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Australian Pork

NEWSPAPER

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John Coward

Vale John Coward

IT is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of John Coward.

John's passion for the pork industry and his tireless advocacy on behalf of producers have left a lasting legacy.

Over the past 40 years, John has played a key role in our industry – from his early days as a retail butcher and stock inspector to leadership roles where he championed the interests of the pork sector at both state and national levels.

John began his career with Coward and Co Butchers (1966-1969), the family business that sparked his lifelong interest in the meat processing sector.

He then served as a

Queensland Government stock and meat inspector and area manager (1969-1995), leading a team of 35 and playing a key role in modernising meat processing standards.

John went on to become managing director of Swickers Abattoir (1995-2004) and chair of the Burnett Pork Alliance during this same period.

From 2004 to 2007, he served as general manager of Hans Continental Smallgoods, followed by his role as pork supply chain coordinator at Woolworths (2004-2016), where he led supply chain and pricing innovations.

His leadership extended well beyond in-

dividual enterprises.

John was president of Pork Queensland Inc (2009-2024), director of Australian Pork Limited (2009-2015) and, in 2017, he provided technical expertise to the International Finance Corporation on the development of a pork abattoir in Romania.

John's legacy is one of dedication and steadfast commitment to the pig and poultry industries at both state and national levels.

He was a great friend to many and will be deeply missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jo-Anne and family at this sad time.

Sara Willis
DPIQ

Presenting Australian Pork Limited's 2025-30 Strategic Plan

I AM proud to introduce Australian Pork Limited's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, which will help us continue shaping a progressive future for Australian pork for the next five years.

This plan is an evolution, not a revolution – building on the strong foundations of our previous plan.

Having rounded out our previous strategic plan by growing our total economic contribution to the gross domestic product from \$5.2 billion to \$6.9 billion, we intend to continue this momentum into the next five years, while becoming Australia's most versatile protein – farm to fork.

With our targeted investments, ongoing research and dynamic marketing efforts, APL's 2025-30 Strategic Plan will address the evolving needs of our industry and consumers in domestic and international markets.

The 2025-2030 strategic plan was developed through comprehensive industry consultation to ensure our five-year strategy was once again informed by the collective wisdom and ambition of our sector.



by MARGO ANDRAE
CEO



APL consulted stakeholders across the supply chain – from producers to processors, retailers to exporters – to gather insights and perspectives to shape our strategy.

APL's purpose is to enable a thriving pork industry, and the 2025-30 plan continues to focus on key research investments, marketing, policy initiatives and extension and adoption efforts, to ensure that we are enabling and contributing innovation to advance the industry.

An essential aspect remains marketing activities aimed at refreshing Australian pork's image, increasing brand awareness and supporting domestic consumption.

By evolving the successful 'Get some pork on your fork' campaign into a more targeted approach, we will work to increase consideration

of pork as the perfect hero ingredient for family household meals.

This will extend to ensuring that pork on menus continues to grow across not only restaurants, but food-service and fast-food settings, as well as rallying the industry to address supply and demand blockers and increase opportunities in quick-service restaurant settings.

Over the next five years, APL will identify new projects through research and market opportunities to connect producers with new and innovative revenue streams.

Done well, this will see export market revenue expanding, an increase in pork in quick-service restaurants and the development of alternative revenue streams.

As a science-backed industry, work will continue in the animal welfare space, strengthening the industry's creden-

tials amid increasing regulatory pressures through impactful and innovative research in the areas of sustainability and environmental management, emergency animal disease prevention and preparedness, product traceability and industry productivity.

This delivery of the national standards and guidelines for pig welfare, sponsored by APL and led by the whole industry, will further our reputation as a leader in animal care.

Beyond this, the program will also drive the development of new innovations to further protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of Australian pigs.

I would like to give a big thank you to our producers, supply chain partners and key stakeholders for their engagement throughout this process.

I look forward to our continued work together to build a more sustainable sector.

I am confident that the Australian pork industry's continued hard work, agility and collaborative approach will continue to deliver a very bright future.



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2025

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

JUL 18-22 – 40th Annual World Veterinary Association Congress – Washington DC, USA. <https://wvac2024.com/wvac2025/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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Change to definition of 'primary producer' status in Queensland

THE Queensland Farmers' Federation alongside its peak industry body members, Cotton Australia, Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers and Canegrowers, have welcomed the recent announcement by Minister for Primary Industries Tony Perrett regarding changes to the definition of a 'primary producer' in Queensland.

The changes will see the definition of a primary producer amended, allowing greater access to support under the joint Commonwealth-State disaster recovery funding arrangements, thus allowing disaster-affected farmers – who may have been previously ineligible for assistance in Queensland – to apply for support measures such as disaster recovery grants, disaster loans and freight subsidies.

The previous definition of primary producer caused confusion for farmers and farm businesses applying for disaster and drought assistance.

It also limited a farmer's ability to generate 'off-farm' income – through agritourism, contract harvesting or other farming-related activities – without risking the loss of their primary producer status.

QFF chief execu-

tive officer Jo Sheppard said that QFF and its peak body members – Canegrowers, Cotton Australia and QFVG – have advocated for these changes for more than a decade.

"The previous definition of 'primary producer' has been a barrier to farmers across the state receiving the timely support they need during natural disasters and droughts," Ms Sheppard said.

"Good agricultural policy is never a set and forget.

"It is critical that policy relating to the definition of a primary producer keeps up with the evolving face of Queensland farmers and their farming operations.

"Not only was the old definition causing administrative headaches, but it was actually locking genuine farming enterprises out of access to this support when they needed it the most.

"It is positive to see that farmers who are strengthening their farm business resilience by diversifying on-farm income streams will no longer be penalised and risk their primary producer status."

QFF and its peak body members will continue to advocate for outcomes that support farmers' access to timely disaster and drought relief.

🐷



Big Dutchman Group and Stockyard Industries come together under a single banner, Big Dutchman Agriculture (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Big Dutchman and Stockyard Industries join forces

THE Big Dutchman Group and Stockyard Industries are delighted to announce a new partnership to better serve their growing customer base Down Under.

By coming together under a single banner – Big Dutchman Agriculture (Australia) Pty Ltd – the two family-owned companies will leverage their strengths and streamline customer experience.

Big Dutchman currently supplies farming equipment to egg, poultry and pig customers in the Australian market, and will broaden its offerings of turn-key solutions beyond the pig segment to a wider client base.

Stockyard Industries – long established by

the Jones family – has been a Big Dutchman distributor for pig, poultry, dairy and feed milling products for more than 15 years, and was the leading provider for the Australian pig farming industry.

Big Dutchman Australia will manage Stockyard Industries' warehouse and facilities in Bendigo.

This company presence in Victoria, alongside the existing sites in Queensland, will ensure Big Dutchman Australia can deliver spare parts and services across all corners of the country.

The Jones family will remain engaged in the business for the upcoming years by managing the former Stockyard Industries' operations.

Stockyard Industries' customers can expect no service interruptions during this transition phase.

About Big Dutchman
Big Dutchman is the recognised market leader for modern pig and poultry production systems.

Across five continents and in more than 100 countries, Big Dutchman's name stands for long-lasting quality, prompt service and unsurpassed know-how.

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Cybersecurity and farmers

■ New website helps farmers shut gate on cyber intruders

AN initiative co-led by experts at Charles Sturt University aims to provide farmers with the awareness and skills to minimise or prevent cyber intrusions or attacks on their farm businesses, including their digital farming operations.

The project team, which includes researchers from four Australian universities (Charles Sturt University, Adelaide University, Queensland University of Technology and Edith Cowan University), has developed the 'Farmers' Guide to Cybersecurity', consisting of evidence-based resource and training materials.

Charles Sturt School of Business Professor of Economics and initiative coordinator Mark Morrison said that as the adoption of technologically advanced and sustainable agriculture in Australia gathers pace, so too do the risks from malign cyber forces.

"Cyber risks are not just experienced by farm businesses using advanced digital technologies in their farming practices – any farm business that uses the internet faces cyber risks and needs to take these risks seriously, even if the internet is only used for routine office activities," Professor Morrison said.

"This project is a timely contribution to increase awareness and understanding of cyber threats, and provides the knowledge needed for the adoption of improved cyber protections, especially within the Australian agricultural sector.

"One key aim for this project was to find a way to show that cyber threats are real and to translate technical cybersecurity solutions into something farmers can easily learn about,

understand and include in their normal business activities."

With the completion of the underpinning research and the development of digital tools, the project team has recently written to Australian farming organisations to seek their assistance to make their members aware of these free resources.

"The project partners hope that the resources contained on our new purpose-built website 'Farmers' Guide to Cybersecurity', designed for Australian producers, will be helpful to their members and their organisation," Professor Morrison said.

"We want them to know about free web-based resources that we have developed to help Australian producers develop their awareness and understanding of cybersecurity and address cybersecurity-related issues."

The project team provided farming producer organisations with a flyer to share with members, with details on how to access the website.

Along with other resources, there is also a digital version of the flyer to download on the website, to print out, post on social media or share in newsletters.

Charles Sturt University cyber expert and senior lecturer in computing in the Charles Sturt School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering Dr Arash Mahboubi inspired the research project when he posed the question to colleagues, "Just imagine, what would our country be like if we didn't have farmers?"

"We know that many farmers have adopted a range of networked agri-tech products as part of their business," Dr Mahboubi said.

"We also know that all

networked technology systems can be vulnerable to cyber-attacks and result in cybersecurity failure, which could be really expensive and damaging for farmers.

"Moreover, if a cyber-attack happens to farmers, suppliers, service providers and consumers may all be impacted.

"These thoughts all lead to the driving challenge for our research team – can we increase farmers' awareness of cyber issues, persuade them that they are vulnerable to cyber-threats like any business and help them to adopt solutions that will keep their business cyber-safe?"

What's available online

An interactive 'jump-in jump-out' study at your own pace practical training module about cybersecurity that has sections on:

- How to get help now if you have been affected by a cybersecurity incident

- The basics of cybersecurity

- Information about cyber safe practices on social media, on the web, with passwords, with software and devices and with sending data online

- Threats, including scams and secure websites

- How to report and recover from a cybersecurity attack.

- Downloadable infographics/facts sheets on:

- Cyber attacks are on the rise

- FAQs about software and device security

- Software and device security

- Phishing awareness and how to protect yourself

- If you have been hacked – how to report and recover

- Social media and privacy.

- Video content to raise awareness of the need to

address cybersecurity which can be shared or put on your website:

- Protect what's precious

- What does cybersecurity mean to you

- Relying on the experts.

And links to other useful cybersecurity resources.

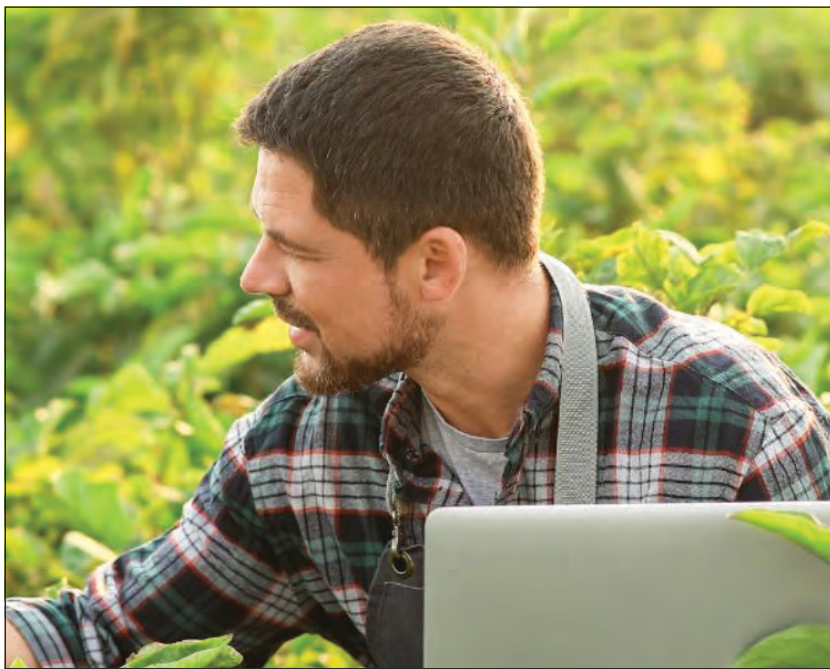
Professor Morrison noted that for those interested to learn more about cybersecurity and agriculture, Charles Sturt University is a leading provider of practical and flexible higher education through courses such as agriculture and computing.

The project was funded by the Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre, which is primarily funded by the Australian Government, and various CRC partners include six Australian universities, the Australian Cyber Security Centre, Australian Signals Directorate, Australian Federal Police, CSIRO, NSW Government, Western Australian Government and various other organisations who are concerned with supporting safe cyber security practices.

This project is one work package within a larger program of research – 'SCATES: Securing Critical Agriculture Technology and Emerging Solutions', which is focused on supporting increased cybersecurity in the Australian agricultural sector and coordinated by Charles Sturt's Professor Rafiqul Islam.



Scan for the Farmers' Guide to Cybersecurity website.



Initiative aims to provide farmers with awareness and skills to minimise or prevent cyber intrusions or attacks on their farm business.



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Gorman-Rupp best thing One Harvest has done

REGIONAL vegetable processing plant One Harvest was having trouble with a sump and submersible pump arrangement on their wastewater.

The pump was a constant, and costly, drain on maintenance hours and a production disruption, as it would block regularly with the vegetable matter in the wastewater.

The time and costs involved in removing the chokes and replacing the submersible equipment was an issue that needed to be resolved.

The solution

One Harvest's maintenance supervisor Matt Leach contacted Hydro Innovations regional manager for Victoria Graeme Spence to discuss potential solutions.

Graeme and the Hydro team share over 80 years

of pump experience and knowledge and were able to work with Matt to devise an innovative system.

By re-using most of the plant's existing civil works – wet wells and inlet valves – but replacing the problematic submersible pump with a rugged and reliable above-ground self-priming pump, the chokes would occur less often, and it would be far simpler to monitor and maintain.

A Gorman-Rupp T series pump, motor and base were selected to replace the existing unreliable submersible pump.

The existing 2" discharge line was easily retained, and a new 2" T series pump was selected.

Because Gorman-Rupp pumps are so

easy to check and adjust clearances, the pumps operate better and for longer than submersible pumps, resulting in less chokes and blockages.

The results

By placing the pump and motor at the surface and using the excellent self-priming Gorman-Rupp T Series pump, no blockages have occurred since its installation.

The pump has performed so well, the plant is instigating a policy to replace its other submersible pumps with Gorman-Rupp self-priming pumps.

Feedback from the plant was: "We couldn't be happier with this pump, it's become the standard we will use going forward."

And, "One of the best things we have done."

For further information regarding the extensive range of Gorman-Rupp self-priming pumps and the services that Hydro Innovations is able to offer to remedy your wastewater, sewerage, aeration and any pump issues, visit the very informative website at hydroinnovations.com.au or phone 02 9898 1800.



A Gorman-Rupp T series pump, motor and base were selected to replace the existing unreliable submersible pump.



By placing the pump and motor at the surface and using the excellent self-priming Gorman-Rupp T Series pump, no blockages have occurred since its installation.

Smart technology projects to help control scourge of feral pigs

PROJECTS from the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and the University of Queensland will make use of innovative technologies including artificial intelligence to improve feral pig control methods.

The Department of Primary Industries is investing \$436,160 to help create new and innovative tools and techniques to control the scourge of feral pigs across the state.

Deputy director-general and chief biosecurity officer Rachel Chay recently announced two successful applicants who will receive funding through Round 8(b) of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative.

Dr Chay said the funded projects would harness innovative technology such as artificial intelligence to improve the trapping, monitoring and control of feral pigs throughout Queensland.

"Feral pigs do untold damage to Queensland agriculture and are known carriers of disease, which can devastate our domestic pork industry," Dr Chay said. "This funding aims to ensure a diverse and humane suite of control tools is available and accessible for use across Queensland."

"The successful applicants in this round of funding were the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre based in Cairns and the University of Queensland which will base its project from their Gatton campus."

Dr Chay said both projects would provide real improvements in feral pig control methods.

www.porknews.com.au

"The Reef and Rainforest Research Centre project will give farmers and other stakeholders access to real-time information and data on the presence, location, number and size of feral pigs," she said.

"This information can then be used to integrate and test innovative control measures such as 'smart fences' and automated baiting programs, allowing stakeholders to monitor larger land areas more quickly and at reduced cost."

"In addition, the University of Queensland project will design and deliver a decision-making framework that optimises control measures for specific locations and times by integrating research on pig behaviour, climate, landscape data and control techniques."

The Department of Primary Industries supports effective invasive plant and animal management through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative.

Round 8(b) of the QFPI received 48 expressions of interest for funding and the final selection was made by the QFPI Oversight Group, which includes representatives from government and non-government agencies.



Scan for more information on the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative.

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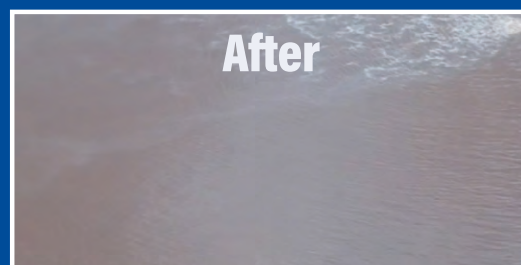
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Smallgoods often took pride of place in Croatian butcher shops.



Love pig on a spit, this on at a busy market in Split Croatia.



Adjacent smallgoods outlet at the same Split market.



A delightful omnivore's breakfast spread at our Plitvice accommodation in northern Croatia.



A very welcoming continental meat platter greeted us at our Airbnb in the delightful Croatian seaside town of Kastela.

I RECENTLY returned from three wonderful weeks in Greece and Croatia, where meat and seafood reign supreme.

Yet, I was travelling with not only my vegetarian partner but a couple, one half of whom claimed – often publicly and loudly – to be vegetarian... though she did eat seafood.

Go figure, pescatarian! My partner and I have travelled overseas and here a lot and have never had any significant issues with what we eat or where we eat it.

I acknowledge there are a few balanced relationship rules in that.

Inevitably, we compromise if and when necessary.

Often, though not always, the 'compromiser' is me. I'm happy to do so because I not only love meat but vegetarian dishes too.

I am the ultimate omnivore.

Feed me meat, seafood or plants and I'm happy.

Yet I am frequently not so happy if someone deems it okay to deny me or others food from one of those groups.

Anyway, in the Greek/Croatian food searches – sometimes thrice daily

Cant Comment

by BRENDON CANT



– for places to eat out or things to buy in for home cooking, things this trip occasionally got a little complicated... unnecessarily so in my view.

Otherwise attractive options – that is eye-catching restaurants with extensive affordable menus and good wine lists if chasing lunch or dinner – were often skuttled because they had only a token selection of vegetarian dishes or even options.

My partner handled such occasions in her inimitably calm fashion (she's a yoga and qi gong teacher of many years standing, yes even on her head), but alas, our pescatarian/vego travelling companion with an eating 'disorder' – okay, identity crisis – repeatedly did not.

What this fussing ultimately often meant was delays in choosing venues and incredibly

slow ordering, sometimes spilling over to uncomfortably demanding requests of waiters, who were already struggling with language exchanges.

Of course, having said all of the above, I did seize every opportunity – as the pictures will show – to investigate meat outlets and indeed dine out on fresh meat and smallgoods at every opportunity, even if that meant doing it somewhat surreptitiously.

As for my next overseas travel, I head to Africa – Botswana and Zimbabwe – in August for a three-week safari with 10 people.

All hosted by a good friend of mine, Zimbabwean-born Mike Barton – who happens to be my former fitness trainer.

There's a hidden message there!

While I expect there

may be some legally and ethically acquired game meat plated up, the only shots to be fired will be with our cameras, be they SLRs, compact digital and/or mobile phones.

I can't wait.

Bucket list it is.

A couple of months after that, I head to Ubud Bali, where I land the day after my partner concludes her annual yoga retreat.

I shortly then hunt out the best possible babi guling, or Balinese suckling pig.

Yum yum, pig's bum... and everything in between.

It also coincides this year with the annual four-day Ubud Readers and Writers Festival.

I've been before, though not for a few years, so I'm hanging out for it.

Thus, here's cheers to all we humans, no matter what we choose to eat – albeit I do think the easy least complicated menu is an omnivorous one.

Feed a man meat I say... and seafood, and plants for that matter.



A very welcoming steak and pizza bar in Split Croatia.



Loved this mixed meat platter at a restaurant in Kastela Croatia. Pork, chicken and lamb plenti-fully plated and good value for about \$30.



A simple buy, a tasty cheap breakfast on the run in the Croatian capital Zagreb.



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Mycotoxin news from dsm-firmenich ●●●

Deactivate Mycotoxins Activate Performance

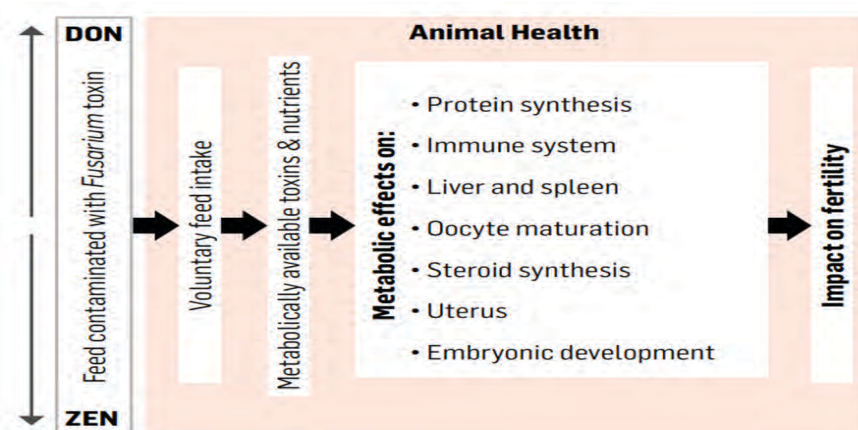


Powered by science to actively defend against multiple mycotoxins*

Get to know the mycotoxin Zearalenone

As reported in a previous article in Australian Pork Newspaper, results from the long running dsm-firmenich Global Mycotoxin Survey consistently identified that the three major mycotoxins of economic importance in feedstuffs for pigs in Australia are deoxynivalenol (DON), fumonisins (FUM) and zearalenone (ZEN), with aflatoxin and ergot alkaloids making regular appearances. Looking into data for the last three years, fumonisins were the most frequently detected mycotoxin class (64% of samples had FUM). ZEN is routinely found in about 25% of samples tested and the levels are quite variable across years with an average of contamination level of 211 ppb, which is deemed to be a significant risk for breeders and young pigs. As mentioned in previous articles, the presence of two or more mycotoxins often has a much more significant impact on the animal than the level of a single mycotoxin.

Zearalenone is commonly found in grains and protein meals, especially soybean meal. Although ZEN can affect gut integrity and therefore nutrient absorption in all pigs, especially in the presence of other mycotoxins, the main concern with ZEN is its effects on reproduction and fertility. When ZEN is present with DON (as is commonly found in Australia), the combined effects of DON and ZEN on fertility are quite pronounced as shown in **Figure 1**.



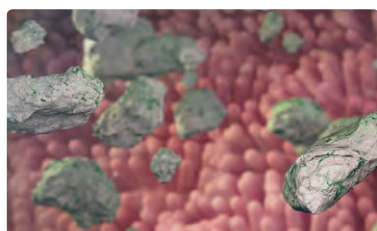
Source: Tiemann and Dänicke, 2007

Figure 1. Combined effects of DON and ZEN on fertility.

In simple terms, ZEN is chemically very similar to the female hormone oestrogen and will bind to the oestrogen binding sites in breeding animals therefore inhibiting the proper action of oestrogen, effectively putting the gilts and sows on a 'contraceptive pill'. The effects of ZEN can have wide ranging impacts starting with altered cycling, ovulation, conception and implantation, which can lead to reduced litter size, birth weights and variable litters. Effects of ZEN on the ovaries can be quite severe in gilts and sows already in the herd, but can also start in the young females while they are piglets still suckling. While ZEN is typically considered a female hormone, the effect on boars can also be quite marked, with ZEN intake known to influence feminisation of boars, testicular atrophy and poor semen quality.

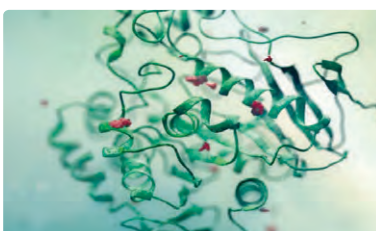
Like many of the mycotoxins, ZEN has a chemical structure that does not permit it to be easily bound by simple binders. Therefore, the most effective way of reducing the impacts of ZEN in young pigs and the breeding herd is to enzymatically cleave – in the intestine before the ZEN is absorbed – the ZEN into non-oestrogenic products. Irreversible deactivation of ZEN is achieved through the use of Mycofix® Plus. As seen in the previous article, Mycofix® Plus is also proven to deactivate DON, which further reduces the impacts that can occur as listed in Figure 1.

How does the Mycofix® product line work?



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Bioprotection

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tanja.calitz@dsm-firmenich.com or 0499 757 616

For more information on
Mycofix Solutions scan here



dsm-firmenich ●●●



Invited speakers at APSA 2025 will be Vincent ter Beek, Lee-Anne Huber, Eugeni Roura, Katie McDermott, Ruth Nettle, Theo van Kempen, Antonio Velarde and Darryl D'Souza.

APSA set to welcome eight invited speakers

THE Australasian Pig Science Association Committee is delighted to be hosting eight international and local invited speakers at its twentieth biennial conference in Melbourne later this year.

The three-day program held between November 17-19 will feature invited speaker reviews, the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture, presentations on approximately 100 submitted papers and a dedicated industry day focused on applied science.

For each conference, the APSA Committee identifies a range of speakers based on topical issues and exciting new research outcomes.

This year's APSA speakers include:

- Vincent ter Beek (pictured top left) – Pig Progress magazine and website editor – will deliver the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture on a global perspective on the link between science and industry
- Associate Professor

Lee-Anne Huber (pictured top centre) – University of Guelph – will present a review on feeding strategies to meet the dynamic lysine and energy requirements of gestating and lactating sows

- Professor Eugeni Roura (pictured top right) – University of Queensland – will speak on nutritional strategies aimed at reducing antimicrobial use in piglet feeds

- Professor Ruth Nettle (pictured centre right) – University of Melbourne – will focus on addressing the challenges of pork industry and wider rural workforce development

- Dr Darryl D'Souza (pictured bottom right) – executive general manager technical services SunPork Group – will deliver a review on food safety risks and their implications for the Australian pork industry

- Dr Antonio Velarde (pictured bottom centre) – head of the animal welfare program at the Institute for Food

and Agricultural Research and Technology – will present a review on pig welfare around slaughter and impacts on meat quality

- Dr Theo van Kempen (pictured bottom left) – team leader health sciences at AAK – will discuss piglet post-weaning oedema, feeding patterns and mineral metabolism

- Dr Katie McDermott (pictured centre left) – University of Leeds – will present a review on opportunities and challenges for the pork industry from circular livestock waste management systems.

Registrations are open. Early bird closes August 1.

Visit the website by scanning the QR code below.



Scan to register for APSA 2025.

Aussie's corrosion fighter

WHEN it comes to pumps, the Aussie Pumps team know all about applications – from pumping seawater on the Royal Australian Navy's offshore patrol vessels to handling leachate on mining sites.

One thing they found that most applications have in common is the need to make sure the material specification is upgraded for the pump to survive what can be highly corrosive applications.

Piggery wastewater is a classic example.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "Having worked with many brands over the years, we found the very best material for longevity is 316 stainless steel."

"Yes, there are plenty of pumps out there that claim stainless-steel impellers, including our own self-priming centrifugal semi-trash pumps."

Mr Hales went on to comment that having pumps available at a reasonable price in 316 stainless steel creates a new peak of efficiency and increases the life of the pumps in any installation.

Noting that 316 stainless steel is highly regarded because of its resistance to abrasion and corrosion.

"The new Aussie B4XR-A X series heavy duty 4" pumps, leaves its American and European counterparts behind because of its durability," Mr Hales said.

The big 4" pump is powered by a 15kW two-pole three-phase 415V 50Hz motor.

The machine comes set up to handle solids in suspension and pump up to 2200LMP.

"These pumps are self-priming and are surface mounted, so you can avoid the problems normally associated with submersibles," he said.

Buy the best

Most piggery operators understand the need for investing in the best equipment for results and reliability.

"Other pumps we've seen, made by big American manufacturers in cast iron, show exten-

sive corrosion, while 316 stainless steel will simply handle pumping toxic liquid waste," Mr Hales said.

"Our aim is to help farmers with the best product at the best price."

"Many customers are astonished with the way we are able to put a 4" 316 stainless-steel pump on the market at a much lower price than imported American pumps."

"One big advantage is that these big pumps can handle heads to 32m and will suck through a vertical lift of 6m."


"Best of all, these pumps come with a unique three-year warranty."


For further information on Aussie's user revolution, contact Aussie Pumps on 02 8865 3500 or aussiepumps.com.au



Aussie's new B4XR-A-X self-priming pump is ideal for toxic corrosive liquid applications.

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Escaping the daily grind

■ Coarser ground diets for improved foetal growth

WHEN it comes to feeding sows in gestation, we often focus on nutrient levels, energy content and feed efficiency.

But new insights suggest something as simple as the grind size of feed could have a surprising impact on piglet development before birth.

Coarser feed particles – unlike finer ones – tend to pass through the small intestine relatively undigested, reaching the hindgut intact.

Once there, the feed particles are a fermentable substrate for beneficial gut microbes.

This process, called hindgut fermentation, produces short-chain-fatty-acids such as butyrate, which has been linked to improved foetal growth in previous rat studies.

In this series of projects, sows were fed either a coarsely ground diet (40 percent feed particles greater than 1mm) or control diet (30 percent feed particles greater than 1mm).

Each sow was fed 2.1kg per day via



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electronic sow feeder or 2.4kg per day for thinner sows (P2 backfat less than 16mm).

The sows on the coarser diet produced higher levels of short-chain-fatty acids in their faeces, including a tendency for increased levels of butyrate in blood serum.

Sows fed the coarser diet gave birth to fewer low birthweight piglets (<1.1kg), leading to greater uniformity in litters and improved early piglet survival potential.

When the coarser diet was supplemented with an exogenous enzyme, sow productivity improved further with increases seen to total litter size.

Notably, none of these dietary treatments negatively affected the sows' health or key metabolic indicators throughout gestation, supporting the practical viability of these feeding strategies under commercial conditions.

This research highlighted that occa-

sionally, small practical changes such as changing the grind size on feed can have meaningful impacts.

Coarser diets may help sows produce larger, healthier and more uniform litters, setting up piglets for success from day one.

Speak to your nutritionist or feed provider about the benefits of coarser gestational feed and get the grind right.

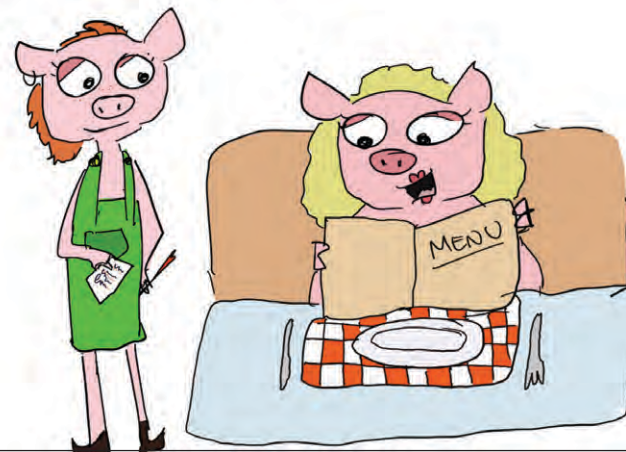
You can find more information about 'Escaping the daily grind - coarser ground diets for improved foetal growth' Project 5A-111 or other APRIL supported projects on the website, scan the QR code below.

Researchers – Jess Zemitis, Dr Sally Tritton, Dr Darryl D'Souza and Dr Kate Plush (SunPork Group).



Scan for APRIL supported projects.

"Yeah, can I get a gestational diet to go, hold the sauces... Oh, and can you make it coarsely ground? I heard it's good for the little ones!"



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Solving ag's workforce challenge

EDUCATORS, ag-ritech entrepreneurs and producers weigh in on what's needed to attract and retain people to power primary industries.

From paddock to classroom and boardroom, these experts say there are some hard truths to face and innovative action needed to address the current workforce challenges.

Challenge traditional stereotypes about what it means to work in agriculture

It might surprise you to hear that the school with the highest cohort of students studying agriculture isn't a rural high school with sheep and chickens on an ag plot – it's in the heart of the city.

In 10 years as head of agriculture at Barker College in Sydney, Scott Graham has shown his students innovation, technology and the breadth of career options in the ag sector – a strategy that's seen a four-fold increase in the number of students studying agriculture.

Scott's challenging the sector to create pathways for metropolitan agriculturalists.

"Around 30 percent of jobs are on farm, while 40 percent are off-farm in regional areas, and 20 to 30 percent are based in cities, often in high tech, agribusiness or supply chain roles," he said.

"However, metropolitan Australians, who make up the majority of the population, don't see themselves as part of this workforce."

Mic Black is co-founder of Rainstick, a startup focused on electrically influenced seeds for sustainable crop yields and nitrogen usage efficiency.

He explained there's competition for the best and brightest tech minds, so agriculture needs to sell itself.

"We have an image problem in ag."

"A lot of the marketing materials show images of a mature age farmer squinting at the sunset in a field."

"Yes, while this is still an important part of agricultural, ag is also food science, biomanufacturing, biology, physics, chemistry and more."

"It's many things that students are interested to learn about, applied in a practical sense to feed the nation," Mr Black said.

Dial up diversity and look at lifestyle to attract and retain workers

Co-owner of the Queensland-based Leather Cattle Co Melinee Leather said agriculture is often viewed as isolated, physically demanding and lacking diversity.

"We often blame the workforce crisis or external forces, the resources boom, climate change, unpredictable markets and the government, but let's be honest, the problem isn't just external, it's internal."

She pointed out workforce statistics from Australia's red meat and livestock sector.

"Only a third of these people are female, 2 percent are Indigenous Australians, and 40 percent are aged over 55," Ms Leather said.

Adding that the sector needed to "attract families not just workers," with a focus on connectivity, education, healthcare, childcare and partner opportunities.

Mort & Co chief executive of agribusiness Stephen O'Brien also highlighted the challenge of attracting and retaining women in agriculture.

He said that out of the new university enrolments in agriculture, 56 percent were women, however we have a workforce that is 31 percent female, so there was leakage.

Innovative educator and founding chief executive officer of Torrens University Australia Linda Brown believes the pandemic

tree-change shows there's opportunity in targeting people who've got a taste for rural life.

Ms Brown said career changers and second careers were something that the agriculture sector should target because these people have experience, resilience and want the lifestyle in different communities for their family.

"We could be very specific and target a very specific group of the population to pull them out into rural industries," she said.

The sector needs bold transformative ideas

Seafood Industry Australia general manager Julie Petty was concerned that innovation within Australia's rural industries was being held back.

"We have created a system that is too inward looking, too slow to act and too risk averse – we've designed a structure that stifles bold ideas instead of championing them," she said.

"We must invest in workforce development and inspire the brightest minds to want to join our community."

"When we put people first, we don't just build profitable industries, we build resilient, innovative and future-focused ones."

Bold thinking is something that entrepreneur Mr Black sees as a selling point for agriculture careers.

"Risk is what excites the good talent," he argued.

"We keep trying to hide the risk but it's the risk, the bigger loftier goals, that actually get the more passionate more motivated people excited."

As a leader in agribusiness, Mr O'Brien believes government needs to look beyond the election cycle in supporting the industry.

"Our farmers, our

processes, our producers are not looking at the next three years," he said.

"They're looking at the next 20 years."

"Our governments are looking at the next term of election."

"So, we've got to take the shackles off industry and allow it to thrive."

Technology to empower but we need the right people to make it work

Co-founder of innovative agritech company Agronomeye Stu Adam believes "technology should empower not dictate."

He points to Agronomeye's industry-first digital twin, which helps landholders to unlock the full value of on-farm data, optimising profitability and natural capital.

"When landholders have access to the right insights, they don't just solve the problems they know about, they unlock opportunities they never thought possible," he said.

"This is the power of insight driven decision making."

Technology is also integral to Kalfresh, a vertically integrated horticulture business that supplies fresh vegetables to Australia, Asia, New Zealand, and the Middle East.

CEO Richard Gorman said Kalfresh had invested \$13 million in automation and that means people with a whole new skillset.

"Talent doesn't arrive ready made into agriculture," he said.

"Like we grow our crops, we must grow our people."

"That means educating on the run, no matter how many robots and automated systems that you have, or AI tools we bring in – you need a lot of smart people to operate them and still run the business."



Head of agriculture at Sydney's Barker College Scott Graham.



Seafood Industry Australia general manager Julie Petty was concerned that innovation within Australia's rural industries was being held back.

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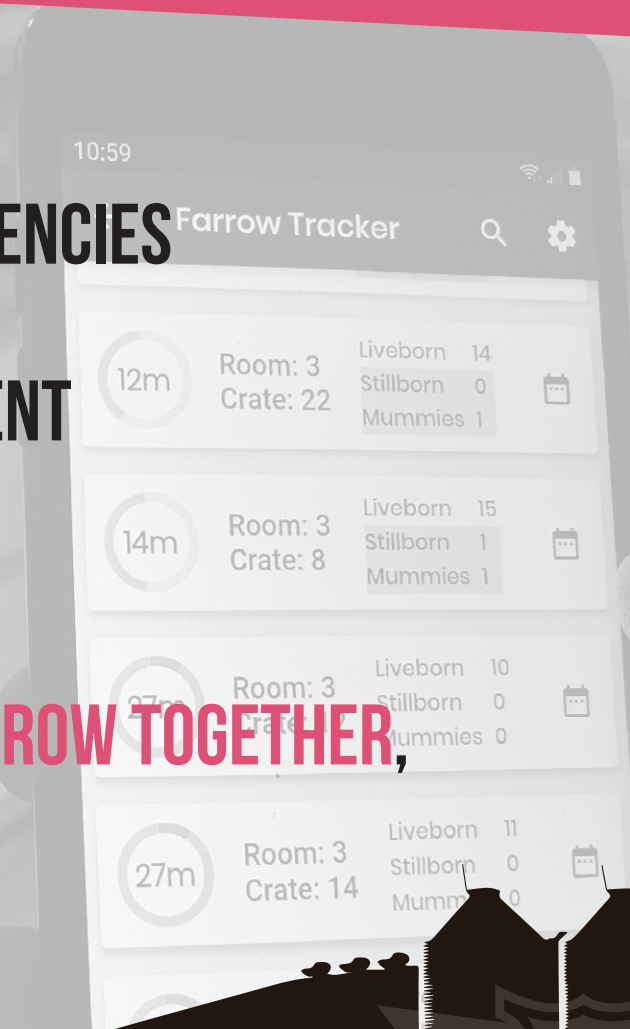
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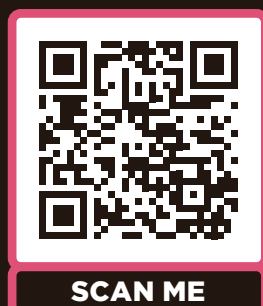
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PigPass 2.0 app nears completion

■ Promising sector real-time traceability

THE development of the PigPass 2.0 app is in its final stages, marking a major step forward for the Australian pork industry's digital transformation and traceability efforts.

Backed by a grant from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Traceability Grants Program - Round 3, the project is a collaborative effort involving Australian Pork Limited, the Department of Regional NSW and the SunPork Group.

The upgraded PigPass 2.0 app will enable real-time tracking of pig movements across Australia, addressing long-standing challenges such as poor connectivity in rural areas and varying levels of digital readiness across the supply chain.

This initiative significantly reduces the industry's dependence on paper-based systems for animal traceability and movement reporting.

Recognising the importance of a stakeholder-informed approach, APL held six consultation meetings involving more than 60 participants across the pork supply chain, including pig producers, transporters, processors and state regulators.

These sessions provided critical feed-

back on functionality, usability and potential industry impact.

This collaborative feedback has been instrumental in ensuring the new app meets its users' practical needs.

Stakeholder insights have helped us design a system that is not only more reliable and user-friendly but also better equipped to support high biosecurity standards.

Enhanced capabilities for traceability, biosecurity and compliance

PigPass 2.0 will provide cutting-edge technology for the electronic national vendor declaration documentation and monitoring of pig movements.

It will improve operational efficiency and help maintain high traceability and biosecurity standards.

Real-time tracking of animal movements will be beneficial in monitoring emer-

gency animal disease outbreak movement permits and route verification.

This support could occur in different ways – tracking deviations from approved routes, managing restricted zones and proof of compliance with livestock standstill (and compartmentalisation models).

The first phase of testing of the app has been completed, done internally by the app development team, with additional testing by external users now underway.

This will be followed by engineering and final app development, along with the development of user training, onboarding and support materials.

The official industry rollout of PigPass 2.0 is planned for late August 2025.

Australian Pork Limited



Victoria makes the ideal backdrop for the next edition of EvokeAg.

Melbourne named host city for EvokeAg 2026

AGRIFUTURES Australia has announced Asia Pacific's premier agrifood innovation event EvokeAg will take place in Melbourne on February 17-18, 2026 at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Home to a quarter of Australia's farm businesses, 14 agricultural research and development centres, world-class universities and a thriving startup ecosystem, Victoria makes the ideal backdrop for the next edition of EvokeAg.

Building on the success of last year's event, which welcomed over 2000 delegates from more than 25 countries, 134 speakers and over 50 startups, EvokeAg 2026 will once again unite the leading minds in agriculture, food production, research and investment for two days of bold conversations and future-shaping ideas.

Entering its sixth edition, EvokeAg continues to facilitate investment, nurture innovation and create impact, which is reflected in its new evergreen tagline, 'Invest Innovate Impact'.

Since its inception in 2019, the event has brought together over 8100 delegates, 391 investors, 577 speakers

and 1122 primary producers to drive agriculture towards a better future.

Victorian Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence said Victoria, with its thriving agrifood innovation sector, was the ideal host destination for the event.

"Research and innovation are central to the success of Victoria's \$20.2 billion agriculture sector, which is underpinned by farmers and a broader industry that embraces new technology," Ms Spence said.

"The Allan Labor Government is proud to support the return of this landmark event to Melbourne and to invest in the growth and innovation of Australian agriculture."

AgriFutures Australia chair Cathy McGowan said Victoria's dynamic agriculture sector makes it a natural home for the event.

"As a proud Victorian and advocate for regional Australia, I'm delighted to see EvokeAg come to Melbourne in 2026."

"Victoria is home to a vibrant and diverse agrifood sector, world-class agricultural research institutions and some of the most innovative producers and

startups in the country.

"It's the perfect place to showcase what is possible when agriculture and innovation come together," Ms McGowan said.

Gaia Project (Melbourne-based controlled environment agriculture startup) general manager Adrian Persi welcomed the announcement and said Melbourne was the ideal location for the next chapter of the event.

"EvokeAg delivers exceptional value for startups at every stage – offering a platform for networking, knowledge sharing and testing market appetite," Mr Persi said.

Adding that Victoria was primed to be a thriving startup ecosystem, supported by players such as LaunchVic, Breakthrough Victoria and the Eagle Fund, and it's well-positioned to become a global agtech hub.

"The state is also the food bowl of Australia and the heart of horticulture, which is especially relevant to our work," he said.

"Hosting EvokeAg in Melbourne offers a direct connection to the growers we aim to serve as we commercialise from 2025 – it's a valuable opportunity to un-

derstand on-the-ground challenges and share innovation."

Building on the success of previous events, EvokeAg 2026 will deliver a program for the entire agrifood tech ecosystem, following its three principles:

- Inspire and provoke – ignite inspiration and spark meaningful action by challenging perspectives and encouraging bold ideas

- Showcase and educate – exclusive access to world-leading technologies and practical insights into successful implementation

- Connect and collaborate – opportunities for genuine connection and seamless collaboration, fostering relationships through both organic interactions and curated experiences.

Signature elements such as Startup Alley, Scaleup Station, the Demo Stage, Culinary Capital and XFactor Breakfast will also return, alongside refreshed plenary and interactive sessions designed to inspire, inform and drive collaboration.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday July 7, 2025.

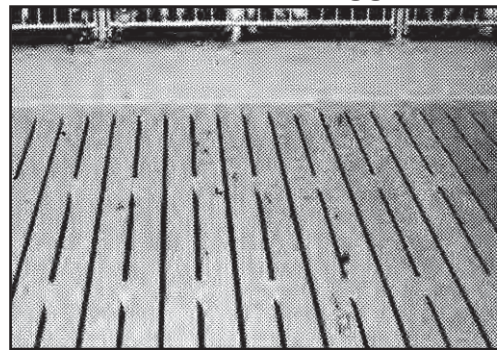
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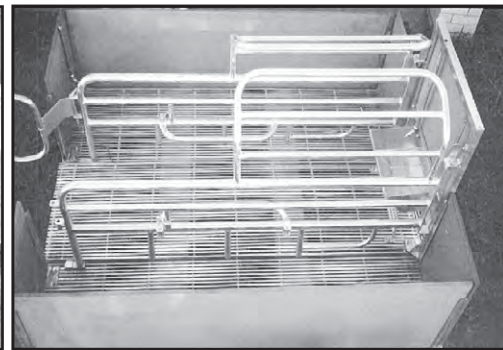
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Attracting international agritech players to Australia

AUSTRALIA'S agritech market is drawing international attention like never before.

Startups and investors from across the globe, including the United Kingdom and New Zealand, are capitalising on its potential as a viable launchpad for agritech innovation.

So, what makes Australia such a hotspot for agritech innovation?

The combination of Australia's diverse climate, counter-seasonality and world-class research makes it an attractive destination for startups and investors alike.

Strong industry collaboration and government support further enhance its appeal, creating a compelling case for international engagement.

Why internationals are engaging with the Australian market

Several core factors draw international players to Australia:

- A unique testing ground for agritech – Australia's varied climates, from arid to temperate, provide real-world conditions ideal for trialling new technologies, ensuring adaptability for global markets

- Counter-seasonal market – innovations can be piloted year-round, accelerating research and technology refinement even when other markets experience downtime

- Access to innovation, frameworks and research – Australia's world-class research institutions and research and development initiatives address global agricultural challenges, such as climate change, supply chain disruption, labour shortages, animal welfare and pest control, making it a hub for agritech advancements

- Engagement with rural industries and research development corporations – well-established RDCs and a thriving rural sector provide international companies with direct access to producers and industry-led research, enabling practical validation and real-world application of agritech solutions

- Government support – strong policy backing, grants and public-private partnerships ease the pathway for internationals to establish and scale operations

- Market scale and growth potential – Australia's large domestic market, extensive free trade agreements and proximity to Asia create an ideal launchpad for scaling agritech innovations globally.

These factors create a compelling proposition for international investors and innovators to engage with the Australian market.

UK perspective on Australian agritech market

The United Kingdom has demonstrated strong interest in Australia's agritech sector over the past two years.

Innovate UK's agriculture and food team innovation lead Robert Crook explained Australia's appeal clearly: "I always say Australia is very different but very much the same as the UK."

He emphasised that while core agricultural practices such as milking cows, growing grain and horticultural cropping are familiar, Australia's distinct environmental conditions present unique opportunities.

"Based on our research, we identified Australia as a potentially good market for agritech, with good applications and good people to work with," he said.

Robert highlighted that for UK agritech businesses, Australia's attractiveness lies significantly in its strategic market positioning.

Proximity to Asia, a sizable domestic market and extensive trade agreements amplify its potential for scaling innovations internationally.

It also provides UK companies with exposure to the investment community in Australia and the surrounding region.

Australia's free trade agreements further facilitate technology and talent transfer, a key advantage highlighted by Mr Crook.

Additionally, recent initiatives – such as the memorandum of understanding between Innovate UK's parent organisation UK Research and Innovation and the CSIRO – enhance collaborative product testing and help accelerate technology adoption.

New Zealand shares common ground with Australian market

New Zealand organisations similarly see strategic value in Australia.

AgriZeroNZ head of strategy and engagement Ruth Leary highlighted the ease of market entry, noting that Australia's shared business culture, strong networks and regulatory frameworks make it a practical choice for scaling agritech solutions.

"What excites me about the Australian agrifood sector is its scale and the common challenges we face," Ms Leary said.

Trans-Tasman engagement remains a priority for AgriZeroNZ.

"Both Australia and NZ export a lot of agricultural products, and it's key that we're meeting market demands with lower emissions products to help farmers continue to generate the pre-

mium they deserve for their grass-fed milk and meat," she said.

Mutual benefits for Australia's rural industries

International collaboration yields tangible benefits for Australia's rural industries too.

When global players engage with the Australian market, they help to:

- Showcase Australian innovation – collaborative projects blend cutting edge research with field tested solutions, enhancing Australia's global reputation

- Accelerate technology adoption – agreements such as the MOU between UK Research and Innovation and CSIRO help fast-track commercialisation of new innovations

- Open global markets – counter-seasonal production and global capital access create new export channels

- Strengthen local ecosystems – exposure to international expertise fosters enhanced knowledge sharing and innovative problem solving across the sector.

Bridging innovation and adoption

Mr Crook acknowledged that entering the Australian market isn't without its challenges.

"There are reasonably common business practices, but the laws aren't the same," he said.

Adding that local partnerships, often supported by regional and state governments, helped ease market entry.

"A key advantage of international collaboration

is access to local knowledge and connections."

Support structures such as free trade agreements and initiatives similar to Farmers2Founders further assist international agritech adoption.

Innovate UK and AgriZero have leveraged their networks to integrate global innovations into local practices, while AgriZero strengthens ties with investment funds "to generate the greatest impact."

With growing international interest, Australia is well-positioned as a priority market for agritech innovation.

By fostering meaningful collaborations, Australian industries can harness these opportunities and advance a resilient and innovative global agrifood system.



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Australia headed for record-high winter crop planting

AUSTRALIA'S farmers are heading towards a record-high winter crop planting this year, RaboBank said in its newly released 2025-26 Australian Winter Crop Outlook.

The annual outlook, by the agribusiness banking specialist's RaboResearch division, said the nation's grain growers were expected to plant an estimated 24.5 million hectares of winter crop this year, up 0.8 percent on last season.

The forecast increase was largely driven by good soil moisture levels in northern NSW and Queensland, as well as a "positive gross margin outlook" for most crop types.

Area planted to crops was expected to be up in all states, except for South Australia, where many regions have been struggling with severe drought conditions.

Victoria, which has also been impacted by drought in many western parts of the state, was expected to see cropping area edge up only fractionally.

The overall rise in national planted area was expected to benefit most crops, except for wheat, where area was forecast to drop – especially in Western Australia – impacted by rising fertiliser prices and less optimistic market prospects.

Despite the projected overall increase in Australia's winter cropping area, RaboResearch has currently forecast total production for the 2025-26 harvest to come in below last year, at a "base case" of 53.9 million tonnes, compared with 59.7 million tonnes for last year's crop.

Report author, RaboResearch senior analyst Vitor Pistoia said Australia's 2025-26 winter cropping area may be "the largest on record" if a "seasonal break comes soon in South Australia and western Victoria."

However, the impact of weather on the season ahead had led the bank to expect there would be a slightly reduced amount of grain heading to the bins at harvest time.

"Summer rainfall in Queensland and northern NSW was above average, leading to flooding in some cropping regions, and this may delay sowing but is supportive for another season of large sowing areas,"

Mr Pistoia said.

"WA's southern cropping areas also received timely rainfall to have a good start to the season."

"Other cropping regions around the country though did not get the same summer luck."

"Soil-moisture levels are generally insufficient, especially in South Australia, western parts of Victoria and southern NSW."

As of mid-May, the weather outlook for the season ahead was for average rainfall for the eastern states and some chance of above average rainfall for Western Australia by springtime, he said.

Seeding – wheat makes room for barley and pulses

Area planted to wheat was expected to decrease 5.2 percent on the previous year, to 12.6 million hectares, the report said.

The most significant drop in wheat planting was anticipated in Western Australia, Mr Pistoia said.

"Overall, this decline in wheat planting is attributed to rising fertiliser prices and less enthusiasm about the outlook for wheat prices."

"Crop rotation is also a factor, as last year's late seasonal break led to wheat replacing canola and pulses at the eleventh hour and those farmers will now be looking to plant a different crop," he said.

RaboResearch expected cropping area for barley to increase 9.8 percent year-on-year to 4.5 million hectares, supported by strong demand for livestock feed from the local animal protein sector.

"Despite gross margins for barley expected to be within historical averages, it is a promising outlook for regions that can achieve higher yields with barley than wheat, as the price difference between the two commodities is comparatively small," Mr Pistoia said.

Canola planting was projected to remain "virtually stable" – with only minimal forecast area growth of 0.4 percent on last year to 3.2 million hectares, seeing increases in Western Australia and declines in the eastern states.

"There is a supportive outlook for canola, though the price direction varies between genetically modified and

non-GM canola," Mr Pistoia said.

"Geopolitical turmoil is pressuring the GM-canola market, while demand from the European Union is driving non-GM fundamentals."

Pulse plantings were also expected to be up considerably – by 12.5 percent on last season – to 3.4 million hectares, with WA and Queensland likely to lead the expansion in pulse area.

This was driven by tariff announcements in key pulse markets – including India, a country crucial to Australian pulse exports – that indicate demand will remain steady.

"Such positive overseas demand signals may lead to higher margin potential compared with cereals," Mr Pistoia said.

States

Queensland looks to be the big winner in terms of increased cropping area, with excellent soil moisture setting the stage for a promising season, the RaboResearch report said.

Area under cropping was forecast to expand 8.4 percent on last year, to a total of 1.67 million hectares.

Western Australia was expected to be the other big winner, with cropping area projected to increase 2.1 percent to 8.83 million hectares, despite the reduction in the amount of wheat planted in the state.

NSW was a "mixed bag", the report said,

with positive soil moisture in the northern parts of the state after a wet summer driving expansion, while cropping areas in southern regions were impacted by low soil-moisture levels.

Though overall, cropped hectares in the state were projected to increase this season by 1.6 percent to 6.83 million hectares.

Dry weather in the western parts of the state was seeing cropping programs across Victoria being diversified this season, the report said.

"While some farmers are going for a 'high input, high return' approach, with crop rotation edging towards an evenly split ratio of canola and cereal cropping area, others are still using crop rotation as a tool for mitigating risk, with pulses and hay in the cropping mix as well," Mr Pistoia said.

Overall, Victorian cropping area was expected to increase by only 0.1 percent on the previous season, to 3.61 million hectares.

Ongoing severe dry weather conditions in South Australia were expected to see the state's cropped area decline this season, by 5.8 percent to 3.55 million hectares, the report stated.

Mr Pistoia said big planting shifts were also anticipated in the state, with increasing lentil planting.

"Given the average

continued P15



RaboResearch senior analyst Vitor Pistoia. Photo: Rabobank



RaboResearch expected cropping area for barley to increase 9.8 percent year-on-year to 4.5 million hectares. Photos: CSIRO



Canola planting was projected to remain virtually stable.

Australia headed for record-high winter crop planting

from P14 yields and current commodity price outlook, lentils offer a more attractive gross margin potential than wheat or canola in many parts of South Australia for the 2025-26 season," he said.

Market outlook/exports

In terms of market outlook, the report said, "despite the US's tariff-driven efforts to re-order global trade, Australia's key grain and oilseeds exports seem largely unscathed for now and may gain global market share."

"Asian countries rely on Australia to source imports of grains and pulses, and the Euro-

pean Union imports canola to balance its supply of oilseeds," Mr Pistoia said.

The bank said Australia exported most grains and oilseeds at a good pace in early 2025, though not wheat.

Wheat export volumes from October 2024 to March 2025 reached 9.9 million tonnes, the report said, falling 3.1 million short of the pace needed to avoid an increase in year-on-year carryover stock.

Mr Pistoia said a larger carryover would make local Australian Stock Exchange wheat futures prices softer compared with the global Chicago Board of Trade and Marché

à Terme International de France prices.

Globally, with increased wheat supply from the EU and another robust Black Sea crop likely, there are not many reasons to be bullish on wheat prices, the report stated.

For Australia, RaboResearch forecasts Australian Premium White port prices to range between \$330-\$360 per tonne by the end of 2025, partially supported by currency headwinds.

Feed barley prices for the 2025-26 harvest were anticipated to range between \$290-\$340 per tonne, the report said, depending on new

crop production.

On the malting barley front, where there was limited upside beyond Chinese demand, RaboResearch said prices were projected to be \$10-\$20 per tonne higher than feed barley.

Canola prices were expected to soften by mid-year as harvests began in the northern hemisphere.

"If European Union production falls below 18 million tonnes, Australian non-GM port prices for the 2025-26 season were likely to stay within the \$700-\$780 per tonne range, with an eight to 12 percent discount for GM canola," Mr Pistoia said.

APL 2025 membership drive now open

■ Help shape our future pork industry

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has officially launched its 2025 membership drive, running from July 1 until September 1, 2025.

All levy-paying producers are invited to apply or renew their membership.

Whether you're a new or returning member, your voice matters.

Membership underpins APL's ability to deliver real value back to industry, from consumer marketing and research to issues management and policy development.

Many producers think that paying the Pig Slaughter Levy or having a PigPass account automatically makes them a member of APL, but this isn't the case.

To become an APL member, producers must complete an application.

APL membership is free for all levy payers.

If you've paid any pig slaughter levy in the 2024-25 financial year, you're eligible to become an APL member.

As an APL producer member, you can access a range of benefits, including:

- The right to vote for a delegate or to be nominated as a delegate
- Travel subsidies to

attend major industry events

- Access to APL member's portal resources and support

- Quarterly contact from APL team members

- The opportunity to apply for the Pork Leadership Course and other sponsored industry leadership opportunities

- Access to information and presentations following APL delegates' meetings.

Becoming an APL member is one of the best ways you can support the Australian pork industry, while also gaining a direct connection to the organisation that exists to represent and support you.

As the peak national representative body for the pork industry, APL plays a crucial role in supporting producers across the country.

A united industry voice strengthens the ability of Australia's pork sector to be heard by politicians, industries and organisations, government departments and consumers.

Becoming an APL member by September 1, 2025 also gives you the chance to participate in the 2025 delegates' elections.

Delegates play a cru-

cial role in representing the interests of pig slaughter levy payers at general meetings, ensuring producers' priorities are heard.

Only members who have signed up or renewed by September 1 will be able to nominate their delegate, and this opportunity comes around once every three years.

Applications received after this date will still qualify for full producer membership but won't be eligible for voting.

Becoming an APL member or renewing your membership is easy.

Simply access APL's PigPass portal and complete an APL Producer Membership Application and Slaughter Levy Declaration Form by September 1, 2025.

Alternatively, reach out to the team at members@australianpork.com.au for support.

Join now and help shape the future of Australian pork.

Note, while pig producers can become APL members at any time, APL has an obligation to confirm its members' details and eligibility for membership every three years.

Australian Pork Limited

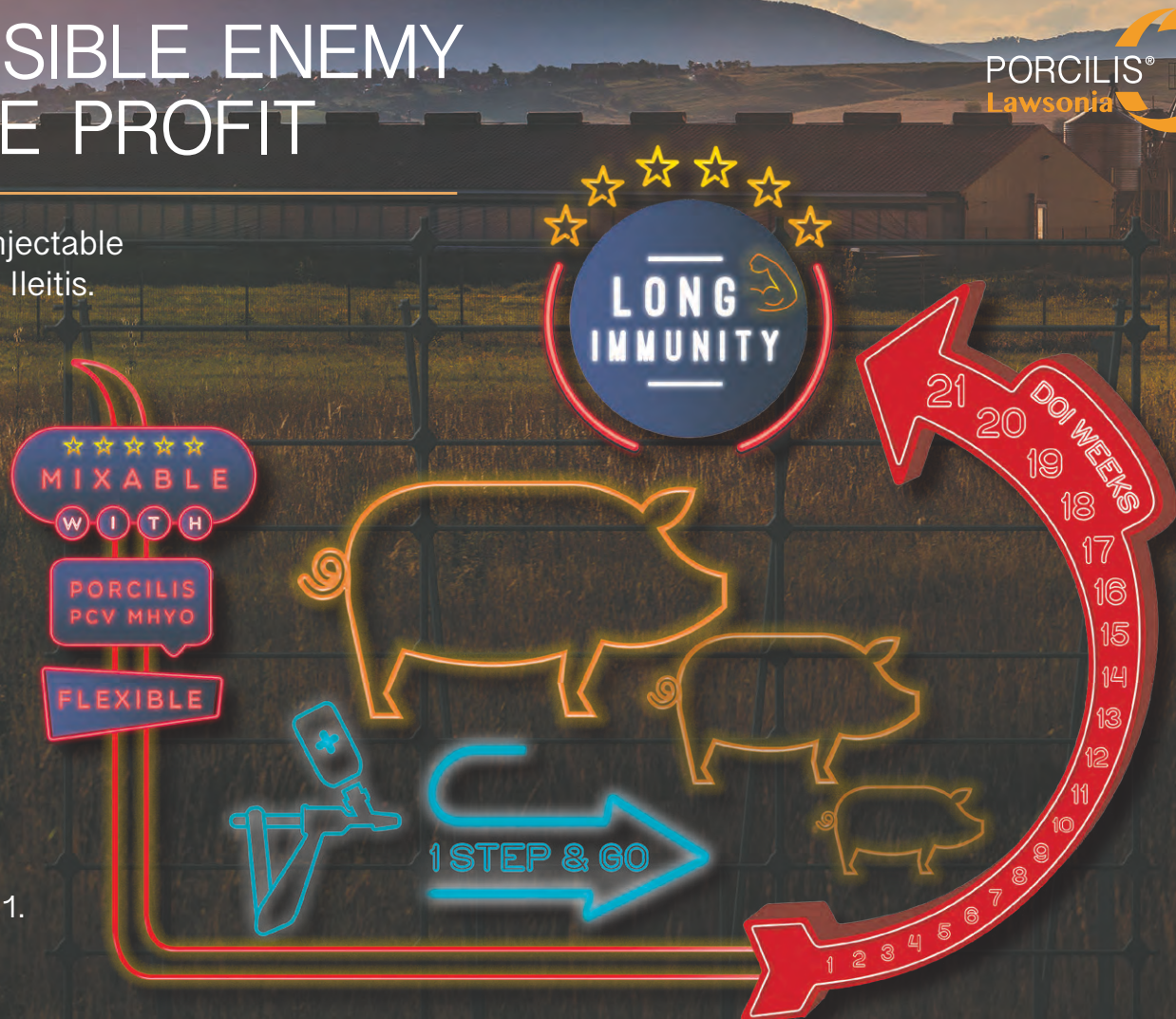
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APL's new approach to research, innovation and extension

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited's Research and Innovation team has implemented a new process to better deliver research and extension to the pork industry.

This includes a new annual research process aligned to the pork industry's Green Paper research priorities.

APL will call for expressions of interest for research and innovation projects based on our strategic and Green Paper research priority areas in September each year.

To ensure we remain agile to industry needs, there may be other calls for research throughout the year.

All calls for research will be published on our website and in the weekly APL Update.

Furthermore, we have expanded our team to effectively deliver extension and align with the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited.

Watch out for webinars, revised factsheets and research snapshots, producer case studies and Pub n' Talk sessions focusing on a variety of topics and bringing together a range of experts and a new initiative, the APL producer-led innovation challenge.

I am pleased to introduce the Research, Innovation and Extension team, who are here to lead APL's research programs to deliver meaningful research, innovation and extension.

Dr Raymond Chia, Research and Innovation Program Manager, Health and Biosecurity

Contact: raymond.chia@australianpork.com.au

Ray has a PhD in



by **REBECCA MORRISON**



PhD from the University of Adelaide, where she also completed her honours research in pigs.

Mandy is excited to return to the pork industry and contribute to the delivery of impactful extension for Australian pork producers.

Ashlee Adams, Extension Officer

Contact: ashlee.adams@australianpork.com.au

Ashlee holds a master's in agricultural science from the University of Melbourne, where she focused her research on the effects of shelf life on lamb meat quality, sparking a strong interest in meat science.

During her time as a research technical officer at Ritvalea, she gained valuable hands-on experience and developed a deep appreciation for the Australian pork industry.

Her work in both research and field settings has strengthened her commitment to bridging the gap between science and practical on-farm application.

Ashlee and Mandy will be working alongside Dr Sophie Ward, who recently joined APL as a dual extension officer in partnership with APRIL.

Sophie brings extensive pork research experience after completing a PhD at the University of Adelaide and her work as a post-doctoral researcher on the transformative tails project.

Sophie will play a key role in the aligning APL and APRIL's extension efforts, and supporting researchers in translating their science into practical industry-relevant outcomes.

food safety from the University of Tasmania and a master's degree in food studies from the University of Queensland.

He has worked for various food manufacturing companies, Australian Eggs and Aus-Meat.

Dr Rebecca Athorn, Research and Innovation Program Manager, Farming and Welfare

Contact: rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons) and PhD from Uni Adelaide.

Her thesis investigated the effects of feeding level and diet composition during early gestation on reproductive outcomes in gilts.

Rebecca was one of the first recipients of the Pork CRC HIAP industry placement program and joined Rivalea Australia as a research scientist under the program.

Rebecca looks after APL supported higher degree by research students and sits on the APRIL education committee.

Tim Morley-Sattler, Research and Innovation Program Manager, Environment and Sustainability

Contact: tim.morley-sattler@australianpork.com.au

Tim studied animal science at Charles

Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, and has worked across the dairy, beef, feedlot and pork industries where he held roles in production, livestock advisory and sales.

In his most recent role as the APL Extension Officer Sustainability, Tim identifies opportunities for research and innovation, manages projects and delivers practical outcomes for producers.

Dr Vaibhav Gole, Research and Innovation Program Manager, Integrity and Product Quality

Contact: vaibhav.gole@australianpork.com.au

Vaibhav is a veterinarian with a PhD in food safety from the University of Adelaide and has research and industry experience spanning academia and commercial pork production, including the role of microbiology laboratory manager at Rivalea Australia.

Dr Mandy Bowling, Extension Program Manager

Contact: mandy.bowling@australianpork.com.au

Mandy joins APL from previous industry roles at Livestock SA and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association where she supported livestock producers through project, policy and program delivery.

She holds a Bachelor of Animal Science and



Dr Raymond Chia



Dr Rebecca Athorn



Tim Morley-Sattler

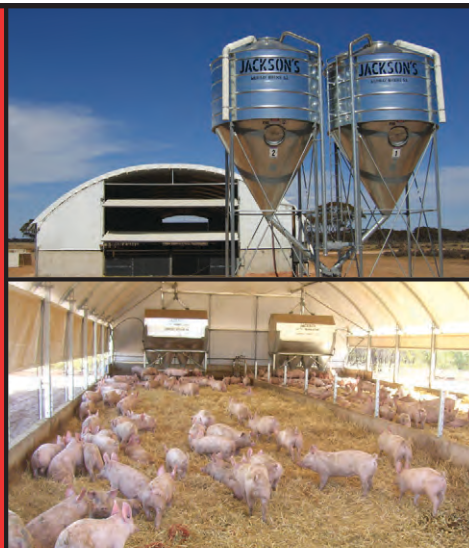


Dr Vaibhav Gole



Dr Sophie Ward, Dr Mandy Bowling and Ashlee Adams.

- Animal Shelters
- Feeders
- Silos
- Farm Buildings



Formation of 2024 inaugural pork industry Green Paper

THE need for the Australian pork industry to continually improve and advance overall research strategy and outcomes through an industry-informed, more cohesive and coordinated research and development program was recognised by the boards of Australian Pork Limited and the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited in 2023.

Further discussions led to the formation of a Pork Industry Insight Panel that met in August 2023 and culminated in an inaugural Green Paper being completed in April 2024.

In November 2024, a PIIP comprising APL and APRIL Board members and staff, together with a range of invited producers, processors, researchers and industry personnel, met and worked through a structured process to inform the development of the 2024 Green Paper.

Following board discussions and feedback,

the 2024 Green Paper was approved in March and finalised in May 2025.

The Green Papers represent an impartial non-binding priority-free overview of the state of the entire value chain of the Australian pork industry at that point in time.

An important outcome stemming from the Green Paper was the development of several research and development priorities to assist APL and APRIL, and indeed any positively interested party, in aligning their research and development investments to those conveyed by the Australian pork industry.

From the 2024 Green Paper, the following major research priorities were identified:

- Pig genetics – working to enhance the rate of genetic improvement in the Australian pork industry while maintaining current or better health status

- Pig care and well-being – providing novel tools or approaches to support continuous im-

provement and assessment of pig care and wellbeing, and demonstrate the welfare credentials of Australian pork

- Pig health and antimicrobial stewardship – delivering novel technologies and approaches to mitigate risks and production impacts of infectious diseases, enhance emergency animal preparedness, and reduce antibiotic use

- Environment, human capacity and society – delivering practical and meaningful tools to assess environmental impact, to identify practices to improve sustainability and build a resilient and skilled rural and regional workforce

- Pig processing – ensuring a sustainable processing sector for the future

- Feeding and nutrition – making positive contributions to lowering the overall cost of production

- Retail – achieving a greater share of domestic meat consumption in Australia

- Data and information – exploiting the benefits of technologies with existing and future information for more efficient and profitable pig production, processing and understanding of market trends.

A summary of the 2024 Green Paper as well as the research and development priorities emanating from

the 2024 Green Paper are available on the APL and APRIL websites, or by contacting chiefscientist@australianpork.com.au

John Pluske



Professor John Pluske, Chief Scientist for the Australian Pork Industry.



Food with Purpose 2026

POULTRY Information Exchange, Australasian Milling Conference and Australian Pork Limited welcome your attendance at the Food with Purpose Conference and Trade Show to be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre May 12-14, 2026.

Whether you're a seasoned farmer or miller with years of experience or just starting out, the Food with Purpose event is an excellent opportunity to gain valuable insights and connect with other professionals in the industry.

We invite you to this three-day experience as it will be an exciting way to learn more about what's new in these indus-

tries, see the latest equipment and products at the trade displays, connect with others who share your passion and take away new ideas for your operation.

For exhibitors and partners, take advantage of the first round of partnership and exhibition opportunities.

Note that these have changed slightly following feedback from 2024 for the second PIX, AMC and APL combined event – to be first in best dressed.

For information on the Partnership and Exhibition Prospectus, contact event@pix.au or go to pix.au, where you can follow any further updates.

Program and registration information will be released later in 2025. 🐷

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Taken from the helicopter, this is the land around Nogoli, where the project is located. The cleared areas are villager gardens for sweet potatoes.



The late Liam Flanagan and John Cook cross a narrow bridge in a village near Nogoli.

Pig farm project in PNG highlands

THIS story falls off the back of a crazy plan to enable Papua New Guinea highlanders to develop an agricultural enterprise and build wealth.

It began in 2012, when a non-governmental organisation Business for Development asked if I could assist people in the New Guinea Highlands to develop small businesses based on pig production, and so grow wealth.

This idea had grown from the observations of former Oil Search managing director Peter Robert Botten, who wanted to ensure that the local people, who had helped the company build a gas pipeline in the NG Highlands, had a sustainable long-term

business opportunity.

The least I could do was to go have a look.

So, with funding from Oil Search (now Santos), I went to Nogoli in Hela province with former Australian Pork Limited chief executive officer John Cook.

He was very pro the idea of a whole pork supply chain business and worked closely with B4D.

I had asked the late Liam Flanagan, an experienced pig farm manager, to go too – I had all the ideas in the world, but Liam could implement them.

We flew by helicopter into the Oil Search camp at Hides in Hela province and toured the area in a Toyota Land-Cruiser Troop Carrier.

An armed police officer came too.

We visited local villages, speaking with people who had pigs.

It was soon abundantly apparent that the best place to raise pigs was not in the highlands but closer to Lae for arable land, markets, supplies and law and order.

Soon after, that conclusion was reversed when Oil Search said very clearly, “Think again.”

“If we support it, any business must be in Nogoli.”

This isolated place was close to the end of the Highlands Hwy, a two-day drive from Lae.

It had a reputation for

lawlessness and tribal violence.

There were gun battles with police in the streets.

That sort of thing.

It was an exceptionally complex clan and cultural environment.

Going for the area were a few things.

The villagers grew sweet potatoes, an energy source which when dried had levels similar to wheat.

The local people adored pigs as a source of wealth, food and as part of the economy for settling disputes, for cultural events and to pay for brides.

The climate was perfect for raising pigs.

And Oil Search offered to fund the proof-of-concept trial I insisted was necessary before any further decisions were made.

It was important, I thought, to test whether it was possible to utilise the American model of using the home-grown energy source and adding a simple premix to balance the diet for protein and cover min-

eral nutrients at the same time.

The idea was trialed on a farm near Port Moresby because Oil Search was worried about security in the highlands.

In brief, the proof-of-concept trial worked.

Queensland poultry nutritionist Ken Brereton, who formulated diets for Alan King’s Boroma farm near Port Moresby (now owned by PNG companies), developed a very clever protein mineral balancer that could be fed with the sweet potato silage.

It was added at 10 percent of the diet for the growing pigs and dry sows, the 90 percent being sweet potato silage or later cassava.

Weaners and lactating sows got a bit more premix.

We learnt how to make the silage using a little garden mulcher, found that the pigs liked it and noted that they grew nearly as well as pigs fed a conventional dry diet.

continued P19



Weaned pigs getting into their first taste of the silage and premix diet.

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The Wonderland Agristock site at Nogoli, with Mt Elu in the background.



The sow house, with mesh to prevent theft.

Pig farm project in Papua New Guinea highlands

from P18

This was enough for OS to say job done, and to hand the idea over to a group of landowner companies that had been watching the trial and the later runs of four groups of 20 growing pigs and gilts that we tested.

The trials finished in 2015.

Some time was spent in the highlands looking for suitable sites for a farm and bringing local PNG leaders along, with the economics and idea of supplying sweet potato, or growing pigs, or both.

In the meantime, B4D was working with the landowner companies, getting the corporate administrative machinery and structures in place.

That process needed to be driven.

B4D CEO Karen James herded the corporate cats and in 2019, the project was given the green light.

Wonderland Agristock Limited was born.

A funding campaign commenced, together with recruitment of collaborating villages and sweet potato suppliers.

Staff were hired and model farms were set up to demonstrate modern agronomic techniques for growing sweet potatoes.

Santos continued their

funding support.

B4D merged with Palladium, a global for-purpose organisation involved in solving the world's most pressing challenges.

A land lease arrangement from a local Nogoli clan was secured.

The project was underpinned by the leadership of Larry Andagali and the optimism of the Wonderland Agristock Board members, who were fully invested in and committed to the project.

They were engaged real time twenty-four seven in the affairs of the business to support the staff.

Other core ingredients included the enthusiasm of local villagers who embraced the project, some dedicated PNG staff and an effective building design by Ben Slots.

As with most good things, a cast of hundreds was involved, including the team at Palladium and the diligent PNG staff Isidor Tisok, Lester Bagom, Patrick Kukumir, and program leads Solomon Sotman and Noel Kuman.

Ben Slots had designed and built very effective pig housing facilities for Australian producers for more than 45 years.

It didn't take much

for him to rise to the challenge of designing some buildings for this project.

They had to be low maintenance, indestructible, low tech and naturally ventilated.

They had to work with saw dust bedding and have a hole in the back wall for regular removal of manure because the farm would have 270cm of rain annually.

How do you manage that with ponds?

Alan Skerman was very helpful in this decision pathway.

Plus, the farrowing house had to have turn-around pens – because the project needed to attract philanthropic funds, conventional pens wouldn't wash.

Everybody thought the idea was mad.

Neil Unger offered regular opinion, reality checks and occasionally optimism... even though people were being killed within minutes of the farm gate.

Tom Smith found the concept breathtaking – either stupid or brave, he was too polite to say.

Ben Slots turned out to be a hero.

He'd done this sort of thing before, some of it for himself.

The design was straightforward and made sense.

It was unlikely to burn down in a riot.

He had delivered absolutely to the brief.

Neil Gascoigne, a straight-talking Queensland engineer, ramrodded the build.

The first stage was completed in September 2022 by staff working for Hides Gas Development Company Limited, a PNG engineering company and Wonderland Agristock shareholder.

Alan King had said that things do happen in PNG, but they happen slowly.

Such as being paid for things.

There were riots, multiple local clan fights, pay-back killings, house burnings, destruction in the area on a huge scale, delay after delay, landslides, earthquakes and an outbreak of African swine fever that killed all 27 of the foundation stock in 14 days, putting the project on its knees.

To date, the farm itself has been spared tribal violence.

Local people want to be involved.

Many of them are growing, at world's best practice yields, sweet potato – which the farm business buys to make silage.

The sweet potato is unwashed, yet the sows

continued P20



Collaborating villagers from the Hela-WAL women's group with sweet potato ready to sell and vines ready to plant. This group contributed financially to the venture and are shareholders in Wonderland Agristock Limited.



Mixing silage and premix.

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Loaded shipping container in Lae.



Security fencing around the site and farm clothes on the washing line behind the fence.



A farm worker working with newly arrived gilts.



The Wonderland leadership team. Evelyn (second from left) is the staff amenities boss meri and cook, so as to reduce the risk of introducing ASF. Thank you for the hats Anke.

Pig farm project in PNG highlands

from P19
enjoy it that way – it adds iron and microbiota.

The need to provide iron by injection has been replaced by adding a jam tin worth of fresh red soil to the piglet creep area during the first week of life.

This risks a minor growth reduction but saves on supply complexity.

Getting anything to the highlands costs an arm and a leg, is subject to vehicle breakdowns and the occasional hijacking or ambush.

David Cadogan from Feedworks provided the technical logic to reinforce the mad idea and various work arounds.

Currently, there are six large silage bunkers on the site, each holding 27 tonnes, though more will be needed.

The silage takes two weeks to cure and lasts for 18 months at least.

The sows love it and so do the little pigs.

Lactation intake loomed as a stumbling block, however the sows are chewing through 15kg per day.

The silage is about 40 percent dry matter, so the lactating sows need to eat that much.

In November this year, as herd size increases to 60 sows plus progeny, silage demand is forecast at 84 tonnes per month.

It's turning out to be huge for the local villagers, moving them from subsistence to commercial farming and employment.

After the African swine fever incursion in March 2023, ExxonMobil came to the rescue and provided support.

With that contribu-

tion, an additional shed was built, other buildings completed and the compound securely double fenced.

Biosecurity is tight, with staff showering in each day and wearing farm clothes and boots.

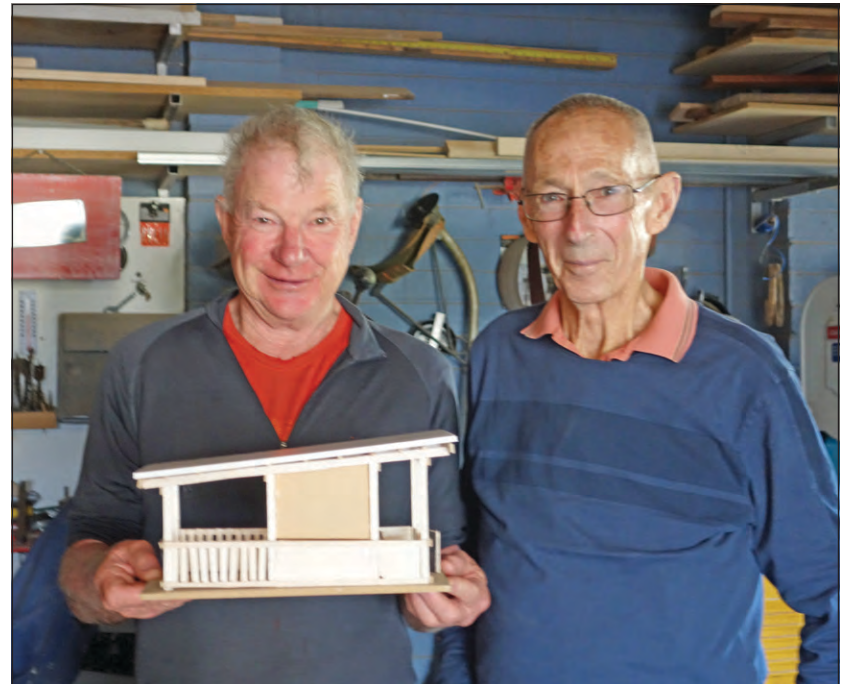
In June 2024, the farm was repopulated – with 24 foundation gilts and three little boars sourced from Boroma – and expertly run by New Zealander Craig Bradfield.

Bruce Sutton sorted

continued P21



A sow soon after farrowing. At day 30, she still had 10 pigs. With 30-35 day weaning planned to overcome the need for sophisticated early weaning diets. Pen fit out supplied by Vereyken Brothers. Design by Ben Slots.



The author and the late Doug Pope with a model of the pig house.

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Pig farm project in Papua New Guinea highlands

from P20 the pigs coming through into specific lines and families.

They were about 10 weeks old when shipped in a 20' container with vertical windows cut into the sides for ventilation and deeply bedded – it worked well.

Those gilts were all bred over two months at an average age of 230 days of age.

One had a small hernia and was held back for a barbecue, though she had a miracle recovery and is now bred.

Farrowing pen heat lamps were installed about three weeks before the sows were due to farrow.

The farm is at 1700m above sea level, so it can get cold at night.

There are 22 farrowing pens – plenty for now, though it will be tight when the herd expands next year.

The local staff must learn how to get everything done on first principles.

Data is entered into the software program EliteHerd.

The staff love these animals.

Sows were walked down to the farrowing house a few weeks ago so that they would know the way when they were moved for the real thing.

Even better, they would know they were going to be fed when they got there.

One of the bred gilts died from a gastric accident (torsion) during pregnancy and the farm manager was almost weeping when he called – she was the last to be mated.

A PNG team provides leadership and training, and because the security situation is so volatile, the local safety protocol is for leadership staff to work in pairs.

The vehicle stays with them in case immediate evacuation is necessary.

Assuming collaborators can avoid clan turmoil, the plan is to produce 3600 pigs a year and grow them out 10 at a time in the villages, in purpose-built village pig houses.

The late Doug Pope built the model for the pig house, and it was drawn up by Madeleine Bush on a mostly pro-bono deal.

It was pretty much the last thing Doug did before he died.

The pig houses will produce two crops of pigs a year.

That will involve 180 village pig houses.

The villagers will grow their own feed.

Wonderland Agristock will supply the premix, which the vil-

www.porknews.com.au

lagers will pay for in sweet potato.

The project is expected to deliver an increase in household income of about 40 per cent.

That provides, among other things, for an increased household budget for improved

nutrition for children, health services (particularly for mothers), better access to education for all and jobs.

The first 19 sows have farrowed 203 pigs born alive.

Four litters have been weaned for an average of nine.

The pigs are behaving quite normally in a very different world.

This farm team is making modern pig production in the highlands work.

If the model works there, it can work anywhere in PNG.

Ross Cutler



The author is a veterinarian who has spent his career working somewhere in the world with a swine or agriculture focus. Now mostly retired, he currently works on ASF and other development projects in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea.



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