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NEWSPAPER

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SunPork Farms South QA manager Jason Morris and operations manager David Lines.

VEBS Facilitator Project to help prepare for ASF

THE Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards Facilitator Project, a new initiative from Australian Pork Limited, is helping producers prepare for African swine fever by supporting on-farm VEBS adoption across the country.

VEBS is a nationally endorsed set of biosecurity standards designed to:

- Reduce the likelihood of ASF introduction to a farm
- Limit disease spread and reduce outbreak size
- Support risk assessments for the movement of live pigs and semen under permit during an outbreak.

Endorsed by the Animal Health Committee in 2022, VEBS is now integrated into the Australian Pig Industry Quality Assurance Program as a certification module.

VEBS, alongside APIQ core standards, represents the minimum biosecurity standard required to support movement decisions in an ASF response.

APIQ panel chair Sharon Starick said: "By building national facilitator capability and capacity, producers will have access to specialist support to assist with the integration of VEBS into business as usual."

VEBS delivers an appropriate level of protection for pig producers and are a key link in wider supply chain biosecurity.

VEBS helps prepare producers to provide assurances to support live pig and semen movements in an African swine fever outbreak, making them vital to business continuity and to ensuring the least possible disruption to producers, abattoirs and other supply chain stakeholders during an outbreak.

On-farm adoption of VEBS

The VEBS Facilitator Project will build

continued P2

Celebrating pork's role in all our lives

THE operating environment for the Australian pork industry has always been complex but in recent months, it really felt like our resilience was being tested.

We've faced tariffs and global market uncertainty along with continuous illegal trespassing and harassment from activists and ongoing biosecurity risks.

On top of this, there is an increasing need for the industry to balance sustainability initiatives and economic viability.

All of these factors make me feel so proud of our hardworking farmers and those along the supply chain who work tirelessly every day to do their bit in feeding the nation.

Australian pork – and all meat in general – plays a hugely important role in our society.

As a member of the meat sector, it's our industry's role to provide a high-quality, nutritious and affordable protein for Australians, while contributing to the nation's food security and economic health.

Pork is the second-most consumed protein after chicken in Australia, with about 1.3 billion pork meals enjoyed by Aussies in 2023-24.



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE
CEO



From a health perspective, pork is a delicious and versatile source of essential nutrients for all Australians.

It's rich in high-quality protein and provides crucial vitamins and minerals, including thiamine for energy production, niacin for mental health and reducing fatigue, vitamin B12 for brain function and folate, which is critical to development during pregnancy.

Additionally, pork supplies phosphorus, magnesium and zinc, all which help boost immunity, maintain healthy skin and support the growth and development of children.

Without pork, all Australians would be missing out on affordable access to the nutrients critical to sustain a healthy way of life.

Pork doesn't only have a place in a balanced diet, it's crucial to maintaining one.

From a social and

economic perspective, pork provides more than enjoyment and nourishment.

It is the backbone for many parts of Australian society, particularly our regional and rural communities.

The pork industry contributes more than \$6.9 billion to the economy and employs nearly 37,000 farmers, producers, processors, transporters and retailers whose livelihoods depend on a thriving industry.

Despite all this, the sector isn't resting on its laurels.

As an industry, we've set ambitious targets to incorporate waste recycling and renewable energy technologies into our farming practices.

We're reducing our environmental footprint while ensuring pork remains a responsible choice for consumers concerned about animal welfare and resource efficiency.

Overall, Australian

pork producers have reduced their emissions intensity by more than 70 percent over the past four decades.

We're a global leader in healthy food production, sustainability and animal welfare.

Through programs such as the Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program and stringent biosecurity measures, Australian pork is safe, ethical and of the highest quality.

In a time of global uncertainty, the pork sector is delivering on its mandate to provide meat for Australia while bringing prosperity for Australian communities and confidence for consumers.

Our ongoing investment in research and innovation, environmental responsibility, science-backed animal welfare, biosecurity and workforce development ensures that Australian pork is a trusted protein and will continue to be.

As part of the broader Australian livestock sector, we're proud to set the standard for production of meat globally.

Despite the challenges, our industry is looking forward to the future. 🐷



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2025

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

OCT 6-8 – 16th SafePork – Rennes, France. <https://safepork.ifip.asso.fr>

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

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

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

2026

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

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

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

OCT 6-8 – International PRRS Symposium 2026 – Spain.

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

How to supply event details:
Send all details to **Australian Pork Newspaper**, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 0450 672 553 or email design@collins.media

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Training course participants pictured with course organiser, PIRSA vet Dr Jeremy Rogers (kneeling down in centre of the photo with earmuffs), and the author (far right).

Refresher course to aid disease detection

A TWO-day 'Working with Pigs' refresher course for veterinarians and Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia biosecurity staff was held in the Murraylands during June.

Aimed at refreshing the clinical skills of mixed practice vets and PIRSA biosecurity staff, this training is designed to make veterinary staff more comfortable and confident in responding to the needs of smaller property owners with pigs.

Participants included nine PIRSA biosecurity staff and seven private veterinarians from

**Pope's
Perspective**
by GRAEME POPE



clinics at Birdwood, Mt Compass, Murray Bridge and the Riverland.

PIRSA veterinary officer and course organiser Dr Jeremy Rogers sees this training as an opportunity to upskill vets in their disease diagnostics and management advice to small

property owners.

"The more vets we have across the regions able to respond to enquiries from landowners owning small numbers of pigs, the better chance we have for early disease detections", he said.

The pig industry is particularly focused on

an awareness of diseases such as foot and mouth disease, African swine disease and Japanese encephalitis.

Topics covered in Day 1 included the basics of pig ownership, housing and husbandry, nutrition and feeding, traceability, pig welfare, swill feeding, APIQ, general pig care and the role of vets in emergency animal disease monitoring and response.

Day 1 session presenters included specialist pig vet Dr Trish Holyoake, Dr Jeremy Rogers and myself, Graeme Pope, as industry consultant.

On Day 2, course participants visited a

SunPork grow-out unit, where company vet Dr Molly Dunstan and operational managers Jason Morris and Steve Tilly assisted Jeremy Rogers in helping trainees develop their skills in catching and restraining grower pigs, and collecting blood samples, followed by demonstrations in pig postmortem techniques.

"In the event an emergency animal disease is suspected or confirmed, I am expecting all our course participants will have the necessary skills to participate in an emergency disease response," Jeremy said.

VEBS Facilitator Project to help prepare for ASF

from P1 national capability and capacity by:

- Providing clear compliance guidance, tools and other resources for producers, facilitators and auditors

- Supporting production entities to adopt and become accredited for APIQ Option C VEBS-ASF

- Demonstrating biosecurity practice change at an industry level

- Supporting business continuity and minimising disruption to regular farm movements in a disease outbreak.

A 2022 collaborative project by Pork SA and Primary Industry and Regions South Australia benchmarked the farm biosecurity practices of pig suppliers to South Australian abattoirs and identified areas where industry required additional support for adoption of VEBS.

In 2023, further joint work by Pork SA and PIRSA consulted with industry and government representatives

to establish priorities and strength of audit evidence required for the VEBS.

Examples included a 'site map', which addressed more than 10 components of VEBS, and veterinary authorisations for key plans, including feed delivery, pig loadout and waste disposal.

A national APL-funded pilot project commenced in SA in early 2025 is now accelerating the uptake of VEBS by supporting the development of VEBS facilitators to assist farms with VEBS implementation and compliance.

Pork SA chair Greg Davis said, "The APL VEBS facilitator pilot project Phase 1 is based in SA and includes four facilitators and six farms."

"These farms range from 250 sows to large enterprises, older traditional-style family farms, stud breeders, mixed farms and multi-site enterprises."

Department of Primary Industries Queensland senior principal extension

officer (pork) animal science Sara Willis said: "Phase 1 also includes two facilitators and two sites in Queensland to evaluate project processes and tools before attempting escalation to a national program."

Facilitators have extensive experience in providing pig health, production and quality assurance consultancy services.

They are not restricted in applying outputs from the project more broadly across their client base.

The project's engine room is a working group comprised of facilitators, supported by APL.

Their collective knowledge is being harnessed to identify and resolve challenges and hurdles identified in farm VEBS gap assessments.

One of the first project sites has already achieved VEBS accreditation.

With this early success in SA and Queensland, the facilitator project is now

scaling nationally.

The next phase will:

- Add three new facilitators and three sites per state

- Expand use of pilot-developed tools
- Integrate findings from companion projects – such as feral pig exposure risk assessments and disposal guidance (NSW DPI, APL).

Why we need to keep pigs moving

Disease simulation exercises – Rapid Strike, Razorback and Hamstrung – and abattoir shutdowns have demonstrated how rapidly the inability to move pigs can cause severe on-farm impacts.

The benchmarking survey in 2022 of sites producing 75 percent of production found that only 17 percent of 69 production sites had accommodation to hold pigs for more than two weeks past routine shipment to abattoirs.

In addition, experience has shown that for every day an abattoir is closed, it takes

four days to catchup the backlog.

Taken together, these findings indicate that an inability to move stock due to movement controls, likely to be imposed as part of an official disease response, are prone to very rapidly – within days – create adverse farm impacts well beyond destruction of the infected premises.

It is also plausible that disease-tracing activities may implicate many sites that have transported pigs to an exposed abattoir in the weeks leading up to first detection – diagnosis and official declaration of disease will also create high demand for risk assessments and permitted movements.

Regular movements are critical for pig welfare and business continuity.

Industry must be prepared.

Doing nothing is not an option.

Dr Andy Pointon, Dr Kirsty Richards and Tanya Pittard
For Australian Pork Limited

**Australian
Pork**

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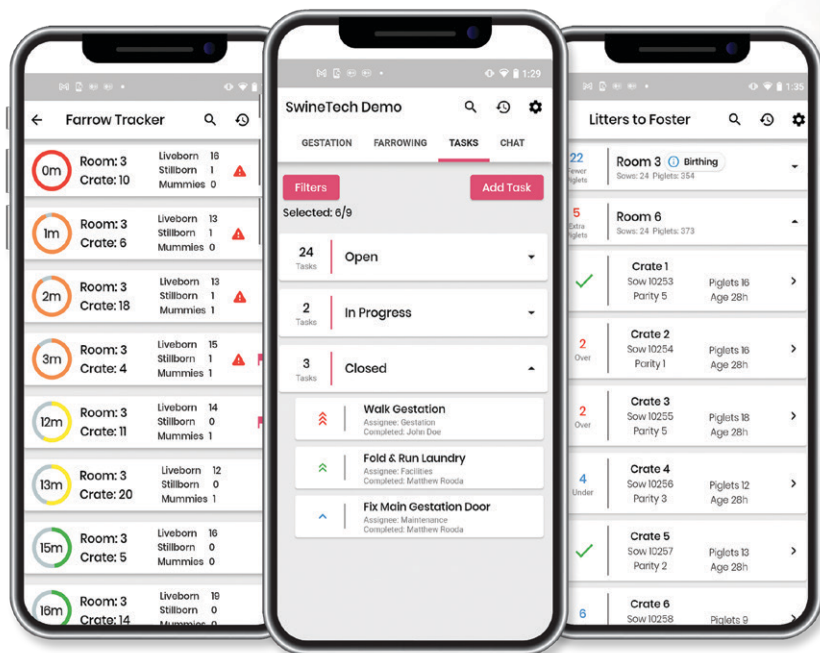


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What We Do

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Our Results

PigFlow improves barn staff productivity by optimising breeding herd efficiency and outcomes, to increase pigs weaned per man-hour and drive better margins.

PigFlow provides app-based workflows and operational intelligence to increase employee engagement, efficiencies and pig care.

How it Works

Step 1 Install Hardware & Software



Network Connection



Mobile Devices



Enterprise Management

Step 2 Define Operations



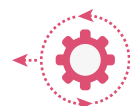
Manager

Sets the goals, expectations, SOPs (What do we need to happen?)



Workflow

Reinforces the correct actions and behaviours (When do we need to do it?)



Process

Ensure completion and compliance (Are we doing a good job?)

Step 3 Direct Execution

Daily Workflows

- Farrow Tracker
- Fostering Management
- Treatments & Vaccinations

Team Collaboration

- Transparency and Accountability
- Task Prioritisation & Optimisation
- Multi-lingual Messaging

Integrated Insights

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Innovation challenge

SHARE your innovative ideas to win.

Whether you've found a new way to improve pig health, cut costs, boost sustainability or streamline operations, Australian Pork Limited wants to hear from you.

This could be a do-it-yourself homemade tool that makes tasks more efficient, enrichment toys made from safe recyclables or even if it's not a new invention, a smart tweak to something existing that saves time, money or improves animal welfare – it will still be considered a great innovation.

The prize

Submit your idea or project for a chance to win a Tefal 8.3-litre Dual Air Fryer or similar, valued at \$200, and a ticket to the Australasian Pig Science As-

sociation Industry Day in Melbourne on November 17, 2025, including \$1000 towards travel costs.

Key dates

- Submissions are open now

- Competition closes September 30, 2025

- Winner announced October 10, 2025

Who can enter

Anyone who works within the Australian pork industry.

The challenge is open to all ideas, big or small.

How to enter

Send us:

- Your name and where you're from

- Name and photo of your innovation

- Describe how the innovation has helped your business (100 words).

Email extension@australianpork.com.au

Australian Pork Limited



Call for 2025 Batterham Award nominations

THE Australasian Pig Science Association is looking to honour the next rising star of pig science with the 2025 Batterham Memorial Award.

The late Dr Ted Batterham was a respected and world-leading scientist in amino acid nutrition who, for over three decades, played an important role in mentoring the next generation of pig scientists.

Since his passing in 1994, APSA has celebrated 15 deserving Batterham Memorial Award winners, who have each invested the

prize in their professional development.

Dr Jessica Craig of JBS Pork Australia was the 2023 winner.

Jess' early contribution to pig science was through her PhD centred on understanding the early growth and development of gilt progeny to improve lifetime performance and survival.

As a former technical officer, APRIL Industry Placement Program alumnus, research scientist and now research and innovation manager at JBS Pork Australia, Jess' career is deeply

focused on delivering applied science outcomes for industry and mentoring the next generation of pig scientists herself.

Jess recently used her award to help fund her attendance at the American Society of Animal Science Midwest Section meeting in Nebraska, as well as meet with the Applied Swine Nutrition team at Kansas State University and some of her JBS colleagues in the Midwest.

The APSA Committee invites recently graduated or post-graduate students to

nominate for the 2025 award.

Nominees should articulate how they've delivered research outcomes to the Australasian pig industry and demonstrate their contribution through publications, collaboration and innovation in pig research and development.

Along with their curriculum vitae and letter of nomination, nominees should outline how they would use the \$6000 cash prize.

Visit the apsa.asn.au website or scan the QR code below for a full

list of criteria.

Nominations close September 30, 2025.

The winner will be announced at the twentieth biennial conference in Melbourne, November 17-19.

The award is proudly sponsored by Feedworks.

APSA Committee



Scan for more information.



Jess Craig received the 2023 Batterham Memorial Award from award sponsor Mal Mottram of Feedworks.



Jess and partner Leigh, also of JBS Pork Australia, toured JBS' Hedrick Feed Mill in Iowa.

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Animal Health

Piggery reduces both maintenance time and costs with new wastewater pumps

BETTAPORK Piggery has been breeding pigs for over 30 years.

A mid-size enterprise, the piggery raises the animals and then sells them to market.

As part of the piggery's recycling philosophy, all pig waste is collected and broken down before being used as fertiliser on the grounds and turned into biogas to power the farm.

BettaPork Piggery owner and director Paul Brosnan said, "We collect the pig waste in what we call sump pits."

"The effluent is then pumped from the sump up to a holding dam."

"It then moves progressively through a series of processes before the effluent is eventually ready to be pumped into biogas holding tanks to collect the biogas."

The problem

To move the pig waste from the sump to the holding tanks, the piggery was using a few different types of pumps including submersibles.

Located in the effluent pit, and needing a chain and lifting device to raise to the surface, these pumps were proving increasingly inefficient and costly to maintain.

"After we bought the submersible pumps, we quickly discovered that they have a very fine tolerance," Paul said.

"The suction inlet impeller started to block continuously, and the pumps would run dry, resulting in the internals of the pump wearing and needing to be replaced on a regular basis."

The solution

Paul started to search for a more efficient solution.

Coincidentally, Paul works closely with a local business, which uses several Gorman Rupp pumps in its processes, who highly recommended the brand.

Paul contacted Hydro Innovations – the authorised Australian distributor for Gorman-Rupp pumps – for a solution to the issues with the current pumps he was using.

"Having purchased and used many different types of pumps in the past, we didn't want to spend any more money on pumps that could not do the job," he said.

"So, it was great coming across a supplier who was happy to stand by their product and prove it was the right pump for the job."

After reviewing the piggery's requirements, Hydro Innovations suggested that Paul install a Gorman-Rupp T6A60S-B wastewater pump fitted with a 7.5kW motor – a packaged unit that would provide both the flow and the pressure that Paul needed.

According to Hydro Innovations general manager Garry Grant, the Gorman-Rupp T6A60S-B is a rugged and reliable self-priming centrifugal solids-handling pump.

Very easy to maintain, the pump can handle a 3" solid – so it will pump a cricket ball – as well as stringy materials.

In addition, if any choking does occur, the pump can be easily and quickly unclogged via the lightweight removable cover plate.

The design of the pump also allows users to adjust the clearance externally, in minutes, to ensure optimum performance without having to remove the pump from the system or open it.

For major services, the removable rotating assembly can be replaced by simply loosening four bolts from the drive end of the pump, eliminating the need to disturb the pump casing or piping.



The new BettaPork Piggery pump is fit for purpose.

www.porknews.com.au

The results

"Within a few months of having the pump installed at the piggery, we knew that it was capable," Paul said.

"It moves more liquid than the previous pump and it's extremely easy to maintain, which for me is the major bonus."

"The open impeller design makes it very simple to remove any blockages."

"You only have to loosen two bolts to get inside the pump and clear it, which takes just 15 minutes."

"And of course, an added bonus is that we no longer have to waste money purchasing a constant number of parts due to breakdowns," he said.

So impressed was Paul with the performance of the Gorman-Rupp T6A60S-B that he purchased a second pump and is now considering a third.

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



BettaPork Piggery owner Paul Brosnan said it was great to come across a supplier who was happy to stand by their product and prove it was the right pump for the job.




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Don't shoot our messengers

JUST how much animal welfare matters in Australia's pork industry really came to the fore recently when disturbing images and reports, courtesy of Farm Transparency Project, emerged of Andgar Piggery near Dublin, South Australia.

Here's what Farm Transparency Project had to say on its website – edited for the style of this publication.

In June, investigators – acting on information from a member of the public – captured footage inside Andgar Piggery in Dublin, South Australia.

The footage shows pigs living alongside

the decomposing bodies of dozens of dead pigs, with some becoming stuck in a giant pile of corpses.

Other footage from the same piggery shows pigs in 'eco sheds' on the property, which are sheds with two or three walls, with at least one side open to the elements.

The pigs in these sheds are seen wading through mud and waste, which is often so deep that they are forced to swim.

Some pigs had drowned in these sheds, likely after becoming stuck.

Pigs were filmed with massive necrotic wounds where infection had eaten through skin down to the bone.

One pig had a hole in their back that was roughly 10cm in diameter and packed

with straw, mud and faeces.

Piglets were also found living among the dead and rotting bodies of their litter-mates.

These visits took place over a month after this farm had been reported to the RSPCA by a member of the public, who was so horrified by the conditions that they knew they had to act.

While not the first revelation of seemingly disgusting treatment of farmed pigs – and unlikely to be the last – real concerns have been widely shared regarding insufficient worthwhile oversight, inspections and reporting by those industry bodies charged with doing so.

Shame on them I say.

Call out animal welfare wrongs when re-

vealed, no matter how the revelation comes to be.

What matters is that the alleged cruelty is uncovered.

Be quick to publicly condemn it.

Then be honest enough to acknowledge that industry agreed and certified quality control measures and bodies are obviously abject failures.

Then set about lifting standards of on-farm inspections and reporting.

Finally, make every effort to banish from the industry those involved with serious animal cruelty.

If industry bodies don't do all of the above, consumers will inevitably begin to remove pork products from their shopping lists and menus.

Industry bodies must stop shooting the messenger.

Messengers are not responsible for the cruelty but simply for the revelation, which itself may result in them suffering consequences.

Clearly, it seems, animal protection or animal welfare bodies are prepared to pay such a price.



**Cant
Comment**
by BRENDON CANT



On-farm cruelty and poor animal welfare, when exposed as it should be, may well drive consumers away from pork. Industry bodies, non-governmental organisations and governments both federal and state need to stand up, be more accountable and publicly call out bad welfare practices and the dark underbelly of on-farm cruelty and neglect.

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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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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.

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JBS Australia's corporate communications director Olga Alexandratos and project manager for farming operations Nathan Sandral examine plans for future expansion.



Two new sites are being constructed and two are being redeveloped within the existing Corowa farm.

Rivalea's \$400m piggy bank

SECURING the industry's future in the Corowa region, a \$400 million expansion at JBS Rivalea – including construction of a closed-herd piggery near Mulwala – is designed to modernise and de-risk operations. JBS Australia became the country's largest pork producer after acquiring Rivalea for \$175 million in 2021.

Its Corowa farm employs 700 people and houses 25,000 pigs, producing eight percent of Australian pork. The expansion includes two new piggeries outside the current site at One Tree Lane and the 9000-sow closed-herd piggery near Mulwala.

Once built, no live animals will be brought into the Mulwala operation, only semen, with some of the female piglets bred there becoming the future breeding sows.

NSW Government approval processes are under way, and the ongoing process of community consultation has begun with feedback expected to shape key elements of the projects.

JBS Australia chief operating officer pork division Edison Alvares said, "Corowa is a vital part of our operations and we're committed to ensuring that these projects benefit the local community and the environment for years to come."

"We look forward to collaborating with

local stakeholders to make these projects a success."

Project manager for farming operations Nathan Sandral said he hoped to have approval processes completed by the end of the year, with construction of each of the satellite sites expected to take two years to build.

"At this point in time, everything is on the one location," Mr Sandral said.

"So, from a biosecurity perspective, for the health of the livestock it makes a lot more sense not to have everything in the same place."

"At the moment, we've got the grandparents, the parents and their children all living literally in the one location."

"That's not the best situation."

"By separating them, we can control the individual animal's needs so there's less risk of anything moving between them."

Mr Sandral is a fourth generation Corowa local who studied agricultural management at Sydney University before returning home to work on his family's farm.

When Rivalea was looking for graduates to work in the industry, he jumped at the opportunity, starting in research and quickly moving into management then finally to project work.

His enthusiasm for the industry, the project and the benefit to the region is infectious, as

he discusses the biogas project that captures methane from piggery waste generating more electricity than the farm needs.

"All the effluent goes into a 75ML pond, which is 75 Olympic swimming pools," Mr Sandral said.

"That captures the methane, then it's put through blowers and across to our generators."

Nutrient-rich water from the pigs is used to irrigate feed crops, which eliminates the need for synthetic fertilisers, and the farm uses modern ventilated sheds with perforated flooring to mitigate odours.

About 90 percent of feed grain is sourced from farms within Federation Council area.

It's already a state-of-the-art operation but the next stage takes the commitment to sustainability, animal welfare and biosecurity even further.

Rivalea's plans to replace existing infrastructure with modern facilities and to establish new sites will integrate best practice systems for animal welfare, air quality, wastewater management and improve employee's workplace and safety.

Key benefits of the JBS Rivalea expansion include:

- Improved nutrient recycling systems, upgraded wastewater treatment, best-practice air quality and water management to minimise environmental impacts

- Supporting local farmers with grain partnerships and effluent recycling, creating construction jobs and a commitment to local procurement

- Separating breeding and growing operations to increase biosecurity profile and safeguard the sustainability of Australia's pork supply

- New facilities will enhance safety and improve staff experience with improved ventilation, safe handling systems and a clean hygienic working environment.

"These projects are about more than upgrading our facilities," Mr Alvares said.

"It's about reaffirming our roots in the Corowa area, creating lasting benefits for the local community and the surrounding region."

"By working closely with stakeholders, we aim to enhance our team's welfare, animal welfare, environmental sustainability and food security for Australia."

Information sessions and consultation events will be announced in the coming weeks with updates posted on the website www.rivalea.com.au

Dairy News Australia



Scan for more information.

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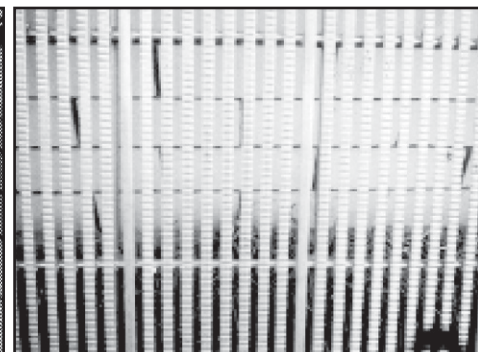
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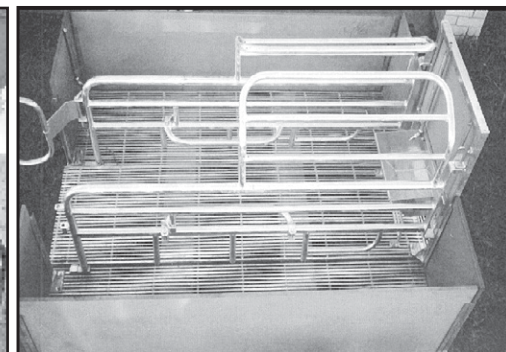
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Westpork safe and sound with Aussie Pumps training

IT is no secret that Aussie Pumps is Australia's leading manufacturer of high-pressure water blasters for a range of applications, from livestock to heavy-duty mining tasks.

The Aussie Pumps team is also fanatical about the subject of pressure-cleaner operator safety and has worked hard to develop an excellent free safety training program, available to operators not only in Australia but worldwide.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said: "Our Safe Operator pressure cleaning course is designed to keep operators – and anybody who happens to be in the area of pressure cleaning – safe."

Aussie is delighted to see the way the initiative has been grasped by Westpork, to get most of its operational staff through the training course.

The team gets a real glow when seeing requests come in for the certificates that go with the course.

Aussie Pumps is very big in livestock waste pressure cleaning.

Though the company has a range of petrol, diesel, electric and even hydraulic-drive big 'Berty' Bertolini pump machines, it is focused on operator safety and of course cost saving, efficiency and speed.

"We call it faster, smarter, safer," Mr Hales said.

The portable machines are mounted in sleek Aussie 'Scud' stainless-steel frames, designed to be safe and attractive to look at.

"We have a 'no sharps' philosophy when it comes to the machine design," Mr Hales said.

The Scuds are perfectly balanced and also come with 13" steel wheels with flat-free rubber tyres.

They are easy to push around and can be fitted with a stainless-steel reel with 30m of high-pressure hose, which means a 60m range within the pigery without having to move the machine.

"We are pleased that

Westpork has taken advantage of our free safety training program," Mr Hales said.

"It's great to think of the injuries they may have saved simply by taking advantage of our free safety program."

Aussie Pumps also makes a big range of high-pressure Jetters.

The Jetter, designed for clearing a blocked drain, can make a big impact on the sanitation aspects of pork production.

"We know that clean water and the effective disposal of contaminated wastewater is a big issue for every pigery in the country," Mr Hales said.

That's why the focus was on providing both trailer-mounted and trolley-mounted high-pressure Jetters with 5000PSI pressure rating.

"The 5000PSI pressure matched with the 16LPM flow is a massive improvement on electric eels or 'rodding' blocked pipes," Mr Hales said.

"It's faster and cleaner."

The Aussie Pumps

drain-cleaner range – what it calls the 'Cobra' series – is built into sculpted stainless-steel frames and use big 'Berty' pumps, just like the pressure cleaners it manufactures.

"We design and build machines as if we are going to use them ourselves," Mr Hales said.

"We are seeing piggeries buying drain-cleaning Jetters so they can keep their drains clean and clear from blockages.

"Aussie Pumps believes that pigs should have the fundamental advantage of clean water and effective sanitation.

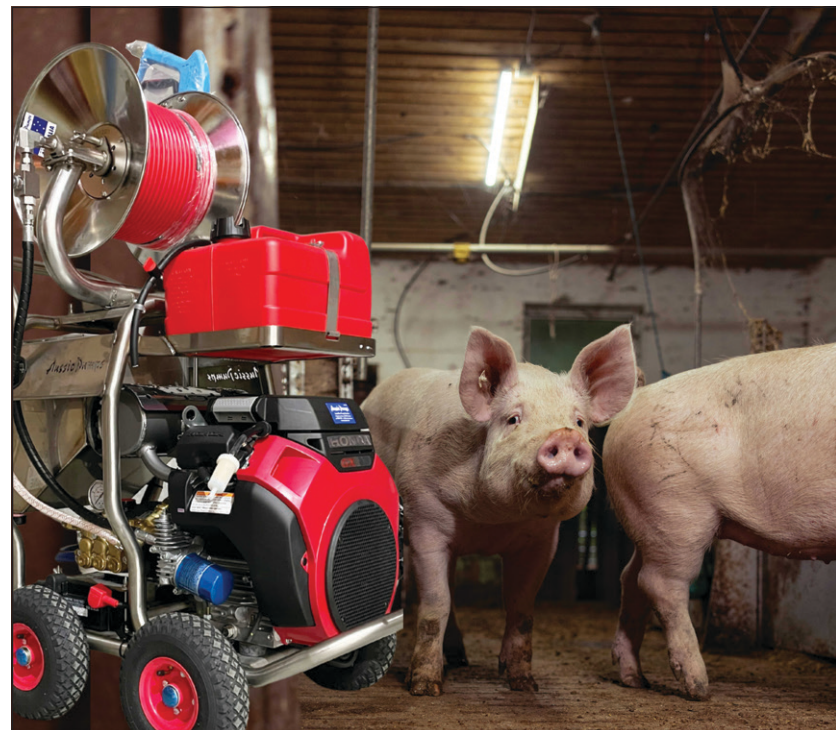
"That's what piggeries tell us," Mr Hales said.



Scan for information on the Aussie Blaster Safe Operator Training course.



Aussie Pumps product manager Chamara Fernando with two more certificates for Westpork staff.



Aussie's Jetter matches 5000PSI with 16LPM flow.



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An economist specialising in pig production in the US, the author was invited by Boehringer Ingelheim on a speaker tour to launch some Australian trial data.

Why Australia isn't a major pork exporter yet

I WAS recently invited to Australia to present to many of the country's leading swine producers and veterinarians.

Before trips such as this, I always prepare by researching the agricultural landscape and production systems of the country.

One detail immediately stood out – despite having a land-mass comparable to the continental US or Europe, Australia maintains a sow inventory of only about 280,000.

That places it well behind many major pork-producing countries and roughly on par with large individual systems in the US or Europe.

For a nation renowned for its agricultural exports, this was unexpected.

So, I set out to understand why pork hadn't gained more traction in Australia.

At first glance, Australia seems to have all the right ingredients for a successful swine industry.

It is free from major diseases such as African swine flu, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever, giving it an enviable animal health status.

It has strong domestic crop production, enabling local feed formulation with ingredients similar to those used in Spain and Italy.

Strategically, it's well-positioned near growing Asian markets and has well-established trade infrastructure due to its export-oriented economy.

Domestic pork consumption also shows room for growth when compared with

other Western nations – see Table 1 – especially when considering the number of tourists and foreign workers.

From this perspective, increasing the sow herd to one million and not putting downward pressure on prices doesn't seem far-fetched.

So why hasn't it happened?

The opportunities are real, but several challenges are holding the industry back.

One of the biggest is currency fluctuation.

As a heavily export-dependent economy, Australia often aims to keep the Australian dollar relatively low to maintain trade competitiveness.

However, when the dollar strengthens, the cost of Australian pork becomes less attractive to foreign buyers, even if domestic prices remain stable.

This makes international demand more volatile.

While this issue could be partially addressed through long-term purchasing agreements, such contracts are harder to secure if pork is treated as a generic commodity.

Buyers are more likely to shop around if there's nothing distinctive about the product.

This brings us to a second major challenge – the pigs themselves.

Australia's strict biosecurity measures, while highly effective at keeping disease out, also prevent the import of live pigs and genetic materials.

That means no new boars, sows or semen can enter the country, making it difficult to improve genetics.

While the performance metrics I saw on various finishing farms were not all that different than those seen in Europe or North America, the problem lies in the difficulty in making improvements to performance.

These difficulties are multiplied when you also consider improving performance while simultaneously making changes to carcass and meat characteristics.

And while Australian breeders have done an excellent job of trying to keep pace with the rest of the world, the lack of genetic diversity in the pig population will become a bigger

problem as time goes on and Australian producers find themselves unable to keep up with the ever-evolving pressures facing our global industry.

One potential solution could be modelled on Brazil's approach – offshore quarantine facilities for live animal imports.

If carefully managed, this would allow genetic improvement without compromising the country's disease-free status.

It's a major infrastructure investment but one that could pay off in competitiveness.

Another factor affecting carcass quality arises from the relatively light weights at which pigs are marketed, typically between 95 to 105kg live weight.

This makes Australian pigs considerably lighter and leaner than pigs produced in the Americas, Europe and much of Asia.

The resulting cuts can be unfamiliar to both consumers and chefs, making it harder to prepare recipes that were devel-

continued P11



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Country	Pork	Beef	Poultry
Spain	56.2	12.8	31.9
Poland	53.6	0.3	30.7
Hungary	48.5	5.6	24.4
Czechia	46.5	10.6	23.5
Austria	42.2	14.3	18.9
Slovakia	41.4	7.0	12.8
Germany	38.6	13.9	16.4
France	32.9	22.6	24.0
United States	29.6	37.6	53.0
Australia	26.6	26.0	49.0
New Zealand	24.5	21.6	26.0
Canada	22.2	25.3	40.8
Mexico	21.8	15.1	38.5
Argentina	17.0	46.1	48.3
Brazil	16.5	35.4	48.2

Note: Consumption of fresh pork comprises approximately 10.3 kg of total in Australia

Table 1: Kg of meat consumed per person per year (2022). Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

Why Australia isn't a major pork exporter yet

from P10
oped with different pork profiles in mind. The reason behind the light weights stems from domestic retailer-driven requirements and differing animal welfare policies from state to state, which place limitations or restrictions on physical castration.

In order to avoid tainting the pork, it is common to market pigs at a lighter weight or administer a gonadotrophin-releasing hormone vaccine to the males.

Sometimes both practices are done when there is concern around the ability to follow standard operating procedures or if delays in marketing and slaughter are anticipated.

These practices ensure that pigs can be marketed to any retailer and comply with states regulations.

The smaller leaner cuts of pork are likely one of the factors contributing to Australia's relatively low consumption of fresh pork.

If what's on the shelf doesn't match what people expect, or what their recipes call for, they may avoid it altogether.

To address this, the industry could take several steps.

First, breeding programs could aim to develop pigs better suited to these restrictions, though again, that hinges on genetic access.

Second, retailers could be engaged in conversations about the unintended consequences of their welfare policies, not to weaken standards, but to explore balanced alternatives.

Third, Australia could benefit from a coordinated education and marketing campaign similar to those run by the US

National Pork Board.

These efforts connect consumer preferences with production and help people understand how to prepare and enjoy pork, especially when prices for other meats are high.

In summary, while Australia's swine industry faces real challenges, the potential rewards are significant.

Addressing issues

such as genetic access, retailer policies and market education will take time and collaboration.

But there's no structural reason why Australian pork can't join beef, lamb and wine as one of the country's premier exports, perhaps even alongside Vegemite.

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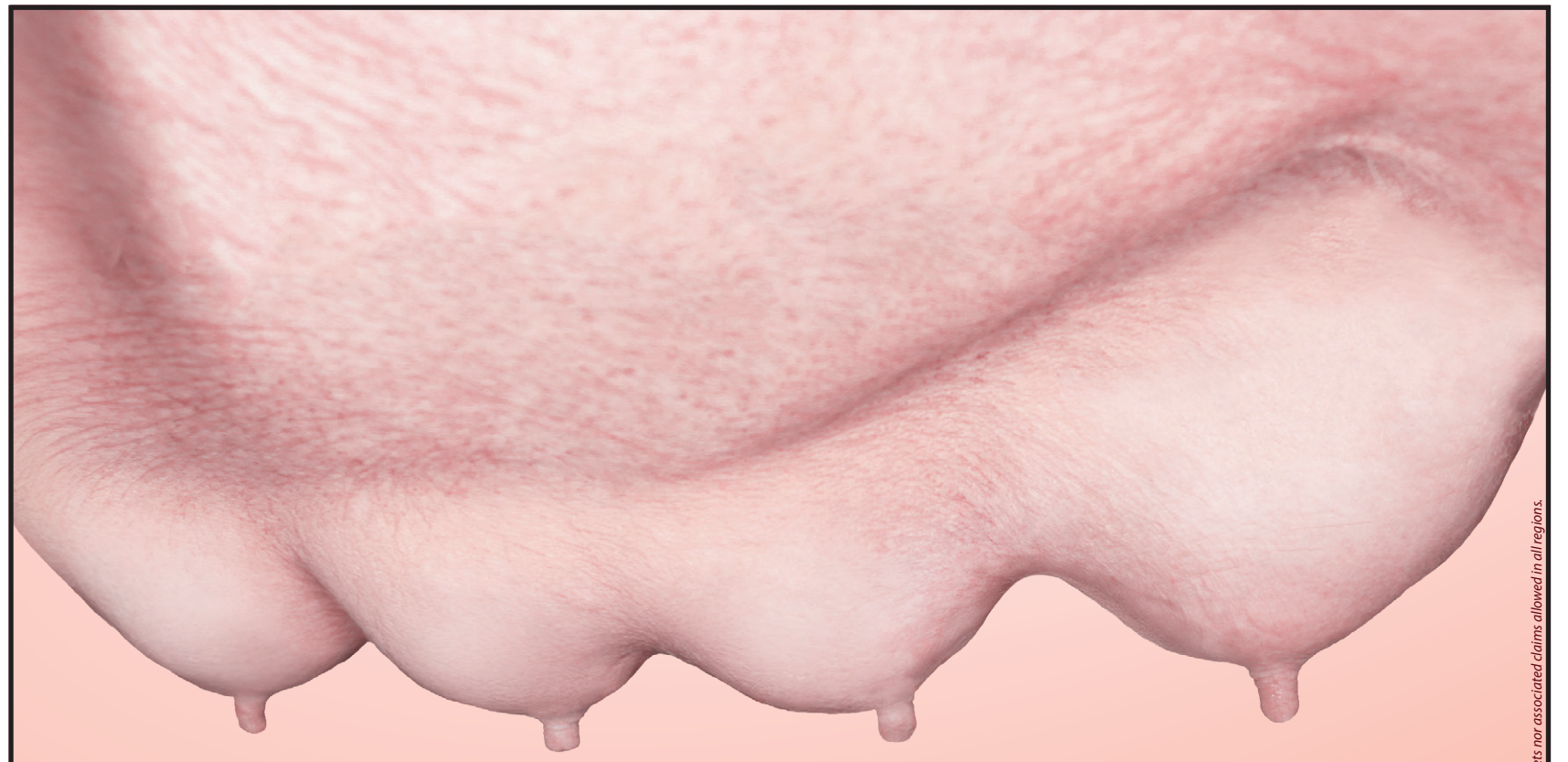
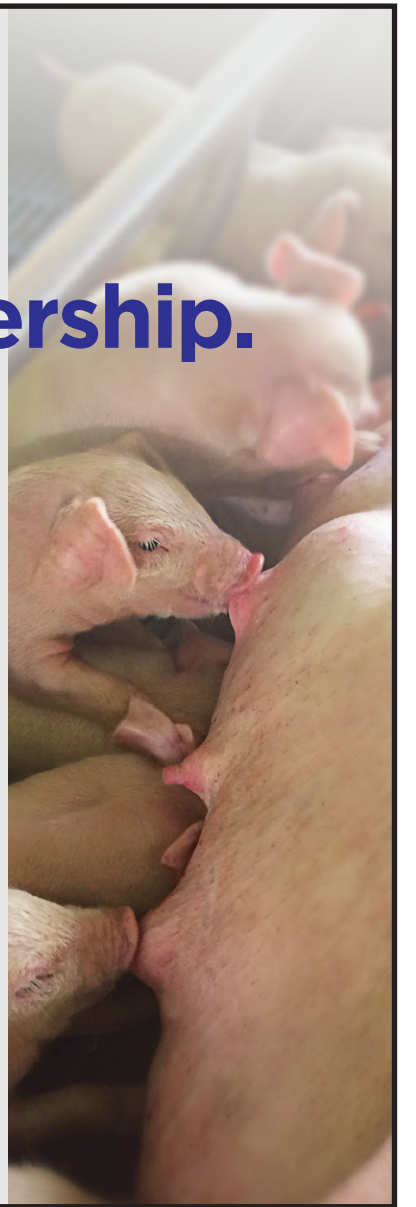
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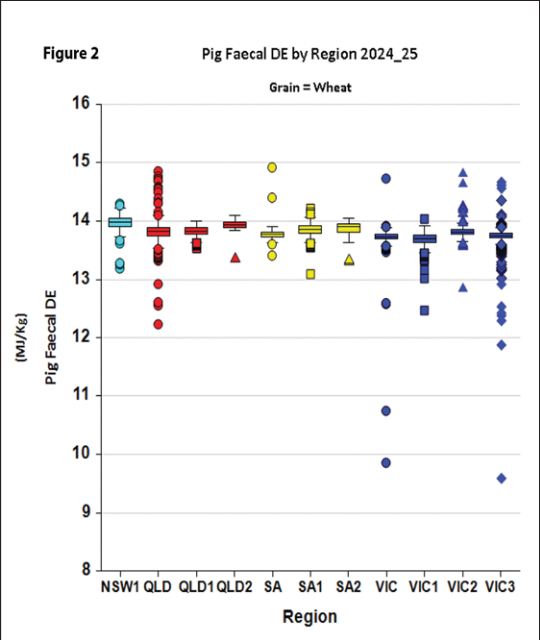
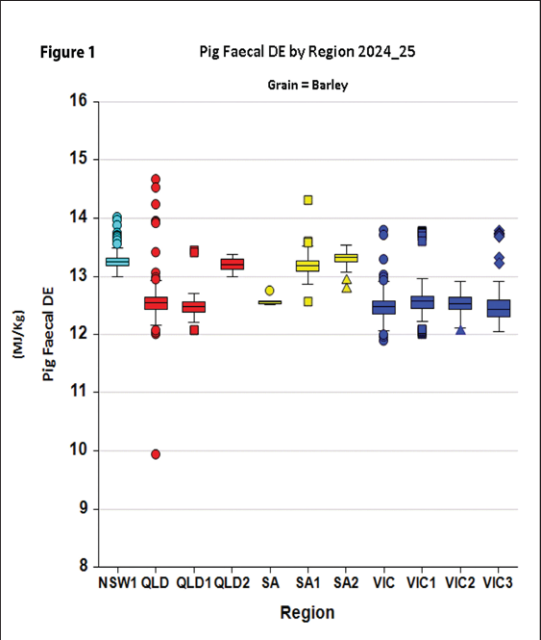
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Grain	Sample Number	Pig faecal DE (MJ/kg)	Broiler AME (MJ/kg)	Protein %
Barley	3,185	12.68	11.73	10.52
Wheat	10,307	13.79	12.80	12.16

Table 1: Mean values for Pig faecal DE, Broiler AME and Protein % for wheat and barley samples using AusScan Online NIR calibrations.



Distribution of Pig Faecal DE (MJ/kg) by region for barley samples (Figure 1) and wheat samples (Figure 2) from November 2024 through to April 2025 as predicted by AusScan Online.

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Summary of 2024-25 early harvest data

EARLY harvest data submitted to Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited by AusScan mills across Australia, each for the 2024-25 season, provides statistical data on key grain characteristics as mills transition from one harvest to the next.

This month's report includes Box Plot graphs that show the variation of pig faecal digestible energy (DE), broiler apparent metabolisable energy (AME) and protein (%) for barley and wheat samples by region, as predicted by the AusScan Online NIR calibrations.

The mean values for each variable and grain type across all regions are shown in Table 1 and are derived from 3189 barley and 10,348 wheat samples.

This represents 3467 more scans than the 2023-24 early harvest period.

The graphs represent predicted values from different regions over a five-month period, November 2024 to April 2025.

The mean pig faecal DE values for barley were significantly different between the regions and, similar to 2023-24, showed little variation within a region, which includes the outliers (denoted by coloured symbols outside the quartile markers).

The range was 2.9MJ/kg across all regions compared to 2.2MJ/kg in the previous 2023-24 period and, excluding outliers, the range this harvest period was 1.5MJ/kg (Figure 1).

As has been noted in previous seasons, the mean pig faecal DE values for wheat are similar across all

regions with a range of approximately 5.0MJ/kg (including outliers).

Though when outliers are excluded, the range in predicted DE values reduced to approximately 0.7MJ/kg (Figure. 2).

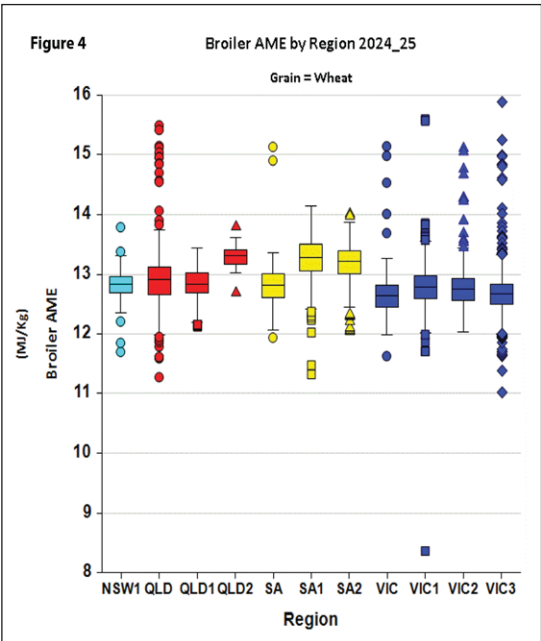
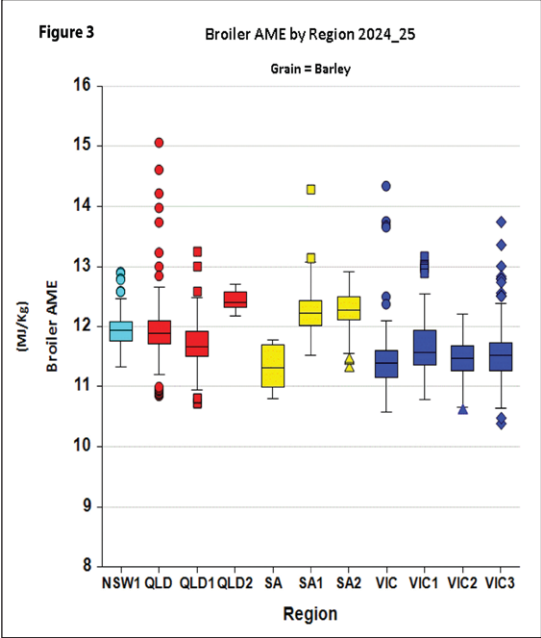
The range of predicted values for broiler AME, excluding outliers, was 2.5MJ/kg and 2.4MJ/kg for barley and wheat respectively, which is significantly

greater than observed for pig faecal DE.

The broiler AME values varied within and between regions more notably for barley (Figure 3) than wheat (Figure 4) and these trends have been observed for broiler AME values in the previous two seasons, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

When excluding outliers, the protein percentage of barley

continued P13



Distribution of Broiler AME (MJ/kg) by region for barley samples (Figure 3) and wheat samples (Figure 4) from November 2023 through to April 2024 as predicted by AusScan Online.

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Summary of 2024-25 early harvest data

from P12

(Figure 5) showed variation between and within regions, whereas the range in wheat protein percentage was more consistent between and within regions (Figure 6).

Outliers are included in all graphs and indicate the importance of scanning grains for

these key parameters.

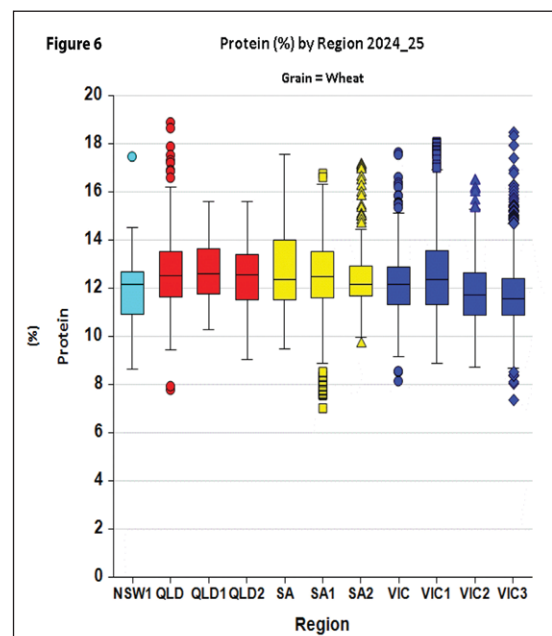
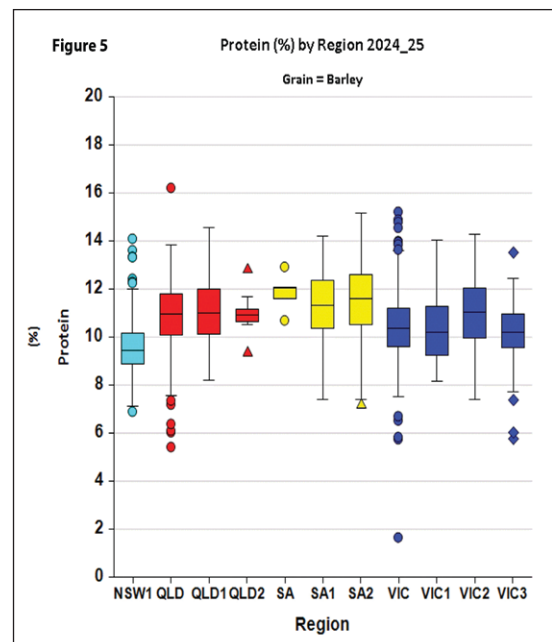
This will be the last early harvest report for the 2024-25 season.

Many thanks to the mills across Australia for contributing their AusScan Online data.

For more information, email Dr Charles Rikard-Bell at c.rikardbell@april.org.au



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Distribution of Protein (%) by region for barley samples (Figure 5) and wheat samples (Figure 6) from November 2023 through to April 2024 as predicted by AusScan Online.

www.porknews.com.au

National VEBS Facilitator Project announced

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited chief executive officer Margo Andrae said: "While the APL APIQ Option C Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards Facilitator Pilot Project has only been operating for six months, APL is pleased to announce expansion to a national program that adds new VEBS facilitators and sites that will drive VEBS uptake."

This expansion will include three additional VEBS facilitators and three new sites in each state.

It will take advantage of tools devel-

oped in the pilot VEBS Facilitator Project, such as a VEBS Gap Assessment checklist and Biosecurity Management Plan template covering core APIQ biosecurity and VEBS needs.

APL is also funding companion projects such as the feral pig exposure assessment project that will inform understanding of feral pig risk and the selection of site-specific feral pig exposure mitigation measures.

The VEBS Facilitator Project is also providing a delivery platform for allied

outputs of work by other stakeholders, such as above-ground composting as a means of mass carcass disposal adapted to Australian conditions by Byron Stein of the Department of Primary Industries in NSW.

The farm-based VEBS Facilitator Project is a 'link' in the wider biosecurity of the pork supply chain, which also involves boar studs, truck wash, feed systems and abattoir biosecurity.

The VEBS Facilitator Project is supporting sustained

adoption and increased national coverage of accredited farms through the development of national capacity to assist farms to prepare for and undergo VEBS audits.

Partnering with

the jurisdictions and convening a collaborative approach involving field experts has been key to achieving this industry outcome.

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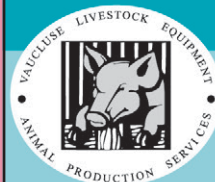
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Recruitment of new managing director for AgriFutures Australia

THE current AgriFutures Australia managing director John Harvey, approaching the final year of his second five-year term, informed the Board that he would not be seeking an extension of his contract.

John has made an outstanding contribution to the organisation and to Australian agriculture more broadly.

More will be said about that in due course, but in the meantime, I'd like to acknowledge John's professionalism in giving the Board early notice to ensure ample time for recruitment of and

transition to a new managing director.

Pursuant to the Primary Industries Research and Development (PIRD) Act 1989 (Division 9 and Section 86), the Board (excluding the current Executive Director) is responsible for the recruitment and appointment of the Executive (Managing) Director.

The AgriFutures Board has commenced an executive search, led by Omera Partners, to appoint our next managing director.

Executive search is a targeted proactive process that maps the market, approaches high-calibre leaders

(including those not actively looking) and assesses fit against the Board's brief.

The Board has chosen this approach over a more traditional recruitment process with a view to identifying exceptional candidates, possibly from outside the usual research and development corporations and agriculture ecosystems.

Omera Partners has been selected based on reputation and successful previous placements across multiple sectors.

To ensure an open process and reach people who may not be on the search firm's radar, expres-

sions of interest are also being sought through advertisements, with all responses and enquiries directed to Omera Partners.

While EOIs close August 11, 2025, advertisement is only a minor component of the process, with the proactive search continuing beyond this date to ensure the right leader is appointed.

If you do know someone who you think could be an exceptional managing director of AgriFutures, please direct them to Omera Partners at omerapartners.com

The transition to a

new MD/chief executive officer is both an exciting and potentially uncertain time for any organisation.

The Board of AgriFutures is determined to ensure that our operations during this period proceed full steam ahead according to our current strategies, with no impact to program delivery or commitments, under John's very capable leadership.

I and my fellow directors are deeply appreciative of the commitment of John and the leadership team to serve our levied and emerging industries and deliver our diverse research and

capacity building programs so professionally over the transition to a new managing director.

We look forward to that person working closely with the Board, staff, our industries, research partners and stakeholders, to develop, finalise and deliver

a new strategic five-year research and development plan as required by the PIRD Act.

Thank you for your ongoing support for AgriFutures Australia and our crucial mission.

Cathy McGowan
Chair AgriFutures Australia



A message from AgriFutures Australia chair Cathy McGowan.

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