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# Australian Pork Newspaper

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## Pork CRC takes time out for taint

■ Pork CRC Projects 3A-114 'Development of a near-infrared spectroscopy online test for boar taint' and 3A-115 'Validation of an LH test strip in urine for boar taint compounds'

ONE of the biggest problems relating to animal factors and eating quality is identification of off odours and flavours by the consumer.

Boar tainted pork has a distinct urine or perspiration-like odour and flavour when cooked, arising from androstene (a metabolite of testosterone) and skatole (a metabolite of tryptophan), and is present in pork from entire male pigs.

Androstene and skatole are delta 16 steroids produced in the testes of male pigs.

These pheromones are used by the male to attract and sexually stimulate females.

Perhaps not surprisingly, human females are more susceptible to boar taint than human males, with about 90 percent of females being able to detect it, versus only about 50 percent of males.

### Major challenge

A major challenge in eliminating boar taint from the supply chain is to develop a reliable, cheap and easy to administer method of boar taint detection.

Dr Cameron Ralph from the South Australian Research and Development Institute is the project leader on two Pork CRC projects that aim to do just that.

Pork CRC projects 3A-114 and 3A-115 employ novel and innovative methods to develop a reliable online method to detect boar taint.

Dr Ralph joined SARDI in April 2014.

He received his PhD from the University of Melbourne where he worked in the Animal Welfare Science Centre and then completed a two-year postdoctoral appointment in the US at the University of Michigan and the University of Mississippi.

His PhD focused on the use of glucocorticoids (cortisol in pigs) to assess the welfare of animals and his postdoc investigated the effect of the pre-natal environment on the lifetime reproductive success of females.

His areas of expertise are neuroendocrinology, neurophysiology, reproduction and animal welfare.

His areas of expertise are neuroendocrinology, neurophysiology, reproduction and animal welfare.

### Scanning projects

Infrared spectroscopy is a technique well known to the Pork CRC because it has been used to develop the AusScan project and the Aunir/Pork CRC licensing agreement for AusScan Online.

Dr Ralph is collaborating with Dr Glenn Fox from the University of Queensland on Project 3A-114 to determine if infrared spectroscopy can be employed to detect androstene and skatole, the hormones responsible for boar taint.

Near-infrared spectroscopy has been used routinely over decades for predicting quality parameters such as carbohydrates, protein and fat content in grains, fruits and meat products.

Mid-infrared spectroscopy uses a higher wavelength region and can be directly associated to chemical composition and structure with a matrix.

Until recently, MIRS has

been an expensive, slow technology, but recent developments, including handheld devices, allow this technology to be more accessible.

Handheld near-infrared and mid-infrared devices provide portability to allow testing in the field and mobility within a workplace, rather than having a specific instrument setup in a laboratory.

Additionally, NIR and MIR instruments can be calibrated to predict other parameters simultaneously, such as fat and protein content, thereby achieving extra value from a single scan.

Both technologies have the sensitivity to identify boar taint compounds or biological markers to indicate the presence of the taint through either quantitative or qualitative models.

Therefore, Pork CRC Project 3A-114 aims to develop this technology to detect boar taint such that a live animal or carcass can be verified as taint free, quickly, cheaply and online.

### Improvac innovation

The use of Improvac, a very effective vaccine for boar taint, has been mandated by Woolworths as part of the Pork CRC eating quality pathway project.

When administered cor-

continued P2



Dr Cameron Ralph

Pork CRC

Project Leader Profile

## Pork among the China delegates

MONDAY, August 31 was my first day back at work after a trip to China the week before.

I was invited there as part of a trade delegation organised through the office of Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb.

The aim of the trade delegation was to recognise and promote the outcomes pursued in the recently signed free trade agreement with China – commonly called the ChAFTA.

In a delegation of about 30 Australian business leaders, it was great recognition for the Australian pork industry's aims in China for trade outcomes that I was invited to be part of the delegation.

Pork has done quite well in the negotiations of the ChAFTA, where tariffs for pork trade with China are being reduced to zero over four years.

However, before we can take advantage of these beneficial trade arrangements, we need to follow up with the negotiation of the conditions of trade or what are known as the trade protocols with the Chinese authorities.

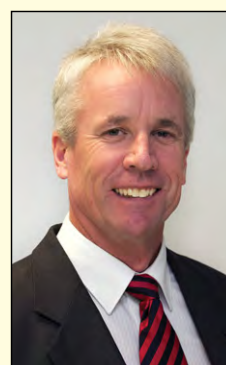
This is the responsibility of the Australian Government, and we are working to support the government in commencing and succeeding in these negotiations.

The trade protocols cover such issues as food safety standards, abattoir operations and conditions of marking and entry to China – all things that are completely manageable and in which Australian processors have plenty of



### Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



experience.

China is both the world's largest producer and consumer of pork.

The country processes about 600 million pork carcasses per annum.

It only seems a few years ago that China was exporting pork into other markets.

Today the country is one of the world's largest importers of pork, representing the increasing generation of wealth in China that has resulted in consumers wanting to eat more meat.

And pork is their favourite meat.

We have calculated that if all Australia's annual pork production was sent to China, it would take the population only two and a half days to consume it.

Clearly, any trade in future that we have with China in pork will not be a threat to the volumes of production from local producers.

Negotiation of trade protocols with China for pork and the subsequent certification of export establishments are no easy tasks for the Australian Government.

Despite the size and likely influence of our industry, pork is a sensitive commodity in China

because there is significant investment in local production and it is culturally the preferred meat.

We expect it will take a number of years to finalise trade protocols with China.

The industry has great support in our China trade plans from the Australian Government, the Department of Agriculture and Austrade who help where they can in facilitating a future trade for our industry.

The ChAFTA is certainly in the news at the moment, with some parties claiming it will do damage to their interests.

At Australian Pork Limited, we are certainly of the opinion that this trade deal is of immense benefit to Australia and to our industry, and we stand to lose enormously if the ratification of the deal doesn't go ahead smoothly.

The National Farmers' Federation is helping to run a campaign to promote the benefits of the trade deal.

Visit [www.farmersforfreetrade.org.au](http://www.farmersforfreetrade.org.au) to see what the premier agricultural representation body in Australia thinks about this deal.



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## Pig Industry Calendar of Events

### 2015

**SEP 7-10** – Safe Pork, Porto, Portugal  
[www.safepork2015.com/index.php](http://www.safepork2015.com/index.php)

**SEP 15 - 18** – Space 2015, Rennes, France  
[www.space.fr](http://www.space.fr)

**SEP 19-21** – 2015 SwineExpo, Xiamen International Conference & Exhibition Centre, China  
[www.swineexpo.com](http://www.swineexpo.com)

**SEP 21 - 23** – Livestock Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
[www.livestockasia.com](http://www.livestockasia.com)

**SEP 28 - OCT 18** – International Symposium of Animal Mortality Management, Pennsylvania, USA  
[www.animalmortmgmt.org](http://www.animalmortmgmt.org)

**OCT 11 - 13** – Leman China Swine Conference, Nanjing International Exhibition Center, Nanjing, China  
[www.cvm.umn.edu/lemanchina](http://www.cvm.umn.edu/lemanchina)

**NOV 22 - 25** – Australasian Pig Science Association conference, Melbourne, VIC  
[www.apsa.asn.au](http://www.apsa.asn.au)

### 2016

**JAN 12-14** – Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Alberta Canada  
[www.banffpork.ca](http://www.banffpork.ca)

**JAN 26-28** – International Production & Processing Expo, Georgia, USA  
[www.ippexpo.com](http://www.ippexpo.com)

**JAN 27** – Centralia Swine Research Update, Ontario, Canada  
[www.centraliaswinereseach.ca](http://www.centraliaswinereseach.ca)

**FEB 16 - 18** – VIV MEA, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
[www.vivmea.nl](http://www.vivmea.nl)

**MAR 13 - 15** – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand  
[www.vivasia.nl](http://www.vivasia.nl)

**APR 18 - 20** – Global Feed & Food Congress, Antalya, Turkey  
[www.ifif.org](http://www.ifif.org)

**MAY 10 - 11** – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire UK  
[www.pigandpoultry.org.uk](http://www.pigandpoultry.org.uk)

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

**JUN 7 - 10** – International Pig Veterinary Society/European Symposium of Porcine Health Management, Dublin, Ireland  
[www.ipvs2016.com](http://www.ipvs2016.com)

**SEP 6 - 8** – VIV China, Beijing, China  
[www.vivchina.nl](http://www.vivchina.nl)

**NOV 15 - 18** – EuroTier, Hanover, Germany  
[www.eurotier.com](http://www.eurotier.com)

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

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

# Variation: pig production scourge?

DO we pay enough attention to the numerous sources and factors contributing to the many performance variations within our production system?

Are we aware of these and how they are affecting our profitability?

I recently attended a producer meeting in Toowoomba, Queensland, and was asked to provide an industry update.

While preparing my presentation, I noted the great divide between pig farms when looking at some of the production key performance indicators.

As an industry, we are still quite a way off average production KPIs (Table 1) in comparison with many of the major pork producing countries, with reproductive performance a major contributor.

We have sacrificed reproductive performance and ceased to import any new genetic material since the early 1980s.

This has been done to maintain our high herd health status through stringent biosecurity measures.

In my opinion, in Australia's case the biggest concern is not how far we are from our competitors but the performance variation we seem to have within individual farms and across production systems.

In Table 2 I have compared pigs weaned/sow/year from the Australian Pork Limited Production Survey with that of the Pork CRC Performance Benchmarking Project data.

It is quite clear that the 'performance variation'



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



between the industry average and those in the Pork CRC project is large.

The same variation between the industry average and those in the Pork CRC project also applies for most of the other major performance KPIs.

If we look at herd size, the reproductive performance variation (Table 3) between farms with greater than 151 sows is minimal, however, there seems to be a considerable 'performance divide' compared to farms with less than 150 sows, which drop away quite considerably.

In the case of pigs weaned/sow/year, this performance variation equates to about five pigs.

So where am I going with all this 'performance variation'?

The question for me is what is causing this performance variation?

Additionally, have we as an industry fostered this variation or is it just due to some of the obvious factors such as herd size or production type (conventional or outdoor system), genetics and management?

Going back to the producer meeting in Toowoomba; it was quite clear to

me that no two farms were alike in their production performance data.

In most cases, the approaches to various performance issues were often different.

Why was this the case?

I recall a chat with Dr Mike Brumm (US swine specialist) regarding pig production variation on one of his many trips to Australia (in this instance it was in 2009 as part of the APL/Pork CRC roadshow).

Dr Brumm seemed to think there were considerable within farm and between farm productivity variations in Australia, and certainly much more than is the case in the US.

His reason for this was, and I quote: "Every shed is different."

While quite a simple statement, I believe there is a fair amount of truth in Dr Brumm's summation of the issue.

Having seen a number of production systems in the US and Europe, Australian pork producers seem to build sheds where no two are alike.

But the more I think of this, the more I am convinced that this is uniquely Australian.

It would be fair to say

that some variation in sheds and the various components within sheds has to be expected, but has this variation in systems gone too far in Australia?

Yes, I know this is an extreme generalisation but take for example our bio-gas systems.

We currently have more than 10 piggery biogas units in Australia and each producer has gone down a separate path, whether it be with the shape of the effluent pond, the pond covers, the power generator units and so on.

So what do we need to do to reduce this production variation?

I'm certainly not suggesting or expecting producers to build similar sheds, though looking at the poultry industry, it would appear there may be some merit in the idea of having uniform shed designs.

I look at the Danish pig production model and the whole system is built on uniformity.

So what do we need to do to overcome this variation and what can APL do to assist?

The pleasant thing for me at the Toowoomba meeting was the producers were hungry for best management practice information.

This reaffirms for me the need to look at ways of getting this BMP information to producers and is in line with the recent Pig Industry Skills Needs Analysis report.

This report identified the potential need of an on-line portal or smartphone app that could be utilised to assist in communication dissemination for the industry, in addition to all the other general and individual communication sent to producers.

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

To this end, I am happy to report that APL's information app is currently in 'test phase' and will be released this month if we can get through all the Apple app requirements.

The other side of this production variation is of course the variation within herds on the same farm.

I do not have any comparative data from other countries, only Australia.

What I do know is that 'within herd' variation continues to be a major cost for the Australian pork industry.

One of the major causes of this variation is pigs with low weaning weights (less than 5kg at 21 days) have compromised per-

formance throughout the grower-finisher phase.

There will always be a percentage of pigs that fall below the targeted weight, and if nothing is done to address this poorer performance then it will continue into the grower-finisher phase and variation will be increased.

An APL project, Reducing variation in finisher performance – early (<35kg) intervention (Project 2013/2411, CHM Alliance Pty Ltd, Mr Robert Hewitt), investigated if the variation in slaughter stock could be reduced by enhancing the performance of lightweight weaners with nutritional interventions up to 35kg live weight, which would be assessed by measuring the comparative growth performance of lightweight weaners post-35kg.

This project shows that a compromised weaner will remain a compromised grower and finisher pig.

Despite an intervention that increased feed costs per kilogram of gain by 15 percent, there was no boost in the performance of lightweight weaners to the mean level of the population, let alone to the performance of a heavier weight weaner.

A lighter weaning weight resulted in a lower feed intake, which resulted in a lower rate of gain, as no change in feed conversion ratio was observed across the experiment.

This reduced rate of gain resulted in pigs that took longer to reach marketable weight, such that each 100g reduction in weaning weight resulted in one extra day required to reach sale weight.

The main recommendation for producers is they should aim to reduce the impediments that require them to wean pigs at a lighter than optimum weight, because any compromises made at weaning are conserved throughout the growth phase and are not easily rectified once they have been set in motion.

APL has also sought to answer the questions around interventions post-35kg to reduce variation in slaughter pigs.

This project has been completed and the final report is due this month.

I will provide a summary of this in my next APN article.

Also in my next APN article, I will look at individual animal variation and how it affects other sectors of the supply chain.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8804 or [darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au](mailto:darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au)

Table 1: Global performance KPIs for selected countries in 2013/14.

Country	AUS	US	CAN	BRAZ	DEN	NETH
Pigs weaned/sow/year	23.3	24.6	22.9	25.5	30	29
Pork/sow/year (kg)	1700	2086	2161	2159	2299	2539

Table 2: Comparison of industry and Pork CRC Benchmarking Project for reproduction and HFC.

KPI	Industry average*	Pork CRC Project Average**	Pork CRC Project Top3**
Pigs weaned/sow/year	20.7	23.3	24.6

\*APL Production Survey; \*\*Pork CRC Benchmarking Project 2013/14.

## Pork CRC takes time out for taint

### from P1

rectly, Improvac is highly effective at eliminating boar taint.

At this stage there is no effective way to determine if the Improvac vaccine has been administered correctly.

Improvac is effective because it inhibits gonadotrophin-releasing hormone availability, which results in attenuation of luteinizing hormone synthesis.

This, in turn, results in decreased synthesis of the steroids that produce boar taint.

Project 3A-115 aims to verify that Improvac has been used by measuring the concentration of LH in urine, saliva or cer-

ebrospinal fluid.

In collaboration with Darryl Meaney of Zoetis, Dr Ralph will validate if a commercially available LH strip test, currently being used to detect ovulation in dogs, could be used to measure LH in boars on the kill floor of abattoirs.

Theoretically, a taint-free boar would have very low to undetectable concentrations of LH and this test could become an alternative for abattoirs to ensure that Improvac has been used and meat is taint free.

### Taint free

Collectively, projects 3A-114 and 3A-115 could provide the industry with a fast,

cost-effective method to identify animals with boar taint and confirm animals are taint free.

There is potential to use NIR and MIR devices to develop an on-farm test whereby producers can confirm their pigs are taint free before sending them to slaughter and providing abattoirs with an online quality control mechanism to ensure all meat products are verified as taint free.

The initial phase of this research will be completed by late 2016.

Based on the success of the development phase, whole animal testing could then begin.

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



# Maximising supply and demand outcomes

YOU are likely aware that demand for high-integrity Australian pork is currently very high and increased demand is projected to remain high for the next 18-24 months and maybe beyond.

Clearly having more pork to sell during this period has potentially positive financial implications, and two ways of achieving this are improving reproduction and increasing carcass weight.

While the latter is somewhat of a challenge, given the requirements of the major retailers, even one or two kilograms of extra carcass weight will considerably increase revenue and margins per sow.

For example, increasing carcass weight from 74kg to 75kg or 76kg would increase margin by \$38 and \$75 per sow respectively.

Increasing the number of pigs sold per sow per year from 21 to 22 at 75kg would increase margin per sow by \$134, or about \$33 million across our industry.

Of course we're trying to do this all the time, but we might be overlooking some relatively simple strategies for achieving more pigs born alive and keeping more pigs alive through to sale.

Reducing the impact of summer on reproduction is also one way of helping.

## Lessons learnt

In respect to increasing the number of pigs born alive and getting more through to weaning, there were several outcomes worth contemplating from the recent Animal Science meeting I attended in Des Moines, US.

While I summarised



## Initiatives

by DR ROGER CAMPBELL  
CEO



these in a report to you all (please contact me at roger.campbell@porkcrc.com.au if you didn't receive it), they are worth reiterating.

Most boil down to how sows are fed in gestation and lactation.

### Danish results

In lactation, things haven't changed and a large Danish study using DanBred sows showed the single biggest factor affecting the number and weight of pigs weaned (at 26 days) and subsequent reproduction was how much the sow ate in lactation.

The Danish results also highlighted the importance of having adequate lysine and other amino acids in the lactation diet to reduce body protein loss in lactation and maximise subsequent fertility.

Reducing body protein loss in lactation reduces the number of empty days by reducing the weaning to oestrus interval, and this becomes more important for sows rearing large litters and with extended lactations.

A target weaning to oestrus interval is probably 4.5 to five days and a value of seven is indicative of a problem or opportunity

to fine-tune reproductive efficiency.

### Balancing act

Recent US studies using Pig Improvement Company, DanBred and other genotypes all showed that increasing feed intake at any period after the first 28 days of gestation increases sow weight gain and reduces lactation feed intake, so it is a balancing act.

Most research shows there is more to be gained by adopting a feeding strategy across the reproductive cycle, which supports higher intake in lactation, not gestation.

### Energy intake

Kansas State University researchers using large numbers of PIC sows in commercial herds looked at the effects on reproduction and piglet survival of increasing energy and amino acid intakes from day 90 of gestation to farrowing.

The energy levels tested were 29 and 19.6MJ DE/day.

The corresponding feed intakes were 2.73 and 1.81kg/day respectively.

### The good

Bottom line: increasing energy intake had a significant, but small (20g), positive effect on birth

weight, but no effect on piglet survival.

### The bad

Increasing energy intake in late gestation, however, significantly increased still birth rate in sows but not gilts.

The difference in sows equated to about 0.3 piglets 'lost' per litter.

Results are shown in Figure 1.

### Loving lysine

In contrast to higher energy intake, increasing standard ileal digestible lysine intake (from 11 to 20g/day) in late gestation significantly reduced still birth rate in gilts and older parity sows and significantly reduced pre-weaning mortality across parities.

Results are shown in Figure 2 on Page 4.

Taken together, the results suggest the number of pigs born alive and the number weaned can be increased by how sows are fed in gestation and lactation.

The total may be as high as 0.6 piglets per litter and could help us get the one pig per year extra I mentioned previously.

For lactation, the message is to maximise feed intake because it affects number weaned, weaning weight and subsequent fertility.

Gestation is not quite as simple because there is little consistency in how producers feed pregnant sows, but I guess the objective is to maintain a desired body condition score, which we know has increased because of a reduced maintenance requirement with group housing.

The message from the US and previous Pork CRC research is to not increase feed or energy intake in late gestation.

The money would seem to be in amino acid intake in this period.

It is easy to meet the ly-

continued P4

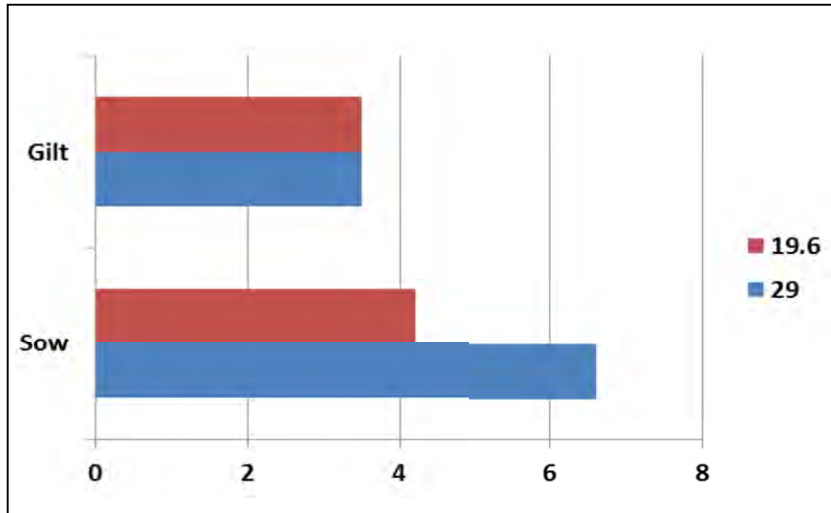


Figure 1: Effects of DE intake (MJ/day) between day 90 of gestation and farrowing on the still birth rate (%) of sows and gilts.



## AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED ELECTED DIRECTOR VACANCY

Nominations are being called for one Australian Pork Limited (APL) elected director vacancy. This position is currently held by Mr John Coward, whose term expires Thursday 19 November 2015.

A member of APL or a member of the APL Board can nominate person/s to stand for election. The APL Board HR & Remuneration Committee will review all nominations received in line with APL's Statutory Funding Agreement which requires a 'Skills Based Board'. This means a Board that can demonstrate collective expertise against each of the following areas:

- Corporate governance;
- **Pig production;**
- Production or processing of pig meat;
- Product promotion and retail marketing;
- Market development and international trade;
- **Research and development, technology transfer, commercialisation of research and development and innovation;**
- **Conservation and management of natural resources;**
- **Administration of research and development; and**
- **Business and financial management.**

Considering present Board skills, emphasis should be given to the highlighted areas above for candidates.

Candidates are required to advise which of the above skill sets they have expertise in and how they gained this experience. In addition a short curriculum vitae should be provided.

Nominations for this position close at 5:00pm (EST) Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

For further information and to obtain a nomination form contact:  
Mr Andrew Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Pork Limited, PO Box 4746, Kingston ACT 2604. Phone: 02 6270 8801. Email: andrew.spencer@australianpork.com.au

# The best pork in Australia?

THE first 2015 'Steak your claim' competition entry deadline passed at 5pm on Monday, August 31.

It is the first time in recent history that the pig industry body, Australian Pork Limited has sought to harness the innovation, skills and successes of all pig producers, small and large, new and not so new – everyone.

This is an activity that has two major goals.

First, APL is setting out to more actively engage with as many pig producers as possible.

If you sell pigs, you pay a levy, and if you pay a levy, we want to help serve you in addition to trying to increase prices, decrease costs and avoid risks.



In fact, we want this so much we have agreed that wider producer engagement will be part of the personal objectives of everyone who works at APL.

APL general manager Marketing Peter Haydon said this celebration of Australian excellence seemed like a great way to get the ball rolling.

"And we'd like to thank *Australian Pork Newspaper* for helping us post entry forms to all its subscribers," he said.

Second, as an industry we do a lot of work on cost and biosecurity, and we sometimes forget that Australian pork sells for quite attractive prices compared to those of some other pork producing countries.

Part of our industry strategy to increase demand is to create demand for Australian pork outside of Australia.

To do that sustainably, we need to be able to sell it for a price that can remain attractive regardless of what happens to the exchange rate.

So, finding the best pork is a way of potentially justifying a premium for international expansion.

Regarding timing, Mr Haydon said the idea for the competition only arose recently, so the 2015 competition has been fast-tracked to get a winner for this year

as soon as possible.

In total, 35 entries were received from NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

The submissions cover a diverse range of breeds and feed types, along with other potential production influences.

The competition will evaluate various attributes of pork loin steaks with the aim of identifying the best eating pork steak in Australia.

"Quite a number of producers have let us know demand for their pork is so strong that they can't spare any to enter this year's competition," Mr Haydon said.

"Once we have completed this year's competition we will implement what we learn and one of those things may be to give producers more notice.

"Another might be to have more than one competition a year; maybe spring and autumn."

If you didn't get to enter this year, don't fret – a second competition is currently being planned to run early in 2016.

The judging for this first competition will be done by chefs, recruited from the APL PorkStar team of Kylie Roberts, Mitch Edwards and Rosa Josifoski.

The winner will be announced in October and win \$10,000. 🐷

# Pig Health



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Maximising supply and demand outcomes

from P3

sine and other amino acid requirements of gestating and lactating sows – you know how much they are fed or eat, so it is simply a matter of formulating the diet appropriately.

What you need to do is discuss with your nutritionist the lysine (and other amino acids) levels of the diet fed in late gestation. The KSU data suggests



Dr Kate Plush has found a positive effect of magnesium sulphate in the five days before farrowing on survival in the first 24 hours after birth.

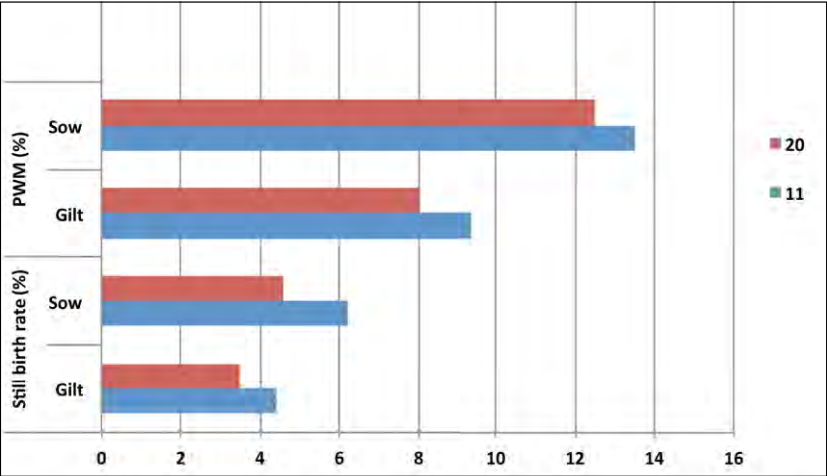


Figure 2: Effects of SID lysine intake (11g/day v 20g/day) between day 90 of gestation and farrowing on the still birth rate and pre-weaning mortality in sows and gilts.

a SID lysine intake above 11g/day (maybe 20g/day) will improve BA and pre-weaning survival.

The cost of doing this in the KSU study was 17 cents per weaner pig.

I am not sure if we are even close to this level of intake and ideally it should be achieved without increasing feed intake.

**Staying alive**

Based on recent research and industry information, the BA levels in Australia, the US, Canada and Denmark are shown in Table 1.

The US has seen BA increase by about 3.5 since 2000 and PIC expects progress to increase at a significantly faster rate following the introduction of its proprietary genomic technology, and more importantly, the company expects further improvement without an associated increase in PWM.

At a commercial level, PIC reports an increase in pigs weaned per mated female from about 30 in 2010 to 34 in 2013 in some of their better herds.

We know litter size is increasing in Australia, but at a relatively slow rate, so it's important we do all we can to convert total born into more BA and to improve pre-weaning survival.

We know management and housing play important roles in these matters, but it seems nutrition in gestation and lactation could bring about improvement in the number of pigs BA and weaned.

Our researchers are looking at other strategies.

More recently, Dr Kate Plush has found a positive effect of magnesium sulphate in the five days before farrowing on survival in the first 24 hours after birth.

The findings will be validated in a commercial study and we will let you know the outcomes.

**Summer infertility**

Summer is approaching, so it's probably time to revisit the summer fertility manual published by Pork CRC and Australian Pork Limited.

Word from one of our US participants is they've essentially overcome summer infertility by including betaine at 0.25 percent in the lactation diet and ensuring

the omega 6 to omega 3 fatty acid ratio in the lactation diet is between five and 10.

The participant actually recommend a linoleic acid (C18:2) intake of about 100g/day and linolenic (C18:3) acid intake of roughly 18g/day.

You should talk to your nutritionists about the matter, as they should have the report from the US, but it's something that should be done before December.

**Feeding time**

We are hearing that summer infertility might be worse in group housed sows fed from electronic sow feeders compared to those floor fed or trough fed.

We will ask our researchers to look into this.

What do you think?

If you could let me know what you're seeing, I'd appreciate it.

I will keep you updated on Pork CRC research outcomes on reproduction and welfare and follow up on summer infertility in my October or November APN column.

Meanwhile, happy pig farming.

www.porkcrc.com.au

Country	BA
Australia	12
US	13.5
Canada	14.5
Denmark	16.5

Table 1

Market research highlights farmer success with Ingelvac CircoFLEX vaccine

INGELVAC CircoFLEX vaccine is the number-one selling pig vaccine in Australia, with over 18-million doses sold since it was launched in 2010.

Boehringer Ingelheim has been conducting market research into what has made Ingelvac CircoFLEX porcine circovirus type 2 vaccine so successful with farmers.

Boehringer Ingelheim Swine Product manager Australia and New Zealand Dr Sean Daly spoke about the farmers' feedback he received.

"What was surprising to us was the influence that Ingelvac CircoFLEX has had on farmers' businesses," Dr Daly said.

Participating in the Boehringer Ingelheim market research, a farmer from Queensland said: "On the current high grain prices we are experiencing in Queensland, if we didn't have CircoFLEX we would not still be in business."

Australian pig farmers and veterinarians will remember the huge challenge that faced the swine industry when PCV2 first broke in Australia.

Across the industry, veterinarians and farmers talk about 30 percent mortalities and the crippling effect on staff morale.

This, coupled with the already difficult economic pressure facing farmers, meant that going out of business was a stark reality for many farmers unless PCV2 could be properly controlled.

"Ingelvac CircoFLEX vaccine gives farmers flexibility in their farming systems as it is a one-shot vaccine, giving consistent efficacy when used at any time from 14 days of age onwards before, after or at weaning," Dr Daly said.

The farmer from Queensland said, "It was also very easy to fit into our daily routine."

"It is hard to believe that one shot of CircoFLEX could stop this issue we had with PCV2."

After launching the product, Boehringer Ingelheim recognised the importance of demonstrating efficacy under Australian commercial conditions.

"As well as demonstrating consistent efficacy and safety in the first farms

in which the vaccine was used, Boehringer Ingelheim has also conducted widespread field trials in Australia in over 10,000 pigs," Dr Daly said.

"These co-mingled studies were conducted in piglets under typical Australian commercial conditions."

"This consistent efficacy was also a key reason why farmers were using the Ingelvac CircoFLEX vaccine in their systems."

A farmer from western Victoria said, "I'm very confident the protection CircoFLEX provides allows protection from weaning right through to slaughter."

"I was hopeful it was going to work as well as I was told, but it worked better than that."

While efficacy is crucial for any product, safety cannot be compromised.

Dr Daly believes safety to be a key strength of the Ingelvac CircoFLEX vaccine.

"Safety has been demonstrated in trials where injection sites were compared with a saline placebo," he said.

"There was no significant difference between the saline injected group and the Ingelvac CircoFLEX vaccinated group."

The Boehringer Ingelheim market research reflected the importance of safety to farmers.

A farmer from Victoria said, "CircoFLEX is easy to use."

"We always handle vaccines carefully and safety is paramount."

"We have not had any issues with it."

"When all these reasons are taken together, it is not hard to see why farmers are happy to recommend Ingelvac CircoFLEX vaccine to other farmers," Dr Daly said.

Dr Daly was particularly taken with a comment from a South Australian farmer, who when asked about alternative products said: "Why would I take the chance with an unknown?"

Boehringer Ingelheim is putting together some of the feedback from the market research to distribute to farmers.

Keep an eye out for this in the mail or contact your local Boehringer Ingelheim technical service and sales representative on 1800 038 037.

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D'Orsogna Human Resources manager Dianne Davies.



D'Orsogna Quality Assurance manager Valeria Krasnova.

# A look behind the public face

THERE are very often very good stories behind the very public faces of companies.

Such is the case with leading smallgoods manufacturer D'Orsogna, whose managing director Brad Thomason has a high profile nationally as the very public face of D'Orsogna.

D'Orsogna Quality Assurance manager Valeria Krasnova is just one of those good stories.

A graduate of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, she held only one job within the food industry before commencing at D'Orsogna, but couldn't resist the allure of working for what she describes as "a Western Australian institution".

"About seven years ago, I drove past the site and thought what is that fantastic smell, and I turned around and saw it was D'Orsogna and now seven years later here I am," Valeria said.

Valeria said she has become fascinated with the company and all the processes in place.

"When I came here I was really surprised, in a good way, with how management pursued quality and the maintenance of the family business culture," she said.

Valeria fondly recalls her welcome at the company and said she now feels right at home.

"There was a big welcome and everyone knew about my arrival," she said. "It was a great push for me."

"Everyone works together as a team and that's a very nice feeling to be part of that team."

Valeria is responsible for



**Cant Comment**  
by  
**BRENDON CANT**

keeping D'Orsogna products up to the very high standards first set by the family 65 years ago.

"My job includes maintaining our food safety system and we've got a very strong food quality system, requiring constant revision, implementation and verification, plus I also conduct training of personnel on different topics to keep them updated," she said.

Her department runs a range of verification programs for all the processes and all the company compliances and customer standards.

"The incredible thing about D'Orsogna is it never stops and always develops," she said.

"It keeps tuned to our customer preferences and wider consumer trends and requirements."

D'Orsogna Human Resources manager Dianne

Davies is similarly enthused about her role.

After achieving her diploma in business, Dianne signed on at D'Orsogna for work experience, where her mum and dad were already working.

Little did she know that 18 years later, she would be heading up the Human Resources Department, where she looks after employee welfare, occupational health and safety, industrial relations and payroll administration.

Between Dianne, her mother and her father, they have completed 63 years at the company.

"There's a real sense of family because we have a lot of husbands, wives, mothers, daughters and sons working here," Dianne said.

"One of the things I love about D'Orsogna, having myself come from a European background, is the company offers opportunities for people who ordinarily may find it difficult to find work in other places."

"We have a very lean management style, so we spend a lot of time in the factory."

"We get down there and have a chat with the staff, which is always a highlight of my day."

Dianne believes the working environment is reflected in the quality of the D'Orsogna product.

She said the company commits to the needs and expectations of its employees by providing secure employment and helping them create a work-life balance.

"When you've got a happy team, it reflects positively in your end product."

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## Federal Government supporting Australia's future farmers

THE Government has reaffirmed its strong commitment to the next generation of farm leaders, committing \$500,000 for a range of initia-

tives aimed at improving agricultural education in schools and building leadership skills in young rural Australians.

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce said the funding was an important investment in the future of Australian agriculture.

"Young people are the future of Australian agriculture, so it's vital we give them access to tools to build their skills and knowledge and that we also empower young people to share the positive story of Australian farming as widely as possible," Minister Joyce said.

"The current crop of farmers around the world aren't getting any younger and we need to find new ways to engage young people to consider agriculture for the industry that it is - one that is central to our national identity, way of life, and economic prosperity."

"It's an industry ripe with opportunity, one that underpins vibrant rural and regional communities, and one that offers a fulfilling career feeding and clothing people here and across the world."

"To attract and retain young people to farming however we have to ensure they earn a fair and decent reward for their endeavour - it is the best way to compete with other career options."

"That is why this government is focused on driving profits back to the farm gate and into the hands of our farmers - to ensure that Australian farming is as prosperous as possible for future generations."

"And that is unashamedly the focus of the Government's \$4 billion Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper."

The grants announced to support young farmers are:

- ABC Heywire: \$150,000 to continue the program for another three years;
- Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia: \$225,000 to improve agricultural education and awareness in schools; and
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation: \$125,000 to fund the Young Farmers Forum in 2015-16.

Minister Joyce said ABC Heywire, PIEFA and RIRDC had unique experience in engaging youth in agriculture and have excellent track records in delivering good results.

"The Government recognises agriculture as a key pillar of the national economy and the backbone of rural and regional Australia - and I'm always pleased to deliver funding for organisations and programs that share my passion for a vibrant and profitable sector."

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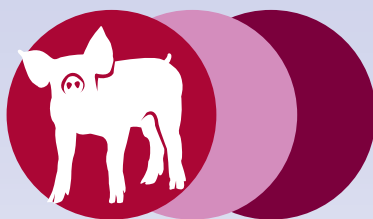


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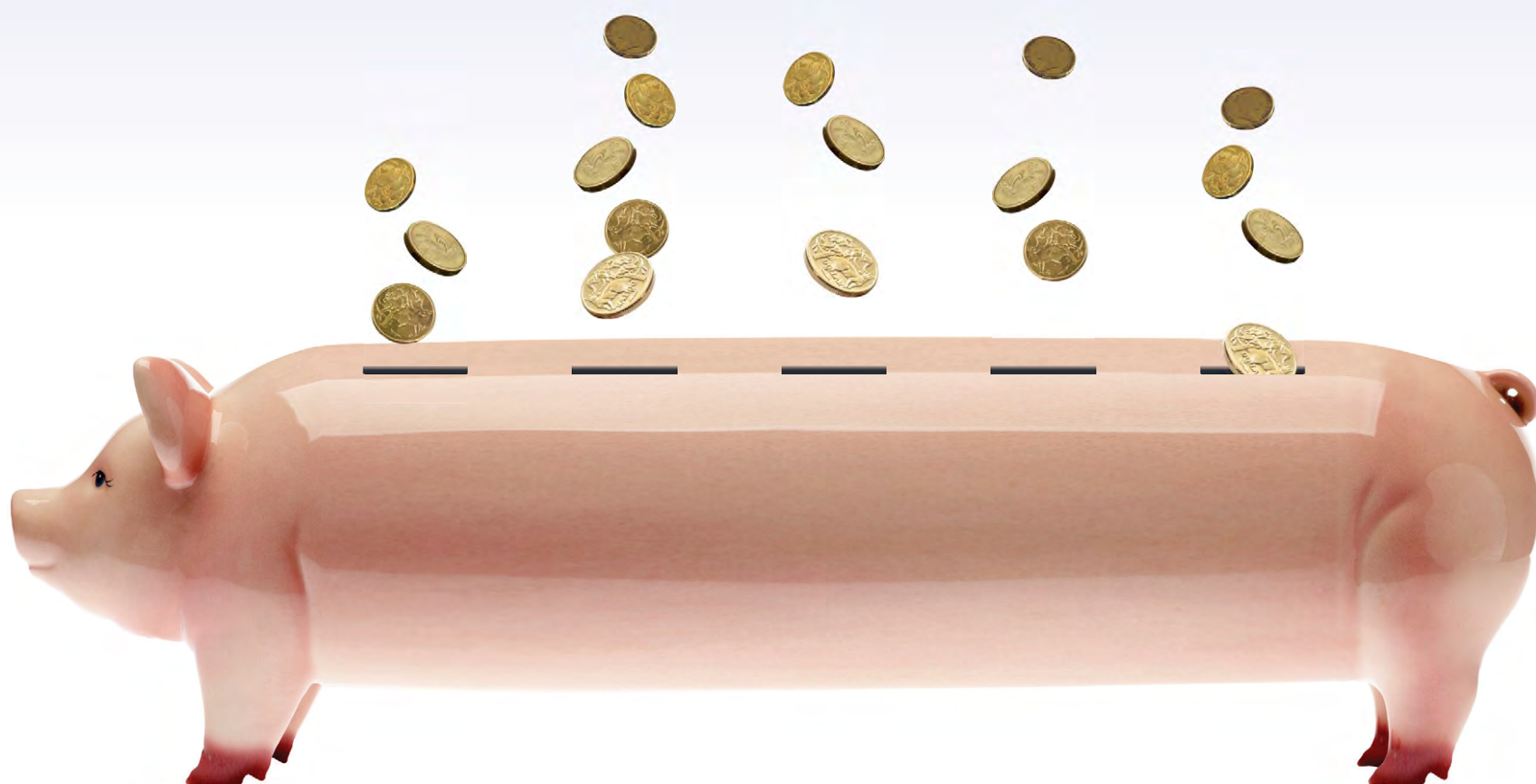


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# It’s everyone’s duty to keep all our pigs safe

IN the year ahead, Australian Pork Limited will be looking at new ways to better engage, especially with smallholders, to reach them regarding issues that impact on animal health and disease prevention in particular.

For some in the industry, smallholders have been seen simply as risk creators.

The impact for small producers has left them feeling disengaged, unrepresented, and ‘not part of the industry’.

All producers pay the slaughter levy, and all are entitled to APL support and assistance.

Smallholders are a growing voice in rural Australia, mainly due to their inventive use of social media and (often) their better connections with people in the city.

In many ways, through weight of numbers, smallholders are the face of rural Australia online.

For these reasons, APL is looking at ways to better engage with smallholders.

You may have seen the new APL publication *Pigs N’ Mud*, which is targeted directly at small pig enterprises.



Through this publication, we can ensure the correct and relevant information around husbandry and biosecurity is available.

With this said, larger commercial producers also have a part to play in helping smallholders understand traceability, health, welfare, environment and biosecurity best practice.

It only takes one pig owner to do the wrong thing due to their misunderstanding of what best practice should be and the whole industry is tarnished.

If you are selling your pigs to another producer or smallholder, then you have a valuable opportunity to pass on some important information.

For instance, you should:

- Provide them with a PigPass NVD, and show them how to register and complete one when the time comes;
- Urge them to report

the movement of pigs onto their own property. APL is working towards making this mandatory for everyone;

- Let them know about appropriate pig diets, and explain the dangers of swill feeding; and
- Point them in the direction of the *Pigs N’ Mud* publication.

Some producers are happy to sell pigs to smallholders.

Others have a policy against it, while some only sell castrated males.

If someone comes to you looking to buy a pig, then consider that if you decline, they will likely seek out a pig elsewhere and possibly miss out on the information you can provide.

Remember that you are an authority on all things relating to pigs and pork.

You are in a unique position to provide trusted information.

Thanks for helping to ‘keep our pigs safe’!

For any further information, feel free to contact me on 02 6270 8809 or by email at [james.battams@australianpork.com.au](mailto:james.battams@australianpork.com.au)

**James Battams**  
APL Policy Analyst



**“Proud to be part of a team that invests in knowledge to support pig farmers.”**

**- Dr Hong Lin**  
CRA Pig Veterinarian





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# Fresh approach to popular pork cuts

EARLIER this year, Pork CRC awarded Debbie Zhengyan Xu and Jenny Tran Honours scholarships, each worth \$10,000, as part of Pork CRC Project 3B-112 'Nutritional composition of pork'.

Their supervisor is Dr Ken Ng at the University of Melbourne, where he co-ordinates the Master of Food Science course.

Pork CRC Program 3 – Healthy Pork Consumption, is all about developing quality assessment tools for pork in domestic and international markets, as well as investigating the inherent properties of pork that contribute to improved consumer health when pork is consumed as part of a total diet.

The latter investigation is covered in Pork CRC Subprogram 3B.

### Debbie Xu

Debbie Xu is a graduate student at the University of Melbourne, where she is studying a Master of Food Science.

She was born in China and came to Australia at age 18 to study.

Two years later she completed a diploma course in Hospitality Management at Chisholm Institute of TAFE, Melbourne.

After a one-year stint as a cook, Debbie decided to further advance her education.

She received her Bachelor Degree in Science and Postgraduate Certificate in Nutrition and Dietetics from Curtin University, Perth, where in her last year of study she had internships, as a student dietician, with the National Heart Foundation (Western Australia Division), Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

After discovering her passion for food science and research, she returned to Melbourne to continue her study in food science.


She currently works part time for a food formulation company, The Product Makers (Springvale, Melbourne), as a laboratory assistant and also as a student library assistant with the Eastern Resource Centre Library, the University of Melbourne.

### Jenny Tran

Jenny Tran is currently completing her Master of Food Science at the University of Melbourne.

She has experience in product development, participating in this year's

**Pork CRC Project 3B-112 'Nutritional composition of pork'**



Debbie Zhengyan Xu and Jenny Tran, the University of Melbourne  
Supervisor: Dr Ken Ng, the University of Melbourne

Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology competition for innovative products.

The team Jenny worked with developed a mochi-coated protein ball that was then marketed to a health-conscious audience.

Jenny is also a founding member of the Graduate Agriculture & Food Society at the University of Melbourne, which helps connect postgraduate agriculture, food science and packaging students to the industry.

As well as her studies, Jenny works in the retail sector, where she enjoys communicating and engaging with consumers.

### Project profile

Jenny will analyse the lipid composition of three popular fresh pork cuts within Australia, as provided by Australian Pork Limited.

Debbie will analyse proximate composition and iron content of three popular fresh pork cuts within Australia, as provided by APL.

Their analysis will profile the fatty acids, as well as provide information on the total saturated and unsaturated fatty acids, and protein and iron content.

The project will use validated sampling and analytical techniques to ensure cuts are nationally representative and sourced from a range of retail outlets.

It is anticipated that their research will provide the data to update existing Australian compositional databases and the Australian pork industry's internal food composition databases to identify research and development investments into nutrition and health.

### Ken Ng

Ken Ng is a lecturer in Food Chemistry in the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

He has a PhD in biochemistry and researches the nutritional profiles of foods, chemistry and biochemistry of plant anti-

oxidants and anti-cancer properties of organic selenium.

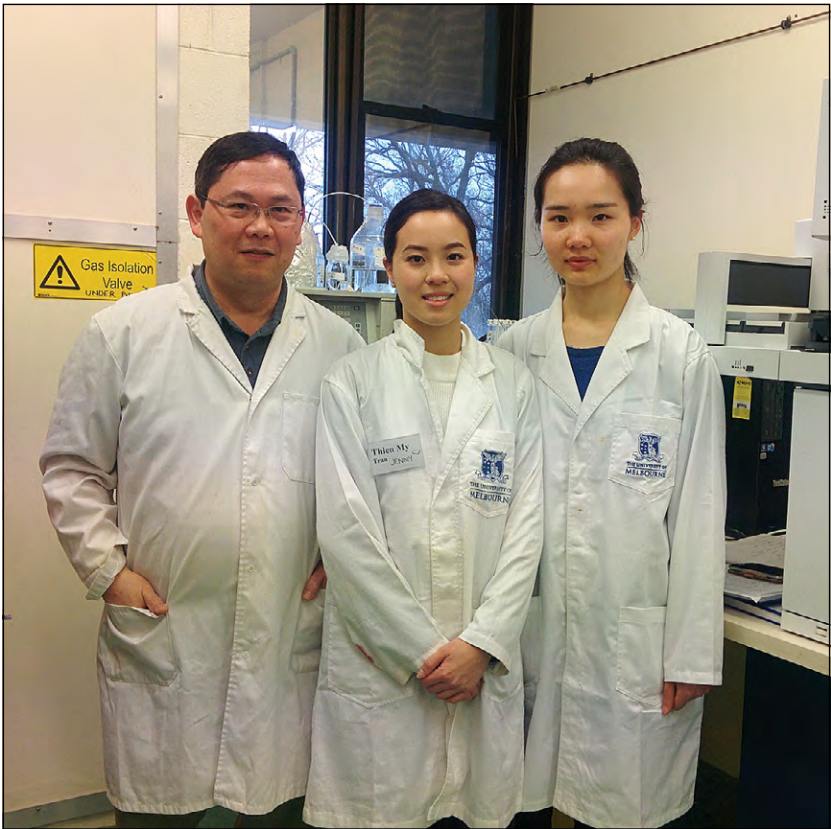
Dr Ng has also researched formulation approaches to pharmaceutical delivery of chemically labile antioxidants (Monash University), biosynthesis of lipophosphoglycans from the protozoan parasite of humans, leishmania, biosynthesis of beta (1-3) glucan (La Trobe University) and the biosynthesis of hyaluronic acid (University of Chicago, US).

Dr Ng has more than 35 research publications and is a former recipient of an

Australian Research Council research fellowship and ARC research grants.

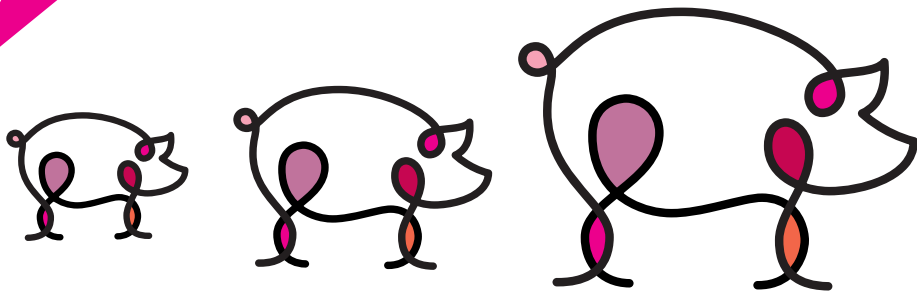
Co-ordinator of the Master of Food Science course, Dr Ng also co-ordinates and teaches in the undergraduate subjects FOOD20003 Food Chemistry, Biology & Nutrition and FOOD30010 Functional Foods, and the Masters subjects FOOD90022 Food Chemistry and FOOD90025 Health Aspect in Functional Foods.

For further information, contact Dr Ken Ng by email at [ngkf@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ngkf@unimelb.edu.au)



Dr Ken Ng with Jenny Tran and Debbie Xu, Pork CRC supported students in his Master of Food Science course at the University of Melbourne.

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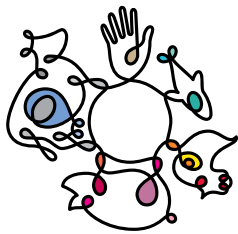
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## Grassroots campaign supports farmers' voice

THE National Farmers' Federation recently launched an online campaign to increase community awareness about the importance of international trading partners and in particular the need for the China-Australia free trade agreement to be ratified this calendar year.

Australian farmers rely on trade and international markets to generate \$42.4 billion per annum for the Australian economy, with \$9 billion in earnings from China alone.

The Farmers for Free Trade campaign seeks to

highlight the significant benefits of access to new markets and the flow-on benefits to jobs in rural communities.

As part of this, the NFF has launched farmersforfreetrade.org.au to seek support and ensure the message gets out.

NFF president Brent Finlay said the China FTA, if ratified, would deliver more jobs and opportunities right through the agricultural supply chain, including for farmers and the communities they support.

However, if Parliament fails to ratify the China FTA this year it will mean farmers and

the Australian community will miss out on two rounds of tariff cuts.

This will have enormous implications for the competitiveness and affordability of all Australian products in China, and set Australian agriculture back \$300 million in 2016.

"Farmers make an enormous contribution to our country, and we must ensure they are supported on the big issues that impact rural communities," Mr Finlay said.

"The website farmersforfreetrade.org.au enables the community, corporate entities and

farmers to make a contribution to a broader China FTA campaign.

"Money raised will be used to support the campaign and generate greater awareness of the China FTA and the flow-on benefits to farmers and the broader rural community.

"The economic interests of Australia's rural and regional communities need and deserve our attention, the public's attention and the attention of our elected representatives.

"We look forward to having the China FTA ratified as soon as possible."

## Stockyard moves into bigger warehouse in North Bendigo

DURING July, Stockyard Industries moved into a bigger warehouse in North Bendigo to provide its pig and poultry customers reliable availability of an extensive product range as well as prompt service.

The new warehouse has 650sq m of storage and 100sq m of office space and is located at 65-67 Holdsworth Rd, North Bendigo.

The premises are also equipped with a formal meeting room if customers wish to discuss projects.

Due to expanding business in both pig and poultry industries, Stockyard believed it was necessary to provide a larger southern warehouse that will provide a more extensive range of products at a more competitive price.

To assist in providing this service, Stockyard has appointed a warehouse manager to oversee the efficient management

of orders, stock control and freight.

Ryan Rees started in this role in July and he comes with more than seven years' experience in warehouse management and customer service.

You can contact Ryan

directly at the warehouse on 0438 658 259 or email any orders to vicsales@stockyardindustries.com

Steve Clohesy (0427 733 141) and Kyle Pearce (0488 045 388) are also always available for any sales inquiries or orders.



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They are simple to install and easy to maintain without the need to drain the sewage tank.

Tsurumi-built TRN series aerators are available from Aussie Pumps.

Tsurumi Pump, based in Kyoto, is the world's largest submersible pump manufacturer, with the capacity to build over 1.4 million units a year.

The company was a pioneer in the use and application of submersible aerators, with livestock operators in Japan quickly realising the system's economy compared to conventional blowers or paddle wheel-style aeration equipment.

The TRN series has been widely used in Asia to revolutionise sewage treatment in remote villages.

Aussie Pumps Tsurumi product manager Craig Bridgement said, "We see that livestock producers, abattoirs and food processing plants all have wastewater handling issues."

"These aerators offer potentially huge savings in installation and maintenance costs for these applications."

The self-aspirating

submersible aerators incorporate an integrated stainless steel semi-open impeller.

The impeller draws air through the intake, mixes it with the liquid being aerated and discharges at a high pressure.

This leads to highly efficient aeration, with a number of significant advantages over conventional aeration.

The air sucked into the aerator is subject to an air and water collision within the guide vanes of the machine.

By matching the size of the aerator to the tank, it is possible to aerate tanks up to 17m in diameter and 6m deep with a single unit.

For larger tanks, two or more aerators can be installed to provide the right results.

Aerators can be supplied with stands or 'draught tubes' that maintain proper water depth and best operating results.

"These aerators are as easy to install as a normal submersible pump, and for maintenance they are simply pulled to the surface on a chain," Bridgement said.

"Tsurumi applies the same no-compromise design philosophy to these units as its submersible pumps."

"Anti-wicking cable entry, a dual silicon carbide mechanical seal encapsulated in an oil chamber,

patented oil lifter and abrasion-resistant materials are all part of the package."

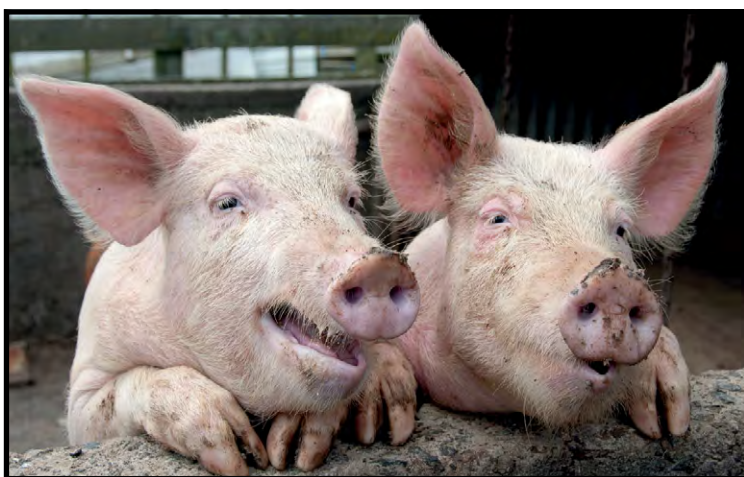
A comprehensive wastewater equipment selection guide has been produced in conjunction with the Japanese Sewage Works Association and provides a wide range of valuable information for consultants and operators.

The practical guide shows how aerators and bar screens can be used for the best results.

Submersible aeration equipment can be used in batteries, in conjunction with submersible sewage pumps to cut aeration costs and increase flexibility.

The guide also provides data on oxygen transfer rates and directions for installation.

For a copy of the guide or further information on the TRN series of aerators, contact Craig Bridgement on 02 8865 3500 or visit aussiepumps.com.au



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Dr Alison Collins of NSW Department of Primary Industries met with pork producers and Pork CRC representatives at the 2013 Victorian Pig Fair to discuss her progress in developing a quantitative PCR test for lawsonia.

# Pork CRC helping herd health

DESPITE several years of focused research by the Cooperative Research Centre for High Integrity Australian Pork, much remains to be done monitoring changes in the incidence, virulence and resistance of common pathogens over time and in developing appropriate diagnostic tests, according to Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell.

"Pork CRC researchers working on pleuro pneumonia and other respiratory diseases and enteric pathogens such as *E. coli*, lawsonia and brachyspira have been busy addressing these matters and it will be important, given the global emphasis on antimicrobial use and resistance, that this good work continues,"

Dr Campbell said. "It is a major issue and our industry has the opportunity and potential to further differentiate itself from global and national competitors."

Pork CRC Program 2 'Herd health management', has, however, had notable successes.

"Another widespread enteric disease is ileitis, and Pork CRC has played a central role in a quantitative PCR test for lawsonia developed by Dr Alison Collins of NSW Department of Primary Industries," Dr Campbell said.

"It was one of the first of its kind and is, to our knowledge, the only one verified in the laboratory and field.

"The test tells if the animal is infected with lawsonia, the number of law-

sonia present and, as such, the likelihood of chronic or impending acute disease."

Dr Collins, as part of her Subprogram 2A research, developed the test to quantify the load of lawsonia bacteria in pens with scouring pigs and she hopes that routine use of this test will allow producers to reduce the use of antibiotics to control scouring.

"The new quantitative test provides producers with a measure of pathogen numbers, as well as the associated production losses," Dr Collins said.

"If used routinely, producers can avoid disease outbreaks and evaluate the best treatment options for their herd."

Pork CRC is looking for expressions of interest

from companies to commercialise the test.

If interested, email Geoff Crook at [geoff.crook@porkcrc.com.au](mailto:geoff.crook@porkcrc.com.au) or Dr Charles Rikard-Bell at [c.rikardbell@porkcrc.com.au](mailto:c.rikardbell@porkcrc.com.au)

For details on the projects, lawsonia and the qPCR assay, email Dr Alison Collins at [alison.collins@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.collins@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

According to Dr Collins, a Pork CRC Program 2 project leader and senior research scientist with NSW DPI, outcomes from Pork CRC Subprogram 2A 'Novel disease diagnostics' have focused on improving the health of pig herds, with research targeting rapidly diagnosing and reducing diseases, especially those requiring antibiotics.

"Herd-based diagnostic tools that measure disease severity or pathogen load in real time provide pork producers with the ability to treat or prevent disease outbreaks before pigs are compromised," she said.

NSW DPI colleague Dr Deborah Finlaison and Dr Collins, with Pork CRC support, have de-

veloped diagnostic tools to measure viral and bacterial pathogen loads and disease responses in oral fluid samples from pens of pigs, providing producers with an easy, cost-effective tool to routinely monitor herd health and predict disease problems.

Pork CRC has also supported the University of Melbourne's Dr Mark Marenda, who has developed air sampling techniques, combined with quantitative detection of respiratory pathogens in the pig's environment.

Real-time monitoring of air quality will allow producers to identify periods when extra ventilation or disinfection of the environment is necessary to avoid disease outbreaks.

Dr Campbell said in the next four years, Pork CRC would address knowledge gaps across its four programs, while helping Australia produce the world's highest-quality pork that is differentiated from pork produced anywhere else in the world.

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



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## Anatara forges new industry and research alliance with Pork CRC

ANATARA Lifesciences is pleased to announce it has signed a commercial collaboration agreement with the Pork CRC.

The CRC will provide Anatara with services to locate key clinical trial sites and ongoing test sites, assist with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority approval of its lead therapy, Detach, and promote the results of these trials.

Detach is a non-antibiotic, natural treatment to treat and prevent diarrhoea in pigs and other livestock animals.

The current CRC has received about \$20 million in federal government funding, as well as \$18 million cash from its participants and an additional \$90 million from in-kind contributions.

The current CRC has funding until 2018-19 and active partners and participants in the CRC include the largest Australian pork producers, feed manufacturers and key government and farmer industry bodies, including the CSIRO.

A list of the participants can be found on the Pork CRC website [www.porkcrc.com.au](http://www.porkcrc.com.au)

Anatara chief executive Dr Paul Schober said the formal collaboration with the CRC is a significant endorsement of the critical work the company is doing in providing pork producers worldwide with an alternative to the

use of antibiotics in the livestock food chain.

"The Pork CRC has become the flagship for Australian pork producers," Dr Schober said.

"The relationship opens the door for Anatara to work closely with key players in the pork industry."

Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell said he was delighted that the CRC would have the opportunity to work alongside Anatara in removing antibiotics and other chemical additives from pork production.

"The Board and management of the CRC have closely reviewed the development work Anatara is doing and we believe the company provides a safe solution to one of the key issues facing the Australian pork industry and an undertaking from the Commonwealth Government to remove antibiotics from livestock production," Dr Campbell said.

"The CRC team and participants are very much looking forward to being a key partner in Anatara's development plans."

A second field trial for Detach began in June, with the results expected in the third quarter of 2015.

Anatara expects Detach to be on sale in Australia within 12 months of lodging its regulatory approval application to the APVMA based on the pace of current progress.

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



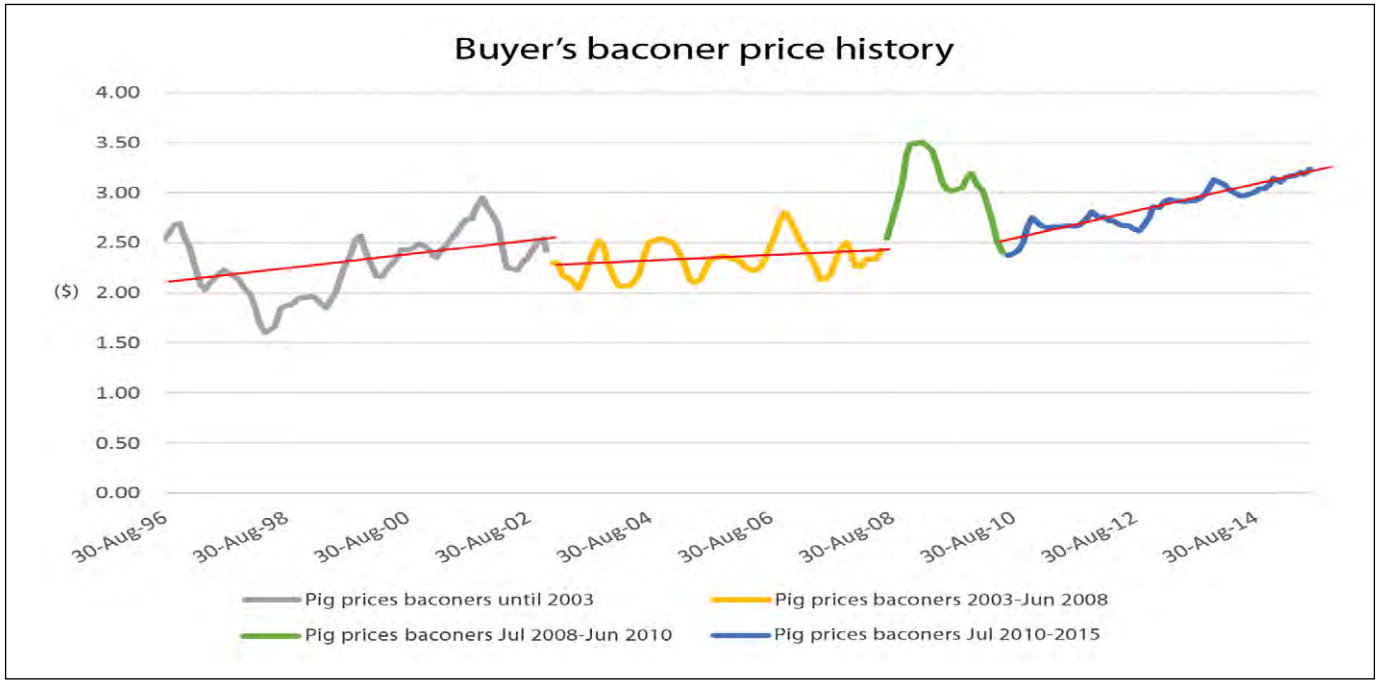


Figure 1

# Confidence is the key for growth

PIG prices have increased by 14 cents per kilogram since early June (or at least the national average has).

While recently compared to beef, this is glacial growth, and if we look at pig price growth over the long term we can see that growth now is faster and more stable than our pre-2008 history.

Figure 1 charts pig price (baconer buyer's price) over the past 20 years.

The period from 1996 to 2003 was highly volatile but had growing prices.

The period from 2003 to 2007 was oversupplied because domestic production was quite stable and imports were increasing.



## Marketing Matters

by **PETER HAYDON**  
General Manager Marketing



After the profit crisis and its aftermath, prices from 2010 until today have grown at a more rapid and consistent pace.

This most recent growth is in part driven by a steady increase in supply and demand growing at a faster rate than planned.

Prices today are largely

demand driven.

In fact, when supply drove pig prices between 2003 and 2007, pig prices grew by 1.1 percent per year, but when demand drives prices up they increase at 4.3 percent per year.

The difference between 1.1 percent and 4.3 per-

cent is almost 11 cents per kilogram per year.

This growth, while pleasing, has not yet resulted in the normal industry response of individual producers making individual decisions to increase production.

When producer returns are positive (on average across the nation) and prices are increasing but the number of pigs being produced is not growing, this would normally be due to less investment than is normally the case.

To improve investment we need to add confidence.

One way to add confidence is to add certainty.

Over the past few months, we (well really the Research and Inno-

vation team at Australian Pork Limited) have identified a number of ways of forecasting what the lead indicators for pig production might be.

If we can know two years in advance what's going to happen to supply, then we can estimate what needs to happen to demand.

And if we can do that, we can add certainty to the future.

While we have not yet completed our crystal ball, being able to see further into the future would be highly valuable.

As always, we will test our theories before sharing them to make sure they actually work.

Please rest assured – we are working on it.

## Gleptosil performs on piglets

GLEPTOSIL Iron Injection for Piglets is a well-known product in Europe, Scandinavia and the Americas and is distributed in Australia by Ausrichter Animal Health.

Gleptosil is produced in Europe to GMP manufacturing standards.

Field tests have shown that by administering Gleptosil (gleptoferron), piglets experience faster growth and increased weight gain in comparison with iron dextran.

Gleptosil is available in a 100ml plastic pack and it has a composition of 200mg/ml of iron.

An easy-to-administer 1ml injection delivers the recommended dose.

Iron deficiency in piglets occurs because of rapid growth and the piglets' need for an increase of red blood cells.

Iron in sow's milk is sig-

nificantly below the level required by fast-growing suckling piglets.

An iron injection is essential to avoid iron deficiency anaemia.

The benefits of Gleptosil treatment of piglets include:

- Increased numbers of piglets at weaning;
- Resistance to disease and infections (particularly respiratory disease);
- Higher weaning weights; and
- Better daily weight gain.

The economic benefit from Gleptosil Iron Injection for Piglets is 'money in the bank'.

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	Gleptosil 200mg/ml	Iron dextran 200mg/ml
Number of litters	96	97
Number of piglets	925	918
Number of piglets at weaning	794	725
Survival at weaning	85.8%	78.9%

Table 1: Comparison of weaned piglets treated with either Gleptosil Iron Injection or iron dextran injection.

	Gleptosil 200mg/ml	Iron dextran 200 mg/ml
Number of piglets	794	774
Mean birth weight	1.55kg	1.51kg
Mean weaning weight	6.77kg	6.69kg
Birth – weaning LWG	5.22kg	4.87kg
Birth – weaning DLWG	240g	180g

Table 2: Comparison of weight gain of piglets at weaning treated with either Gleptosil or iron dextran injection.

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- ✓ Easy-to-administer 1 mL injection; delivers the recommended dose



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# Quantum Power secures project number 12

AWARD-winning Gold Coast bioenergy company Quantum Power Ltd has secured its 12th biogas project with a large Western Australian pork producer, cementing its position as Australia's leading biogas company.

This will be the sixth project Quantum Power has undertaken within the Australian pork industry.

The project site, located an hour from Perth, is set to generate up to 1MW of renewable energy by converting manure from the pig housing facility into biogas.

This biogas will be refined and used as a fuel for the new renewable power station to be constructed on site.

The renewable energy produced will be equivalent to the power consumption of over 600 homes.

Quantum Power has proposed the development of the project under a Build Own Operate Maintain model, with the pork producer entering into a long-term power purchase agreement with Quantum.

This will be the first of its kind for a biogas project within the Australian pork industry.

BOOM projects are becoming increasingly popular in the commercial sector, offering companies the opportunity to access green power generated on site using their organic by-products at cheaper rates and with no upfront costs.

Quantum Power is targeting the commencement of construction of the anaerobic digestion facility and power plant for early 2016, conditional upon a number of factors, including all relevant regulatory approvals, qualification for registration under relevant renewable energy and emissions reduction fund legislation and approval by the Board of Quantum Power Ltd.

Quantum Power was recently acquired by Geodynamics Ltd – a Brisbane-based renewable energy company.

Quantum's leading market position and strong project pipeline made for an attractive investment opportunity for Geodynamics.

The merger, which is endorsed by the Quantum Board and accepted by shareholders, will create a stronger combined entity with increased engineering and project financing capacity, enabling Quantum to chase larger projects.

Quantum Power business development manager Kunal Kumar said the biogas project will deliver environmental benefits and energy savings to the facility by offsetting 100 percent of grid-supplied electricity for the client, making the operation self-sufficient.

"The engineered anaerobic digestion system and biogas-fuelled power station will take between six and nine months to construct," Mr Kumar said.

"Once built, the digestion system will convert the organic load within the manure to biogas, comprising approximately 60 percent methane.

"The biogas, which would otherwise escape to the atmosphere, is being harvested and treated before being used as fuel for onsite electricity generation.

"The covered anaerobic digester will also reduce odour coming from the treatment of manure compared to the current system in place."

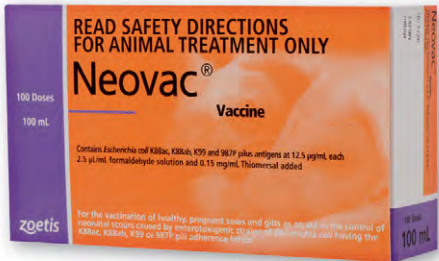
Mr Kumar said Quantum Power's biogas solutions were ideally suited to pig producers, abattoirs, dairy producers, layer and meat chicken producers and other food processing industries.

"The engineered anaerobic digestion system will not only save the facility a significant amount on their electricity bills over many years by replacing expensive power drawn from the grid – it is also remarkably better for the environment, as methane has 21 times the global warming effect of carbon dioxide," he said.

Mr Kumar confirmed recent announcements regarding a bipartisan approach to the Renewable Energy Target and the outstanding success of the Federal Government's first auction of Australian carbon credit units under the Emission Reduction Fund were a major catalyst for the decision to tender for the project, demonstrating that a stable policy environment is critical for the success of the renewable energy industry in Australia.

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MOBILE: 0419 695 126  
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**Dr Timothy Ahern** B. Sc. (Hons) B.V.Sc. (Hons) Dip.Reprod.Sci  
National Pig Business Manager  
Intensive – Monogastric  
**Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd**  
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**Bruce Hunt**  
Professional Sales Representative - Intensive Livestock  
**Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd**  
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**Tom Cowper**  
National Account Manager - Intensive  
**Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd**  
Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138  
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**Darryl Meaney**  
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Intensive – Monogastric  
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**Stuart Wilkinson**  
Technical Services Manager  
Monogastrics

M 0414 487 882  
P +61(0)3 5429 2411  
F +61(0)3 5429 2433  
E [stuart.wilkinson@feedworks.com.au](mailto:stuart.wilkinson@feedworks.com.au)  
13 High Street, Lancefield  
Victoria 3435 Australia

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**Eugene McGahan**  
Senior Consultant

PO Box 2175 (11 Clifford St)  
Toowoomba Qld 4350

B Eng (Ag) MEng RPEQ MASABE Cert IV  
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P 07 4632 8230  
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**Sam Custodio**  
Technical Services and Sales Representative



Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Limited  
Animal Health Division  
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Mobile: 0409 493 368  
Tel: 1800 038 037  
Fax: 02 8875 8715  
[samuel.custodio@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:samuel.custodio@boehringer-ingelheim.com)

**Phillip Marr**  
Senior Technical Services and Sales Manager



Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Limited  
Animal Health Division  
78 Waterloo Road  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
Mobile: 0428 270 494  
Tel: 1800 038 037  
Fax: 02 8875 8715  
[phillip.marr@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:phillip.marr@boehringer-ingelheim.com)

**John Glassbrook**  
Bsc. Agric (An.Sci)  
Senior Technical Services and Sales Manager



Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Limited  
Animal Health Division  
78 Waterloo Road  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
Mobile: 0408 459 356  
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Technical Services and Sales Representative



Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Limited  
Animal Health Division  
78 Waterloo Road  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
Mobile: 0411 330 493  
Tel: 1800 038 037  
Fax: 02 8875 8715  
[meg.donahoo@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:meg.donahoo@boehringer-ingelheim.com)

**Shaun Megson**  
Key Account Manager, Australia and New Zealand



Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Limited  
Animal Health Division  
78 Waterloo Road  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
Mobile: 0408 233 227  
Tel: 1800 038 037  
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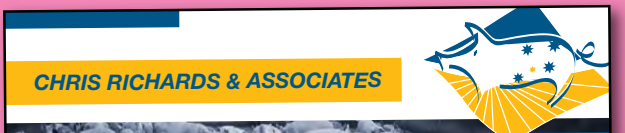
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# Boehringer Ingelheim launches new advance in swine health

SWINE producers and veterinarians from across Australia gathered in Melbourne recently to attend the launch of Boehringer Ingelheim's new vaccine Ingelvac MycoFLEX, indicated to aid in the prevention of mycoplasma hyopneumoniae in pigs.

A unique feature of the new vaccine is the option for farmers to freshly mix a 1ml dose of Ingelvac MycoFLEX vaccine with a 1ml dose of the most commonly prescribed pig vaccine: Ingelvac CircoFLEX.

The combination is being launched together under one brand as 'FLEX-combo', and provides combined protection against porcine circovirus associated disease and M. hyo in one simple 2ml injection.

Both vaccines have the same unique adjuvant to stimulate an optimal immune response when given freshly mixed product.

Farmers are well aware of the importance of PCVAD protection, with the memories of what the disease was like before a vaccine was available still fresh in farmers' minds.

M. hyo is an important disease for pig farmers, with about 60 percent of pigs for slaughter in Australia currently being vaccinated.

Boehringer Ingelheim Swine Product manager Australia and New Zealand Dr Sean Daly said: "The launch of Ingelvac MycoFLEX offers farmers a simple way to combine two vaccines that will save labour while still ensuring the pigs receive premium protection from PCVAD and M. hyo."

To make the fresh mixing of the two products as simple as possible, Boehringer Ingelheim has packaged Ingelvac MycoFLEX in an innovative 'Head Space Bottle'.

"The Ingelvac MycoFLEX Head Space Bottle is specifically designed so the right amount of Ingelvac CircoFLEX can be simply added via a specially designed and easy-to-use transfer needle," Dr Daly said.

"Through our well-established vaccine training program, Boehringer Ingelheim technical services and sales representatives are available to assist and train new users across Australia.

"Farmers already value the consistent safety and efficacy that Ingelvac CircoFLEX provides.

"Having the option and ability to easily combine this with a highly efficacious one-shot M. hyo

vaccine will save their staff time and simplify farmers' vaccination schedules.

"And while convenience is an important feature, efficacy and return on investment are the most important considerations when evaluating vaccine options.

"The theme for the launch, 'Freshly Mixed for Premium Protection', clearly captures the product's key features."

Also speaking at the launch event in Melbourne was Boehringer Ingelheim's Global Technical manager for Ingelvac MycoFLEX Dr Gabriele Schagemann.

A graduate of the Hannover Veterinary School in Germany, Dr Schagemann has over 30 years of experience in the global swine industry, working across many disease areas.

Australian farmers and veterinarians were given a

rare opportunity to speak directly with the global expert about particular respiratory disease challenges they face in Australia.

Dr Schagemann's official presentation highlighted that farmers could expect effective control of M. hyo associated respiratory disease with a one-shot vaccination program as provided by FLEX-combo.

Following the launch event in Melbourne, the Boehringer Ingelheim Swine Team will host roadshow events across Australia to showcase the new vaccine and combination product.

If farmers are interested in using Ingelvac MycoFLEX or FLEXcombo on their farm, they are encouraged to get in touch with their local Boehringer Ingelheim technical service and sales representative on 1800 038 037.



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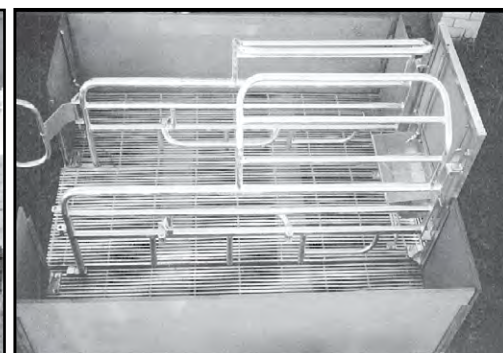
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