed mills across Australia and the globe.

At this year's AMN, the use of technology to improve decision making around feed production was a key theme across the two days, along with broader discussions on the future of protein production in Australia.

Sunpork Group chief executive officer Professor Robert van Barneveld provided an overview of what the shifting geopolitical landscape might mean for the future of Australian agriculture.

Despite obvious challenges to current geopolitical trade, Australia's global reputation for producing high quality safe protein remains a strength and should be actively protected.

Improved traceability across feed production

would help the industry respond more rapidly to potential disease threats and safeguard our industry.

APRIL executive officer Dr Charles Rikard-Bell presented an overview of nutrient traceability in feed mills and how this could be strengthened applying blockchain or similar technology.

A blockchain is a digital record system used to track and store all the information of a feed ingredient as it moves through each stage of the milling process.

To date a feed mill's inventory management of raw materials involves some sensor technology such as NIR and barcode scanners,

however sensor devices and feed mill software are often not connected.

As all Australian feed mills accredited with FeedSafe are required to have traceability of feed ingredients, it is important to consider the use of blockchains and how to overcome barriers around this technology for faster and reliable feed traceability.

The AMN conference provided a valuable opportunity to connect with nutritionists and professionals from the feed processing and milling sector.

APRIL would like to thank the organisers for an insightful conference.

APRIL



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About natural capital

YOU have likely heard the term 'natural capital' but what is it?

ital', but what is it?
What does it mean for you and your property?

To define natural capital, we need to understand the natural resources present in our landscape.

On your farm this includes soil, trees and other plants, water and all living things – from livestock to native animals to the microbes and fungi living in our soils.

These natural assets provide free services, known as ecosystem services, which underpin our food and fibre production.

Ecosystem services we rely on include:

- Water filtration and storage
- Trees providing shade and shelter
- Soil health and fertility
- Animals and insects controlling pest levelsPollination
- Dust and noise minimisation.

Natural capital involves valuing our natural as-

sets and the services they provide, much like we value other forms of capital, such as financial or built infrastructure. **Creating value**

Investing in and enhancing the natural capital on your farm can create value for your business by improving productivity, saving on input costs and protecting market access.

Recently, environmental markets have created an opportunity for land managers to more directly monetise their natural capital through carbon and biodiversity markets.

These markets are relatively new but quickly maturing.

It's not one size fits all, and the risks and opportunities need to be considered when deciding whether to participate.

Local Land Services NSW has recently launched the Natural Capital Profile Service.

This provides a personalised profile report that outlines your farm's natural assets and different environmental market options that might be available to you.

The profile can help you understand your property's natural capital, what opportunities exist to build on this and how you can maximise the benefits to you and your business.

This is a pilot service running until October 2025 and places are limited.

Scan the QR code below if you are interested in receiving a natural capital profile.

For further information contact Emily, your local natural capital advisor via email at emily.b.wilson@lls.nsw. gov.au or call 0484 117 155.



Scan for form to receive a natural capital profile.

Australia's best sausages named

THE best snags in Australia have been crowned, with the nation's top butchers battling it out for the prestigious 'Sausage King' title.

Hundreds of independent butchers from across the country competed in state competitions throughout 2024, submitting thousands of entries before the finalists met in Launceston in Tasmania for the ultimate showdown.

Entries were judged on raw and cooked presentation, texture, flavour and overall appeal across six categories - lamb, beef, poultry, pork, gourmet and continental.

Run by the Australian Meat Industry Council, the national competition weekend is the culmination of months of state-level events, including the Sausage King, Best Butchers Burger and Apprentice of the Year program.

Best traditional Australian beef sausage

Recognising classic Aussie beef snag, this category honours simple but expertly crafted sausages.

The title went to The Corner Butcher in Morley in Perth, known for its juicy highquality offerings.

The store has built strong relationships

with retail and wholesale customers across Western Australia and is renowned for offering fresh premium meat products.

"As an award-winning butcher, we take pride in delivering exceptional quality and service," a representative of The Corner Butcher said.

"We present an impressive selection of the finest meats, including stand-out gourmet offerings, alongside classic continental cuts and handcrafted smallgoods."

Best traditional Australian pork sausage

For those chasing a top-notch pork sausage, the Butchers of Noosa on the Sunshine Coast took home the title.

Famous for their preservative-free fillerfree sausages, the team sources high-quality grass-fed and pasture-raised meat from sustainable farming partners Bangalow Sweet Pork and Vadals butcher supplies.

"We are so thrilled to receive first place," the team said.

"What a spectacular weekend - making new friends and connecting with the best."

Best poultry sausage

Introduced 20 years ago to reflect the growing demand for chicken sausages, this category featured a unique winner.

Marsh Butcheries in Stratford in Cairns impressed judges with their butter chicken and cashew sausages.

"We are so blessed and humbled to be crowned in national finals three times in five years," a spokesperson for Marsh Butcheries

"Thank you to all our wonderful customers who support us weekly and help us to grow continually."

Best lamb sausage

This category, introduced in 2009, celebrates the diversity of lamb sausages and their bold flavour variations.

The top honour went to Rollbusch Quality Meats in Waikerie, South Australia, for their Mexican lamb, jalapeno and cheddar sausage.

The team also secured third place in the continental category for their Italian sausage.

"Wow, what an incredible night with having only two entries in the competition and winning trophies for both," the team said.

"Thank you to everyone who continues to support us."

Best gourmet sausage

Encouraging creativity, this category allows butchers to experiment with new flavours.

Perry's Quality Meats in Smithton in Tasmania claimed victory with its venison, jalapeno and feta sausage.

"Well, what a night," the team wrote on its social media page.

"We have had the AMIC national sausage competition in our home state of Tasmania and we finally got first place in Australia."

Best continental sausage

For lovers of dense flavour-packed sausages such as bratwurst and chorizo, the best continental sausage award went to South Nowra Premium Meats for their pork, fennel,

chilli and garlic variety. "We travelled to Tasmania for the national Sausage King awards, taking with us our NSW-winning pork, fennel, chilli and garlic sausage," the team said.

"We're blown away with the result, taking out first place in Australia in the continental category."

South Nowra Premium Meats has previously been recognised for their innovative creations, including Peking duck sausages, chicken curry coconut burgers and thick Aussie beef sausages. 🖘



The traditional beef sausage hon- For those after a traditional Australian juicy high-quality offering.



For those who like to spice up their sausages with a bit of fancy flair, Perry's Quality Meats in Smithton, South Nowra Premium Meats won Tasmania is the spot, with its venining gold.



Marsh Butcheries in Stratford, Cairns Rollbusch Quality Meats in Waikerie, won over the judges with its butter South Australia for its Mexican lamb, chicken and cashew snags.



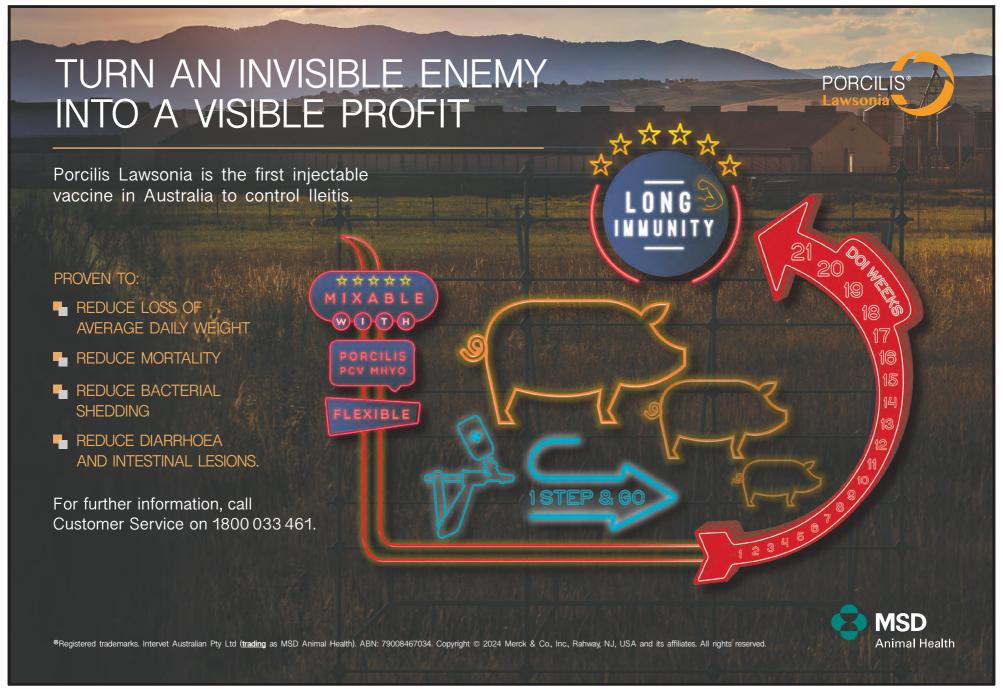
our went to the team at The Corner pork sausage, the Butchers of Noosa Butcher in Morley, Perth for their on the Sunshine Coast is the place to go.



the best continental sausage catson, jalapeno and feta creation win- egory for its pork, fennel, chili and garlic range.



This honour was awarded to jalapeno and cheddar creation.





Australia is a major exporter of animal products to New Zealand. Photo:

What NZ bill could mean for Aussie animal product imports

New Zealand could significantly impact Australian exports of animal products such as pork, wool and eggs.

Introduced by Green MP Steve Abel, the Products Animal (Closing the Welfare Gap) Amendment Bill seeks to ensure that all animal products sold in New Zealand, including imports, meet the country's domestic animal welfare standards.

Potential impact on **Australian exports**

Australia is a major exporter of animal products to New Zealand.

In 2022, Australia exported approximately 2807 metric tonnes of pork to New Zealand.

While many Australian pig farmers voluntarily phased out gestation stalls, their use is not legally prohibited, unlike New Zealand where sow stalls were banned in 2016.

Additionally, practices such as castration without pain relief are still permitted in Australia for piglets under three weeks old,

which would be illegal in New Zealand.

Regarding egg production, 86 percent of liquid egg imports to New Zealand in 2022 came from countries including Australia, where egg-laying hens can be kept in battery cages - a practice banned in New Zealand as of 2023.

In the wool industry, all wool imported into New Zealand in 2022 originated from Australia, where mulesing - a practice involving the removal of strips of wool-bearing skin from around the breech of a sheep to prevent flystrike - is still practiced.

This procedure is illegal in New Zealand and can result in criminal conviction.

Legislative details and timeline

The bill empowers the minister to enact regulations to close the welfare gap on any imported animal product.

Specifically, it mandates that regulations regarding pigs and egg-laying hens be established within two years of the bill's enactment.

Public support and industry implications

Public support for aligning import standards with domestic animal welfare laws is strong.

A Horizon Research poll from June 2023 found that 83 percent of New Zealanders agreed that imported products should adhere to the same animal welfare standards as those applied domestically.

If the bill passes, Australian exporters may need to adjust their farming practices to comply with New Zealand's stricter animal welfare standards.

This could involve phasing out practices such as mulesing and the use of battery cages, as well as ensuring pain relief for procedures such as piglet castration.

Failure to comply could result in reduced access to the New Zealand market for these products.

The bill is currently in the early stages of the legislative process and its progress will be closely watched by stakeholders in both countries. 🖘

Aussie's stainless steel breakthrough

AUSSIE Pumps has been involved with piggery pumps for almost 28 years.

The company had its first major breakthrough when realising that its petrol-engine driven trash pumps available in 2", 3" and 4", originally designed for dewatering on construction sites, were a natural for piggery effluent applications.

Aussie's portable trash pumps are capable of handling up to 2" or even 3" spherical solids in suspension.

The Aussie range - the only pumps of their kind in the world with a five-year guarantee on the pump end are built like tanks

The impellers and volutes are high-strength spheroidal graphite cast iron, while bodies are cast aluminium from Japan's number one die casting specialist.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "We decided to go with Japanese die cast bodies because of their excellence in terms of quality and performance.'

"They are streets ahead of similar knock-off versions coming out of other Asian countries."

The pumps are powered by Honda petrol engines, with the smallest unit being a 2" x 2" pump that does 600 litres a minute.

That's 36,000 litres per hour.

The biggest unit, a 4" pump favoured by major hire and construction companies, is the QP40T.

This is available in either petrol or diesel drive.

"You can imagine the petrol drive is significantly lighter and less expensive than the diesel version," Mr Hales said.

"One thing we also throw in as part of the kit for the operator is a heavy-duty frame and suction strainer.

"The frames enable petrol-drive versions to be moved easily with the 2" and even 3" unit, capable of being moved by two people if they're ro-

The pumps mechanical seals are silicon carbide for long life and the casing bolts are zinc-plated steel.

"The 2" pump does 600 litres a minute and the big 3" version, complete with Honda GX390 13hp recoil or electric-start petrol engine, can pull 1200LPM." Mr Hales

The suction heads are remarkable, with the pumps being able to prime fast from a depth of 7.6m.

That excellent prime from the big cast-iron priming tank is built into the pump's body.

The heads are excel-

The 2" pump has a maximum head of 27m vertical lift.

The 4" pump, favoured by abattoirs in its diesel heavyduty trash pump configuration, can push 1800LPM and has a maximum head of 24m vertical lift.

"The pumps are also available in what we call the 'Mine Boss' configuration," Mr Hales said.

"The Mine Boss has a stainless-steel heavy-duty frame with an integrated lift bar.

"It also features estop, battery isolation and a fire extinguisher as part of the kit.

"We're proud to say that Teys have used our big 4" pump for a number of years."

The Mine Boss units are all diesel drive, running off Yanmar single-cylinder diesel engines, matched perfectly to the requirements of the pump.

These portable engine-drive pumps are a back-up for when there's a power failure, as well as having the advantage of being mobile in an emergency.

"We're doing big things with our electric-motor driven piggery pumps as well," Mr Hales said.

"All pumps, from 2" through to the enormous 6" B6XRA, are swapping over to stainless-steel impellers.

"We've only seen the first of the 6" pump impellers, and frankly it's a masterpiece of engineering and probably rates as a piece of industrial art.'

For more information about the highest quality and greatest range of high-pressure water jetters and heavy-duty industrial pumps on the market, visit aussiepumps.com. au, email info@aussie pumps.com or call 02 8865 3500. 🖘

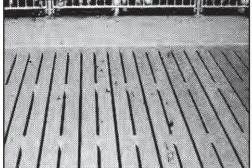


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Early bird tickets on sale for AgXchange Australia

TICKETS are now on sale for AgXchange Australia 2025, National Farmers' Federation's reimagined national conference, bringing together the full breadth of Australia's agricultural supply chain.

Taking place on the Gold Coast over September 23-25, AgXchange will unite agribusifarmers, nesses, policymakers, researchers and industry leaders to tackle the biggest issues facing agriculture.

NFF president David Jochinke said, "This isn't just a talkfest.'

"It's where practical ideas meet big-picture thinking to shape the future of Australian food and fibre production and distribution.

"Whether you're working on the land, on the tools, in the lab or at the policy table, AgXchange is your space to connect, collaborate and drive change."

AgXchange is built around five core

- Innovation from on-farm tech to productivity breakthroughs
- Sustainability including carbon, water and circular economy challenges

- tackling Risk drought, biosecurity, succession and trade
- Farming communities - covering workforce, safety and social license

• Supply chain – from

gate to global markets. Over three days, attendees will hear from keynote speakers, take part in solutionfocused panels and get hands-on in interactive sessions tailored for every part of the supply chain.

Early bird tickets available now

Early bird pricing is now live, with a range

of flexible options:

- Discounted rates for farmers and NFF members
- One-day passes for busy schedules
- Special pricing for emerging leaders under 35.

Mr Jochinke urged those across the ag sector to get in early.

"Don't wait change to happen to you," he said.

"Be part of the conversation and help drive it.

"This is your seat at the table."

Tickets and more info available at agxchange. com.au 🖘

Brisbane attracts premier agriculture investment event

ALL eyes are on Queensland as Brisbane successfully attracts the world's premier agriculture investment event -Global AgInvesting.

Brisbane will roll out the welcome mat in June 2026 for top global investors, agribusiness leaders and agtech pioneers for an exclusive two-day program and optional regional site tours.

Investors will get a first-hand look at Queensland's thriving primary industries and world-class agtech innovations.

GAI Australia provides an exciting opportunity to position Queensland as the premier gateway into the Asia-Pacific for international agricultural investment, unlock new opportunities at scale and attract new capital.

2025



Global AgInvesting to be held in Brisbane in 2026.



TABLE 1. AusScan Early Harvest Report

Protein Moisture and Energy Values for Cereal Grains



April Barley Pig Ileal DE IDE/FDE Ratio Protein Moisture Pig Faecal DE **Broiler AME Broiler AME Index** % MJ/Kg MJ/Kg % MJ/Kg Region* Mean SD Min Max SD Min Max SD Min Max Mean SD Min Max Mean Min Max Mean SD Min Max Mean SD Min Max 0.14 11.7 12.4 72.0 1.5 69.2 74.9 NSW1 10.4 0.88 10.0 0.09 13.1 13.4 0.13 10.1 10.8 0.80 QLD 11.1 0.78 9.3 12.5 11.2 1.35 8.9 13.7 12.5 0.11 12.3 12.7 9.9 0.17 9.5 10.2 0.79 0.77 0.80 11.8 0.46 10.8 12.6 9.7 8.2 1.00 9.4 12.7 0.17 12.3 13.4 10.3 0.23 10.0 11.4 0.85 11.6 0.39 11.1 13.2 QLD1 0.90 11.3 10.7 12.5 0.82 0.81 10.7 10.8 0.71 9.7 12.2 13.3 0.17 13.0 13.6 10.9 0.23 10.5 11.4 0.82 0.80 0.84 12.5 0.35 12.0 13.1 69.7 2.9 65.5 74.3 0.60 9.8 11.6 SA1 10.6 1.11 9.1 14.0 9.9 0.83 8.4 11.7 12.5 0.17 12.1 12.8 10.3 0.26 9.8 11.3 0.83 0.81 0.88 11.3 0.38 10.7 12.1 VIC 0.15 12.2 12.9 10.8 9.8 10.4 10.6 0.60 9.9 12.5 0.84 0.97 11.7 0.27 11.2 12.2 VIC 1 9.7 0.97 8.2 0.56 9.1 12.6 0.81 VIC 2 10.3 1.22 7.4 12.6 10.3 0.72 9.0 11.8 12.6 0.14 12.2 12.9 10.4 0.29 9.9 11.2 0.83 0.82 0.87 11.5 0.30 10.9 12.1 VIC 3 10.2 0.60 9.2 11.9 10.1 0.76 8.7 12.4 12.4 0.13 12.2 12.7 10.6 0.29 10.1 11.3 0.86 0.83 0.89 11.4 0.29 11.0 12.5 Sorghum Moisture Pig Faecal DE Protein Pig Ileal DE IDE/FDE Ratio **Broiler AME Broiler AME Index** MJ/Kg MJ/Kg MJ/Kg Region* Min Max SD Min Max SD Min SD Min Max Mean SD Min Max Mean Min Max SD Mean SD Min Max Mean Mean Mean 12.7 0.85 10.2 15.3 14.4 0.39 11.5 14.7 9.6 1.19 11.7 0.57 8.8 12.9 0.81 0.77 0.87 14.5 0.34 12.7 15.2 6.4 14.5 QLD Wheat Moisture Pig Faecal DE Pig Ileal DE IDE/FDE Ratio **Broiler AME Broiler AME Index** Protein MJ/Kg % % MJ/Kg MJ/Kg Region* Min Max Mean Min Max 10.1 13.2 11.3 0.41 10.3 12.3 14.1 0.09 13.9 14.3 12.2 0.12 11.8 12.4 0.87 0.85 0.87 13.0 0.15 12.5 13.3 79.6 1.7 74.8 NSW1 QLD 13.2 0.12 13.4 14.7 11.6 0.14 11.1 12.0 0.83 0.82 12.6 0.38 11.6 14.6 10.6 0.41 9.8 11.8 13.8 0.06 13.6 13.9 12.0 0.07 11.8 12.1 0.87 0.87 0.87 12.8 0.11 12.6 13.1 77.4 0.8 76.3 79.8 13.0 0.91 11.4 14.5 QLD1 SA 12.7 1.32 9.9 19.5 10.7 0.89 8.6 13.1 13.8 0.10 13.2 14.6 11.8 0.21 11.0 12.4 0.86 0.83 0.85 12.7 0.34 11.4 14.5 76.1 0.1 76.0 76.2 13.8 0.15 13.1 14.2 12.2 0.31 10.8 12.9 13.3 0.48 11.3 14.1 12.7 1.27 10.1 16.8 10.1 1.10 8.1 13.5 0.88 0.83 0.90 75.6 3.9 59.1 82.9 SA1 11.8 0.11 11.5 12.2 11.9 0.99 10.4 0.70 13.7 0.05 13.6 13.9 12.6 0.19 12.3 13.2 77.2 VIC 9.2 14.9 8.7 12.7 0.86 0.84 0.87 0.9 75.8 78.9 0.09 13.0 68.3 82.2 VIC 1 18.0 10.6 0.76 12.7 13.9 0.89 0.89 0.95 12.8 0.26 11.7 13.5 1.6 11.6 1.36 10.7 0.88 8.5 12.6 13.8 0.07 13.6 14.3 12.0 0.18 10.9 12.3 0.86 0.80 0.86 12.8 0.32 12.2 14.7 73.8 81.7 VIC 2 9.1 16.5 59.6 82.9 VIC 3 17.9 10.6 0.84 8.4 12.3 13.7 0.14 12.3 14.6 12.0 0.24 10.8 13.8 12.7 0.31 11.0 14.8 * Each row represents a Feed Mill in the Region, for example QLD and QLD1 represent different feed mill companies within the state.

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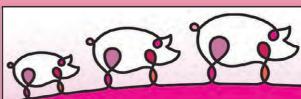
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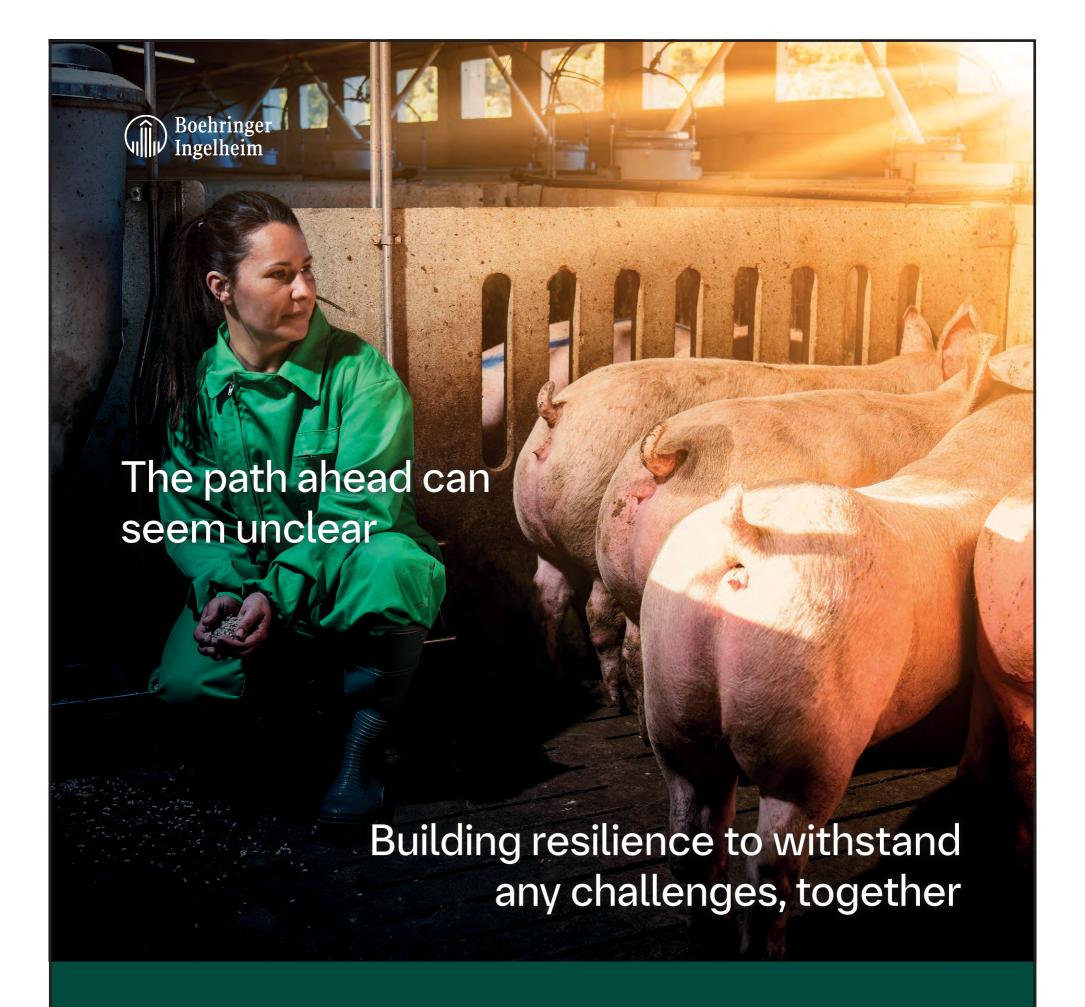
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