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APL delegates forum and Food with Purpose

LAST month, pork producers, delegates, the Australian Pork Limited Board and state pork organisations came together on the Gold Coast for our pork industry's first delegates forum of 2026.



by MARGO ANDRAE
CEO



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.

Brenneman Pork. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries provided an update on how the government is supporting the agricultural sector, including pork, through its dedicated Fuel Taskforce.

cent to April 2026, and pork now holds 12.37 percent share of fresh meat on a rolling 52-week basis, primarily driven by mince.

gate value by 2030.

As APL enters its second annual operating plan under the 2025-30 strategic plan, the focus is on consolidating gains and driving continued growth.

event is to convoke to share knowledge, ideas and innovation to further advance our food and livestock industries.

One of the wonderful things about this conference is it brings together people from across industries who otherwise would not have the chance to connect.



They also provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from producers at the farm gate.

The government recognises the strategic importance of agriculture and has committed \$14.8 billion to strengthening fuel and fertiliser security.

Stir fry and roast are also contributing to growth.

Detail on our finalised FY26-27 AOP will be shared with industry early in the new financial year.

In the uncertain times that we all find ourselves in, it's never been more important to meet and share learnings across all areas that are impacting our supply chain and connect with one another.

Attendees heard from members of APL's marketing, policy and research, innovation and extension teams, who provided key project updates and outlined future priorities.

Measures include increased reserves, improved storage capacity and exploration of domestic refining capability.

Pork's relative affordability compared with beef and lamb remains a compelling proposition for value seeking consumers.

As always, I would like to sincerely thank all those from the pork industry who took the time away from their own farms and operations to participate in this forum and represent the views and issues of members.

I'm grateful APL had the opportunity to work with our partners at PIX and AMC again this year, along with all of the sponsors, exhibitors and speakers.



The program also included valuable updates from several guest speakers.

APL was also pleased to provide an update on the industry's performance and our work since the October 2025 delegates forum.

Meanwhile, exports have plateaued slightly following China's entry into the Singapore market.

This year's forum was held at the Food with Purpose conference – which APL is proud to deliver in partnership with the Poultry Information Exchange and Australasian Milling Conference – so it was a pleasure to also have the chance to meet more members of our industry.

This year's program covered a range of topics reflecting the trends and issues impacting our industry, from the importance of protein as part of a well-balanced diet to building a strong and resilient workforce on farm.

Grains Research and Development Corporation chair Sharon Starick shared a grains market update. Sharon stated that despite the uncertainty for grain producers – largely driven by high input costs such as fertiliser and diesel shortages – and ongoing dry conditions in several growing regions across the country, grain production is forecast to remain strong overall.

Pork production is slightly ahead of last year, up 1.45 percent year to date.

APL is monitoring this situation closely and is exploring options, in collaboration with the Board and industry, regarding ongoing investment in Singapore and exploration of new markets.

The conference featured its largest ever trade hall showing, with more than 200 exhibitors.

Another highlight of the conference was the pork industry dinner, which raised more than \$5000 for FightMND, a cause APL has proudly supported for many years.

Delegates also heard insights from the US pork industry from American producers Erin and Tim Brenneman of

As of April 2026, the national sow herd sits at 287,250, with total slaughters for 2025-26 forecast at 5.75 million head.

APL has made strong progress against its 2025-30 strategic plan.

APL's trade stall was well attended by industry, and the team enjoyed strong engagement with delegates, stakeholders and visitors throughout the duration of the conference – with particular interest in APL's research and innovation initiatives, including the PigPass 2.0 app and recent sustainability projects.

Overall, both Food with Purpose and the delegates forum were valuable opportunities to strengthen connections, share ideas and celebrate the collective commitment to advancing our industry.

Domestically, pork continues to outperform the broader fresh meat category, which is flat overall.

By December 2025, the industry had achieved a \$220 million increase in incremental gross value of production – more than double the target for that point in time.

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Pork Industry
Calendar of Events

2026

JUN 2-4 – VIV Europe 2026 – Utrecht, The Netherlands. <https://www.viveurope.nl>

JUN 3-4 – World Pork Expo 2026 – Des Moines, USA. <https://www.worldpork.org>

JUN 16-19 – IPVS 2026 – Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. <https://ipvs2026.vn/>

JUN 24-26 – Livestock Philippines – Manila, The Philippines. <https://www.livestockphilippines.com>

JUL 12-15 – National Pork Industry Conference 2026 – Wisconsin USA. <https://www.porkconference.com>

AUG 19-21 – VIV Select China 2026 – Shanghai, China. <https://china.viv.net>

AUG 25 & 26 – Minitube Porcine TechDays, Golden Point, Victoria. <https://form.jotform.com/260257675984068>

SEP 19-22 – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference 2026 – St Paul Minnesota, USA. <https://lemanconference.umn.edu>

SEP 22-24 – Expomeat 2026 – Sao Paulo, Brazil. <https://www.expomeat.com.br/>

OCT 6-8 – International PRRS Symposium 2026 – Barcelona, Spain. <https://iprrs2026.org>

OCT 21-23 – Pork Expo Mexico – Aguascalientes, Mexico. <http://pork-expo.org/>

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

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Daniel Lewer (Hunter Land Management), Barry Kelly (PigBaitta), the author and John Scriven (SWQROC).

Learning from US to strengthen our feral pig management efforts

THE International Wild Pig Conference, held in Montgomery Alabama in the US from April 20-22, provided a perfect opportunity to hear directly from US feral pig specialists and management practitioners about the damage pigs are causing to agricultural and environmental assets in America and the control programs being used to tackle them.

Like Australia, feral pigs are a high-impact invasive species in the US and the estimated minimum annual damage bill to American agriculture is A\$4.76 billion.

Their control is challenged by differing state regulations, ranging from unrestricted hunting to total bans on killing them to encourage population control.

Intentional stocking for hunting, escapes from fenced shooting operations and continued human-mediated translocation of feral pigs add to the problem.

At the conference, US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service national



NATIONAL
FERAL PIG
ACTION PLAN

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



feral swine damage management coordinator Dana Cole explained that feral pig numbers in the US expanded rapidly through the 1980s and 1990s.

Records show feral pigs spread from 18 states in 1982 to 38 states by 2011.

In 2014, 48 states in the US reported the presence of feral pigs.

While cooperative agreements and management activities were being run at that time by those states being heavily impacted by feral pigs, US Congress recognised that a focused national effort was needed.

In 2014, A\$27.98 million was appropriated to commence funding of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program.

This program is managed by the US-

DA's APHIS Wildlife Services.

This national program was set up to manage the agricultural, environmental, animal health and human health risks caused by feral swine in America.

In the 2018 Farm Bill, a newly established Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program received A\$104.92 million over five years.

These funds were split between USDA's APHIS Wildlife Services and National Resources Conservation Service to establish a pilot program to eradicate feral swine and to help mitigate damage.

Pilot projects were funded in targeted areas in 12 states.

Each pilot project was designed around local needs, including available resources, priority areas, land-

holder interest, feral swine distribution and the assets needing protection, which helped lift engagement and improve outcomes.

Work done by APHIS Wildlife Services supported direct control, while the NRCS provided assistance to producers through grants with non-federal partners and their work focused on outreach, education, research, training for landowners, loaning of traps and some management work.

The program was again funded in 2025 in the Big Bold Beautiful Bill, split 50:50 between APHIS Wildlife Services and NRCS.

Twelve states are eligible to apply for funding based on feral pig densities, issues and impacts caused.

These are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, California, Florida, Oklahoma and Texas.

This program will be rolled out over coming months.

The overarching goal of this national program is to eradicate feral swine and reduce their invaded range in the US by using differentiated strategies for eradication-feasible states versus damage-reduction states.

A third objective was recently added to support those states where pigs have been eradicated, or are present at very low densities, by applying advanced monitoring technology, encouraging the use of the citizen science app 'Squeal

continued P3



The author with Dana Cole.

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Learning from US to strengthen our feral pig management efforts

from P2 on Pigs' by the general public (including hunters) and providing rapid response capacity.

Strong partnerships across federal, state, territorial, tribal and local agencies, private land managers and academic organisations have been essential to the delivery of project outcomes.

For example, the 14 NRCS partners leading projects in their states worked with another 59 agencies directly delivering projects and a further 68 providing in-kind support.

Since 2014, feral pigs have been eradicated from 12 states and substantially reduced in six more.

A total of 29 states and three US territories are now working to eradicate feral swine and/or reduce damage.

It has been estimated that resources valued at A\$56.24 billion have been protected by the NFSDMP over its first eight years of operation by preventing the spread of feral pig populations.

One of the biggest ongoing risks is the movement of feral pigs by people.

USDA genetic work indicates pigs are being moved both

within regions and over long distances, which means policy, enforcement and community support all matter if control programs are to succeed.

The NFSDMP is closely tied to biosecurity in the US.

Active surveillance for African swine fever virus as well as brucellosis, classical swine fever, foot and mouth disease and pseudorabies is part of the program, with over 6000 feral pig samples collected per year – linking wild pig management with the protection of livestock, humans and wildlife.

While challenges and resourcing differs between Australia and the US, we share the need for sustained, coordinated and evidence-based feral pig control programs to effectively manage impacts from feral pigs and reduce their populations.

A clear message from the American experience is that long-term results depend on strong partnerships between all stakeholders including landholders, government agencies, researchers, private organisations and universities.

Opportunities to share knowledge and insights about feral pig

management and monitoring approaches being used, developed and trialled in both Australia and in the US will be progressed through the National Feral Pig Action Plan with USDA APHIS staff.

There is still so much to learn from one another to better support Australian farmers and land managers to continuously improve the effectiveness, efficiency and efficiency of feral pig management to reduce their extensive impacts.

Snapshots of presentations made at the International Wild Pig Conference are being published in the National Feral Pig Action Plan's monthly newsletter.

To subscribe, scan the QR code below. **Welcome Michelle Kent**

In late April, we welcomed Michelle Kent into the NFPMC Project Officer role to support work to deliver the National Feral Pig Action Plan.

Michelle brings over 15 years' experience in environmental project management across the Victorian Government, local government and consultancy, including invasive species programs.

Michelle is very ex-

perienced in stakeholder and community engagement and is passionate about helping people make sense of science and policy, and translating this into practical, achievable and meaningful action.

Michelle can be contacted at michelle.kent@feralpigs.com.au or mobile 0427 613 138.

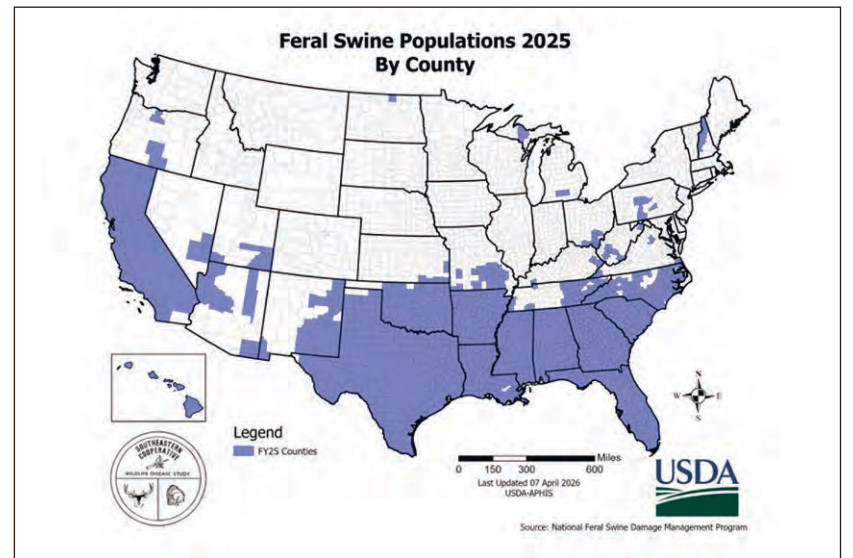
If you'd like to discuss the content of this article or have any questions related to effective feral pig management, contact me on Heather.Channon@feralpigs.com.au or 0423 056 045.



NFPMC Project Officer Michelle Kent.



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The USDA's feral swine populations by county map 2025.

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Pig blood makes for sensational sausage

LONG partial to black pudding – or blood sausage or black sausage – especially for breakfast annually on St Patrick’s Day at my local Irish Club, I recently ventured beyond, ever so slightly, buying a few Spanish morcilla sausages.

With Irish heritage (my Christian name should be a giveaway) and plenty of time working alongside a good friend and brilliant Irish/Kiwi writer Eammon Conaghan, it’s no surprise that my taste buds burst with delight when enjoying the ‘black stuff’, especially when made with pig’s blood... surely not a revelation?

The four pack of locally made Spanish

morcilla sausages at \$45/kg – therefore effectively \$5 per fat little sausage – was money well spent.

I’m always happy to spend top dollar on sausages as an assurance, hopefully at least, of taste and quality.

My father, when farming deer in Western Australia back in the day, made the best venison sau-



Cant Comment
by BRENDON CANT

sages under his brand Venison La Royale, in partnership with the ‘prince of flesh’ Vince Garreffa of Mondo de Carne.

They too were priced at a premium, as all top shelf smallgoods should be.

So, let’s get back to Spanish morcilla.

Morcilla is a sausage that, like chorizo, is very much a part of the ritual of the ‘slaughter’ in Spain.

Extended family, friends and neighbours get together in small towns all over the country to sacrifice their fattened pigs to make chorizo, morcilla and jamón.

As for most agrarian societies, Spaniards make good use of almost every part of the pig – from the hooves to the ears and pretty much everything in between.

And the blood doesn’t go to waste either.

It is quickly drained into a large pan and immediately taken to the kitchen where the

preparation of morcilla takes place.

Morcilla is the first type of sausage made from the slaughtered pig.

The ground pork is mixed with pig’s blood, along with seasonings and spices, chopped onions and filler (usually rice).

It is then piped into a casing, shaped into cylinders, flash-boiled to coagulate the blood and hung up to cure.

Spaniards generally cut morcilla into thick slices (rodajas), fry them in olive oil and eat with bread as a tapa or snack.

When cooked and crumbled, it becomes a favourite ingredient for stews, such as cocido Madrileño (Madrid-style stew), as well as bean dishes.

It is often placed in the pot along with other ingredients to simmer.

If you enjoy sausage with breakfast, fry up some sliced morcilla with potatoes and serve with poached, scrambled or fried eggs.

Generally speaking, morcilla has a dark purple-black colour, a dense consistency and an intensely rich flavour with a slight tanginess.

But morcilla is produced throughout

continued P5



Black pudding displayed in all its glory in a butcher’s window.



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THE porcine industry is evolving rapidly, with advances in reproduction technology, genetics, biosecurity, nutrition and farm management shaping the future of production.

In this environment, opportunities to share knowledge and practical experience are more valuable than ever.

Minitube TechDays Porcine 2026 brings together producers, veterinarians, researchers and industry leaders for two days focused on innovation, collaboration and real-world solutions for modern pork production.

This year’s program covers the full production journey – from boar stud management through to sow performance and breeding efficiency.

Boar Day highlights topics including collection quality, semen assessment, hygiene

and extender preparation, use of progressive motility data, genetic indexing and smarter stewardship in semen extenders.

Interactive demonstrations of the Minitube Eco system will also showcase integrated production technologies in action.

Sow Day focuses on semen storage and biosecurity, gilt management, nutrition strategies to maximise viable born alive, artificial insemination technologies and the economics of pregnancy detection.

Most importantly, TechDays is about bringing people together – through expert presentations, practical demonstrations and open discussion.

The event provides a platform for learning, collaboration and new ideas that will help drive the industry forward.

Minitube
www.porknews.com.au



Fried in olive oil with some onions, these morcilla sausages made for a hearty brekky.



Spanish chorizo is usually sliced thinly and eaten much like an Italian salami and is therefore often popular as a pizza topping.



Fresh home from The Herdsman Market, this four pack of Spanish morcilla sausages were looking 'bloody' good.

Pig blood makes for sensational sausage

from P4

the country and, like many classic Spanish dishes, ingredients used to make it and the style of the sausage change considerably from region to region.

While most readers are probably more familiar with chorizo than morcilla, both are products of the annual Spanish tradition of a pig's slaughter.

Both types of sausage consist largely of ground pork, mixed with salt and other seasonings, especially paprika piped into a casing to cure.

But there are also significant differences.

The biggest one is blood.

Pig's blood is an essential ingredient in morcilla and has a major impact on its taste, appearance and consistency, whereas blood is not a factor in chorizo.

While both undergo a curing process (morcilla is usually briefly boiled first), the ageing is much longer for morcilla, which raises another significant difference.

Whereas Spanish

chorizo is usually sliced thin and eaten much like an Italian salami, morcilla is only semi-cured and therefore must be cooked before eating, either on its own or as an ingredient in other preparations.

This ageing difference also means that while chorizo can last almost indefinitely, becoming harder and drier the more it ages, morcilla must be cooked (or frozen) within a fairly short time.

Finally, while chorizo consists principally of pork, salt

and other seasonings, morcilla has a number of other ingredients added to it – depending on where it comes from – such as rice, onions, pine nuts, squash or potatoes.

These obviously impact its flavour, consistency and usage.

While on the subject of usage, I do declare I prefer my black pudding and/or morcilla cooked and served in slices rather than as whole sausages, as per my kitchen photos – albeit they are tasty both ways, just a little easier to consume when cut. 🐷



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1 - Meta-analysis 2021.02-TON-META-PWM (*P < 0.0001; 70 studies; N = 148,170 pigs; various genetics). 2 - Study 18-014 (*P < 0.01; N = 2,193 pigs). 3 - Studies 16-009, 16-003, 18-126 (*P < 0.05)



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Sewage surveillance on farm reveals faster way to spot disease



A NEW project recently completed by Australian Pork Limited in partnership with the University of Queensland has identified a faster way to detect specific bacteria rapidly in the field, saving producers from needing to send samples away to a lab and wait days for results. The project – which was inspired by the use of wastewater surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic as a routine means to monitor disease and

track how widely the virus spread within communities – tested whether common disease-causing pig pathogens could be detected in effluent using modern DNA-based methods. Piggery effluent can contain a range of disease-causing bacteria, including enteric and respiratory bugs such as escherichia coli (or e coli) and actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae (or APP).

Being able to test effluent quickly on farm allows producers to

spot disease risk earlier and support faster responses, improving outbreak control, reducing production losses and protecting pig welfare. The project confirmed that several pathogens could be reliably detected in effluent using a rapid testing method known as loop-mediated isothermal amplification.

The first step was to ensure that campylobacter coli – a common bacterium in pig populations – could be reliably detected using this method.

Then effluent samples were spiked with APP – the bacterium responsible for porcine pleuropneumonia, a serious and devastating respiratory disease – which after a few tweaks was also successfully detected at low inclusion levels using this method.

The final stages of this focused on developing simple on-farm diagnostics using LAMP technology.

Unlike PCR, which requires specialised lab equipment, LAMP runs

continued P7

Piggery effluent can contain a range of disease-causing bacteria, including e coli and APP.

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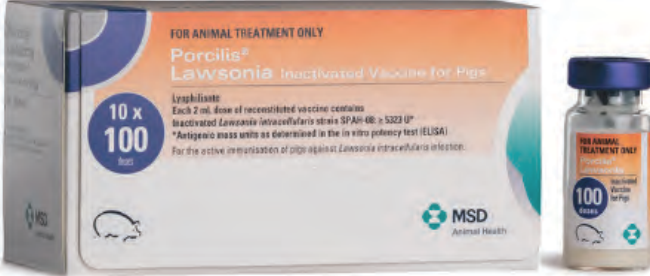
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Gunpork Piggery goes 316 stainless steel

MANAGING pig effluent on a commercial scale is a demanding operation.

Large piggeries generate high volumes of waste that are abrasive, fibrous and chemically aggressive.

Selecting the correct pump is critical not only for operational efficiency but also for compliance with environmental regulations and long-term system reliability.

Setting the standard

A commercial piggery in regional Victoria operates with at least 20,000 pigs across multiple farrowing, weaner, grower and finishing sheds.

With this scale, effluent management is not a minor operational task, it is a core component of the farm's productivity and sustainability.

The piggery relies on sediment ponds to temporarily store and manage effluent, requiring pumps capable of handling high solids content, fibrous material and corrosive by-products such as ammonia and hydrogen sulphide.

Selecting the right pump

Traditional cast-iron pumps often fail prematurely in tough environ-

ments, due to pitting, seal wear and internal corrosion.

Gunpork's operations manager Mark Kingma realised that long-term reliability required a pump built to withstand aggressive effluent.

After careful evaluation, he selected the Aussie GMP B4XR-A/X 15kW self-priming pump built in 316 stainless steel.

This pump was chosen for its ability to maintain consistent flow across sediment ponds, handle slurry and fibrous material and resist corrosion that can compromise cast-iron units.

Its self-priming capability allows it to operate reliably without flooded suction.

This is common in large pond installations. The electric motor drive ensures low operating costs, continuous duty capability and minimal maintenance requirements.

Proven performance

Since installation, the 316SS B4XR-A/X pump has delivered 2000LPM, moving effluent efficiently across the farm's sediment ponds.

Mr Kingma noted that the pump has exceeded expectations in both performance and durability.

The corrosion resistance of 316 stainless steel has eliminated the downtime and maintenance issues that often plague other materials, ensuring smooth day-to-day operations.

The robust design also includes heavy-duty mechanical seals and a solids handling 316 SS open impeller.

This enables the pump to tolerate the abrasive and fibrous content typical of piggery effluent.

These features make it ideal for large-scale farms where failure is not an option and maintenance windows are limited.

Investment value over time

For commercial piggery operations, upfront cost is only one factor.

Whole-of-life cost, reliability and reduced downtime are far more critical.

Investing in 316 stainless-steel pumps delivers long-term value by reducing maintenance, extending service life and protecting hydraulic performance.

Gunpork's example demonstrates that smart operators consider the total cost of ownership, not only the initial price tag.

Why 316 SS pumps make sense for the industry

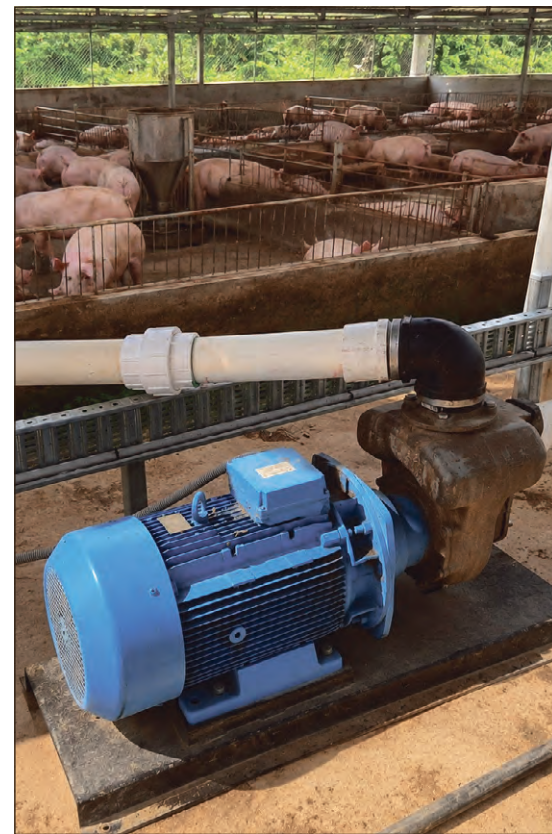
The success of Gunpork's effluent system underscores a broader trend in the Australian pig industry – leading operators are increasingly choosing 316 stainless-steel self-

priming pumps for high-volume corrosive effluent applications.

These pumps are proven to provide reliable operation, withstand aggressive waste streams and deliver predictable performance for large-scale farms.

By investing in pumps designed for the challenges of pig effluent, farms can ensure compliance, reduce risk and maintain operational efficiency, all the while safeguarding their equipment investment over the long term.

For further information on Aussie 316 stainless-steel pumps, visit aussiepumps.com.au or reach out to authorised local Aussie Pumps dealers.  Aussie Pumps



Aussie's stainless-steel 3" pumps for effective effluent transfer.

Sewage surveillance

from P6

at a single temperature and can produce results visible to the naked eye through a colour change within only 35 minutes.

By refining an existing LAMP assay for APP, the team developed a highly reliable assay capable of detecting low levels of the bacterium and showed high accuracy in distinguishing positive and negative samples.

A second LAMP assay was then developed for e coli – a major cause of enteric disease on farm.

Both tests performed at levels comparable to sophisticated lab methods but with a fraction of the equipment and time required.

These findings suggest piggery effluent could become a powerful monitoring tool for producers, offering real-time insights into

herd health without the need to sample individual animals.

This approach also has exciting potential to be expanded to other bacterial pathogens and support future LAMP assay development.

According to the APL Project 2021-0013 team: "If we want to reduce antibiotic use, we need to bring the tools and the knowledge to the farm so that the producer and veterinarian can make informed decisions in real time, rather than waiting for an outbreak and then reacting to it."

For more information about this project, contact APL's risk inventory and evaluation program manager farming and welfare Dr Rebecca Athorn on rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au

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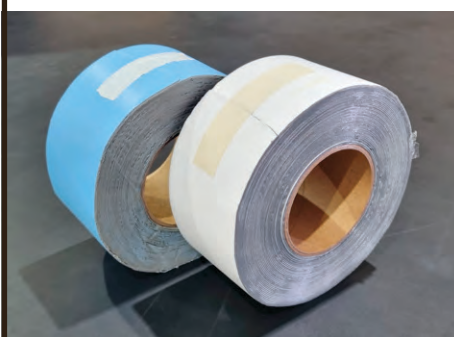
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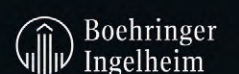
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APRIL Innovation Projects 2026

Big ideas with real-world impacts if successful

THE 2026 round of Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited's Innovation Projects calls was a huge success, attracting a record 29 applications.

It was especially exciting to see a strong interest across all eight of the current pork industry's research priorities, a great indication of the range of ideas coming through for the Australian pork industry.

APRIL's Research and Development Advisory Committee approved eight projects, spanning environment, pig health and welfare, data and technology and feed and nutrition.

Congratulations to all successful applicants.

Here's a quick peek into the approved projects.

Research priority – environment, human capacity and society
Challenging methane reduction in effluent, University of Queensland

Reducing methane emissions remains a major challenge for pork farms as the industry works towards national climate targets.

Cassandra George will build on earlier work, showing that iron and sulphur additives can suppress methane in piggery effluent.

This project explores exactly how and why these additives work.

Clarifying the mechanisms so that additive use can be optimised into clear practical dosing strategies that achieve the minimum effective dose with maximum methane reduction.

Research priority – pig health and antimicrobial stewardship

Fast-tracking vaccine screening for APP, University of Queensland

Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae remains one of the most damaging respiratory

diseases affecting pigs, and the industry has long needed a more effective vaccine approach.

Dr Conny Turni will develop an ex-vitro airway model using pig bronchial cells, designed to better reflect the real host environment.

This model will allow for rapid screening of multiple vaccine candidates, helping identify the most promising options for further development and reducing the number and cost of animal trials.

Identifying co-infections of scours and PWD, Murdoch University

Neonatal scours and post-weaning diarrhoea continue to cause major production and welfare impacts.

While traditionally escherichia coli bacteria are blamed, recent studies have shown that e coli is not actually present in

about 40 percent of affected herds, suggesting potential for bacterial-viral co-infection.

Dr Jasim Uddin will investigate whether viral and bacterial co-infections, particularly involving rotavirus, are driving disease in piglets and weaners.

The project aims to clarify how these infections interact, improving diagnosis and control options and supporting more targeted antibiotic use.

Research priority – pig care and well-being plus data and information

Using AI to understand sow behaviour pre-farrowing, Adelaide University / SARDI

Sow behaviour changes can tell us a lot, especially around farrowing and early piglet outcomes.

Current scoring analyses are labour-intensive and inconsistent.

continued P13



TABLE 1. AusScan Early Harvest Report
Protein Moisture and Energy Values for Cereal Grains

April 2026

Barley																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	11.2	1.47	9.0	18.6	10.8	0.90	6.4	13.2	13.4	0.32	12.8	14.4	10.8	0.70	9.5	12.7	0.80	0.74	0.88	12.0	0.43	10.9	13.1	69.4	5.1	63.6	97.3
QLD	9.0	1.05	7.0	11.4	10.5	0.61	9.4	11.5	12.5	0.32	12.0	13.8	9.7	0.47	9.1	11.6	0.78	0.76	0.84	11.5	0.40	11.0	13.0				
QLD1	9.4	0.82	7.8	11.1	10.6	0.82	9.3	12.0	12.5	0.08	12.3	12.6	9.4	0.17	8.9	9.6	0.75	0.72	0.76	11.4	0.28	10.9	11.9				
SA1	11.9	0.86	11.3	13.3	10.0	1.94	8.3	13.3	12.9	0.27	12.5	13.2	10.9	0.42	10.3	11.3	0.84	0.82	0.86	12.2	0.28	11.9	12.5	76.1	3.4	70.4	78.5
SA2	11.0	0.69	9.5	12.5	9.5	0.57	8.0	10.7	13.1	0.14	12.8	13.4	11.3	0.29	10.8	12.2	0.86	0.84	0.91	12.0	0.25	11.6	12.6	74.7	1.4	70.7	77.2
VIC	11.0	1.32	9.0	14.7	10.7	0.72	9.7	12.2	12.6	0.24	12.3	13.7	10.3	0.29	9.7	11.3	0.82	0.79	0.82	11.5	0.45	10.9	13.1				
VIC 1	10.8	1.33	7.3	12.7	10.2	0.83	8.5	11.2	12.6	0.28	12.3	13.7	10.6	0.36	10.1	11.7	0.84	0.82	0.85	11.8	0.34	11.1	12.7				
Sorghum																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
QLD	9.6	0.97	7.4	12.8	12.8	0.85	10.7	14.2	14.4	0.19	13.5	14.7	11.5	0.43	9.8	12.2	0.79	0.73	0.83	14.6	0.36	13.2	15.2				
Wheat																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	12.9	0.97	10.2	14.5	10.3	0.63	9.2	11.9	14.1	0.28	13.2	14.4	12.2	0.55	10.4	12.7	0.87	0.79	0.88	12.8	0.29	11.9	13.1	76.2	2.7	68.2	80.1
QLD	11.7	0.89	10.1	14.4	9.9	0.91	8.3	12.5	13.8	0.12	13.1	13.9	11.5	0.20	10.7	11.9	0.84	0.82	0.86	12.5	0.40	10.7	13.3	76.9	2.1	67.1	82.3
QLD1	11.8	0.65	10.6	13.1	10.0	0.87	8.3	12.1	13.8	0.06	13.7	13.9	11.4	0.12	11.2	11.7	0.83	0.82	0.84	12.6	0.28	12.0	13.2	77.0	0.8	75.4	78.9
SA1	12.2	1.25	8.7	16.7	9.5	1.42	7.2	12.3	14.1	0.09	13.8	14.3	11.7	0.21	11.2	12.0	0.83	0.82	0.84	12.3	0.18	12.0	12.8	79.8	3.2	74.6	86.3
SA2	12.9	1.37	10.6	14.5	9.3	1.11	7.2	11.2	14.1	0.17	13.5	14.3	11.7	0.26	11.3	12.2	0.83	0.84	0.86	12.1	0.34	11.8	12.7	80.0	3.0	71.7	85.5
VIC	11.5	1.05	9.1	15.5	9.8	0.80	8.3	12.8	13.8	0.06	13.6	13.9	11.5	0.14	11.3	11.9	0.84	0.83	0.86	12.6	0.27	12.0	13.5	77.5	1.2	74.8	80.7
VIC 1	11.9	1.10	9.6	16.5	9.7	0.87	7.8	12.3	13.7	0.07	13.5	13.9	11.8	0.17	11.4	12.5	0.86	0.84	0.90	12.7	0.31	12.0	13.7	77.8	1.1	75.4	81.0
VIC 2	11.3	1.01	9.4	16.4	9.5	0.86	8.4	12.6	13.7	0.07	13.5	13.9	11.7	0.11	11.4	12.1	0.85	0.84	0.87	12.5	0.28	12.0	14.0	77.6	1.1	75.0	81.8
VIC 3	11.3	0.95	8.6	14.4	9.7	0.74	7.9	11.9	13.7	0.12	12.3	13.8	11.7	0.18	10.3	12.4	0.85	0.84	0.90	12.5	0.32	11.3	13.6	77.5	1.7	65.5	82.5

* Each row represents a Feed Mill in the Region, for example QLD and QLD1 represent different feed mill companies within the state.

APRIL Innovation Projects 2026

from P12

Dr Bryony Tucker will use machine learning and video analysis to automatically identify and classify sow behaviour patterns within conventional farrowing crates.

The project will generate a validated 'behaviour vocabulary' including postures, transitions and restlessness indicators and demonstrate simple forecasting applications.

Importantly, this work will lay the foundation for future expansion of artificial intelligence into free-farrowing and transitional housing systems.

Research priority – data and information

Dr Jessica Craig from JBS Pork Australia will lead two tech-focused projects. *Camera-based tool to predict pig sale weight*

The first project uses existing on-farm CCTV footage to develop a tool that estimates and predicts pig liveweight in large group pens.

The goal is to deliver a practical pen-side workflow calibrated to Australian pigs and shed environments, such as a tablet display showing predicted weights to guide spray marking.

This will enable more accurate drafting and sorting of pigs, with less handling and manual weighing.

RFID 'digital handshake' to stop wrong feed to silo mistakes

The second project tackles a costly and high-risk issue – incorrect feed delivered into the wrong silo.

This project will develop a radio-frequency identification-based 'digital handshake' system that prevents unloading unless the truck/load is authorised for that specific silo.

It will assess what's fit-for-purpose under Australian conditions and package the outcome into a ready-to-adopt system, including workflow steps, SOPs and a cost-benefit guide.

Research priority – pig care and wellbeing

Measuring pig 'quality of life' using biomarkers, University of Western Australia

Assessing animal welfare is increasingly about understanding not only the absence of harm but the presence of positive experiences.

Prof Dominique Blache will build on earlier work that identified promising biomarkers linked to brain activity and emotional state.

Using spectroscopy scanning, this project aims to develop practical non-invasive tools that can help distinguish between positive and negative experiences using samples such as saliva and blood to support better welfare monitoring and management.

Research priority – feed and nutrition
Fine-tuning iodine to boost weaner intake and growth, JBS Pork Australia

Weaners have high growth potential, but low post-weaning feed intake can restrict performance.

Dr Fan Liu will run a dose-response study to fine-tune iodine inclusion levels, building on recent evidence that high iodine supplementation may

improve feed intake and weaner weight.

The trial will test iodine levels from 1.5ppm (standard commercial level) up to 22.5ppm to identify the best-performing and most cost-effective inclusion levels under Australian conditions.

A big congratulations to all Innovation Project awardees.

APRIL also extends sincere thanks to every applicant.

This year's submissions reflected a genuine depth of thinking and a strong range of innovative outside-the-box ideas that will continue to drive progress across the industry.



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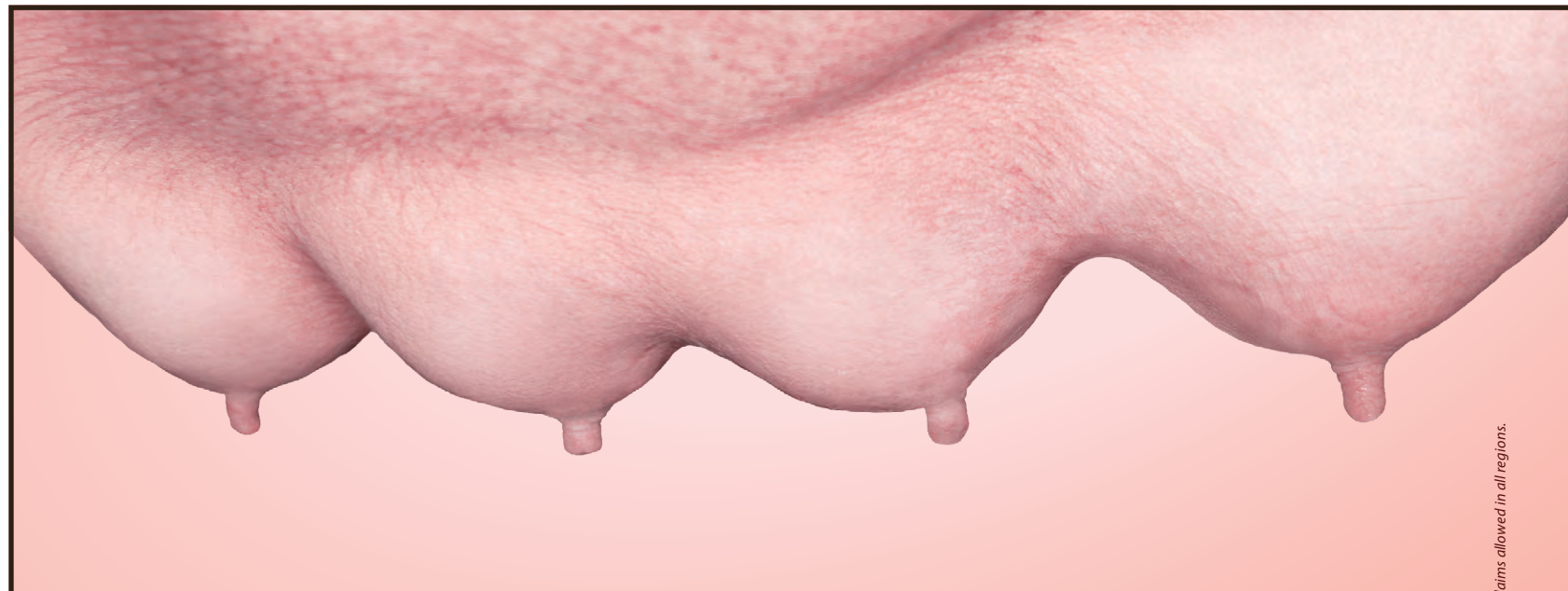


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