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NEWSPAPER

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PigCentral provides a one-stop information hub for WA pig owners

WESTERN Australian pig owners now have a one-stop shop for all their pig information needs, with the recent launch of the PigCentral website by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Department veterinary officer Ashley Jordan said the engagement website would provide biosecurity, general health and management information for small-scale pig farmers and owners of pet pigs as well as discussion forums, questionnaires and competitions where pig owners can engage with the department and other pig owners.

“People considering owning pigs can come to the site to find out everything they need to know about owning pigs in WA – from what to feed them, how to house them, what their normal behaviours are,

when to call a vet and what regulations apply,” Dr Jordan said.

“People who already own pigs can share their pig tales about what they love about owning pigs as well as some of the challenges that arise such as when a ‘mini pig’ is no longer miniature.

“They can also provide tips for other owners or ask questions in the discussion forum.”

Dr Jordan said pig owners could also upload their favourite pig photographs and stories for a chance to win a fortnightly prize of \$50 worth of commercial pig pellets from their local feed supplier.

The PigCentral website is part of the Boosting Biosecurity Defences project made possible by the Royalties for Regions program.

To visit PigCentral, go to engage.agric.wa.gov.au and click on PigCentral.



Department of Agriculture and Food, WA veterinary officer Ashley Jordan on a recent visit to a pig farm.

Pork CRC comings and goings

CHARLES Rikard-Bell has been appointed manager, Commercialisation and Research Impact at the Cooperative Research Centre for High Integrity Australian Pork.

Announcing the appointment, Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell said Dr Rikard-Bell’s role would be to generate revenue from those Pork CRC research outcomes with identified genuine commercial potential.

“Charles will also work with our scientists to develop research and development projects with greater emphasis on commercial outcomes,” Dr Campbell said.

“We have a number of valuable outcomes and deals on the books, including AusScan Online, a patent on enhancing reproduction, a performance enhancer for pigs at weaning, a technology for enriching the environment of sows and weaner pigs, a quantitative PCR for lawsonia and other diagnostic tests related to animal health and even the health of biogas plants,” including covered ponds.”

For the past 11 years, Dr Rikard-Bell has worked for Elanco Animal Health (a division of Eli Lilly) with its Australian Pig and Poultry livestock team as account manager and technical consultant,

before his most recent regional role as marketing manager – Swine for the Asia-Pacific Rim.

He completed his PhD with the first Pork CRC and has a wealth of knowledge of the Australian and Asian pork industries.

Dr Rikard-Bell has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science majoring in Agricultural Genetics from the University of Sydney, a Masters of Science from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland where he studied Pig Science and Production, a PhD in Animal Nutrition and Growth from Murdoch University, Western Australia and a Post-

graduate Diploma in Education (secondary) from the University of New England, NSW.

“Charles will bring considerable research and industry experience to our scientists and students and play a major role in the transition from the Pork CRC to an alternative R&D model for the industry over the CRC’s remaining four years,” Dr Campbell said.

In other Pork CRC executive staff moves, research manager Graeme Crook, who had been with Pork CRC for eight years, playing major roles in program

continued P2

Isn’t every week bacon week?

IT was Bacon Week again recently.

It seems each year the momentum generated from the previous Bacon Week kicks the next one off with a bit more gusto.

It’s now got quite a following; media commentators mention it and it’s in the Twittersphere – people want to be a part of it.

The return of Bacon Week triggered an interview I did recently for *Landline* with Pip Courtney, which also gave us some welcome publicity for the event.

The interview presented me with the opportunity to talk about country of origin labelling and plans in the wind to fix the problems our industry continues to face and has done for what seems like decades.

Recognising the limitations of the present system, the Federal Government has initiated a process to improve consumer understanding around country of origin labelling by changing the current regulations, particularly around processed food products, which include ham and bacon.

As many of you already know, today there’s a lot of Danish pork out there.

It’s locally cured, sliced and packaged, with ‘Made in Australia’ or a variation thereof on the package – sometimes in excruciatingly small letters.

The same applies to Canadian and US pork in ham products.

We’ve always claimed that consumers thought this applied to where the pigs were raised – that’s the feedback we’ve always received.

Consumers have been duped for far too long.

Now changes are afoot



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



and something is being done about it.

The government’s proposal would change the claim on bacon or ham made from imported pork to something like ‘Made in Australia from Imported Pork’ – you can’t really be too confused about that.

The downside is that because the new claim is associated with visual diagrams intended to represent the proportion of Australian content, the legislative process around making the changes is long and convoluted.

Nevertheless, the government seems to have plenty of resilience to make this change and we encourage those involved to see it through.

You might also be able to help by going online and completing a short survey to give your opinion about the issue of country of origin labelling.

To do so, visit www.industry.gov.au/industry/IndustrySectors/FoodManufacturingIndustry/Pages/Country-of-Origin-Labeling.aspx

The slightly ironic thing about Bacon Week this year, despite its ongoing success, is that the share of Australian pork in Australia’s consumed bacon

has not increased since this time last year (remaining at less than 30 percent), and the main reason for this is the strong demand for Australian pork into the fresh market.

Pig production volumes are increasing, but so is demand for our pork and there’s just not enough around to provide a consistent supply to increase our share of the bacon business.

Over the next few months we’ll be keeping a close eye on where production is heading and possibilities of supply loosening up to support markets other than fresh.

On another matter, you might have seen in the media that there’s been a couple of instances of very low traces of rodenticide picked up in some pig offal within Australia.

This is far from any sort of public health issue – the residues have never been detected in pork meat – but it is nevertheless something for the industry to sort out.

I encourage our producers to get in touch with their APIQ✓ auditor and discuss management practices to minimise any risk of rodenticide contamination in the piggery.

I hope you had a wonderful Bacon Week.

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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2015

AUG 9 - 12 – International Conference on Boar Semen Preservation, Illinois, US www.boarsemen2015.com

SEP 1 – Pork Queensland Inc. Annual General Meeting, Toowoomba, QLD E: robyn.boundy@bigpond.com

SEP 15 - 18 – Space 2015, Rennes, France www.space.fr

SEP 21 - 23 – Livestock Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia www.livestockasia.com

SEP 28 - OCT 18 – International Symposium of Animal Mortality Management, Pennsylvania, USA www.animalmortmgmt.org

OCT 11 - 13 – Leman China Swine Conference, Nanjing International Exhibition Center, Nanjing, China www.cvm.umn.edu/lemanchina

NOV 22 - 25 – Australasian Pig Science Association conference, Melbourne, VIC www.apsa.asn.au

2016

JAN 20-22 – Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Alberta Canada www.banffpork.ca

JAN 26-28 – International Production & Processing Expo, Georgia, USA www.ippexpo.com

JAN 27 – Centralia Swine Research Update, Ontario, Canada www.centraliaswinereseach.ca

FEB 16 - 18 – VIV MEA, Abu Dhabi, UAE www.vivmea.nl

MAR 13 - 15 – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand www.vivasia.nl

APR 18 - 20 – Global Feed & Food Congress, Antalya, Turkey www.ifif.org

MAY 10 - 11 – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire UK www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

MAY 25 - 26 – Pan Pacific Pork Expo, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD P: APL 02 6285 2200

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

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

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

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

porknews.com.au

Skills analysis for pork industry

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 outlines the primary focus of maintaining the momentum of profitable and sustainable growth in existing markets.

An additional area of focus is building robust foundations to expand new business opportunities in new markets, both internationally and domestically.

Key to this APL strategy is the need for industry to enhance all aspects of its business practices right through the supply chain including emphasis on product quality and integrity, access and development of new markets in China, welfare systems, herd health and environmental stewardship.

Central to this is the need for industry to develop its capabilities to better undertake, develop and implement technologies and systems to enable industry to fulfil its objectives as articulated in the APL Strategic Plan.

In November 2014, Agrifood Skills Solutions was engaged to undertake a labour analysis of the Australian pork industry and examine the training needs of current and future farm workers in addition to how to attract and retain these workers.

An online survey was developed by AFSS and distributed by APL.

In order to clarify and substantiate the findings identified in the survey, one on one discussions as well as group discussions were held with delegates at the Victorian Pig Fair in Bendigo.

In addition to these, targeted one-on-one telephone interviews were held across all states.

In total, including the online survey, there were 167 interactions with industry.

Before I present the outcomes of the skills analyses, it is important to spend a bit of time providing context to the participants in the survey.

• Participants by state: NSW 28 percent; Queensland 26 percent; Victoria 19 percent; South Australia 16 percent; Western Australia 9 percent; and Tasmania 3 percent.

• Participants by age: 50 percent of participants were aged 50 or over. A higher percentage of SA participants were in the 40-49 age group (51 percent compared to 33 percent).

• Participants by production system: about 50 percent outdoor production; 35 percent indoor; and 15 percent combination of indoor and outdoor.

• Participants by herd size (sows): 29 percent large farms (1000-plus sows); 45 percent medium farms (50-999 sows); and 26 percent micro farms (one-49 sows).

• Participants by education level achieved: 25 percent held a degree or higher tertiary qualification; 25 percent a Certificate IV Diploma or Advanced Diploma; 10 percent a Certificate I-III; and 40 percent had completed secondary school.



by **DARRYL D'SOUZA PhD**
Research and Innovation
General Manager



Given the above information, it is evident there certainly was a skew in the dataset, with a greater response from small outdoor pig farms.

Nevertheless, the outcomes from this skills analysis are very much reflective of the pork industry's requirements that will enable the pork industry to address many of the challenges and opportunities it will likely face over the next four to five years.

These were the outcomes of the pork industry's skills needs analysis:

Over 41 percent of participants reported that the listed skills were either essential or very important for their production staff.

Not unexpectedly, nearly 90 percent rated work health and safety as either essential or very important, with participants also confirming the importance of skills in implementing animal health control programs (79 percent) and administering medication (80 percent).

Five skills attracted a response of over 42 percent, with quality assurance and animal welfare being the highest (46 percent).

There were over 69 suggestions about new skills required by production staff over the next two to three years.

These are grouped into the following broad categories including animal welfare, free range production systems, improved feeding systems, quality assurance, people skills and better management of piglets.

The top five training programs needed as identified by the participants included:

1. Pig handling;
2. Disease management;
3. Animal welfare;
4. Outdoor production; and
5. Leadership.

Of some concern is that 50 percent of participants reported they had not completed an industry related training course.

One in three respondents reported they could not source training locally for their employees.

Comments included 'nothing local, three hours to get to training', 'lack of trainers in WA' and 'no courses offered in Tasmania', reflecting the thin market for training providers in several states and regions.

In terms of training delivery, 27 percent of participants preferred 'predominantly web based', however comments also highlighted the frustration of slow or inadequate bandwidth.

In terms of future business plans:

- 95 percent indicated no intention to change farming system;
- 87 percent reported no intentions to export;
- 70 percent will or are likely to increase herd size in the next five years (majority in the next two years); and
- 63 percent will or are likely to expand infrastructure over the next five years (majority in the next two years).

The responses to plans to increase herd size and expand infrastructure indicate a high degree of confidence in the industry.

This will obviously have implications for the extent of business skills needed by owners/managers to plan, manage, operate and maintain larger business units including infrastructure.

One outcome that did catch my eye was in relation to 'training senior managers in higher level business skills', which suggests that the holding of business-related skills may not be sufficiently valued across the pork industry.

Following on from business plans, again somewhat surprising was that

25 percent of participants reported a business plan 'was not needed for our organisation', while 34 percent indicated that a succession plan was not needed, with only one in five businesses currently having a succession plan in place.

In terms of the business skills area, the top five needs were:

1. Marketing;
2. Industrial relations;
3. Succession planning;
4. Human resource management; and
5. Business performance management.

This Industry Skills Analyses report has made 19 recommendations in relation to:

1. Currency and relevancy of training standards;
2. Utilisation of online resources;
3. Ageing workforce; and
4. Significant use of migrant workers.

Speaking of online resources, the project also identified the potential use of an online portal or smartphone app that could be utilised to assist in widely circulating information for the industry.

Types of communication could include training resources, educational videos, regionally focused employment and training opportunities as well as potential biosecurity alerts.

When asked in the online survey if they would be interested in using app technology on their farms, 50 percent responded 'yes'.

The interviewers also noted during their discussions that most farmers or their partners carried smartphones.

While the farmers may not be using these tools to their utmost capability at this stage, it does point out that initial investment of infrastructure has already been made.

This provides another channel for exploration for communication extension activities that could be utilised with minimal cost and effort from both APL and the pork producers themselves.

This is very timely and reinforces feedback to APL to develop a smartphone app to disseminate new research outcomes, best management practice information and other general information to producers and farm staff irrespective of farm size or production system.

I am happy to report that APL's information app is currently in 'test phase' and will be released in late August 2015.

Finally, while there is a skew in the dataset with a greater response from small outdoor pig farms, nevertheless the outcomes from this skills analysis are very much reflective of the pork industry's requirements going forward.

APL will be finalising this report shortly (report will be released to industry), and we will over the course of the next six months be addressing a number of recommendations made within the report.

For further information on this report, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8804 or darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au



At the Pork CRC Gold sponsored 2009 Victorian Pig Fair in Bendigo: Pork CRC supported PhD student Ghaid Al Rabadi was researching a new feed processing method at the University of Queensland and at the fair caught up with Dr Cherie Collins of Rivealea Australia, Pork CRC supported PhD students Charles Rikard-Bell of Elanco, who was researching the effects of ractopamine on feed costs at Murdoch University, and Alex Hung, who was researching the effects of nano chromium on pigs at Melbourne University.

Pork CRC comings and goings

from P1

management, education and student mentoring, translation of research outcomes and managing IT systems, left on June 30.

Dr Campbell said Mr Crook, a zoologist come pig scientist, had been fully responsible for co-ordinating Pork CRC program and sub-program leaders, education and R&D committees, managing the website and base funding and benchmarking projects.

"Graeme's contribution to Pork CRC has

been exceptional and I thank him for all he has done, and on behalf of the management, Board

and participants, wish him every success." www.porkcrc.com.au



Pork CRC research manager Graeme Crook has left Pork CRC after eight years.

Pork CRC ready for big second half

IT'S half time for the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork because we've just completed four years of our eight-year term under the agreement we have with the Commonwealth Government and the majority of essential and other participants.

It has been a busy and productive period, highlighted by a courageous decision in 2010 by producers to move to housing pregnant sows in groups and a rapid uptake of the challenge by our scientists, who have shown how to make group housing work for the sow and producer.

Of particular note have been our findings that sows adapt very rapidly to group housing and reduced space and the welcome feedback from our Pork CRC participants that they are achieving excellent reproduction with sows grouped during gestation.

Positive future

Good progress has been made across our four programs and we have 22 postgraduate students in the process of concluding their studies or in the middle of training.

There have been four postdocs, three of whom are now gainfully employed in industry, five industry placement awards (interns), four of whom are now employed full time in pork production businesses and we've supported 20 Honours students during the first four years of this CRC.

Our industry's future looks good and much of the training by Pork CRC has been in new areas, including housing and management of gestating and lactating sows, genuine alternatives to antibiotics, biogas production and the use of algae to clean up piggery effluent, all underlined by tremendous



Initiatives

by **DR ROGER CAMPBELL**
CEO



co-operation across supply chains to ultimately improve the eating quality of Australian pork.

What's next?

In the next four years we will address areas across the programs where gaps in our knowledge still exist, ensure we end up with the highest-quality pork in the world and that it is prepared and cooked properly and we continue to help industry differentiate itself from the rest of the world, particularly competitors from the major exporting countries.

Focus shifts

During the past four years we've seen the major issue change initially from sow and piglet welfare relating to housing and measuring and enhancing wellbeing to antimicrobial use and resistance.

This is the hot topic globally and it's likely legislative changes will occur and antibiotic use will be monitored and reported.

The changes will be led by the US but implemented globally.

Fortunately we have Pork CRC projects looking at antibiotic use and resistance, and more importantly, projects assessing alternatives to antibiotics.

A major focus of our board and staff in the next four years will be transitioning Pork CRC to an alternative research and

development business/organisation.

The new model has been outlined to industry and we are now closer to the pointy end and establishing exactly what it will look like, the conditions and advantages of membership and where funds will come from to replace those currently contributed by government.

It is a work in progress and we will keep you informed as it all comes together.

Producer feedback

I thank all producers who completed our R&D survey in late May/early June this year.

I have included some of the feedback on group housing in this column.

The respondents covered about 130,000 sows.

The responses to questions on 'have you transitioned to group housing', 'when you group', 'what group size' and 'space at mixing' are shown in the graphs and below.

Almost 80 percent said they've transitioned to group housing.

The majority said they grouped at weaning and provided sows with 1.8-2.2sq m space at mixing.

The most common group size was 11-50 sows.

Of those who answered 'other' to the question on when sows are grouped, some said they wean into groups but mate in stalls and group again five days after mating.

Others said they were grouping five to six weeks after mating or pregnancy confirmation.

When asked what had changed since moving to group housing, 28 percent said farrowing rate and litter size had improved, 52 percent said they had seen no change, but 18 percent said one or the other had worsened.

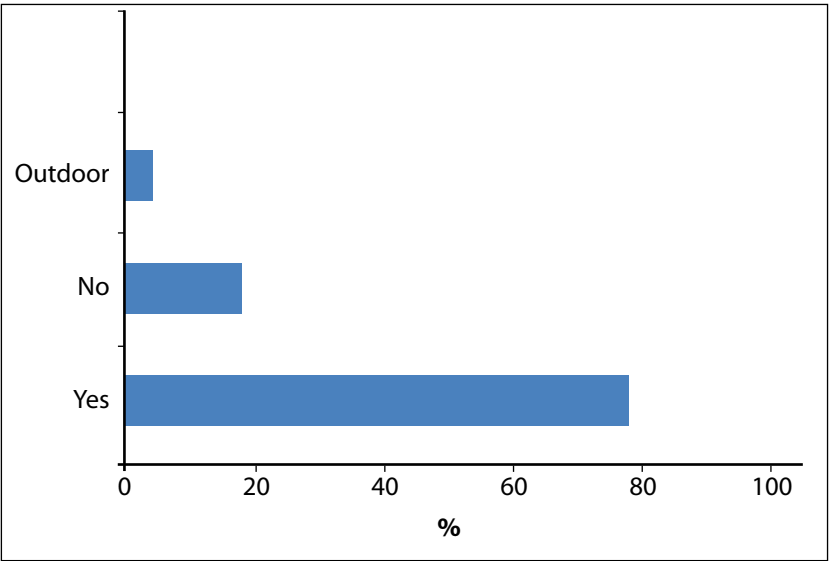
We do know that farrowing rate in particular can decline when sows are first moved to group housing, but generally recovers over time and if you haven't yet changed to group housing it may pay to give the sows more space initially (2.5sq m) and to reduce it once the system is established, or seven to 10 days after mixing.

Pork CRC's participants all report enjoying excellent reproduction with a floor space between 1.8 and 2.2sq m.

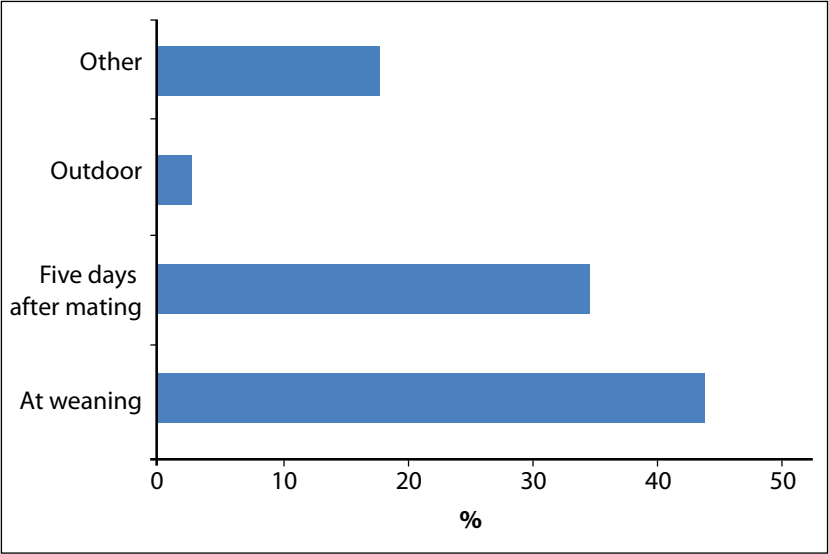
However, all moved to group housing some time ago.

The two things respondents said had worsened since moving to group housing were replacement rate and lameness, though in our recent space allowance study we found that floor space between 1.45 and 2.9sq m had no

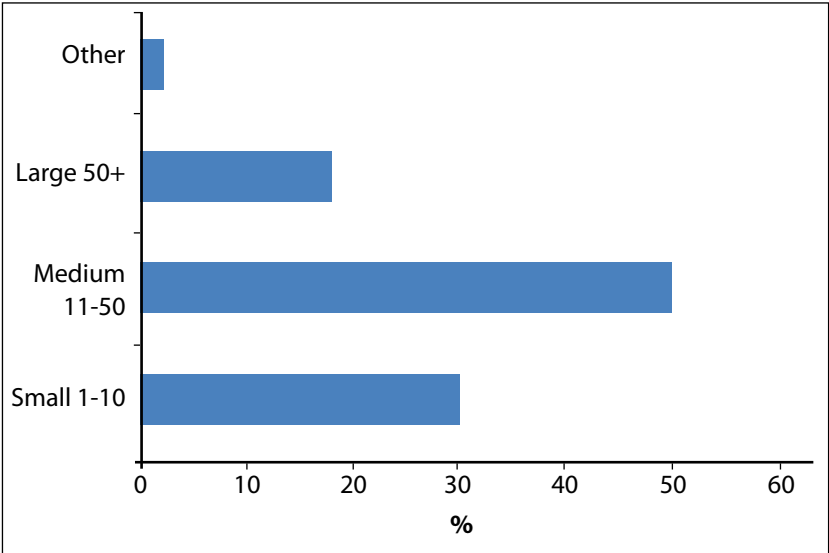
continued P4



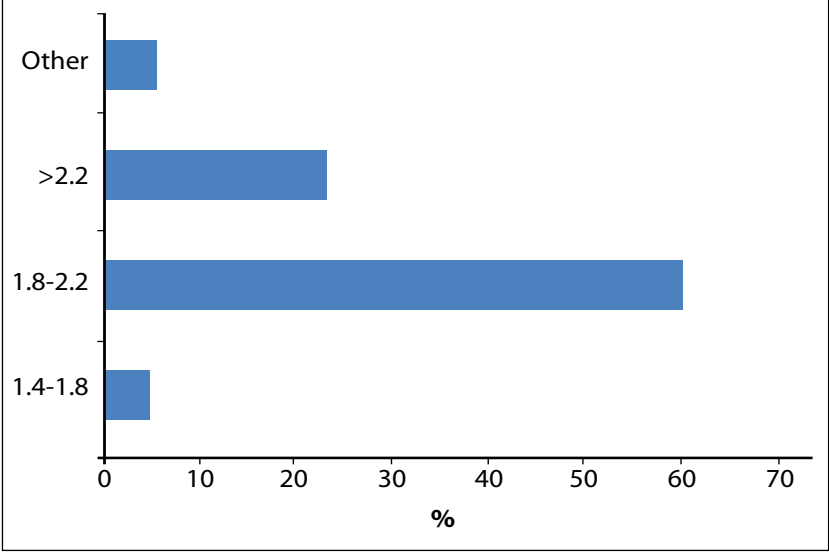
Question one: Have you transitioned to group housing?



Question two: When do you group sows?



Question three: What group size?



Question four: What is your space allowance at mixing (sq m/sow)?

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Just like its cured meats, D'Orsogna is on the move, expanding its smallgoods manufacturing, distribution and marketing efforts deep into eastern Australia.

Broadbrush look at smallgoods

ROB Broadfield, food editor at *The West Australian* and, in my view, the country's best restaurant reviewer, wrote an informative piece on smallgoods in a magazine recently published with a Saturday edition of *The West Australian* to celebrate D'Orsogna's 65 years as a leading smallgoods manufacturer.

I thought I'd share it with you here as an insightful, masterful look into the wonderful world of cured meats, especially as pork typically plays the pivotal role.

Start licking your lips right now!

"Whatever you call it – smallgoods, charcuterie, cold cuts, salumi – try and imagine a cuisine without cured meats.

What began millennia ago as a way to preserve pig meat for later use, has become one of the jewels of international food production.

Smallgoods are still mostly made from pork – bresaola, air-dried beef, is an obvious exception – and have become high art, particularly in Italy and France and Spain where the curing of hams, bacon and sausage is a seriously arcane enterprise.

In the case of prosciutto and jamon, the temperature of the air, humidity, the effect of smoke, the pig's diet and the mere presence of airborne bacteria and local herbs are all factors in the finished product.

A rare pata negra ham can sell for as much as \$500 a kilogram.

Similarly, fine prosciutto can command high prices.

But it's the more demotic offerings like mortadella and bacon that are the most loved.

Is there anything grander than a bacon and egg sarni slathered with ketch-



**Cant Comment
by
BRENDON CANT**

up after a hard night, or a mortadella sandwich with a beer?

Think also of the great smallgoods pairings of all time: prosciutto and melon; blood sausage and seared scallops; bacon and eggs, the list goes on.

Australians love their smallgoods, thanks to generations of mostly Italians who have created

some of the most well-known cured and processed meat brands in the country.

If you want to include smart cold cuts into your cooking, especially in summer, there's nothing better than a well thought out antipasti plate.

Remember always slice thin and 'gloss' the meats with a thin drizzle of olive oil for the table.

Want something a little special?

Wrap a chicken breast in thinly sliced prosciutto and colour it in a fry pan before finishing in the oven.

Salty, porky, superb.

Or how about diced guanciale, rendered and crisped in a frying pan before being tossed with long pasta, raw egg, grated pecorino and lashings of fresh black pepper for a famous Roman dish called spaghetti carbonara (and remember, never, ever add cream to your carbonara – hold back some of the pasta water to thin out the sauce).

Or best of all, grab a few slices of jamon serrano, a glass of chilled sherry and enjoy one of the finest pre-dinner snacks you'll ever experience." 🐷



D'Orsogna operations manager David Starick quality checked hams with Miguel Azevedo, in charge of hams and the smokehouse and a 25-year employee at D'Orsogna.

Pork CRC ready for big second half

from P3

effect on the number of sows removed for non-reproductive reasons.

The removal rate averaged 5.2 percent.

Pork CRC uses the results from these surveys to help shape our R&D program, so your feedback is very important.

In the latest survey we had a 57 percent response rate, but would like to lift this to 70 percent or higher and have more producers on our distribution list.

The surveys don't take long to complete and

a number of producers have let me know that for one reason or another they did not complete the survey but will next time.

For those on the list, I encourage you to complete the next survey, remembering it is your money we invest in research, so you should have a say.

The information is also used to shape our messaging to industry and ensure the appropriate information reaches you.

The surveys show us how effective these changes have been.

I also encourage those

not on the list to send me your details (email roger.campbell@porkcrc.com.au) so we can receive your feedback and for Australian Pork Limited delegates to see if those they represent are willing to add their contact details to the distribution list.

The next survey will likely be in November.

In this survey we also noticed a marked change in attitude to R&D on farrowing and lactation systems, and I will cover this in a future column.

www.porkcrc.com.au



Solid progress on pig manure management

SHAO Dong Yap's research, conducted under Pork CRC Project 4C-111 'Anaerobic treatment for emissions reduction from solid manure residues', focuses on minimising the greenhouse gas emission from spent litter handling on farm.

The project is co-funded by the Department of Agriculture.

Nutrient-rich spent litter is typically stockpiled for composting before land application.

Key concerns with this handling are uncontrolled GHG emissions, pest propagation, odour and nutrient leaching.

Spent litter

One of the more sustainable treatment processes for spent litter is anaerobic digestion, which offers significant advantages over conventional stockpiling including renewable generation and nutrient recovery.

The biogas outputs provide financial incentive for adoption by reducing on-farm energy costs and further reducing GHG emission by displacing fossil fuel-derived energy.

For instance, a 1000-pig deep litter system can produce up to 777kWh per day of electricity.

Given that energy costs have considerably increased in recent years, anaerobic digestion will likely enable pork producers to be more immune to future energy cost pressures.

Further, anaerobic digestion also enables nutrient recovery to produce nutrient fertiliser or compost for off-farm sale, which is another financial incentive.

Several commercially successful anaerobic technologies have been developed for treatment of high solid waste (particularly municipal solid waste, but less so agro-industrial waste).

However, farm-scale uptake of these technologies has been stifled by technical complexity and high



Shao Dong Yap: Pork CRC PhD candidate, Advanced Water Management Centre, University of Queensland
Supervisor: Dr Stephan Tait, University of Queensland.

investment cost.
Solid phase

The solid phase leachbed system (also known as percolation or batch digester) has been identified as a potential anaerobic technology for on-farm treatment of solid manure residue because it is simpler and more cost-effective compared to technology alternatives.

In a leachbed process, a bed of spent litter is contacted with water leachate that allows biology to solubilise organics, nitrogen and phosphorus.

The organics are then converted into biogas and nutrients are recovered.

The water leachate is constantly recirculated through the leachbed system by trickling or flood-and-drain cycle to promote the rate and extent of spent litter degradation.

Shao profile

Shao's Pork CRC research project will study the performance of leachbed for treatment of spent litter and develop ways to integrate this technology for on-farm use.

A pilot study to assess the suitability of the leachbed system for treating spent litter has been conducted.

Shao is a Chemical Engineering graduate (with Honours) from the University of Melbourne (2010) and before his PhD research he worked at RMIT University in Melbourne as a research assistant studying rheological (viscosity/flow) behaviour of polymer gel and colloidal suspensions as model fluids representing anaerobic digestion sludge.

Shao started work at the Advanced Water Management Centre at the University of Queensland in 2012 when he established a pilot-scale test rig of

anaerobic digestion (using a membrane bioreactor) and nutrient recovery (using struvite) in the meat processing industry.

During this time, Shao successfully designed, partly built, commissioned and operated the pilot-scale equipment at an abattoir in Queensland.

This hands-on experience was invaluable, preparing Shao for his current PhD project, which also involves hands-on

technology testing.

Shao's broader research interests and skills include rheology (complex viscosity), anaerobic digestion and co-digestion, biogas use and nutrient recovery from wastes, integrated waste treatment, bioreactor design/control and commissioning and operating pilot facilities.

For further information, contact Shao Dong Yap by email at s.yap@awmc.uq.edu.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

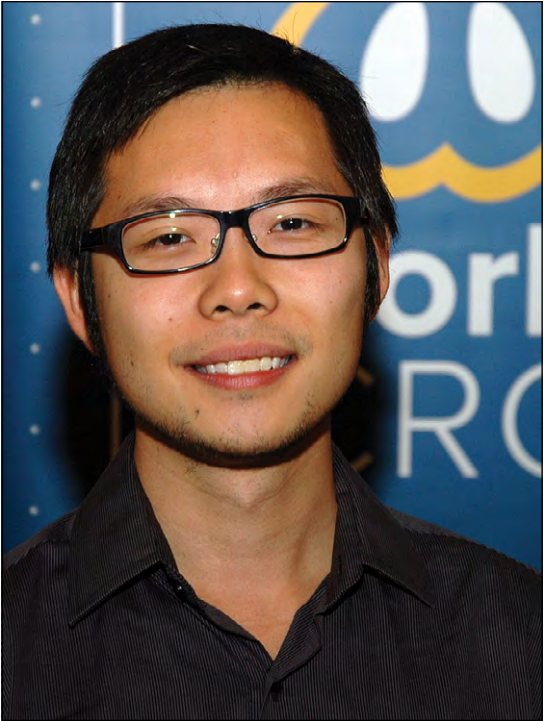
Sep 1, 2015 • Toowoomba

Value of being a member of the state organisation:

- Ongoing representation on behalf of Queensland pork producers at a government level
- Interact with Australian Pork Limited on behalf of Queensland producers
- Retain membership of Queensland Farmers' Federation, which represents agriculture on water issues, electricity, the ethanol mandate paper, environment, natural disasters and individual disasters



Queensland members who wish to nominate for the PQI Board, contact secretary Robyn Boundy at robyn.boundy@bigpond.com



Pork CRC PhD candidate Shao Dong Yap.
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Australian Pork Newspaper, July 2015 – Page 5

Your contribution to an effective traceability system

AFRICAN swine fever continues to move across Europe, reminding us about the importance of not only robust biosecurity measures, but an effective traceability system.

Over the past 12 months a number of changes have been made to PigPass, the pork industry's live pig traceability system.

Australian Pork Limited understands that these changes have resulted in an extra administrative burden, and we are constantly seeking feedback on the system to make movement reporting as easy as possible.

These changes have been introduced to ensure the Australian pork production system remains free

of exotic diseases such as African swine fever and foot and mouth disease.

Correct engagement and use of the PigPass system is our number-one defence tool in the event of a disease or food safety emergency.

APL issues about 60,000 PigPass National Vendor Declarations each year.

To ensure that industry and government can have a rapid response in the event of a food safety emergency, it is essential to know where these PigPass NVDs go.

Closing the loop on pig movements allows the industry to develop a clear picture of where and when pig movements have occurred.

This information will result in effective and informed management in the

event of an exotic disease or food safety emergency.

In May, APL sent a letter to all PigPass registrants regarding property-to-property movement reporting, which we are now asking all producers to do.

P2P movement reporting occurs when pigs are received onto the property directly from another producer.

All pig movements should be accompanied by a PigPass NVD.

If you are sending pigs to another producer, you need to ensure you have completed a PigPass NVD.

If you need help reporting these movements, please refer to the Moving Pigs, Receiving Pigs card enclosed in the letter referred to above, or visit

www.pigpass.com.au

To support the PigPass traceability requirements, APIQ✓ has introduced new PigPass reporting standards.

All APIQ✓ sites that receive pigs from another producer, or from a site that is not a part of their joint certification are required to report this movement via the P2P movement reporting page.

Similarly, internal movements, which occur when pigs are moved within a joint certification, are now required to be reported to PigPass.

A specific page to report these movements has been developed and is located under the APIQ✓ tab, and can be found once you have logged into

the PigPass portal.

To assist reporters in logging these movements, an internal movement reporting card has been developed and will be distributed to APIQ✓ joint certifications shortly.

Figure 1 explains which process is required for P2P and internal movements.

Producers are not the only group to have begun the process of pig move-

ment reporting.

Abattoirs and saleyards have also started reporting incoming PigPass NVDs.

Since December 2014, over 10,000 PigPass NVDs and almost 1.4 million pigs have been reported to PigPass.

With more stakeholders engaging in the system, the number of closed NVDs is set to climb.

The correct reporting of

pig movements nationally will result in effective and swift management in the event of a disease or food safety emergency.

If you have any questions about movement reporting, please contact the PigPass Helpdesk at helpdesk@pigpass.com.au or call 1800 001 458.

Laura Phelps
APL Policy Research Officer

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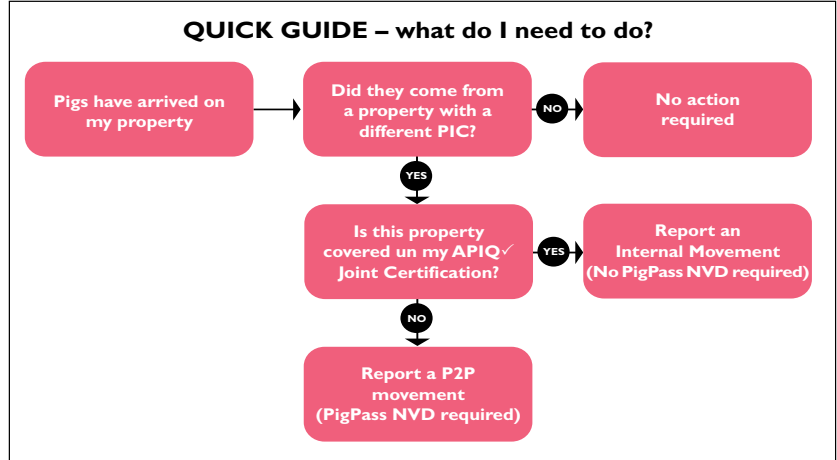


Figure 1

New patented Smartdrive pumps up the savings

WESTERN Australia-based Pumps Australia Pty Ltd has come up with a couple of valuable innovations that will be applauded in the cleaning industry and by anyone who is looking for substantially longer operating life, better reliability, cooler running and lower maintenance and operating costs in a high-pressure washer pump.

Incorporated into its latest high-pressure cleaner, the PX15-280SD, which belts out an impressive 4000psi at a very economical 15l/pm, the clever additions make this washer hard to beat in terms of practicality, efficiency and longevity.

The Honda IGX 13hp auto throttle control engine with load sensing forms the heart and soul

of the new machine.

Those in the Pumps Australia team have made clever use of the engine's systems in ultimately making their own inventive new systems.

Pumps Australia CEO John Warne explained the new system.

"Making use of the Honda IGX engine's ability to down revs when the engine is not being put under load, our Smartdrive system works using our unique integration with that sensing system to disconnect the high-pressure pump entirely when the trigger is released," John said.

"That means the pump simply can't run dry.

"When pumps are left running for as little as two minutes, water in the head of the pump quickly reaches 60C and keeps on climbing to the point where seals fail.

"Because the Smartdrive system disconnects the pump when the trigger is released, heat from the engine ceases to flow to the pump and it cools during the time it is not

pumping, effectively reducing heat wear and tear and adding to the life of the machine.

"Yes, Smartdrive is doing its job well.

"Our Smartdrive system not only avoids running a pump dry but also avoids the gradual heat-induced wear and tear that occurs when the pump is left running, even for short periods, with no flow from the gun."

The team at Pumps Australia has combined engineering experience spanning over 50 years to become a specialist in the field of engineering pumps to suit any application.





Pumps Australia welcomes the opportunity to engineer to specific client needs, so if you have a customer with a wish list, you might like to call John to discuss the issues.

It is these types of challenges that have refined the company's research and development processes to the point where it has now patented its new Smartdrive technology,

continued P7

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Progressing positive pig welfare

■ Pork CRC Project 1A-111 'Developing ways to measure and increase sow contentment'

ANIMAL welfare has traditionally focused on negative issues, aiming to eliminate or minimise situations of distress, pain, fear and poor health.

This is a crucial step to improving an animal's quality of life, but it doesn't necessarily mean an animal is in a 'good' welfare state.

To assess an animal's welfare more completely we need to be able to measure whether or not positive experiences and positive welfare changes are occurring and to what degree.

In animal welfare science we have a whole box of tools to assess negative welfare including the assessment of a pig's physiology, behaviour and physical condition.

However, the tools we have available to assess positive welfare are limited.

Measuring welfare
A recently commissioned study by the Pork CRC aims to identify indicators of positive welfare in sows that can be used in a large-scale production setting.

Dr Rebecca Doyle from the Animal Welfare Science Centre at the University of Melbourne leads Pork CRC Project 1A-111 'Developing ways to measure and increase sow contentment'.

The research team comprises Dr Kate Plush and Dr Cameron Ralph, South Australian Research and Development Institute; Dr Rebecca Morrison, Rivala Australia; Dr Susan Hazel, the University of Adelaide; Dr Greg Cronin, the University of Sydney; and Dr Caroline Lee, CSIRO.

Together the team covers a breadth of expertise in sow welfare assessment, physiology, behaviour and production.

Project leader

Dr Rebecca Doyle moved to the Animal Welfare Science Centre in May 2014 after four years lecturing in animal physiology and welfare at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Her research experience focuses on the development of novel ways to assess animal welfare and ranges from the development of fundamental research techniques to practical methods.

Dr Doyle's research experience in pigs includes investigating the recovery of piglets in hospital pens and she supervises Australian Pork Limited PhD student Rebecca Wilson, whose project 'Assessment and alleviation of aversive stimuli in pigs' is measuring the efficacy of anti-inflammatory treatments on the recovery of ill weaner pigs, and uses traditional and novel techniques to gauge recovery.

Dr Doyle has also developed novel measures of welfare in other species that will be trialled in the planned project.

Positive processing

The first phase of the Pork CRC study involves a controlled trial where the most recent welfare assessment techniques will be trialled on sows either receiving enrichment or not.

It will look at the cognitive processing of sows during lactation and measure differences in the enrichment versus control group.

It has been repeatedly demonstrated that animals in a more positive welfare state process information more positively and respond behaviourally in a more 'optimistic' way – essentially they have an increased expectation of a reward despite ambiguous information.

Animals in a more negative welfare state process information more negatively and respond behaviourally in a more 'pessimistic' way, having an increased expectation of punishment.

This experimental technique will be compared to other more practical indicators that can be used on farm.

The second part of this study will investigate the practicality of these measures of contentment in a

commercial setting.

Novel measures

This study's controlled and then practical approach will ensure the methods developed to assess sow contentment are accurate and practical.

According to Dr Doyle, the project has the potential to develop novel measures of positive sow welfare.

"With the correct tools we can assess what situations are likely to lead to positive welfare outcomes and what sort of health, behavioural and production benefits this may have for a pig," Dr Doyle said.

"This is also beneficial because we may be able to identify those animals whose welfare is likely to be compromised and in-

tervene before a state of distress is reached."

Innovative CRC

The study is the first of its kind to assess positive welfare in a practical setting and highlights Pork CRC's innovative approach.

This project aims to deliver science-based information on ways to assess contentment and welfare that will benefit producers.

This type of research contributes to a level of

confidence for consumers that the pork industry is proactively investigating and improving pig welfare and will provide information that will allow the Australian pig industry to stay ahead of upcoming issues concerning the assessment and improvement of pig welfare.

For further information, contact Dr Rebecca Doyle by email at Rebecca.Doyle@unimelb.edu.au



Pork CRC project leader Dr Rebecca Doyle.

New patented Smartdrive pumps up the savings

from P6

and the team is always looking out for ways to refine and improve the efficiency and useability of its pumps.

Another new development that was triggered by necessity is the boiler ignition system, which is also incorporated into the latest pressure cleaner.

Available as an option, the Honda petrol-powered pump can offer the extra benefits of hot (100C at the gun) or cold pressure washing.

Designed to meet mining industry safety requirements, the team again benefitted from the Honda engine's abilities by utilising the 20A charge circuit to enable a 12V DC supply to generate 20,000V for the 30-litre capacity boiler ignition.

This unit can go into the back of the ute for transport and undertake

any cleaning job, whether hot or cold water is required, with safety and confidence.

It provides benefits to the hire industry too because it's fairly tough to damage this heavy-duty machine.

The pump is a quality unit by Annovi Reverberi.

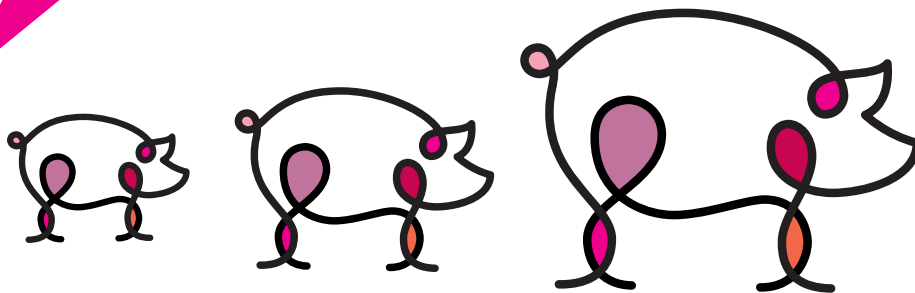
It is manufactured in Italy with ceramic pistons, a brass head, stainless steel valves, bronze con-rods and German water seals.

There are far too many features to go into here, but it's worth checking the pumps out with the team from Pumps Australia.

The PX15-280SD is the cleaner for anyone who needs a reliable and cost-effective cleaning solution.

To contact Pumps Australia, free call 1800 790 915, visit www.pumpsaustralia.com.au or email sales@pumpsaustralia.com.au

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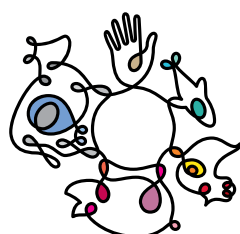
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Queensland's best bacon revealed as bacon week sizzles

IT'S the chocolate of meat, its aroma gets tastebuds excited and a week in late June was all about bacon.

Australian Bacon Week ran from June 21-27, celebrating 100 percent Australian bacon, but also drawing attention to the competition local bacon faces from imported product.

Australian Pork Limited's Peter Haydon said bacon was about enjoyment for many people and an integral ingredient of many favourite dishes.

"Bacon is so versatile we find it's part of dishes from dawn until dusk and from starters to sweets," Mr Haydon said.

"Bacon made from 100 percent Australian pork is a high-quality product that many people believe tastes better and Bacon Week is about shining a light on this homegrown product.

"Many people are shocked to learn that

more than 70 percent of bacon sold in Australia is made from imported pork and so it's also about sharing the tips on how to identify Aussie.

"The pink PorkMark logo or the words 'Product of Australia' mean the bacon is true blue."

As part of celebrations, Australia's bacon was put to the test in the Australian Bacon Awards.

Three specialist judges independently scrutinised the entries for appearance, flavour and other characteristics.

Judges fleischmeister Horst Schurger, who has a Masters degree in butchering and smallgoods; experienced judge and chef Simon Bestley; and Australian Pork's Mitch Edwards, assessed 135 entries over two days.

While the title of Australia's Best Artisan Bacon went to Canberra's Pialligo Estate Smokehouse for the second consecutive year, the

judges also revealed Queensland's best Full Rasher and Shortcut bacons.

Circle T Meats, Raceview, took out the Full Rasher category and was named the third-best Australian Full Rasher.

Barritt's Butchery, Bundaberg placed second in the Full Rasher category, with Gray's Modern Meats, Toowoomba placing third.

Mackay's Slade Point Meat Specialist makes the best Queensland Shortcut Bacon, with Barritt's Butchery again awarded second and Downtown Butchery, Proserpine, third.

The Best Nationally Available Bacon was the Bertocchi Brothers Long Rindless Hickory Smoked Bacon, which is available in the chilled aisle of Coles supermarkets.

For more information on Bacon Week as well as recipes, visit www.pork.com.au



Frank Di Virgilio, Hugh Indian and Tony Rapone of Bertocchi Smallgoods with their award-winning bacon.

Background on Bacon Week winners

PIALLIGO Estate Smokehouse has taken out Australia's Best Artisan Bacon for the second consecutive year, this year with its Shortcut, Smoked and Dry Cured Bacon.

This is the sort of bacon that can only be produced by people who make it themselves in small batches – full of natural, sweet flavour and without added water.

Smoked shortcut bacon is prepared using a traditional brine mixture that has a milder salt flavour.

All Pialligo's traditional smoked bacons have been hung in their smokehouse and cold smoked for up to 17 hours.

Judges described this bacon as beautifully marbled, with a nice smoky aroma and balanced taste.

Pialligo Estate Smokehouse background

Pialligo Estate boutique smokehouse was established in the ACT three years ago, with the goal of offering quality smallgoods using traditional

smoking and curing techniques.

The dry cured and smoked bacon features the best natural ingredients, traditional cure recipes and small batch smoking over hardwood embers.

The smokehouse supplies local shops and delis, as well as those further afield, with world-class smoked meat and fish.

The company's ethos and mission are simple: reject mediocrity and passionately strive to produce the world's finest smoked goods.

Bertocchi Brothers Long Rindless Hickory Smoked Bacon

Bertocchi was the winner of the Australian Bacon Awards Nationally Available category for the second consecutive year.

This year it was its Bertocchi Brothers Long Rindless Hickory Smoked Bacon, which is available in the chilled aisle of Coles supermarkets.

The judging panel described the winning bacon as having a perfect aroma,

a gentle smokiness and minimal shrinkage.

The judges also commended the bacon's great balanced taste and perfect texture.

Bertocchi Smallgoods background

Bertocchi is the largest continental smallgoods manufacturer in Australia, including bacon and hams, and all products are handcrafted.

From modest beginnings several decades ago, Bertocchi Smallgoods has developed into one of the nation's most-loved ham, bacon and continentals producers.

The founder of Bertocchi Smallgoods, Modesto Bertocchi, came to Australia from Sassalbo, Tuscany in 1948, travelling from Genoa to Melbourne with just one suitcase and a vision to create a successful life in his new homeland.

After recognising a growing appetite for quality European smallgoods in Australia, Modesto bought 12 acres of land in Thomas-

town, north of Melbourne and launched Bertocchi Smallgoods in 1972.

More than 40 years on, Bertocchi Smallgoods sprawls across 10ha at the original Thomastown site and is today one of the largest producers of the finest award-winning hams, bacon and continental smallgoods in Australia.

Despite the brand's exponential growth, the commitment to tradition and quality has never wavered.

Today, Bertocchi maintains the passion by continuing to deliver the finest-quality products to consumers at competitive prices.

The core values of Bertocchi Smallgoods are craftsmanship, experience, knowledge, tradition, trust, passion, pride, brand strength and authentic quality products that use only the finest ingredients.

The company is proudly 100 percent Australian owned and operated.

Australia's Best Artisan Bacon		
Pialligo Estate Smokehouse	Pialligo Estate	ACT
Australia's Best Nationally Available Bacon		
Bertocchi Brothers	Bertocchi Smallgoods	VIC
Queensland winners		
Full Rasher		
1	Circle T Meats	Raceview, QLD
2	Barritt's Butchery	Bundaberg, QLD
3	Gray's Modern Meats	Toowoomba, QLD
Shortcut		
1	Slade Point Meat Specialist	Mackay, QLD
2	Barritt's Butchery	Bundaberg, QLD
3	Downtown Butchery	Proserpine, QLD

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Pialligo Estate Smokehouse general manager Charlie Costelloe and Australia's Best Artisan Bacon.



This year's Bacon Week judges with some delectable cuts.

Boehringer Ingelheim hosts Australian veterinarians and farmers on US study tour

IN June, pig farmers and veterinarians from across Australia took part in an inaugural study tour of the US, developed by Boehringer Ingelheim Australia.

Designed to showcase the latest in swine production and disease management, the study group provided exclusive access to leading US commercial farms, Boehringer Ingelheim manufacturing facilities, Iowa State University laboratories and technical experts, with the study culminating at the World Pork Expo in Des Moines, Iowa.

The hands-on farm tours not only gave the study participants a real insight into the US swine industry, but the tours presented an opportunity for the participants to experience the latest products and equipment in pig production first-hand.

A highlight was a visit to Fair Oaks Farms, a state-

of-the-art farming operation that promotes best practice in the swine industry to the wider community and school children, with 150,000 visitors a year.

Another highlight for the study group was a visit to the AMVC farm.

This farm hosts over 110,000 sows on multiple sites and features an associated veterinary clinic staffed by 15 vets and more than 70 staff.

Across two days, the group gained an insight into a large US integrator and was privileged to see first-hand how a large US production system is run, including full discussion of the business's production figures.

This data is collected to continuously improve the business and clearly demonstrated to the group how sustained investment in modern facilities has significantly increased productivity over time.

The group also had the opportunity to use Boehringer Ingelheim's FLEXcombo vaccine, which provides protection against both porcine circovirus type 2 and mycoplasma in the one vaccination.

This product is due to be launched in Australia in August.

Iowa State University, a global leader in swine disease pathology and diagnosis, gave the study group a tour and exclusive access to the in-house Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

University staff and technical experts presented on the latest in diagnostics and pathology and followed up with a round table discussion on diseases of concern for the Australian industry.

Farmers found that the US experiences provided some extremely useful insights into management of these diseases in Australia.

During the tour of Boehringer Ingelheim manufacturing facilities, company experts presented to the study group on topics including the US swine industry, implications for the breeding herd associated with PCV and methods of reducing antibiotic use in the face of

proliferative enteropathy or ileitis.

The scientific and technical knowledge from the company was freely discussed, which gave a real insight into disease management.

Participants provided some great in-depth feedback following the tour,

with many farmers commenting that they intended to immediately implement some of the things they learnt into their Australian farm systems.

Throughout the tour there was ample opportunity for farmers to share ideas and discuss future opportunities for

the Australian pork industry.

A participating pig farmer commented that he was impressed with the high quality standards in the production of Boehringer Ingelheim's products and the level of technical support behind these products.



The study group outside Boehringer Ingelheim's office in Ames, Iowa. From left to right: Mark McLean (Riverhaven Enterprises), David Plant (Miline Agrigroup), Dr Jonathon Bartsch (Dr Barry Lloyd Pty Ltd), Shaun Megson (Boehringer Ingelheim), Tim Croagh (Western Plains Pork), Dr Hugo Dunlop (Chris Richards and Associates), Edwina Beveridge (Blantyre Farm), Russel Bishop (Burnett Pork Alliance) and Michael Beveridge (Blantyre Farm).



The new Aussie Pumps Admiral 4000 delivers an impressive 4000psi and steam to 130C for fast, effective sanitising, degreasing and cleaning.

Steamer breakthrough

AUSSIE Pumps has claimed another breakthrough in its drive for more efficient pressure cleaning with the introduction of the new Admiral 4000.

The Admiral 4000 is a heavy-duty steam cleaner designed for serious applications in food processing, livestock production, construction, mining and heavy industry.

Boasting a 7.5kW, four-pole heavy-duty motor and big triplex industrial pump, the unique new steamer offers a combination of steam to 130C married to a whopping 4000psi of pressure.

Aussie Pumps' Hamish Lorenz said: "Getting that extra 1000psi over the market standard means much faster cleans and saves time, energy, labour, water and power."

The machine is mounted on a heavy-duty steel chassis with stainless steel cover and features a wide range of protection devices aimed at providing maximum convenience for the operator.

"The pressures are set at 4000psi and the operator has the ability to vary both pressure and temperature from the control panel," Lorenz said.

"This means an infinitely variable control of temperature from ambient (cold water) all the way to 130C. "Most smart operators set the machine between 75 and 80C.

www.porknews.com.au

"That's the point at which you get the best combination of hot water and fuel consumption and is ideal for washing big plant like mining gear, trucks and tractors."

The Admiral 4000 represents a first for the cleaning industry.

It is a move that Aussie Pumps claims will put it way ahead of the big European steam cleaner manufacturers.

The best news for earthmovers, transport operators, industry and farmers is that the new machine, though more expensive than the standard 3000psi Admiral, is significantly less expensive than big brand European machines with plastic covers and about 3000psi pressure capability.

The triplex pump delivers a powerful 15l/pm flow and the machine comes with integrated detergent injection and is mounted on four big solid rubber wheels for ease of movement in factories, warehouses or workshops.

Aussie Pumps claims the new machine is the result of significant research carried out with consumers who want to save electricity, water and most importantly labour in their cleaning program.

Further information is available from www.aussiepumps.com.au, authorised distributors and specialist pressure cleaning suppliers.



Use both RespiSure® and Relsure® PCV¹ to help maximise performance and achieve a higher standard of herd health. Control major respiratory diseases such as mycoplasma pneumonia caused by *M. hyopneumoniae* infection, as well as helping to prevent Porcine Circovirus Type 2 (PCV2) viraemia.² All with the support of Zoetis, the global experts in swine health.

RespiSure¹ONE™ Relsure¹PCV

References: 1. Kim D et al. Vaccine 20. 2011; 3206-3212. 2. Seo HW et al. Vaccine 2012; 6671-6677. © 2014 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. ABN 94 156 476 425. Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard Rhodes, NSW 2138. www.zoetis.com.au 06/15 TPAH0177

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PIGLET condition post-weaning will impact lifetime pig performance.

Pigs that quickly put on extra liveweight in the creep phase are generally in better health and less prone to post-weaning stress and problems such as post-weaning growth checks, which can drastically affect profitability and result in financial losses.

Heavier pigs at weaning will reach market weight faster, increasing farm profitability.

Studies have not only shown that increased feed intake in the post-weaning period leads to increased growth rate but also that this weight advantage can be maintained or even increased in the finishing phase compared with pigs with low feed intake after weaning.

Research has also shown that increased feed intake can significantly reduce the risk of enteric disease in the nursery.

Creep feed – helping to establish early weight gain

A good-quality starter feed is important because it initiates and promotes gut and digestive enzyme development, preparing piglets to digest nutrients from feed post-weaning.

Encouraging feed intake helps to overcome challenges post-weaning.

Lienert Australia technical manager Rohan Wundke said a typical weaner or starter pig will eat about 5kg of creep feed.

"If pigs are eating a well-formulated, highly digestible feed and they have good conversion, that 5kg can be converted to up to 4.5kg of liveweight gain," he said.

"The sooner piglets eat that 5kg of feed, the sooner they'll have that extra liveweight gain.

"The more they eat, the more they grow.

"The sooner they put on weight, the better their lifetime growth performance and feed efficiency will be."

He emphasised that having extra liveweight gain early can help to reduce post-weaning growth checks and lead to better gut condition and general health.

Lienert's Blueprint Nutrition program offers producers starter feeds specifically designed for Australian pigs.

Developed through nutrigenomics, the science examining the effects of foods and food constituents on gene expression, Blueprint Nutrition is designed to address the animal's specific needs using carefully selected feed ingredients for digestibility and palatability.

The impact of microbiomics

Examining how cells, genes and gut microbe populations respond to a diet leads to a better understanding of interactions that fuel growth, immune defence and reproductive function.

The microbial population in the intestinal ecosystem reacts to altered

ingredients and other environmental factors such as rancidity in fats or pro-oxidant mineral forms.

Changes in the microbiome of pigs can affect digestion and immune defence, and the weaning period is a particularly crucial time for establishing the foundation of lifetime performance.

Blueprint Nutrition offers producers the opportunity to maintain gastrointestinal integrity and stability and support early growth and performance.

Management support

Wundke stressed that to get the best post-weaning performance, producers must ensure attention is given to a variety of factors.

"Good management practices are incredibly important," he said.

"From sow condition and feed intake to water quality and availability, management is crucial to success.

"With the Blueprint Nutrition program, our team is working with producers to achieve stronger weaning weights, better piglet performance and maximise fertility in sows' subsequent litters."

The Blueprint Nutrition program uses nutrition and management tools support to assist producers to better meet the needs of animals' genetics, going beyond simply adding higher nutrient concentrations to the diet, altering digestibility or the bio-availability of ingredients.

Minimising the risk of mycotoxins

Wundke said mycotoxins are an unavoidable risk.

"If the grain is horrible and mouldy or dark, stained or weather damaged, then of course we assume mycotoxins are present," he said.

"But mycotoxins can be just as prevalent in what appears to be good-quality grain or feed, as well as in loose-based housing bedding such as straw, where we see great variability in quality."

Based on the principles of hazard analysis and critical control points, the Blueprint Nutrition program includes the MIKO program from Alltech, which is designed to identify the mycotoxin risks on farm and create a plan to minimise these risks for the animal.

Lienert is also able to offer customers 37+ from Alltech, which can detect the risks caused by over 37 mycotoxins, with limits of detection in the parts per trillion range.

Patterns of contamination can be examined to better capture mycotoxin profiles and the associated risks for animals exposed to mycotoxins.

In conclusion, Wundke said the weaning and post-weaning periods are crucial for maximising lifetime performance.

Nutrition and good management practices are key to successfully weaning and establishing healthy pigs.

"A farm might have the best genetics, but are all the little bits and pieces in place?" Wundke said.

"To get the most out of our pigs, we must use all the available tools – nutrition, management and husbandry – to get our pigs eating early and eating well.

"Establishing good gut condition and overall health and increasing feed intake can help to overcome post-weaning growth checks and reduce days to market."

For more information on the Blueprint Nutrition program, please contact Rohan Wundke at rohan.wundke@lienerts.com.au

Fresh pork volume share of all fresh meat highlighting PorkFest each April

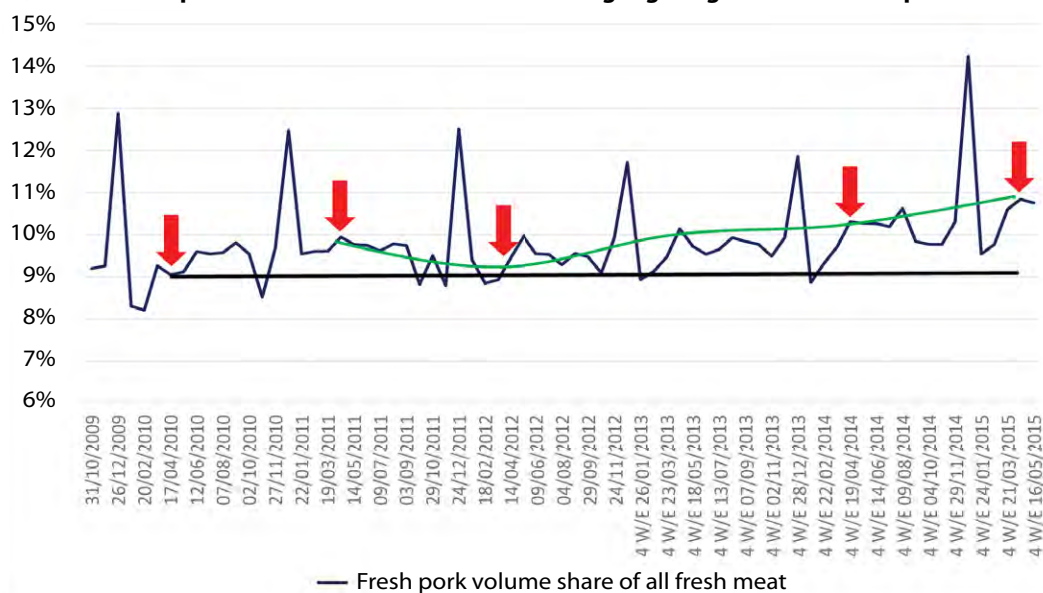


Figure 1

PorkFest – best ever for third year in a row

A PIG producer named Tommy Smith advocated an interesting idea at the May 2010 Delegates' Forum.

Tommy believed that Australian Pork Limited should run a promotion in April to create extra demand for pork in the market.

His reasoning was that as the weather cools, pigs grow faster, which causes additional Australian pork availability.

The increase in availability Tommy argued, contributed to price seasonality in a negative way.

As a marketer, I was 'not in love' with the idea (read: I hated the idea with a passion that burnt my soul).

Using marketing levers to solve a problem that producers could solve by making fewer pigs



Marketing Matters

by **PETER HAYDON**
General Manager Marketing



seemed like a fairly inefficient idea to me.

On top of that, all the evidence says that consumers don't change their meal repertoires very much based on short-term promotions.

To do this successfully we would need to accept that we would have to do this every year for several years before we saw any real benefit to producers.

However, the business-

man in me could see that if it was possible to avoid the price dip in the April to September period it would be highly valuable to producers.

I'm not saying that the recent lack of pig price seasonality is caused by PorkFest, however, increasing sales at that time of year certainly does not hurt.

Anyway, we decided we should attempt to grow sales in April.

As predicted, repeated activity each year from 2011 to 2015 has increasingly built a gap between the share of fresh meat that pork had in April 2010 and the share pork currently has.

This gap is shown as the distance between the black line and the green line in Figure 1.

Apart from 2012, when we did not achieve full retail participation, April sales have grown each year and all years have been better than 2010; the last year we didn't do PorkFest.

This year seems to have been the best, not only in the peak in April, but May was fairly strong too.

The challenge, as ever, is how do we improve on that in 2016? 🐷

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High demand for skilled Filipino workers in the pork industry

PORK (and its processed products) is one of the most popularly consumed meats in the world.

Australia's pork industry has continued to grow as export markets continue to expand and local consumer consumption rises.

For this growth to continue, a sustainable and reliable workforce must be available to the industry.

Due to labour shortages, the pork industry is looking overseas to fill the void.

In recent years, the Philippines has emerged as a leading manpower source for employers around the world in many industries.

Some Australian pork producers are now choosing to hire skilled employees from overseas, in

particular the Philippines.

These employers believe that Filipino workers have made a positive contribution to their business operations and many have achieved management status.

The popularity of Filipino workers in the pork industry has risen due to their attitude and willingness to work combined with the effort they put into the job.

English is a required language in higher education in the Philippines and therefore language is not a barrier.

Workers must establish a rapport with the animals they work with and Filipinos have a way with their charges.

Many Filipinos working on swine farms have Bachelor of Agriculture degrees and come with a wealth of experience in the pig industry.

It is very difficult to attract Australian workers to regional areas of Australia with the same qualifications because they have so many other opportunities.

Filipinos are very adaptable, and with employer support are able to settle and call some of the remote regional areas of Australia home.

Many have settled on farms in the Outback of Queensland and Western Australia and remote regional areas of NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

The shortage of skilled

workers affects the productivity of swine farmers, which has the potential of affecting the welfare of the animals in their care.

It is imperative for business owners to employ workers who have technical skills in pork production.

And it is of paramount importance for swine farmers to have the support of skilled workers to enable them to effectively manage and grow their business operations.

In 2015, skilled Filipino workers will continue to be in demand for positions in the pork industry as farm managers or officers in charge of breeding, farrowing, gilt or growing/

finishing sections.

These employees are being hired on 457 working visas, either on labour agreement or non-labour agreement arrangements.

Other workers are being hired as trainees.

Employers who hire trainees have realised they have the opportunity to shape these workers to suit the practices of their farms.

New graduates are like 'blank canvases' because they are open to new ideas and can increase diversity within the work team.

For more information on finding workers for your farm, contact Global Skilled Employment Services on 03 9548 3628 or visit gsemployment.com.au



Global Skilled Employment Services director Fadi Malek and Aeger Kingma of Gunpork, Gunbower, Victorian with Filipino workers visiting the GSES stand at the Victorin Pig Fair, Bendigo in April 2015.



Filipino swine technicians have made a significant and positive contribution to a farm in Monto, Queensland.

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Stirling Free Range Pork farm for sale

SET in the picturesque Great Southern region of Western Australia, Tact Holdings and Stirling Free Range Pork is set up and ready for a new owner to take advantage of operating a successful APIQ✓ accredited free range piggery.

The region is renowned for its diversity in produce including pigs, wine, poultry, beef, sheep, trees

and a wide range of crops.

The Wallaby Downs property backs onto Stirling Range National Park, offering outstanding views.

Land size of the property is 2577 acres (1043.2ha), of which about 2000 acres has been cleared and pastured.

Wallaby Downs is situated roughly 60km north of Albany and 40km east

of Mount Barker.

This guarantees a great opportunity to source staff to manage a successful business in the district.

Water is provided from surface run-off into numerous dams, allowing for a large capacity, and a deep bore from a nearby property contributes to ample water for all stock.

Wallaby Downs has two homes, tiled throughout, with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a large kitchen and living area.

Other fixed buildings on the property include staff facilities, machinery sheds and workshops, all of which presents an ideal work and family lifestyle.

Tact Holdings is owned and managed as a family business, with an outdoor piggery consisting of a 1100-sow herd.

The herd is set up into three units of 350-plus sows and breeding stock is supplied by PIC Australia, which provides quality genetics and a

high standard of health.

Stirling Free Range Pork is the enterprise, and a five-year lease term began in November 2012 with Tact Holdings, incorporating a lease of land, stock and equipment.

The lease includes the breeding and growing of pigs to pork and bacon.

Stirling Free Range Pork is free range accredited by APIQ✓, which in turn provides a premium pork product.

The piggery sites are periodically relocated on farm to maximise soil improvement and prevent disease within the piggery.

Taking full advantage of natural pig fertiliser gives the ability to grow grain or graze pastures with healthy results.

For more information on this great business opportunity, please contact Trevor Harris by email tharris@ngbb.com.au, phone 08 6252 5009 or mobile 0438 742 285.

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- Hose reel that holds up to 60m of hose (as pictured)

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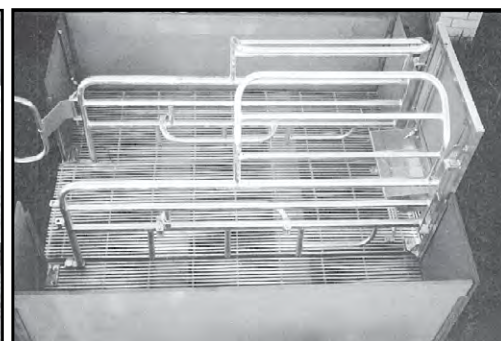
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AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture to be presented by Dr Giuseppe Bee

THE 15th biennial Australasian Pig Science Association conference will be held from November 22-25 at the Grand Hyatt, Melbourne.

At this year's conference the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture will be presented by Dr Giuseppe Bee,

Agroscope Institute for Livestock Sciences, Switzerland.

In 2010, various members of the European Union agreed to phase out piglet castration by January 1, 2018, and as an intermediate step, surgical castration without analge-

sia and/or anaesthesia by January 2012.

With the 2018 deadline approaching, Dr Bee will provide an update on how the various countries in the EU are addressing the issue, including the meat quality and consumer acceptance concerns around

possible alternatives.

About Dr Bee

Dr Bee is the leader of the Swine Nutrition and Pork Quality research group at Agroscope Institute for Livestock Sciences, Switzerland.

He completed both Masters and PhD studies at the Department of Animal Science, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, before undertaking postdoctoral studies at the Meat Science Laboratory and Gene Mapping Laboratory at the US Department of Agriculture, Beltsville Agricultural Research Centre.

Dr Bee has supervised

numerous PhD students and is a current member of the editorial board for the journals Animal (Product Quality, Human Health and Well-being) and Journal of Animal Science.

Dr Bee's current research interests include: challenges in entire male production; effects of prenatal and early postnatal development on growth performance, carcass characteristics and meat quality; and the effects of swine production systems on muscle fibre distribution in swine and their effects on meat quality.

APSA 2015 conference registrations

Earlybird closes August 21, 2015

If you are not a 2015 paid APSA member, you will not be able to register at the significantly discounted rate.

APSA member	Earlybird	Regular
Full registration	\$750	\$920
Student registration	\$335	\$335
Day registration	\$395	\$395
Non-member		
Full registration	\$990	\$1255
Day registration	\$495	\$495

Conference dinner tickets are \$135 per person

Full registration includes:

Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and poster drinks over the three days; welcome reception (Sunday); networking barbecue (Tuesday); and an extensive conference program highlighting current topics that are impacting the pig industry. Please note it does not include attendance at the conference dinner.

Day registration includes:

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for the day of registration only and an extensive conference program highlighting current topics that are impacting the pig industry. Please note that day registration does not include social functions.

Draft conference program

Sunday, November 22

9am – 4.30pm	APL student workshop
11.30am – 5.30pm	Industry workshops
6pm – 7pm	AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture
7pm – 9pm	Welcome reception

Monday, November 23

8.30am – 5pm	Scientific session
7pm – 11pm	Conference dinner

Tuesday, November 24

8.30am – 5pm	Scientific session
7pm – 9pm	Networking dinner

Wednesday, November 25

8.30am – 1pm	Scientific session
1pm – 2pm	Awards and close

Further decline in UK organic pig production

NEW figures from the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs show a third consecutive annual decline in the number of organically farmed pigs in the UK in 2014.

At 28,300 head, the latest figure is the lowest in records back to 2003 and is 6 percent down on the previous year.

Organic pigs now make up only 0.6 percent of the national herd; the lowest proportion among any of the major livestock species.

Organic production ac-

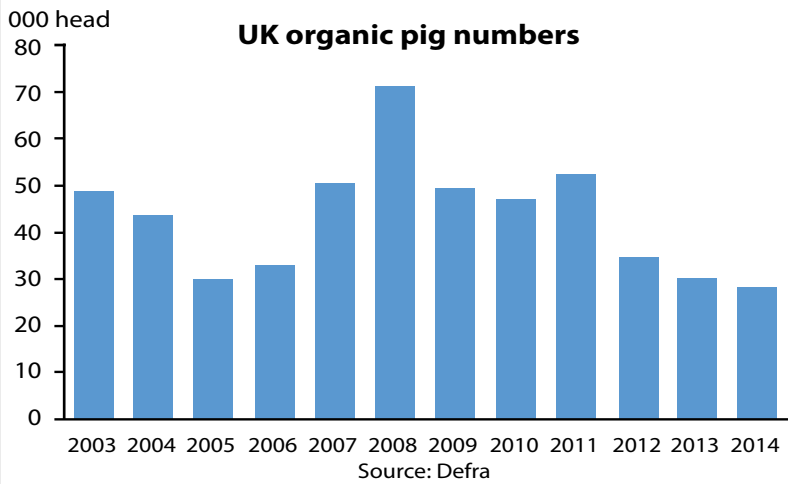
counts for 3 percent of the cattle herd and a similar proportion of the sheep flock, for example.

The situation for pigs reflects the general downward trend in organic farming.

The amount of fully organic land was at its lowest level since 2007.

If land in conversion to organic is included, the figure is the lowest in records back to 2002.

Similarly, the number of organic producers and processors has fallen to about 6000, down from a peak of nearly 8000 in 2008.



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Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc)



APSA 2015

15th Biennial Conference
Grand Hyatt
Melbourne, Australia

22 - 25th November 2015

Mark these dates in your calendar

22 - 25 November 2015

The Australasian Pig Science Association is pleased to announce that the 2015 APSA Biennial Conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne, Australia from 22nd to 25th November 2015.

Registrations
Open Now

Registration Prices

Registration Type		
APSA Member	Full Registration	920.00
	Day Registration	395.00
Non-Member	Full Registration	1255.00
	Day Registration	495.00
Student APSA Member	Full Registration	335.00

Visit the website for more details - www.apsa.asn.au

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