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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER

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If bacon is your jam, come along to BaconFest on August 16-18.

## Kingaroy BaconFest is back

KINGAROY BaconFest is a two-day sizzling food festival that celebrates the versatility of bacon and puts Australian pork on centre stage, with a Friday night 'Wine and Swine' cocktail party. Bacon lovers will experience the bacon eating competition, live music, fashion parades, celebrity chef cooking

demonstrations, markets and, most importantly, delicious foods that showcase bacon!

Where else would you celebrate bacon but in Kingaroy?

We thank one of the largest employers in our South Burnett region, and Kingaroy BaconFest's naming rights sponsor, SunPork Fresh Foods.

Let's squeal together about our bacon community August 16-18.

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



Bacon lovers, get ready to salivate.

## Bringing home the bacon

### ■ APL enters final year of its five year strategic plan

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited is entering the final year of the industry's 2020-25 Strategic Plan, and we're bringing home the bacon with our 2024-25 Annual Operating Plan.

Current forecasts indicate another year of stable production, as we continue to deliver against our audacious goals for the pork industry, having already reached our target of sustainably adding \$1 billion to farm gate value by 2025.

Our purpose is to enable a thriving pork industry and the 2024-25 AOP continues to focus on key research investments, marketing, policy initiatives and extension and adoption efforts to ensure we are supporting and contributing innovation to advance the industry.

An essential aspect for the final year of the Strategic Plan remains marketing activities aimed at refreshing Australian Pork's image, increasing brand awareness and supporting domestic consumption.

With the launch of the new 'Get some pork on your fork' consumer campaign in June, our work continues in removing common barriers to pork consumption and raising awareness of



by MARGO ANDRAE  
CEO



pork as a versatile protein option.

We aim to bolster pork's market share yet also aim to communicate the many nutritional benefits of Australian pork as part of a healthy balanced diet.

APL market research suggests that consumers are not confident with pork recipes – at home or when dining out – and because of this, we are directing research aimed at increasing the preference of pork among consumers.

Part of this will research improvements in the eating quality of pork, with a focus on genomic factors impacting the quality and taste.

By elevating the industry's brand identity, we aim to reach a wider consumer base, enhancing our position across category and retail sales, as well as maintain overseas markets, such as Singapore.

As a science-backed industry, work will continue in the an-

imal welfare space, working to strengthen industry's credentials 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.

Governments across the globe continue to push sustainability targets on agricultural industries.

Despite the Australian pork industry contributing only 2 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, we need to promote the sector's sustainability efforts to ensure our positive impacts are communicated with change makers.

Our sustainability goals continue to be aligned with the Australian Government's target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, highlighting the industry's support for this goal and outlining steps to adhere

to regulatory requirements.

This year, we expand our environmental research projects to manure management for indoor and outdoor production, soil monitoring and emission reduction through low capital solutions.

In further strengthening the sector's quality assurance credentials, this year will see the APIQ major review.

APIQ is held in high regard by regulators and government policy makers and is a significant contributor towards the pork industry's reputation for high standards and integrity.

The major review ensures APIQ remains fit-for-purpose, working to strengthen compliance and quality assurance across productions system.

Building on the work undertaken during the APIQ minor review during 2023-24, the major review provides an opportunity for producers, supply chain members and other key stakeholders to provide input into standards, compliance guidelines and other areas of focus as determined within the scope of the review.

There will be a range of consultation opportunities provided, including face-to-face

continued P2

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## Pork Industry Calendar of Events

### 2024

**AUG 17-18** – Kingaroy BaconFest 2024 – Kingaroy, Australia. <https://www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au/>

**SEP 4-6** – 2024 Australian Pig Veterinarians Conference – Wollongong, Australia. <https://www.ava.com.au/education-events/education-and-events-search/event-detail/?eid=EV001648>

**SEP 21-24** – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference – Minnesota, USA. <https://lemanconference.umn.edu/>

**OCT 8-9** – Animal AgTech Innovation Summit Europe – Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://animalagtecheurope.com/>

**OCT 16-17** – Dutch Pork and Poultry Expo – Evenementenhal Hardenberg, Netherlands. [www.porkpoultryexpo.nl/](http://www.porkpoultryexpo.nl/)

**OCT 25-27** – The 13th Leman China Swine Conference & World Swine Industry Expo – Chengdu, China. <https://www.lemanchina.com/>

**NOV 12-15** – EuroTier 2024 – Hanover, Germany. <https://www.eurotier.com/en/>

**NOV 20-21** – Pig Research Summit 2024 – Copenhagen, Denmark. <https://pigresearchsummit.com>

### 2025

**JAN 7-9** – Banff Pork Seminar – Banff, Canada. <https://www.banffpork.ca/>

**FEB 11-12** – Minnesota Pork Congress – Mankato, USA. <https://www.mnporkcongress.com/>

#### How to supply event details:

Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 07 3286 1833 or email [ads@collins.media](mailto:ads@collins.media)

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

**07 3286 1833**

## Practical tips to protect agricultural and environmental assets from feral pig impacts

THE focus of the recent National Feral Pig Action Plan's stakeholder forum, held on June 12, aimed to provide land managers with an abundance of practical information on how to manage feral pig populations to protect environmental and agricultural assets, as well as raise awareness of new initiatives and tools available.

Presentations were made by Annaliese Geddes from Greater Sydney Local Land Services, John Nolan from Murray Local Land Services, Bren Fuller from Whitsunday Regional Council and co-leaders of the National Environmental Science Program Marine and Coastal hub, Damien Burrows and Sheriden Morris.

The National Feral Pig Action Plan actively promotes the benefits to land managers of working together with their neighbours in coordinated ways to control feral pigs more effectively and efficiently across larger land areas over extended periods of time.

However, knowing this and being able to motivate land managers to actively participate in community-led activities doesn't always go hand in hand.

Annaliese Geddes and John Nolan shared how they were working to engage land managers to participate in feral pig management programs being facilitated by NSW Local Land Services in both the Greater Sydney and Murray regions.

John emphasised that by managing feral pigs over a broad area, it was possible to remove gaps and block natural movement corridors used by feral pigs at different times, preventing dis-



NATIONAL  
FERAL PIG  
ACTION PLAN

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



persal of animals in the landscape.

With everyone involved, the community shares the problem, the responsibility and agrees on the actions.

Annaliese explained how Greater Sydney Local Land Services worked with land managers in the Megalong Valley, 124km from Sydney, to reduce feral pig risks in this region.

Feral pigs impact beef and sheep producers, damage pastures, horticulture and vineyards and threaten flora and fauna through predation, disease transmission and their rooting and wallowing behaviour.

Annaliese and John both described how the different best practice management methods were being used to remove feral pigs from the landscape.

These included aerial shooting delivered by the NSW Feral Animal Aerial Shooting Team, trapping and baiting using sodium fluoroacetate (1080) and sodium nitrite (Hoggone).

Over recent years, these activities have been supported by aerial thermal surveys, using drones to monitor changes in feral pig populations and field cameras.

Monitoring occurs both before and after control programs.

Field cameras are put in place one month before an aerial program is conducted and removed one month after, with the captured photos assessed to determine

change in feral pig presence and identify if pigs are crossing property boundaries.

This information, together with outcomes from control programs, is shared with local landholders to motivate them to continue participating in local programs and to work together.

Land managers are encouraged to routinely report feral pig sightings on FeralScan – [feralscan.org.au](https://feralscan.org.au) – with closed groups in place to ensure data privacy.

The main take-home messages from Annaliese and John to maximise land manager engagement and participation in coordinated feral pig control activities are outlined below.

#### Communication

Conversations, cups of tea and coffee and listening to the community are essential to engaging the community and building trust, relationships and partnerships.

#### People

It's all about people.

Make sure land managers are involved in conversations and decisions when programs are being planned.

It is crucial to capture local intelligence and use the inside information provided by local land managers.

This information may include details of 'hot spot' areas, locations of pigs at different times of the year and damage being caused.

This can be used when developing the group management plan and guide which control tools should be used, when and by whom, as well as identify the best places to position field cameras to monitor feral pig presence.

#### Understanding

Understanding feral pig behaviour, move-

ment and their preferred habitats can increase the efficiency and efficacy of control programs.

#### Maps

Maps are a great tool to use to engage land managers and other community members.

#### Options

Have several options suitable for different environments and situations available to increase success in removing whole groups of pigs.

As an example, different styles of traps, free feeding stations and baiting options.

#### Free feeding

Make sure the free feeding period is long enough to pull all pigs in the area to the feed site.

This may take up to 21 days, or even longer.

If possible, use field cameras to monitor pigs coming to the feed site and view footage captured over time.

#### Numbers

We often underestimate how many pigs are in an area.

There are likely many more out there than we think.

#### Technology

It's not necessary to use new fancy technology.

Older homemade traps and baiting stations can be as effective in managing feral pigs, if executed correctly.

#### Equipment

Land managers do not always know where to buy, or may not be able to afford, the equipment needed for feral pig management.

Also, they may not want to 'splurge' on expensive equipment if they don't know it's going to work.

By working together, there may be opportunities to borrow equipment from others, learn from one another and share experiences.

The 2023-24 Feral Pig Program managed by NSW Local Land Services, enabled equipment such as pig-specific free feeding stations, automatic feeders, cage and net traps and Hoggone bait boxes to be purchased.

This equipment is

available for loan from Local Land Services offices for community led management groups to trial.

This has been a very effective engagement tool.

Bren Fuller from Whitsunday Regional Council highlighted how aerial control programs conducted on two wetlands have minimised feral pig damage to very low levels.

These areas are now being managed by undertaking aerial surveillance of the perimeters of both wetlands to create a buffer and prevent reinvasion of feral pigs into the locations.

The improvements in wetland conditions are seen by land managers.

This strategy has reduced the costs of aerial shooting over these areas and demonstrates the importance and benefits of long-term consistent management.

Land managers recognise the value of their participation in the aerial shooting program run by the council, the importance of conducting on-ground management and promoting these benefits to other land managers across the region.

The recurring theme from each presentation was the importance of feral pig impact and population monitoring to ensure land managers remain engaged in collaborative and coordinated programs.

The presentations can be viewed by scanning the QR code below.

Feel free to contact me on [heather.channon@feralpig.com.au](mailto:heather.channon@feralpig.com.au) or call 0423 056 045 to discuss your feral pig management issues or any information presented in this article.



Scan the QR code to view the National Feral Pig Action Plan's stakeholder forum presentations.



Mob of pigs on free feed. Photo: Murray Local Land Services

Australian  
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## Leadership change at Animal Health Australia marks new era

AFTER a highly competitive and comprehensive recruitment process, Animal Health Australia has announced Dr Samantha Allan as its new chief executive officer, marking a new era for the organisation.

Animal Health Australia Board chair Sharon Starick said the appointment comes at a pivotal time, as AHA seeks to enhance its biosecurity prevention, preparedness and response capabilities.

“We look forward to welcoming the new leadership from Dr Allan and know that, together with our members and the team at AHA, she will work tirelessly to continue protecting our Australian livestock sector from the rising

threat of incursions,” Ms Starick said.

“Dr Allan has extensive experience in emergency animal disease response activities, a skill set even more essential for AHA’s leadership, with emergency animal disease responses occurring more frequently and having larger impacts. “Plus, her commitment to our members – listening, learning, advising and recognising their diverse needs – has been impeccable.”

Dr Allan said she was honoured to be appointed to the trusted national body dedicated to protecting Australia’s animal health and biosecurity system.

“It’s a tremendous privilege to work alongside the talented AHA team and our members

to ensure that our livestock industries can continue to produce world-class food and fibre,” Dr Allan said.

“The biosecurity space has never faced more challenges, with the current avian influenza outbreak an example of the increased biosecurity threats we face.

“However, it also shows the power of collaboration, with our industry and government members working together to manage the outbreak effectively and promptly.

“There has never been a more complex time for biosecurity in the modern Australian agricultural landscape.

“With the highly skilled team at AHA and the depth of knowledge and insights from our members, I’m

looking forward to leading AHA into this new period – building on our mission to deliver solutions that enhance, strengthen and protect animal health and the biosecurity system.”

Dr Allan has been acting Animal Health Australia CEO for 10 months and was in her previous role as AHA general manager of emergency preparedness, animal health and biosecurity for five years.



Animal Health Australia announced Dr Samantha Allan as its new chief executive officer.



Danish Agriculture and Food Council chair Søren Søndergaard.

## World first green transition agreement reached in Denmark

ON June 24, 2024, it was announced that an agreement had been reached between the Danish Government and industry representatives on a long-term basis for the restructuring and conversion of Danish land use, agriculture and food production.

The Green Tripartite Agreement – Grøn Trepårt Aftale – will see a tax implemented for livestock emissions and reclaim farming land for rewilding back into natural forestry, while setting goals for a more sustainable and technology driven agricultural production, with a focus on training initiatives for the upskilling of staff and labour attraction and retention.

The parties involved in the agreement include the Danish Government (including a broad majority in the current parliament), the Danish Agriculture and Food Council, the Danish Society for Nature Conservation, the Danish Food Federation, Danish Metal, the Confederation of Danish Industry and the National Association of Local Authorities.

The key points from agreement are:

- Greenhouse gas emission reductions of 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030 – and a potential for up to 2.6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e
- A CO<sub>2</sub>e tax on emissions from livestock – a tax of \$A65.49 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e is introduced in 2030 increasing to \$A163.71 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2035 with a basic deduction of 60 percent – the effective tax will thus amount to \$A26.19 per



Nordic News  
by ASHLEY NORVAL

tonne in 2030, increasing to \$A65.49 per tonne in 2035

• Tax to support the transition – the proceeds from the livestock tax in 2030-31 will be returned as a transition-support funding pool to support the industry’s green transition – the handling of these funds will be reviewed in 2032

• Establishment of Denmark’s Green Area Fund, which will include activities worth about \$A8.73 billion

• Establishment of 250,000ha of forest

• Reservation of 140,000ha of carbon-containing lowland soils including marginal areas

• A goal of at least 20 percent protected nature – the establishment of 80,000ha of private untouched forest, 20,000ha of state forest and the setting aside of lowland soils will significantly increase the extent of protected nature

• A subsidy scheme totalling slightly over \$A2.18 billion until 2045 for the storage of biochar produced by pyrolysis

• Fee reduction of slaughterhouses for \$A9.82 million annually, with effect from 2029 and allocation of a pool for vocational upskilling for a total of \$A21.83 million over the period 2027-30.

Translated, Danish

Agriculture and Food Council chair Søren Søndergaard said at the announcement, “It is an agreement that is epoch-making for Denmark’s climate efforts and for our common nature.”

“It sets the framework for Danish agriculture and Denmark’s food production for many years to come.

“With us at the negotiating table, we have ensured that it is still possible to develop the industry rather than liquidate it.”

As expected, there have been very mixed reactions from the Danish farming community on this agreement, particularly from those in the livestock sector and especially as negotiations are ongoing for changes to legislation around livestock housing and transportation.

Overall, it is expected that the efforts in the agreement will meet the 2030 climate target that had previously been set, while continuing to ensure Denmark has a strong and competitive agricultural and food sector within European production well into the future.

For a copy of the agreement – PDF only available in Danish – readers are welcome to contact me at [asno@danbred.com](mailto:asno@danbred.com)

# PREMI-BOOST+ PIGLET

**Vetsense Premi-Boost+** is a specialised nutritional paste designed to support the health and vitality of weak, underweight and premature piglets.

Formulated with a precise blend of essential vitamins, minerals and amino acids, Premi-Boost+ provides comprehensive support for the early development and growth of piglets.

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**CONVENIENT DOSING APPLICATOR**

Premi-Boost+ 250mL comes with a separate dosing applicator that delivers precisely 2mL per dose. This ensures accurate and convenient administration to newborn, underweight and premature piglets.

The applicator simplifies the dosing process, making it easy for caregivers to provide the necessary nutritional support to young animals.

**DOSE RATE** **PACK SIZE: 250ML**

**ONE PUMP = 2ML**

**2mL:** Newborn, underweight and premature piglets soon after birth.  
*Repeat the following day if necessary.*

For any remaining product, reapply the original bottle cap and store in a cool/dry place for up to 3 months.  
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- Space for 2 cans of 30kg on the trolley.

For more information, contact:

Cam Ross - Sales Manager on 0488 045 388

Matt Bourke - Southern Region on 0472 902 522

Joe Oliveira - Northern Region on 0437 322 446



Why mince words? Plantagenet free range pork mince says it all.



Cooked under the range hood, Plantagenet free range pork mince teamed with a few veggies to add some colour and fibre.



Paired with an egg, Gingin grass-fed free range pork sausages made for a delicious brekky.

## Animal welfare matters

THE RSPCA is generally my go-to source for sensible balanced information and coverage of animal welfare matters.

Typically nuanced, the RSPCA publishes a wealth of information and in-house opinions, admittedly some spruiking their own branding and fundraising, but when you want 'sauce' to put on what's at 'steak', this should be your destination of choice.

While some other animal welfare-focused bodies – including the likes of Australian Alliance for Animals, which labels itself an animal protectionist body – also provide quite well-balanced views, there are others that operate at the dark extremity of common sense and very often have a singular agenda, which is unapologetically anti-meat.

While my partner is vegetarian and I relish sharing plenty of good vegetarian food, I will never permanently cross the protein bridge, simply because, I believe eating meat that is ethically sourced and preferably raised and grown on pasture in high welfare environments is the best source of protein to power my increasingly needy body.

It's tasty too.

Meat has done its job fairly well for more years than I care to remember, so I'll stick with my recipe, albeit I've recently tinkered with meat consumption in terms of quantum and type.

Moving on from my meat meandering, the RSPCA's website tells us how to reliably buy pork that should accord with how you'd like it raised and produced.

As an aside, I hope such important meat messages are making their way to the general public.

Most readers of this publication likely have very fixed views and habits that won't waiver, yet I hope some might at least consider modifying their buying and eating patterns, especially if exclusively welded to factory farmed products.

And in last month's

Cant  
Comment  
by BRENDON CANT



issue on page 15, the RSPCA stated its case on how consumers could choose higher welfare pork.

It made sense and hopefully it allays consumers' concerns.

It is only with information from appropriate sources that consumers can be comfortable with their buying – and eating – decisions.

While referencing animal welfare issues in relation to pigs, it would be remiss of me to not refer to the recently concluded 'Pig Welfare in Victoria' inquiry by its Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee, chaired by Georgie Purcell.

While she has been personally vilified by members of the pig production and processing sector and producer representative bodies, the inquiry she chaired has at least publicly aired some 'bad smells' in that state's pork industry, and attempted to offer possible solutions to improve industry practices and subsequently the welfare of pigs in that state and beyond.

Below I've quoted a few extracts from her published Chair's foreword – also in the July issue on pages 1 and 2 – all of which I concur with

and believe fair-minded industry players and pundits would struggle to disagree with.

*Pigs are one of the most remarkable animals on the planet.*

*They are smarter than the dogs we share our hearts and homes with and have a similar cognitive ability to three-year-old children.*

*They can comprehend, remember and empathise.*

*They are clean, they nurture lifelong friendships and are strongly motivated to care for and protect their young.*

*A clear theme throughout the inquiry process was concern surrounding self-regulation.*


*Despite the pork industry acknowledging pig cruelty and committing to a voluntary phase out of sow stalls by 2017, there are still farms that have not complied.*


*Without oversight, consumers are misled into purchasing products they might falsely believe are sow stall free.*

*As a final remark, it is clear that our growing population and its demand for protein has resulted in farming practices prioritising efficiency and production growth at the expense of animal welfare.*




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## EchoStorm venturi aerator solves issues for Craig Mostyn Group

CRAIG Mostyn Group is one of Australia's leading diversified food and agribusiness companies.

Established in 1923, Craig Mostyn Group is now Western Australia's largest vertically integrated pork, lamb and beef business.

It also has seafood operations that include three abalone farms and multiple sites across Tasmania.

Its protein rendering unit Talloman is a core division of Craig Mostyn Group, so when it started having issues with a wastewater treatment pond, plant manager Carlos Mendes went looking for a solution.

### The issue

The EchoStorm venturi aerator from Gorman-Rupp Pumps was recommended and Mr Mendes contacted Hydro Innovations – the Australian distributor – for a solution.

He wanted a reduction in biochemical oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand and ammonia, and also a solution to a troublesome blue-green algae issue.

Adding dissolved oxygen to aerobic bacteria allows organic compounds in wastewater to be broken down quickly, preventing it from becoming septic and odorous.

The addition of dissolved oxygen allows these organic compounds to be converted into non-polluting compounds.

### The solution

Based on the size of the pond, the inflow rate and water analysis provided, Hydro Innovations recommended a 100mm EchoStorm system.

This system is comprised of a Gorman-Rupp U4B60S-B self-priming centrifugal pump with 15kW motor 'powering' a Gorman-Rupp V4A EchoStorm venturi aerator.

The EchoStorm is a static venturi aeration device that is installed on the discharge side of a Gorman-Rupp self-priming centrifugal pump to introduce dissolved oxygen into the liquid being pumped.

With no moving parts, the EchoStorm is an extremely reliable device, with only routine maintenance of the Gorman-Rupp pump required.

The simplicity of the system makes it easy to install, operate and maintain.

Because of its multi-vane impeller and 'straight-in' suction design, the U4A60S-B is the most efficient 100mm self-priming effluent pump on the market today, making it a good choice for

keeping power consumption of the system low.

It is also capable of passing a 20.6mm solid and operating on suction lifts up to 6.1m.

The pump draws in water from the lagoon then pumps it at pressure through the EchoStorm unit, which draws in atmospheric air, mixes it with the water and delivers it back to the lagoon.

The unit not only 'saturates' the water with dissolved oxygen but also 'conditions' the flow, breaking down organic matter into smaller particles, allowing for enhanced organics reduction.

This conditioning effect also ruptures the buoyancy vacuoles within blue-green algae, causing it to sink, hence depriving it of the sunlight and carbon dioxide required for growth.

Mr Mendes and the Talloman evaluation team liked the idea of the equipment being mounted on the bank of the pond rather than floating in the middle of it and could see the ongoing benefits of easier access and the maintenance advantages of the system.

As a safety-first company, the team also saw the system as being much safer for operators than the other systems they had seen.

However, as the technology was relatively new to wastewater treatment in Australia, Mr Mendes was cautious in his evaluation of the results the system could achieve moving forward.

Yet Hydro Innovations was confident of the success of the unit, offering a standard five-year warranty on the pump as well as a money back guarantee if the unit failed to deliver the promised outcomes.

Happy with this arrangement, the division proceeded with the purchase.

### The results

The Talloman staff did an excellent job of setting the unit up to exact specifications, though wanted to be sure the investment was a sound one.

To this end, Mr Mendes had the progress of the EchoStorm tracked by measuring the total of all taxa from day one.

When the unit was installed in March, the total taxa measured 217,000.

When the last reading was taken in May, the tracking was called off as the score was down to 6630 – a reduction of 97 percent.

Needless to say, the Talloman team was happy with the results.

The Talloman staff

have also been pleased at how easy the unit is to access for monitoring and maintaining.

The EchoStorm aerator units are available in sizes from 50mm through to 150mm, though multiple units can be used to cater for larger requirements.

When the application calls for even high levels of oxygen, much larger and even more efficient pumps can be utilised, each providing flow to two, three, four or even five EchoStorm venturi aerators.

The productivity of these pumps drives the standard oxygen transfer efficiency up further too.

The use of multiple EchoStorm units also enhances mixing and virtually eliminates

dead spots that are often left by competing technologies.

EchoStorm units are so versatile – they can draw water from any level and any part in the water source and similarly discharge it at any level and part.

This gives the asset owner numerous options for mixing or creating different treatment zones.

Venturi aerators are used not only for treating food process wastewater but also for treating municipal wastewater, mine water and for lake de-stratification.

More information on venturi aerators can be obtained from Hydro Innovations at [info@hydroinnovations.com](mailto:info@hydroinnovations.com). au



The EchoStorm venturi aerator was the solution, supplied by Hydro Innovations.

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## Top tips for preparing for your APIQ audit

THE APIQ quality assurance program, used to ensure Australian pork is safe, consistent and sustainable, is highly regarded by both regulators and government policy teams.

With more than 90 percent of Australian pork production covered by APIQ, maintaining the reputation for high standards is critical to the industry's reputation.

As we enter the busiest period for independent third party on-farm APIQ audits, APIQ management wanted to provide some helpful hints to prepare for the audit.

First, read the standards in the APIQ Compliance Guide for producers and auditors – scan the QR code for this document.

The APIQ Compliance Guide outlines the types of evidence you can provide to your auditor to demonstrate compliance with each standard.

Second, complete your internal audit using the internal audit template – scan the QR code for this document.

Use the compliance guide and template to complete the internal audit and identify the documentation you'll need for your audit.

Third, have all your paperwork organised in a centralised area.

When your auditor arrives, be ready to go through the paperwork by having it organised and all in one place.

This will help keep your audit running smoothly and can reduce wasted time, which could help reduce costs.

Fourth, you must comply with the standards in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Pigs – scan the QR code for this document.

A breach of the Model Code of Practice will be raised instantly as a 'critical Corrective Action Process'.

So be sure you know and are following the requirements set out in the Model Code of Practice, including stocking density.

Fifth, whoever takes the auditor around the site should understand the farm's systems and processes and be able to competently answer questions.

If the staff member ac-

companying the auditor does not know all aspects of the system, make sure they know who to contact at the time of the audit or shortly after to follow up on queries by the auditor.

As an example, for medication questions regarding dose rates, you could call your vet to provide additional information and demonstrate you are following their instructions.

### Corrective Action Request – what happens with a CAR

#### Observation

An observation is an area for improvement.

There is no limit to the number of observations you may receive.

If the same observation is given multiple years in a row, on the third year it will become a minor corrective action request.

#### Minor CAR

A minor corrective action request does not pose an immediate risk to the health, biosecurity or welfare of the pigs, producer or system.

A producer has 60 days to rectify a minor CAR.

There is no limit to the number of minor CARs you may receive, but if left unattended, it could become a major corrective action request.

If the same minor CAR is given in successive years, on the third year it will become a major CAR.

#### Major CAR

A major corrective action request identifies a significant issue.

It does not pose an immediate threat to the pigs, producer or system.

A producer has 30 days to rectify a major CAR.

If left unattended it could become a critical corrective action request.

You can receive up to three major CARs, but once you receive a fourth, it will instantly become a critical CAR.

#### Critical CAR

A critical corrective action request is a serious breach and poses immediate risk to the pigs, producers and/or consumers and requires urgent attention.

Any breach of the Model Code of Practice will also be deemed an instant critical CAR.

You will be notified by your auditor that the audit has identified an issue likely to be deemed a critical cor-

rective action request.

A critical CAR triggers the following process:

- You will be contacted by APIQ management

- An action plan template will be emailed to you to fill in short-term and long-term plans to rectify the situation.

Note, this process happens very quickly, particularly if there are immediate risks to welfare.

The action plan is provided to the independent APIQ panel.

The APIQ panel will then decide if the action plan addresses the issues and provides the necessary level of confidence that the breach can and is being addressed.

If the panel does not believe sufficient evidence has been provided, it may consider suspending the sites APIQ accreditation.

Suspension will be recommended:

- If the information provided, including the action plan, does not demonstrate the standards breach has been addressed appropriately

- If there are significant welfare issues that could jeopardise the welfare of the pigs on site or under-

mine the reputation of the industry.

Finally, APIQ is a highly regarded voluntary system.

Choosing to be an APIQ accredited producer is choosing to hold yourself to a higher standard, to invest in meeting the standards and the cost of an independent audit.

If you have any questions regarding how to comply with specific standards, require resources to help you maintain your APIQ system or have queries on what to expect in your APIQ audit, reach out to APIQ management at [apiq@australianpork.com.au](mailto:apiq@australianpork.com.au)

**Emma Klapish**  
APL APIQ and  
Traceability Manager



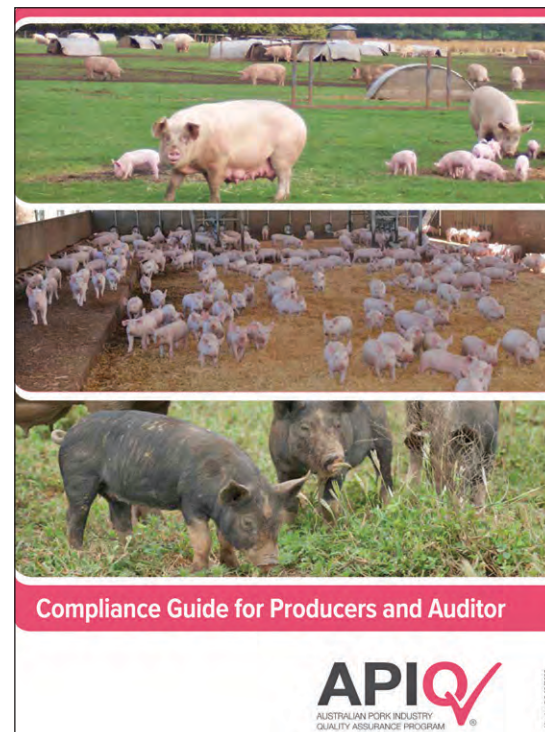
Scan the QR code for the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Pigs.



Scan the QR code for the APIQ Compliance Guide.



Scan the QR code for the APIQ Express Audit Checklist.



Preparation for your APIQ audit starts with reading the Compliance Guide.

## Apology for article published in July 2024 edition

WE apologise sincerely for the erroneous 'Nothing intensive about free range pork' article printed in the July issue on page 8.

As a result of human error and using a piece incorrectly dated, some of the content was outdated, having been originally written 10 years prior.

We extend our regret for the inaccuracies contained in the article and for any inconvenience caused to both Milne Agrigroup and RSPCA Approved, in particular Milne Agrigroup general manager David Plant and RSPCA Approved marketing manager Camilla Speirs.

We note that Paul

Butcher, pictured with and mentioned in the piece, is not the marketing manager for Plantagenet Pork and has in fact been working in that capacity at D'Orsogna for some time.

Also, we would point out that the reference to 'RSPCA certification' was incorrect, this having since been replaced by

'RSPCA Approved', a certification program with strict protocols.

We are truly regretful that this particular article bypassed our established and rigorous fact-checking process.

Current content on sustainable agriculture is welcomed, specifically the topic of free range pork production.

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





AVA president Dr Sally Colgan at the recent American Veterinary Medical Association conference.

## AVA welcomes report addressing veterinary workforce shortage

THE Australian Veterinary Association welcomes the release of the NSW Parliamentary Committee report from its inquiry into the veterinary workforce shortage in NSW.

The comprehensive report released recently details 17 findings and 34 recommendations to address critical workforce sustainability issues, including mental health programs, provision of regional veterinary services, veterinary student support, legislative review and compensation for the unpaid work veterinarians undertake for the community.

All of these were emphasised in the AVA's 2023 submission.

Australia faces a significant shortage of vet-

erinarians, particularly in rural and regional areas, posing risks to animal welfare and public health.

According to AVA's 2023 workforce survey, filling veterinary job vacancies in NSW takes over 12 months in 50 percent of cases.

The figure rises to 55 percent in regional NSW.

AVA president Dr Sally Colgan underscored the importance of the inquiry's findings for the veterinary profession.

"Every animal in Australia should have access to veterinary care," she said.

"Currently, this isn't fully realised, compromising animal health, undermining biosecurity and risking human health.

"The veterinary profes-

sion's challenges require strategic thinking and targeted interventions.

"With collective effort, we can create a future where both animals and the veterinary sector who care for them, thrive."

The report included four recommendations related to mental health support, which Dr Colgan views as significant recognition of the need for support for the profession, adding that industry led initiatives – such as AVA's 'Thrive', focused on veterinary wellness – are crucial for supporting veterinarians and veterinary staff in their careers.

"We will thoroughly analyse the report and are hopeful that its outcomes will lead to effective and actionable strategies, not

only in NSW but also guide other jurisdictions nationwide," she said. AVA's submission to the 2023 inquiry proposed 16 recommendations, ranging from immediate interventions to long-term strategies, serving as a blueprint for industry wide reform.

"AVA has long advocated for recognition of the veterinary workforce shortage crisis and support and investment for the critical role of veterinarians in biosecurity, food security and animal welfare," Dr Colgan said.

"We thank the parliamentary committee for its detailed review of this crucial issue and look forward to working with the NSW Government on the progression of the recommendations."

## Stainless pump success

AUSSIE Pumps reports good results from its heavy duty Aussie GMP self-priming cast-iron semi-trash pumps for effluent management in piggeries.

The pumps range from 2" all the way through to large 8" pumps that will handle flows of up to 8300LPM.

The big news is that some models, with up to 4" ports, are now available in 316 cast stainless steel – providing an outstanding combination of abrasion and corrosion resistance.

Aussie Pumps product manager Dolphie Mascarenhas said, "Though these pumps are not semi-trash, the big open impellers will handle solids in suspension."

"The self-priming design means the pumps will pull water through a vertical lift up to 6m," Mr Mascarenhas said.

Aussie Pumps set out to replace long-column sump pumps and submersibles with convenient self-priming pumps and has been impressed with its success, particularly in livestock waste applications.

Unlike long-column sump pumps, these surface-mounted self-

priming pumps can easily be checked during routine maintenance and are clean and simple to service.

"What farmers like is being able to service the pump without having to pull it out of the pit," Mr Mascarenhas said.

The Aussie GMP stainless-steel pumps are available with both high flow and high head options.

For example, the 4" B4XR-A/X 15kW pump delivers flows to 2100LPM and the high head G3TMK-A/X 11 kW pump will produce heads to 55m.

The standard cast 316 stainless-steel pumps are available with port sizes from 2" up to 4".

They feature carbon mechanical seals with nitrile rubber seals – however Viton seals

are also an option for corrosive applications.

These electric-drive pumps come close coupled to top quality 2-pole electric motors and the pumps from 4kW up come mounted on a heavy duty steel base for installation convenience.

"As our volumes of these pumps grow, we've been able to bring down our costs and pass those savings on to customers," Mr Mascarenhas said.

"They are excellent value for money and will outlast cast-iron equivalents many times over."

Further information on Aussie GMP stainless-steel pumps is available from Aussie Pumps at Norwest on 02 8865 3500 or check the aussiepumps.com.au website.



Aussie GMP motor pump with new 316 stainless steel is corrosion and abrasion resistant.

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Findings suggest that reducing maternal contact in farrowing crates reduces the stress resilience of pigs, particularly during early life.

## Early life experiences and stress resilience in pigs

A RECENTLY completed Australian Research Council Linkage Project has produced some very interesting and important findings relating early life experiences of piglets to aspects of stress and production.

The project was administered through the University of Melbourne, with partner organisations being Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited, the University of Queensland, SunPork Group, Rivalea Australia, the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna and the Agricultural Research Service section of the US Department of Agriculture.

This project focused mainly on the effects of positive human contact, housing system and

maternal contact during lactation.

It was shown that providing piglets with regular but brief positive human contact during lactation conferred stress resilience in challenging situations, both during lactation and following weaning.

As an example, early positive handling of piglets reduced their fear responses to husbandry procedures, such as processing during lactation, fear responses to humans both in lactation and the grower-finisher stage, injuries in lactation, and behavioural and cortisol responses to both weaning and isolation in the nursery stage of growth.

Furthermore, positive handling early in life increased brain-derived neurotrophic factor concentrations, which appear to have an important role in stress resilience, and reduced the rate of loin muscle pH decline and resulted in a higher ultimate pH, two major characteristics of better eating quality of pork.

Positive handling of piglets in this series of experiments consisted of squatting, talking, patting and stroking piglets whenever they were approached.

These findings clearly indicate that brief positive handling of piglets during lactation improves the welfare of pigs both before and after weaning.

In a comparison of two housing systems – farrowing crates and farrowing pens (the PigSafe system) – crate-reared piglets had reduced play behaviour, sow-piglet interactions and BDNF concentrations during lactation in comparison to pen-reared piglets.

However, there was no evidence that rearing in crates negatively affected pig welfare or general stress-coping ability after weaning.

In fact, pen-reared piglets showed less flexibility in response to some

specific stressors before and after weaning.

Collectively, the findings suggested that the welfare of piglets in pens was superior when undisturbed during rearing, but compared to crate-reared piglets, pen-reared piglets were less effective in coping with additional challenges in their environment, particularly challenges involving humans.

Though pen-reared piglets were reared with more space, physical complexity and opportunity for sow-piglet interaction, they had less visual stimulation and opportunity for contact with people and other pigs in the farrowing pens studied in this project.

The latter factors may have reduced the stress adaptability of pigs reared in this loose pen system.

Whether these findings are specific to the two housing systems studied here, or can be generalised to other housing designs, warrants further research.

In addition to the effects of early human contact and housing, this project examined the importance of maternal contact on stress resilience by modifying farrowing crates to reduce piglet and sow nose-to-nose contact.

Piglets reared in these modified crates showed increased fear responses to novelty and increased behavioural and cortisol responses to processing but not weaning, and also had reduced liveweight at weaning

compared to piglets in conventional farrowing crates.

It was also of interest that the percentage of piglets not weaned – due to death, removal or low liveweight – was higher in piglets reared in modified farrowing crates.

These findings suggest that reducing maternal contact in farrowing crates reduces the stress resilience of pigs, particularly during early life.

Overall, this project indicated that early human handling, housing system and maternal contact can have both immediate and longer-term consequences on the stress resilience of pigs.

This research substantially contributes to a growing body of work on the importance of the pig's early environment on its immediate and long-term welfare.

As a source of enrichment, positive human interactions provide several advantages – close interactions with piglets usually occur several times daily, positive interactions can be combined with routine checks, human interactions invariably provide variability in their predictability which will minimise habituation, and positive interactions may not require additional physical environmental enrichment resources, such as foraging material.

This research further highlights that humans are a key determining factor in the welfare of pigs. 🐷



These findings clearly indicate that brief positive handling of piglets during lactation improves the welfare of pigs both before and after weaning.

Providing piglets with regular but brief positive human contact during lactation conferred stress resilience in challenging situations, both during lactation and following weaning.



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# SunPork's new group of skilled workers

A COOPERATIVE Research Centre Grant is helping SunPork Farms create employment opportunities for autistic adults, as they prove well suited to jobs in livestock husbandry.

It makes perfect sense, yet it took the courage of a leader in Australia's pork industry and the Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism to create world-first employment opportunities for autistic adults.

Adults on the autism spectrum are often unemployed, underemployed and socially disadvantaged.

Yet, many such adults possess unique empathy for animals, can be very focused on tasks with great attention to detail and many thrive on repetitive tasks – of which there are many with pig care.

'Autism and agriculture – diverse people, exceptional care' is an initiative by SunPork Farms and Autism CRC to employ people on the spectrum in full-time jobs and create careers for them.

SunPork Farms is a wholly Australian-owned integrated pork production enterprise based on more than 40 years of family farming traditions.

SunPork Group chief executive officer and managing director Professor Robert van Barneveld has long been involved in autism service provision and research.

He knows the diverse skills and attributes of autistic adults and believes this pilot program will prove these individuals are well suited to animal care industries.

Prof van Barneveld said, "The Autism and agriculture pilot program has the potential to enhance the human resources capability of the agricultural industry both in Australia and internationally."

"Our ultimate goal is to quantify the success of the program, employ more adults on the spectrum in our business and then offer our insights and experience to other livestock sectors who may also benefit from a more diverse workforce."

SunPork Farms has offered full-time positions to seven autistic adults in its Queensland piggeries.

The program's customised recruitment process is aiming to find four more autistic employees for the company's South Australian piggeries.

All new autistic em-

ployees are paid a full unsubsidised wage by SunPork Farms for the jobs they perform.

The procedure for recruiting people on the spectrum is entirely practical.

It's a hands-on start, with a two-day workshop and a two-week paid training program to see who is suited.

There are no interviews or resumes required, which is often a barrier for adults on the spectrum.

These cause stress for people who are otherwise well suited to the job.

Autism and agriculture project leader Dr Kirsty Richards said, "The project has shifted the paradigm for employee recruitment and selection."

"We're providing people with opportunities to show us rather than tell us their abilities to care for our livestock, develop new skills and work safely."

"To see our new employees gain confidence and earn satisfaction from their work is extremely rewarding for the entire SunPork Farms team."

"Watching them transform as individuals, form their first friendships and become part of our team has been life changing."

Dr Richards said the success of this program should challenge business more widely to look at traditional recruitment, training and support to better accommodate a diverse workforce.

Prof Robert van Barneveld said skills or traits highly desired in employees, such as great attention to detail, are often inbuilt in autistic people.

He sees no reason why the 1000-plus strong workforce of the SunPork Group won't include many more people on the spectrum.

Trainees of the program at one of SunPork Farm's Queensland piggeries included David Grose and Daniel Slavin.

They are now employees and love their work.

David said it was: "Tiring, hot but great fun."

And Daniel – who at 19 years of age, moved from his Melbourne home to take the job with SunPork – said: "Opportunities like these are really hard to come by for people with autism."

The program was initiated by SunPork Farms and the Autism CRC, and has been supported by the CRC for High Integrity Aus-

tralian Pork, the South Australian Government and Specialisterne Australia, which helps with employment.

Pork CRC and the South Australian Government contributed \$150,000 towards the initiative.

Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell said: "It's the most exciting project we've been involved with, and I congratulate Autism CRC and SunPork Farms for coming up with something so innovative."

Adding that Pork CRC supported science and research and development has demonstrated the very real link between good stockpersonship and productivity.

Dr Richards said the

CRC program has provided the platform for Autism CRC to collaborate with industry, government and other CRCs.

"This ensures that innovative projects requiring expertise from a range of sectors, such as autism and agriculture, are successful and deliver tangible outcomes, allowing all individuals to participate fully in society," Dr Richards said.

Since 2013, the CRC for Living with Autism has been awarded a total of \$31 million in CRC program funding.

Since 2011, the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork has been awarded a total of \$19.86 million in CRC program funding.



Autism and agriculture is a world-first initiative of SunPork Farms and Autism CRC that employs autistic adults with high attention to detail in specialist animal care roles.



## AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED

### Advance Notice of Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Australian Pork Limited (ABN 83 092 783 278) (APL or the Company) will be held in Melbourne on Thursday 17 October 2024 commencing at 1pm AEDST.

The formal Notice of AGM, including related information, registration and proxy forms, will be distributed to all members and made available on the [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au) website no later than 18 September 2024. The 2023-24 Annual Report will also be available on the APL website.

#### The business of the 2024 AGM will include:

- Receiving and considering the financial statements of the Company, together with the reports of the Directors' and Auditor in respect of the year ended 30 June 2024
- Setting the remuneration of the Company's Auditor for 2024-25
- Voting to fill one vacant Elected Director position
- Ratifying the appointment of three Specialist Directors
- Considering resolutions (if any) proposed by Members and Delegates prior to the Return Date
- Any other business.

#### The Return Date is 6 September 2024 and prior to that date:

- Members or Delegates may propose any resolutions to be put to the Members at the AGM
- Members must provide either:
  - a statutory declaration stating the amount of Pig Slaughter Levy paid in the Financial Year 30 June 2024; or
  - if a PigPass Declaration has been made, a consent allowing the Company to access PigPass records to determine the amount of Pig Slaughter Levy paid in the Financial Year 30 June 2024, unless a standing consent is already in place.

Please contact APL Company Secretary Damien Howse on 0431 631 692 or [damien.howse@australianpork.com.au](mailto:damien.howse@australianpork.com.au) if you have any questions regarding the AGM or any related process, or would like a printed copy of the 2023-24 Annual Report (including the financial statements) posted to you.



Pig transport drivers' handling actions are of great importance as these drivers handle a large number of finishing pigs during stressful situations.



Driver training improves handling of pigs during loading for transport.

## Training improves drivers' handling of pigs during loading for transport

TRANSPORT to slaughter and related handling are stressful events for finishing pigs, and the behaviour of pig transport drivers during handling can markedly affect the welfare of a large number of pigs.

The following is an edited extract taken from the study

'Training of transport drivers improves their handling of pigs during loading for transport to slaughter', which can be viewed in its entirety at doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2024.101115

Pig transport drivers' handling actions are of great importance as these drivers handle a large number of finishing pigs during stressful situations.

Poor handling techniques can have negative consequences for working conditions, pig welfare and meat quality.

Researchers – including Food with Purpose presenter Paul Hemsworth – studied the effects of a training intervention on Swedish transport drivers' attitudes towards pigs and their

handling actions during loading for transport to slaughter.

Twenty drivers working with commercial pig transportation in Sweden were recruited and completed an attitude questionnaire.

Ten of them were observed during one loading of pigs before training, and one or two loadings after training (49-265 pigs per loading), and eight of them completed the attitude questionnaire again 50-160 days after training.

The cognitive-behavioural training program ProHand Pigs was adapted and delivered to the ten drivers during a group session, followed by individual meetings.

Drivers' handling actions were video recorded and summarised as binary variables per five second interval.

Factor analysis, principal component analysis and paired t-test were conducted to investigate the effects of the training intervention on drivers' attitudes, and mixed-effects logistic models were used to examine effects on negative and positive handling actions.

Training tended to decrease drivers' beliefs that it was important to move pigs quickly (P = 0.095).

Training decreased the odds of a 'moderately to strongly negative' action by 55 percent (P = 0.0013) and increased the odds of a 'positive' action by 97 percent (P < 0.0001).

This study provides valuable insights into the possibilities to improve drivers' handling actions and implications for pig welfare during slaughter transport.

The study supports previous findings that the attitudes and behaviour of handlers

can be improved by cognitive-behavioural training.

While previous research has shown reciprocal relationships between drivers' actions and pig behaviour, further research on drivers' attitudes towards handling that underlie the nature of their behaviour when handling pigs is necessary to fine tune the cognitive-behavioural training program applied in the present study.

In the calls made 2-4 weeks after the individual training, all 10 drivers reported that they had been able to change their handling behaviour in some way, for example, by decreasing the use of the rattle paddle, handling fewer pigs at the same time or allowing the pigs more time to move.

Nine drivers responded to the telephone calls 1.5 years after training, with four reporting being calmer or more flexible when handling pigs and reflecting more on their handling behaviour than before training.

Five were no longer working as drivers and four of these found the training useful in their new occupations, which also involved animals.

Road transportation including animal handling is considered a stressful practice for pigs.

Even so, the work of transport drivers has received very little scientific attention, and to the researchers' knowledge, this is the first study of the effects of a training intervention on the attitudes and handling actions of farm animal drivers.

Training has proven effective to improve stockpersons' attitudes and pig handling on pig farms, where working conditions are rather stable and it is possible

to evaluate behavioural responses of pigs to humans before and after staff training.

However, drivers interact briefly with large numbers of pigs and have very little control over the external conditions, such as the physical working environment and the often tight time schedules.

The importance of allowing pigs more time to avoid stress-related behaviours that are time-consuming for drivers – such as crowding or freezing, especially if the pigs show fear responses towards humans – was discussed during training.

Reducing negative and increasing positive handling actions in order to reduce pig stress – and the physical workload of the transport driver – and how this is connected to underlying beliefs about pigs and handling of pigs, were considered essential messages communicated and discussed during the training intervention.

This information was partly based on the observed handling behaviour before training and partly on previous research on the training of pig stockpersons.

Though the results of this study and feedback from transport drivers on the training program suggest that the ProHand Pigs training program was successfully adapted for these drivers, providing personalised feedback to the transport drivers on their attitudes and behaviour, the animal welfare consequences of their handling actions and animal handling recommendations may have improved the efficacy of the training.

Thus, further research to better understand the relationships between attitudes and handling behaviours of transport drivers is required.

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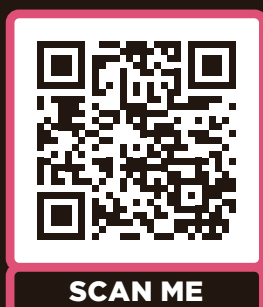
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# Australia to make supermarket industry code mandatory

## ■ Breaches may result in huge fines

AUSTRALIA could impose billion-dollar fines on big supermarket chains that fail to comply with an industry code of conduct, the Federal Government stated recently as it seeks to address concerns that suppliers have been unfairly squeezed on pricing.

According to the Federal Government, supermarket chains with more than \$5 billion in annual revenue – currently Woolworths, Coles, ALDI and Metcash – will be made to comply with the code of conduct that had until recently been voluntary.

Adding that the move comes after a report by former competition minister Craig Emerson found the current code was “failing to address the imbalance of bargaining power between supermarkets and their suppliers, including farmers.”

The supermarkets will face fines of up to 10 percent of annual turnover for breaches of the code, which mainly covers dealings with suppliers.

Woolworths reported

Australian food sales of \$48 billion in 2023, Coles took \$37 billion and Metcash had \$10 billion.

ALDI does not disclose its earnings.

In a joint statement, Treasurer Jim Chalmers, outgoing Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt and Minister for Competition Andrew Leigh said: “This is about getting a fair go for families and a fair go for farmers.”

The Federal Government will prioritise passing laws to make the code mandatory, it said in a separate statement.

The review was one of six government inquiries into the nation’s supermarket sector, which is said to be one of the most concentrated industries in the world.

Woolworths and Coles, the number 1 and number 2 supermarket chains, together sell two-thirds of all Australian groceries.

Representatives for Woolworths and Coles said their companies would consider the report’s recommendations and the government’s response and were committed to supporting a sustain-

able grocery sector.

An ALDI Australia spokesperson said the company supported making the code of conduct mandatory and was reviewing the final recommendations.

A Metcash spokesperson said the company was committed to the code of conduct and would keep working with suppliers to be their partner of choice.

The National Farmers Federation said the changes would make it easier for grocery suppliers to speak up when they believed a large customer was misusing its market power to drive wholesale prices lower.

NFF deputy chief executive officer Charlie Thomas said, “These changes should finally give the code the clout it needs to protect farmers.”

“To protect growers, we need a code with strong enough deterrents to influence behaviour in the supply chain.”

A separate inquiry into consumer pricing by the Australian Competition and Commission is due to report in February 2025.



As per statement on its website, Woolworths Group reiterates its support for the code becoming mandatory and firmly believes healthy retailer and supplier relationships are key to the continued success of the sector, as well as serving the needs of millions of customers.



Presentations were delivered by Tails CRC-P early career scientists at the very well-attended 2024 AAAS-AAAP conference. Abedin Abdallah presented on his recent project that showed tail-biting perpetrators have lower plasma concentrations of some amino acids than a non-perpetrator pig.

## Tails CRC-P presenters answer curly questions at AAAS-AAAP conference

SEVERAL researchers involved in the Cooperative Research Centre project ‘Eliminating pig tail removal to improve welfare and industry sustainability’ – Tails CRC-P – presented at this year’s Australian Association of Animal Sciences and Asian Association of Animal Production joint congress, held at the Melbourne Convention Centre on July 9-12.

The Tails CRC-P is entering its final year of the program and has amassed a formidable amount of data across two commercial enterprises, SunPork Group and Rivalea Australia Pty Ltd, and seven different production sites.

There were three presentations delivered by Tails CRC-P early career scientists to the very well-attended session on animal welfare.

University of Melbourne final year PhD student Rutu Galea led the way, presenting her

paper on animal welfare epidemiology and its role in evaluating the risk factors for welfare problems by capturing the variability that exists between different farm production systems and management practices.

Ms Galea has played a major role in collating and analysing animal (genetic and non-genetic), housing and environment, and stockperson data from more than 75,000 pigs observed in this unique collaborative project.

University of Queensland second year PhD student Abedin Abdallah presented an excellent paper on his recent project that showed tail-biting perpetrators have lower plasma concentrations of some amino acids than a non-perpetrator pig.

Further research will be carried out by Mr Abdallah and his colleagues to understand the critical amino acid pathways involved in perpetrator behaviour.

University of Melbourne post-doctoral fellow Dr Megan Lucas provided fascinating insights into the current state of research in determining the behavioural changes that are most predictive of tail biting in pigs.

Dr Lucas commented that increases to activity level and low tail postures show promise as early warning indicators of tail biting, and there is increasing interest to utilise technology that can automate the detection of these predictive behaviours.

However, a tail biting outbreak is unlikely to be predicted by one single behaviour and there are several other risk factors such as age, stocking density, group size and housing conditions that are likely to play a role.

Finally, in the pig science session, SunPork Group science, technology and adoption manager Dr Kate Plush presented findings from a systematic

review and meta-analysis of published scientific studies that examined the risk of tail biting in the absence or presence of environmental enrichment.

Dr Plush’s analysis indicated that the presence of enrichment decreased the risk of tail biting, however the majority of studies included straw and only a small proportion of studies – 10 out of 47 – were independent of straw, subsequently no comparison between enrichment substrates could be made.

Dr Plush stated that the literature indicates that other enrichment substrates are successful at reducing the risk of tail biting and concluded that future research should focus on alternatives to straw to broaden our knowledge in mitigating tail biting risk, especially given most Australian conventionally housed production systems are unable to utilise straw.

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# NFF calls out government failure to protect GAB

THE National Farmers' Federation has expressed profound disappointment and frustration at the Federal Government's ongoing neglect in safeguarding the Great Artesian Basin, one of Australia's most vital groundwater resources.

As AgForce prepares to bring its case before the Federal Court next month, the government has questioned the agricultural organisation's right to take legal action.

NFF President David Jochinke said not only was AgForce now fighting for environmental security, but also for the fundamental right to represent its members.

"Despite years of concerted efforts by AgForce and other organisations to secure adequate protections for the GAB, the Federal Government has chosen to question the legitimacy of AgForce's legal actions, rather than address the urgent need for environmental safeguards."

"This approach is not only dismissive but poses a significant risk



**National Farmers Federation**

to food security, community wellbeing and the environment.

"The Government's focus should be on protecting this water resource, not playing legal and political games.

"The future of inland Australia, its industries and its communities are at stake," Mr Jochinke said.

"The NFF stands with AgForce and these communities in the fight to protect the GAB."

With a Senate committee recommending stricter state and federal protections for the GAB recently, it's time to see some action.

"We call on the Federal Government to prioritise the protection of this precious resource and fulfill its responsibilities to the environment and the agricultural community," he said.

#### Background

The Great Artesian Basin spans nearly 1.7 million sq km across NSW, Northern Terri-

tory, South Australia and Queensland.

It is Australia's biggest underground water resource and the lifeblood for numerous producers and local communities, providing essential water for agriculture, livestock and daily living.

Mining giant Glencore is proposing to inject coal mine waste into the GAB as a part of a carbon capture and storage trial.

AgForce is seeking to revoke the federal decision that Glencore's proposal was not a controlled action, a decision made on February 9, 2022 under the EPBC Act.

For more information about the legal challenge, scan the QR code below.



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# Pork ready meals and pork mince are winners

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited track total fresh meat volume and value growth in the retail market, as well as specifically focusing on fresh pork changes in the market.

We continue to see healthy long-term volume and value growth in the Fresh Meat category – plus 6.3 percent and 4.6 percent respectively – supported by increased purchase frequency, population growth and increased volume per trip.

Both the premium and value ends of the fresh meat category contribute to growth, with ready meals of all species – meat products that are either par-cooked and/or heavily value added – and beef steaks performing particularly well.

This trend could be reflective of cost-of-living pressures and shoppers deciding to treat themselves at home with a more premium cut from the grocery store, rather than spending this money on a meal out of home.

On the other end of the scale, affordable more versatile cuts, such as mince and diced or stir-fry, are also enjoying good growth.

Young families are tending to be the biggest contributors to mince and stir-fry performance, with pre-families, middle families and retired couples driving growth in steak.

Ready meals growth leans to the younger demographic, seeing strong contributions from young and middle families.

Ready meals are a great entry point to a category that allow younger shoppers to trial a new meal with low risk, to hopefully lead to buying the raw version of that product and creating their own version.

These trends are reflected in sales of pork, with pork ready meal and pork mince among the fastest growing pork subcategories – plus 17.8 percent and 12.8 percent respectively.

These subcategories are appealing to younger consumers, where pork has historically under-indexed, highlighting the value and versatility of pork during mealtime.

Sources Circana ShopperView 52 week ending June 16, 2024.

**Australian Pork Limited**



Ready meals are a great entry point to a category that allow younger shoppers to trial a new meal with low risk.



When an outbreak of an EAD is confirmed, the state or territory authority will quarantine the infected property immediately.

## Emergency animal disease responses

AN outbreak of a serious emergency animal disease can be disastrous for producers, causing significant personal stress and anguish as well as financial hardship.

The livestock industries can lose sales opportunities both domestically and internationally in the wake of a damaged reputation for our produce, and the broader Australian economy could lose billions in trade and employment.

### What is an emergency animal disease?

Diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and mad cow disease are obvious examples of EADs.

However, the definition also includes unusual severe outbreaks of established diseases that may cause sudden trade disruptions, such as the 1997 anthrax outbreaks in Victoria.

It also includes new diseases where it is not immediately apparent what the disease is, such as the occurrence of Hendra virus in Queensland in 1994.

Under the Australian EAD Response Agreement, listed EADs must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Known disease that does not occur in Australia and for which it is considered to be in the national interest for the country to be free
- A variation of an endemic disease which, if it became widespread here, would have a national impact
- A serious infectious disease of unknown or uncertain cause, which may be an entirely new disease
- A known endemic disease occurring in such a severe outbreak that an emergency response is required to ensure there is neither a large-scale epidemic of national significance or serious loss of market access.

**What are the main emergency animal diseases that could affect my property?**  
There are a number of

different types of diseases that are not present in Australian livestock.

Some major diseases of concern for pigs include foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, African swine fever, Aujeszky's disease, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome.

There are many other diseases that would have a serious impact if an outbreak were to occur.

For a full list of diseases in the Australian veterinary emergency plan, see the AHA website.

Good farm biosecurity should be used to protect your livestock from the risks of an EAD.

### What happens in an emergency animal disease outbreak?

Generally, Australian policy is to eradicate any introduced exotic animal disease as quickly as possible.

This could involve:

- Establishment of disease control zones, quarantine and movement controls
- Possible destruction and disposal of infected and exposed animals
- Decontamination of infected premises, vehicles, equipment and animal products
- Surveillance of susceptible animals
- Restriction of the activities of certain enterprises.

The disease may also be controlled through vaccination, campaigns to control disease carriers, animal treatment and wild animal control. Infected and disease-free zones are established to contain the disease and retain business continuity in disease-free areas.

Controlling and eradicating EADs is done using the guidelines in Ausvetplan, a coordinated national response plan.

As each state and territory is responsible for controlling and eradicating animal disease locally, each has its own emergency disease control legislation which

supports the national guidelines.

### What happens to me in an emergency animal disease outbreak?

The more serious the outbreak, the more impact it could have on you and your family.

An outbreak of a disease such as FMD, where heavy restrictions are placed on moving stock, can have a serious effect on families.

On some properties, all movement – people as well as animals – may be temporarily restricted, creating problems for school and work.

Longer term restrictions can significantly affect businesses due to reduced trading opportunities.

Prevention is definitely better than cure.

Good farm biosecurity practices will lower the risks of disease entering your property.

### If my property is affected, will my livestock be destroyed?

Whether livestock need to be destroyed – or for that matter, livestock products or other materials – depends on the disease and its nature.

Your local authority working under the state or territory emergency response plan would make the decision about your stock in the event of an infection on your property.

Compensation is available for stock lost due to an EAD or destroyed by the authority to prevent disease spread.

For details of reportable diseases, visit [agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/notifiable](http://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/notifiable)

### Can I leave my property during a disease outbreak?

Without realising, people can spread disease on their clothing, footwear and vehicles or even on their skin or nasal passages.

Many diseases can survive long periods outside their obvious host and can hitch a ride to another location.

For this reason, if you

suspect a serious disease in your stock, don't leave your property or allow anyone else to do so until an inspector has discussed with you what you must do to prevent disease spread.

Once a process is in place, which may include managing movement and disinfecting clothing and equipment, you will generally be allowed to leave.

### Can I move stock during a disease outbreak?

If you are aware of an outbreak of an EAD, you must not move any stock around your property or to other places until you get the 'all clear'.

This is because you may cause the disease to spread, as many diseases are readily spread from animal to animal.

In the case of foot-and-mouth, a national livestock standstill, banning all movement of susceptible animals, may be immediately declared for a few days to allow the authorities to assess where the disease already is, without the situation getting worse through continuing movements.

It is a criminal offence to move stock during a stock standstill.

### Can I sell products such as milk, eggs, meat?

This depends on the disease, but you won't be able to sell your products until there's no doubt they have not been in contact or contaminated with the disease organism.

As this may be very difficult to establish, it might be necessary to suspend all sales.

### What can I do to help during an outbreak?

In the event of an outbreak:

- Stay informed
- Visit [outbreak.gov.au](http://outbreak.gov.au) for information about outbreaks in Australia
- Your state or territory department of agriculture or primary industries website will have specific information for your local area

• continued P17

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# Emergency animal disease responses

from P16

Remember to cooperate with local authorities, they are there to eradicate the disease as quickly as possible, as well as help you.

## How long will it be before I can resume my normal farming activities and what do I need to do?

The period between eradicating a disease and resuming normal farming is one of the most difficult things to predict, as it depends on the spread of the individual outbreak and the nature of the organism responsible.

Once a disease has been officially eradicated, there will be a period of time before normal activity can recommence.

Given the impact on producers' income, every effort will be made to limit this period and, of course,

livestock producers are part of the decision-making process and will be pressing for an early return to normal activities.

It is very important to have good farm biosecurity practices in place all the time, but particularly during and after an EAD outbreak.

## Preventing a disease outbreak

That's exactly what farm biosecurity is all about.

Simple biosecurity measures that will go a long way towards preventing a disease or detecting it quickly.

In the event of an outbreak, good farm biosecurity is critical to assist the eradication process.

Everyone must play their part.

## How does an emergency animal disease response work?

EAD control requires a coordinated response

drawing on significant resources and input from all tiers of government and a range of industry groups.

When an outbreak of an EAD is confirmed, the state or territory authority will quarantine the infected property immediately.

They may also quarantine other properties, such as those close to the infected property or because of recent animal, people or vehicle movement.

They also advise the Australian Government, the other states and territories and the national organisations of the affected industries, so that management groups can convene and that agreed consultative disease management and funding arrangements can be put into place.

The state chief veterinary officer:

- Initiates quarantine, movement controls and assessments around the initial site

- Alerts state emergency management agencies to activate the animal diseases emergency plan

- Consults with national counterparts and advisors to seek agreement on the preferred national control strategy.

Field activities are

controlled from a local control centre usually established in the vicinity of the outbreak.

Statewide measures are directed from the state control centre.

## Who should I contact if I suspect an outbreak of a serious livestock disease?

Early intervention is vital in an EAD outbreak.

If you suspect a pest or disease outbreak or have seen something unusual and you're not sure whether it's an exotic pest or disease, report it.

Don't worry how insignificant it may be.

Small signs may be an early indication that something's wrong.

Your suspicions of a serious livestock disease must be reported to your local government or private vet or a stock inspector, or you can call the free Emergency Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

The hotline operates to assist the early reporting of EADs.

Two documents have been published to help livestock producers survive an emergency disease outbreak, scan the QR code on page 16 for these.

For further information, visit [farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au) or [outbreak.gov.au](http://outbreak.gov.au)



There are many diseases that would have a serious impact if an outbreak were to occur.

# US pork exports to Australia and New Zealand climb

WITH substantial growth in both Australia and New Zealand, US April pork exports to Oceania totalled 8950mt, up 33 percent from a year ago, while value increased 36 percent to \$A46.67 million, according to data released by US Department of Agriculture and compiled by US Meat Export Federation.

Through April, exports to the region more than doubled from a year ago in both

volume (37,221mt, up 107 percent) and value (\$A199.45 million, up 103 percent).

Exports to Oceania began regaining momentum in the second quarter of last year, so

the market is likely to show smaller year-over-year gains going forward, when compared to the strengthening totals posted from April through December 2023.



US April pork exports to Oceania up 33 percent.

# NFF statement on Supermarkets Senate Inquiry findings

THE National Farmers Federation welcomes the recent release of Select Committee on Supermarket Prices final report.

This inquiry has been an important opportunity to shine a light on the challenges being faced by many Australian producers.

NFF has long argued that the Australian food and grocery supply chain lacks adequate competition.

We see supermarkets and retailers using their market power to harm farmers through lower prices, unfair risk burden and supply uncertainty.

This places significant pressure on small family-run businesses.

The report is another piece of evidence to support the challenges being faced by thousands of

Australian farmers, in particular those supplying perishable goods.

NFF is working through the extensive report, but welcomes a number of the Committee's recommendations, which closely align with calls from the sector.

These include making the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct mandatory, extending the code to cover major retailers of 'greenlife' products, and putting in place significant penalties for breaches.

Further, we strongly welcome the report's recommendations for continued reform of Australia's mergers framework, and an increase in resourcing and strengthening of powers of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

These recommenda-

tions build on previous reports, including the ACCC Perishable Agricultural Goods Inquiry in 2020, creating a clear evidence base for these recommendations to be urgently actioned by government.

Further, we expect that the other supermarket sector inquiries currently being undertaken, including the review of the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct and the ACCC's Supermarkets Inquiry 2024-25, will only add further weight to the argument that competition settings need strengthening.

The NFF will read through the report in detail and looks forward to working with all members of Parliament to ensure we achieve better outcomes for Australian growers.

NFF

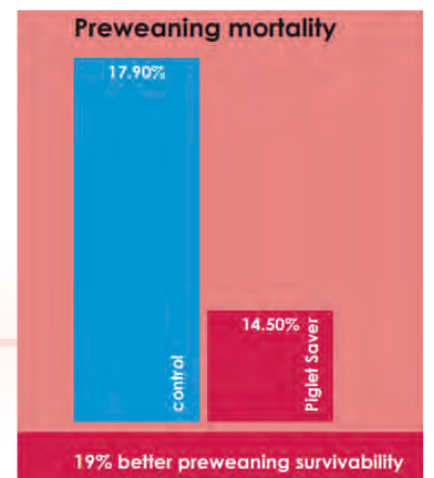
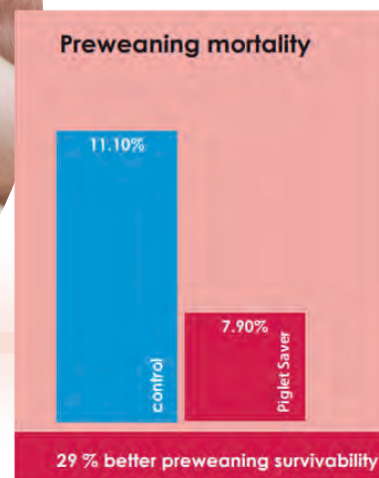
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## Safer agvet chemical future

AUSTRALIAN Government funding of \$2 million will improve farmer access to priority uses of agricultural and veterinary chemicals to safely and effectively manage pests and diseases.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group deputy secretary Matt Lowe said the successful applications to the ninth round of agvet chemical assistance grants announced recently would aim to address industry identified priorities.

“Effective agvet chemicals have delivered long-term benefits to Australian agriculture by reducing the damage of weeds, pests and diseases on agricultural and forest production,” Mr Lowe said.

“This has led to increased productivity, better quality produce, more competitive industries and improved environmental outcomes and these grants are a key contributor to this success.

“The ninth grant round will work to solve current priority issues across a range of plant and animal commodities, such as pigs, finfish, tea tree

and wildflowers.

“It will also look at chemical solutions for managing pest and diseases ranging from Japanese encephalitis virus to sclerotinia rot.

“It’s important that Australian farmers continue to see the benefits of having improved access to agvet chemicals that are safe, effective and allow flexibility in on farm pest and disease management.”

A combined 238 grants totalling \$17.86 million have been awarded under the grants program.

To date, the grants program has resulted in 45 new permit uses and 21 new label uses for agvet chemicals.

The grants program forms part of the Australian Government 11-year \$26 million investment to improve access to safe and effective agvet chemicals.

For more information, scan the QR code below.



## Collins returns to ag in ministerial reshuffle

FARMING leaders were likely to be quietly displeased at news that Julie Collins will return to the agriculture portfolio as Murray Watt moves to employment and workplace relations in a ministerial reshuffle announced in late July.

Minister Watt had earned respect from people in the sector as someone reasonable and who listened to facts and reason over emotional argument, and for his handling of issues at the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority in Armidale.

They disliked the live sheep decision however,

which was one of the many policies Julie Collins refused to reveal prior to the election.

Minister Collins, who represents the electorate of Franklin in Tasmania, performed poorly in the agriculture portfolio in opposition.

Her particularly disastrous performance at the agriculture debate at the National Press Club against David Littleproud led to widespread and well-founded speculation that she would not have the role after the election.

In a possible acknowledgement that Minister Collins previously struggled in the complex and demanding portfolio,

Queensland Senator Anthony Chisholm has been appointed Assistant Minister for Agriculture.

She will also not take on the emergency part of Minister Watt’s role, with that being transferred to Senator Julie McAllister who joins the outer ministry.

National Farmers Federation president David Jochinke welcomed Minister Collins to the role.

“The agriculture portfolio holds enormous strategic importance,” Mr Jochinke said.

“The farm sector is central to Australia’s climate and energy plans, as well as our economic prosperity.”

“Most importantly, a thriving farm sector means quality affordable produce for Aussie families amid cost-of-living pressures.

“We hope Minister Collins will be a champion for sensible policies to support and grow our farm sector.”

Mr Jochinke also welcomed Senator Anthony Chisholm into the role as assistant minister to the agricultural portfolio.

“We look forward to also working with Senator Chisholm and having that additional horsepower,” he said.

Mr Jochinke acknowledged the tenure of out-

going minister Murray Watt.

“Minister Watt’s time will most likely be remembered for its heated conflicts with the sector – from live sheep, to water buybacks, to the biosecurity tax proposal and visa disputes.”

“There’s no doubt we’ve seen some policies that have deeply impacted and enraged our sector.

“But we also acknowledge his partnership and willingness to work with the sector on sustainability, establishing the workplace tripartite working group and delivery of enhanced funding for biosecurity,” he said.

“His commitment to normalising our trade with China and ensuring Australian agriculture didn’t end up with a bad deal in the European Union free trade agreement will also be remembered well.”

The reshuffle was spurred by the retirement of cabinet ministers Linda Burney and Brendan O’Connor, who won’t recontest the next election, while Assistant Minister Carol Brown also stepped back from the role due to health reasons.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O’Neil and Immigration Minister Andrew Giles have been dumped

from their portfolios in the reshuffle.

Ms O’Neil has been moved to housing and homelessness but remains in cabinet.

Mr Giles has moved to skills and training in the outer ministry.

The two sackings follow a political headache for the government over the handling of a High Court ruling that released more than 150 former detainees.

The opposition has been calling for heads to roll over the handling of the saga, arguing more should have been done to keep the detainees locked up despite the highest court ruling indefinite detention was illegal.

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy has been promoted to cabinet and will take over the Indigenous Australians portfolio while Tony Burke will depart employment and workplace relations to take up home affairs and immigration, with the latter being elevated into cabinet from the outer ministry.

A delicate factional balance needs to be maintained under internal Labor processes, with all retirements from the left.

The new-look ministry will be sworn in in early August.

**The New England Times**



Julie Collins said it was an honour to be sworn in as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as well as Minister for Small Business.

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RSPCA welcomes incoming Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins.

## Animal welfare consistency crucial

THE RSPCA recently thanked outgoing federal agriculture Minister Murray Watt for his commitment to improving animal welfare, particularly his leadership in achieving the promised legislation to end live sheep export.

RSPCA Australia chief executive officer Richard Mussell said, "We're grateful to Minister Watt for recognising the importance of animal welfare and community support in modern agriculture."

"This reflects the reality that good animal welfare is crucial if we are to have a thriving agricultural sector.

"It also reflects the fact that the vast majority of Australians care about animal welfare, including when it comes to animals farmed for food or fibre," he said.

"In particular, Minister Watt's leadership in championing an end date to live sheep export – a cruel and unfixable trade – will not be forgotten.

"This was a decision firmly backed by the science and evidence and one that has the support of the majority of Australians."

Mr Mussell also welcomed the incoming new Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Julie Collins, as well as Assistant Minister Senator Anthony Chisholm, and said that the RSPCA looked forward to working constructively with both ministers and their teams.

"Like her predecessor, we will work with Minister Collins to ensure animal welfare is at the forefront of decisions about agricultural policy, and we will continue to push the Federal Government to show more national leadership on animal welfare," he said.

"We also know Minister Watt started a process of reinvigorating the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, and recently led discussions with the state and territory Ministers on the importance of animal welfare in agriculture.

"We look forward to working with Minister

Collins and her team on continuing to champion these efforts, which will help achieve long-lasting improvements for Australia's farm animals.

Adding that for animals to be protected and community expectations met, national leadership on animal welfare is critical, and integral to this is ensuring there is continuous improvement, coordination and consistency across states and territories.

"There are still many animal welfare issues that remain unaddressed, such as fixing our broken system of national standards and guidelines for farm animal welfare," Mr Mussell said.

"The RSPCA, along with the rest of the animal welfare sector, will continue to work constructively with Minister Collins and her colleagues across the Parliament to make this happen."

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## Farmsafe Australia's 'In safe hands' campaign

FOLLOWING National Farm Safety Week, Farmsafe Australia's 'In Safe Hands' campaign extends the regular work, health and safety conversation beyond physical safety to address the role of wellbeing in our capacity to make safe decisions on farm.

Recognising the unique challenges faced by farmers, their families and the broader farm workforce, the campaign aims to ensure that farmers know vital practical support is available to them.

Farmsafe Australia chair Felicity Richards emphasises the holistic approach of the 'In safe hands' campaign.

"Farm safety extends beyond seat belts and helmets – it encompasses the mental wellbeing of our farmers, their families and the workforce," Ms Richards said.

"By normalising talking about what we are going through and reaching out when we are struggling, we pro-

vide a safe space for workers through the ups and downs of farm life.

"This is what it looks like to keep our workers in safe hands."

Farming can be mentally and emotionally demanding, and the isolation of rural life can contribute to risks that are not as easily seen and assessed, the way physical risks might be.

The 'In safe hands' campaign aims to raise awareness about mental health challenges, reduce the stigma associated with talking about these issues and provide tangible support to help farmers and their families navigate stress, anxiety and other mental health concerns.

The campaign follows Victorian dryland broadacre farmer, well-known industry advocate and National Farmers' Federation president David Jochinke as he discusses the importance of prioritising more than only the physical

health of his workers and community.

For Mr Jochinke, safety isn't simply a conversation, it's taking action to create a culture where workers go home in the same, if not better, condition they arrived in.

He acknowledged that making a safer environment to operate in includes creating a space that is respectful and allows for individuals to feel safe being themselves.

This topic in the campaign also explores mental wellbeing and the impact that each of us can make by checking in on each other and cultivating space for deeper conversations about how we are coping with the challenges that farm life can bring.

Farmers often put the needs of their land and livestock above their own needs, but their own wellbeing is equally vital.

'In safe hands' encourages individuals to reach out, seek support and prioritise their mental wellbeing instead of pushing through.

The campaign encourages open conversation, promotes simple strategies for individual wellbeing and provides networks and resources for farmers, family members and the farm workforce.

By acknowledging and addressing mental health and wellbeing, Farmsafe Australia aims to foster a resilient farming community where everyone is supported. 🗨️



Making a safer environment to operate in includes creating a space that is respectful and allows for individuals to feel safe being themselves.



PorkStar hosted guests at Melbourne's Etta restaurant to celebrate industry chefs, restaurateurs, suppliers and producers, and new head chef Lorcán Kan. Photos: Etta, Annika Kafcaloudis and Kristoffer Paulsen



## Highlights from APL PorkStar events

IN late July, Australian Pork Limited's PorkStar education program had its third butcher breakdown session, featuring Darren O'Rourke educating the team at Quite Like, a meal preparation subscription service based in Sydney.

As part of PorkStar's ongoing education series, Darren expertly broke down half a pig over the course of three hours, sharing invaluable insights into the various cuts and demonstrating how nearly every part of the pig can be utilised.

The goal of the session was to inspire the recipe development team at Quite Like and encourage the inclusion of more pork recipes in its meal kits.

Darren's hands-on demonstration was both educational and inspiring, providing the team with fresh ideas and a deeper understanding of pork preparation.

Additionally, APL's

Kylie Roberts guided the team through a session on Australian pork, shedding light on the industry's practices and the role of PorkStar in connecting producers with the broader food industry.

### Etta Melbourne

APL PorkStar recently hosted an intimate gathering for 40 guests at Etta restaurant in Melbourne to celebrate industry guests including chefs, restaurateurs, suppliers and producers.

It was an amazing opportunity to celebrate new Etta chef Lorcán Kan, who has returned from Europe and taken the head chef position.

Lorcán created a fresh, exciting and flavour-packed menu, which included a sensational pork fat brioche, pork satay and pork fat sesame fudge.

Lorcán did not disappoint, and it was a pleasure for PorkStar to provide his first event opportunity since returning to the industry, with a celebration of

all things pork.

A huge thank you to the partners for the evening, Australia's

Wine List of the Year Awards, First Drop Wines, Levantine Hill and Stone Dwellers. 🗨️



Lorcán's flavour-packed menu included a sensational pork fat brioche, pork satay and pork fat sesame fudge.



PorkStar's third butcher breakdown session, featuring Darren O'Rourke educating the team at Quite Like.

Darren expertly broke down half a pig, sharing insights into various cuts and how nearly every part of the pig can be utilised.

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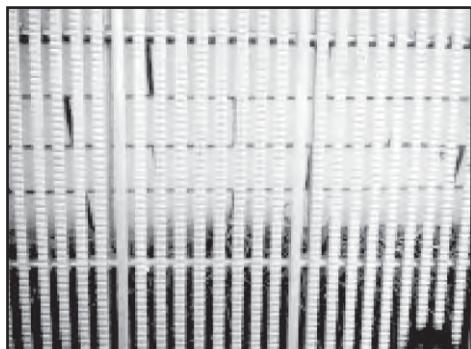
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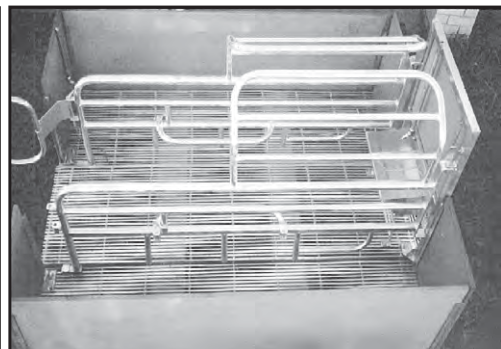
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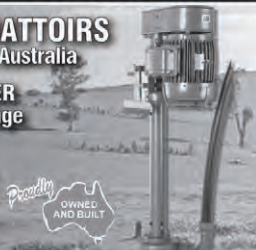
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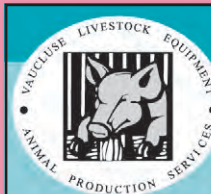


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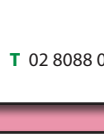
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# Australia's plant-based meat market predictions

WHERE once investment in plant-based meat innovation seemed unstoppable, the glaze did appear to be wearing off.

However, the Food Frontier 2023 State of the Industry report into the Australian industry paints a picture of evolution, growth and ultimately, a strong future.

The Australian sector is maturing, beyond the buzzwords and bold promises, settling into the rhythm of a functioning industry.

But change is afoot. Food Frontier's third industry report reveals sales of plant-based meat products in Australia is increasing.

Bringing together insights from Deloitte Access Economics and industry data by Food Frontier, the report shows sales of plant-based meat products in Australia increased by 47 percent between 2020 and 2023 and consumption per-capita increased by 28 percent.

However, this growth is almost entirely attributed to the wholesale market and food services industry.

Here, compound annual growth rate for plant-based meat products was 59 percent.

For retail sales, CAGR was -1 percent. The price of plant-based meat is creeping down, but there is still a 33 percent premium (compared to 49 percent in 2020).

Food Frontier chief executive officer Dr Simon Eassom suggested the retail results were partly due to inflation and the rising cost of living.

Products are still

viewed as 'premium' and 'non-essential', Dr Eassom said.

They're not always viewed as being value for money.

In 2019, Deloitte Access Economics estimated the plant-based meat market would be worth \$2.9 billion by 2030.

Today, the economic environment and market dynamics mean its projections are a little more conservative – a value of \$1.65 billion by 2033.

There are challenges to overcome, but as Dr Eassom notes: "It's evident that the industry is here to stay."

Four key developments we can expect to see are outlined below.

## Market consolidation

The time for consolidation in manufacturers and brands, and the range of products on the shelf, is here – something we have already seen in comparable markets overseas.

Between 2019 and 2023, the number of plant-based brands in Australia increased from 10 to 23.

The number of products on the market peaked at 350 in 2023.

In January 2024, this had already dropped to 275.

As ranges evolve beyond the classic veggie burgers and mince-style products, increasing demand doesn't necessarily translate to sales across the board.

Manufacturers, retailers and consumers alike are in the process of figuring out what will stand the test of time and what will fall by the wayside.

That said, demand and sales remain strong.

So, while some brands re-evaluate their strategies or exit the space altogether, a clearer path is expected to emerge for those that remain.

## Food service opportunities

The food service industry represents the biggest opportunity for plant-based meat brands globally, according to the report's findings.

That's especially true in Australia where there is still a relatively low market penetration in food service compared to the US, Asia and Europe.

Locally, sales within hospitality are largely limited to fast food and quick service restaurants, and offerings are lacking compared to what can be found overseas.

But in a restaurant setting, plant-based options are more likely to be offered at a similar price point to traditional meat.

Equally, people dining out are more likely to try something new, opening opportunities for repeat business and brand recognition for producers.

The report noted that the quality of products is only improving, and plant-based meat is starting to appear on the menus of high-end restaurants around the world.

The Aussie Plant Based Co co-founder and chief executive officer Alejandro Cancino said plant-based producers are fast catching up with the "lean production process" of conventional meat.

"This will see it eventually scale to compete in the mass market food industry, where manufacturers operate on a volume-driven tight

margin business model," he said.

## Values in the spotlight

Research from 2021, cited in the Food Frontier report, found the number one reason people first tried plant-based meat was the perceived health benefits.

Today's manufacturers are mindful of these drivers and are shaping their marketing and communications accordingly.

There is space for plant-based brands to educate consumers on the health benefits of going meat-free, as well as the nutritional value of products and the impact on the climate compared to traditional meats.

Increased consumer awareness could drive behavioural change and increased demand.

## Quality control

The report notes that flexitarian and carnivorous consumers are not yet won over by plant-based meats.

For many, the products simply aren't stacking up in terms of quality.

Mr Cancino said if plant-based meat companies were to survive, they needed to focus on profitability, efficiency and returning value to the consumer.

"Key to this equation is the importance of taste," he said.

The report acknowledges that the industry as a whole must improve on the three key elements of price, taste and texture – and do it within a difficult economic environment and a dip period in investment in innovation across the board.

However, these are "not insurmountable challenges", the report suggests.

The key lies in collaboration throughout the industry and the entire food sector.

It's partnership on research and development, investment in local supply chains and processing infrastructure, and continuing government support.

In tough circumstances, the Australian sector has maintained a solid performance.

And plant-based meat still represents a huge economic opportunity.

"Australia can still capture this opportunity but only if governments, investors, farmers, retailers, food-service operators and food manufacturers collaborate to supercharge the growth of the Australian plant-based meat industry," the report concluded.

Tickets are now on

sale for evokeAG. 2025 to be held on February 18-19, 2025 in Brisbane, Queensland – evokeag.com/evokeag-2025

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encouraging delegates to secure their tickets, flights and accommodation early.

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In a restaurant setting, plant-based options are more likely to be offered at a similar price point to traditional meat.



Plant-based meat is not always viewed as being value for money.



Changes in plant-based meat products formats available in retail in Australia. Data collected January 2021 and January 2024. Source: 2023 State of the Industry report

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**At a feed price of \$369/tonne, vaccinating with Ingelvac CircoFLEX® can generate savings of \$11,644 (ROI 1.6)<sup>1</sup>**

**The best investment  
for your business is  
good health.**



Ingelvac  
CircoFLEX®

Ingelvac  
MycoFLEX®

FreVAX™

<sup>1</sup> AVERAGE OF 13 PUBLISHED STUDIES. Assumptions for the calculation: FCR improvement = 0.141, Live weight = 100 kg, Number of animals sold per year = 3000, Vaccination costs: \$7,139. Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Australia Pty. Ltd. Level 1, 78 Waterloo Road, North Ryde NSW 2113. ABN 53 071 187 285. Ingelvac MycoFLEX and Ingelvac CircoFLEX are registered trademarks of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH. All rights reserved. AU-POR-0045-2022