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Pigs in a steel trap. Photo: Hunter Land Management

Stronger together against feral pigs

FERAL pigs are never far from the minds of many Australian farmers – whether they are rooting up paddocks, posing risks to livestock health and biosecurity, destroying crops or damaging farm infrastructure.

As their management can be complex and very challenging, sharing knowledge is essential to improve how control programs are designed and conducted.

Planning for the 2027 National Feral Pig Conference that will be held at the Hilton Surfers Paradise from March 9-11, 2027 is now well underway.

Bringing together landholders, industry representatives, researchers and government agencies, the conference will focus on practical ideas, shared experience and real-world solutions under



**NATIONAL
FERAL PIG
ACTION PLAN**

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



the theme 'Stronger together: coordination, collaboration, communication'.

It will be well worth a place in your diary.

For many land managers, hunting has long been part of their feral pig control actions.

It certainly has its place, especially when used to locate and remove remnant individuals following control efforts.

On its own however, it may make the job harder.

The choice of this method first up by land managers may pose

challenges in being able to effectively remove all pigs in a group.

It can also scatter pigs and make them more cautious, aversive and harder to locate – making coordinated strategic programs more difficult to deliver.

How hunting could become better incorporated as a more effective control tool as part of planned, coordinated and collaborative feral pig management programs will be explored at the conference.

continued P2

Continued momentum, focused on value

A producer-first path for Australian Pork Limited

IT is a great honour to have been appointed chief executive officer of Australian Pork Limited.

I am incredibly grateful for the confidence the Board has placed in me to lead our industry through its next phase of growth alongside the entire APL team.

I take on this role with a strong sense of responsibility.

I have spent almost my whole career in the Australian pork industry – in research, innovation, technical services, commercial production and industry development.

This also included a previous tenure at APL, so I am delighted to be welcomed back.

In my first column for this publication, I wanted to take the opportunity to outline what I'm focused on and my commitment to the industry.

Delivering value to levy payers

APL exists to serve Australian pork producers.

My fundamental commitment is to ensure it continues to deliver tangible value to levy payers and to the industry they have built.

This means ensuring that every function is focused on delivering outcomes that benefit producers, through research and development, marketing,



Point of View

by **DARRYL D'SOUZA**
CEO



science and practical experience, and prepared to advocate strongly for the industry's interests.

Protecting what we have while preparing for what is ahead

There is no shortage of challenges facing the Australian pork industry.

The risk of an emergency animal disease would change our industry overnight and is something we cannot afford to underestimate.

We also need to navigate changing standards and guidelines while ensuring our industry remains competitive and that decisions are based on sound science and practical experience.

At the same time, we need to protect the things that make our industry different.

Our carcass-based pricing model provides an important connection between what producers produce, what customers want and the value received for the product.

We must not lose that connection as markets and technologies evolve.

The market environment is also changing.

Pig prices have declined, profitability remains a major concern and producers continue to face significant cost pressures.

Our export markets

continued P2

market access, policy, biosecurity, animal welfare, sustainability or industry information.

It also means being prepared to ask difficult questions about what we do, where we invest and whether our programs are delivering the outcomes the industry needs.

APL has a unique position in Australian agriculture, bringing together marketing, research and innovation and strategic policy development.

As an industry, we have much to be proud of – a strong history of investing in pork research and development, excellent researchers, technical expertise and a wealth of knowledge across our industry, a strong track record for marketing and a proactive policy function.

But we will always look to do better.

In practical terms, this means strengthening consumer preference for Australian pork by demonstrating its value for consumers due to

its quality, versatility, provenance, safety and the high standards it is produced to in Australia.

It also means delivering research and development programs that deliver new knowledge, technologies and practices.

Innovation only creates value when it is adopted.

We must also understand what prevents producers from adopting those innovations and work to overcome those barriers.

From a policy perspective, we need to ensure that the voice of Australian pork producers is heard clearly and credibly by governments, regulators and other decision makers.

Maintaining Australia's import pork status, food labelling reform, reducing red tape in planning and unnecessary regulations, and harmonising national standards and guidelines, our advocacy must be evidence based, grounded in good



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2026

OCT 1-3 – XXVII Feira Nacional do Porco – Montijo, Portugal. <https://feiranacionaldoporco.pt>

OCT 6-8 – International PRRS Symposium 2026 – Barcelona, Spain. <https://iprrs2026.org>

OCT 14-15 – Dutch Pork & Poultry Expo 2026 – Hardenberg, Netherlands. <https://www.porkpoultryexpo.nl>

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

OCT 26-29 – 2026 Inaugural APHVA Conference – Hobart, Tasmania. aphvapresident@gmail.com

NOV 10-13 – EuroTier 2026 – Hanover, Germany. <https://www.eurotier.com/en/>

2027

JAN 5-7 – Banff Pork Seminar 2027 – Banff, Canada. <https://www.banffpork.ca/>

JAN 15-16 – International Conference for Swine Viral Diseases (23rd NAPRRS/NC229) – Chicago, USA. <https://vetmed.illinois.edu/about-the-college/pathobiology/north-american-prrs-symposium/>

MAR 9-11 – National Feral Pig Conference 2027 – Surfers Paradise, Queensland. <https://feralpigs.com.au/national-feral-pig-conference-2027/>

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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Stronger together against feral pigs

from P1

Pleasingly, Mike Bodenchuk – retired USDA Wildlife Services state director for Texas – has accepted our invitation to address the topic of ‘Strategic feral pig management – where does hunting fit in?’, as well as be involved in a panel discussion to address questions from conference delegates.

Mike is a very engaging and well-informed speaker.

This was demonstrated by his recent webinar given at the National Feral Pig Action Plan’s Stakeholder Forum held in August 2026, where he discussed feral pig management in Texas.

If you missed it, it has been posted on the NFPAP’s website and is available for viewing via the relevant QR code below.

Calls for abstracts addressing the conference’s sub-themes close on November 9, 2026.

- Strategic feral pig management – where does hunting fit in

- Collaborative management in action

- Protecting livestock, wildlife and communities from feral pig disease risks

- Innovative approaches: what works, where and why

- Measuring what matters: feral pig impacts, management outcomes and investment.

Early bird registration is available for

\$550 until December 11, 2026 and offers strong value, covering the welcome function, conference dinner and all conference presentations, as well as morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch throughout the event.

More information about the conference can be found by scanning the relevant QR code below.

Getting more pigs in the trap – practical lessons for farmers

For farmers dealing with feral pigs, trapping success often comes down to patience, preparation and timing.

Pigs are social animals and the best results are usually achieved when whole groups or sounders are encouraged to feed confidently at a site before the trap is activated.

Rushing this stage can mean catching only a few animals and leaving the rest wiser, warier and harder to control next time.

A recent two-year study conducted in Italy compared three different trapping systems – modular, stationary and net.

This work was presented at the International Wild Pig Conference held in Montgomery, Alabama in April 2026, which I attended.

Across the 6000ha study area near Rome, 36 trapping sites were established across three replicate sub-

zones, with four units of each trap type randomly deployed within each subzone.

Trapping activities were conducted sequentially across zones, with systems moved from one zone to the next.

The study aimed to evaluate operational efficiency, trap effectiveness and animal welfare outcomes.

Operational efficiency was assessed by comparing the cost of each trapping system and the time and labour needed for installation and operation.

A total of 122 trapping events were conducted, capturing 452 wild boars.

The study found that mobile and net-style systems were easier and cheaper to move and install than fixed corral-style traps, while net traps achieved the highest capture success, removing more than 90 percent of the animals estimated to be available for capture.

They also recorded much better animal welfare outcomes, with fewer injuries compared with rigid trap systems.

However, these systems required more free feed and slightly longer conditioning time, highlighting that the most effective trapping programs are still dependent on doing the groundwork properly.

The take-home messages were clear.

If trapping is selected

as one of your control methods:

- Choose a trap that suits the landscape and habitat, the number of pigs that may be present and the time available to manage it

- Use free feeding to build pig confidence

- Keep disturbance around the trap to a minimum

- Avoid setting the trap until the whole mob is comfortable entering.

The key message from this work applies just as strongly on Australian farms – good trapping is not simply about putting a trap where pigs have been seen.

It requires careful site selection, steady pre-feeding, monitoring with cameras where possible and waiting until pigs are entering the trap freely before it is set.

Traps also need to be erected where there is shade and shelter and when set, must be checked within 24 hours to protect animal welfare and meet legal responsibilities.

More information on this is available from PestSmart, in the ‘National Standard Operating Procedure: Trapping of Feral Pigs’, scan the relevant QR code below.

Trapping is most effective when it is part of a broader coordinated feral pig control program rather than a one-off effort.

Working with neighbours, local biosecurity officers, Landcare

groups, industry bodies and public land managers can help reduce reinvasion, improve access across property boundaries and make sure control is happening at the right scale.

Better trapping is more about planning, patience and working together than luck.

If you’d like to discuss the content of this article or have any questions related to effective feral pig management, contact me on Heather.Channon@feralpigs.com.au or 0423 056 045.



Scan for Mike's webinar.



Scan for the 2027 conference.



Scan for PestSmart NatSOP Trapping of Feral Pigs.

Continued momentum, focused on value

from P1

are changing, including the important Singapore market.

These changes remind us that markets cannot be taken for granted and that we need to continue identifying opportunities while managing the risks associated with greater exposure to international markets.

Imported pork will remain a competitive challenge.

Our response needs to be focused on creating greater value and preference for Australian

pork, rather than simply competing on volume.

Listening and looking ahead

Before deciding where APL needs to go, first we need to listen.

My first few months as CEO will be focused on spending time with producers.

I want to hear directly what is working, what is not working, where APL is delivering value and where producers believe we could do better.

I want to understand

the challenges confronting businesses today, but also what producers believe could threaten their businesses five years from now.

Just as importantly, I want to hear where producers see opportunity.

Our industry will continue to face significant risks.

I approach the role with real optimism.

We have highly capable producers, excellent research and technical capability, strong

genetics, a sophisticated domestic market and a high-quality product that has an increasingly important place on Australian tables.

Our task is to continue to bring those strengths together, as one united industry.

My time as an industry member and APL delegate has shown me that collectively, we have enormous capability, and APL must remain firmly connected to the needs and priorities of

producers for this to be realised.

My vision is for an APL that is producer focused, commercially minded, evidence based and future ready.

I am excited about the opportunity ahead, and I am looking forward to working with producers, the APL Board and team, governments, researchers, customers and all of our industry partners, building on the good work and momentum that has been done already.

**Australian
Pork**

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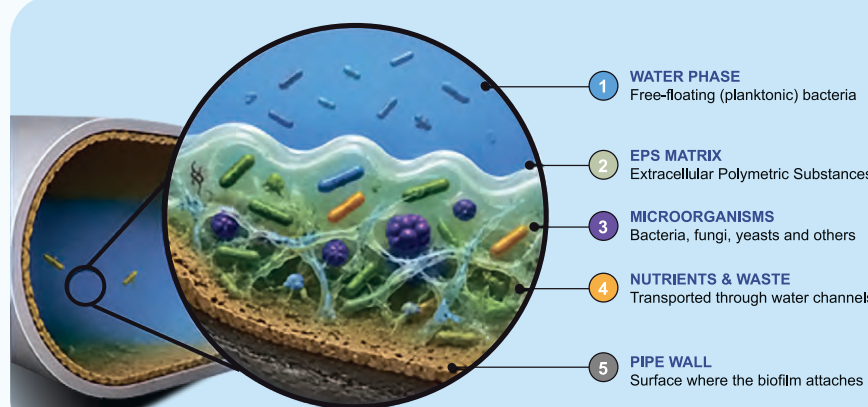
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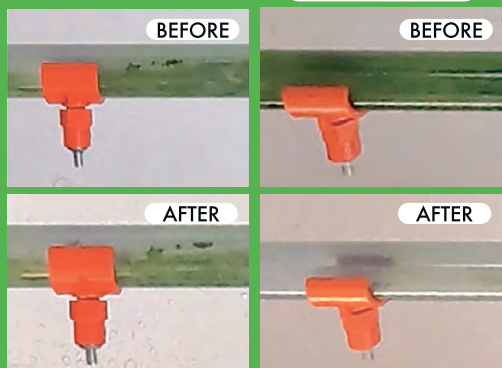
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Dr Abbas working to transform pig parasite management

RESEARCH is the backbone of a thriving Australian pork industry, driving innovation and supporting producers tackle emerging challenges.

Behind every breakthrough are dedicated researchers whose work is shaping the future of pork production.

This month we shine a spotlight on Dr Ghazanfar (Ghaz) Abbas and the valuable contribution he is making to our industry.

Dr Abbas is a postdoctoral researcher in veterinary parasitology at the Melbourne Veterinary School at the University of Melbourne.

His research spans a broad range of areas within veterinary parasitology, including epidemiological investigations of parasitic diseases in livestock, development of innovative diagnostic tools, evaluation of the efficacy of commonly used antiparasitic drugs, investigation of anthelmintic resistance and advancement of treatment and control strategies for parasitic infections.

After earning his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2014 from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan, Dr Abbas worked in mixed veterinary practice before becoming a lecturer in veterinary science, while also completing a master's degree in microbiology.

Dr Abbas was awarded the Aus-



tralian Pig Industry Education and Training Committee Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme Award – funded by the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited, this award supports individuals undertaking further career development.

His current project is helping to improve the management of intestinal parasites and antiparasitic resistance in Australian pigs.

It was great to hear about Dr Abbas' achievements and experience in the Australian pork industry.

Firstly, congratulations on receiving the postdoctoral fellowship.

Can you tell us a little about yourself, including what you're studying, your research interests and what first sparked your interest in the pork industry?

Thank you – I'm a veterinary parasitologist with a strong interest in livestock health, particularly the diagnosis, epidemiology and control of parasitic diseases.

I completed my PhD in veterinary parasitology and epidemiology at the University of Melbourne in 2024 and have since continued working on gastrointestinal

parasites in Australian pig populations.

My current research focuses on understanding which intestinal parasites are prevalent in Australian pigs, how heavy infection burdens can be and whether the drugs used to control them are still working effectively.

I'm also interested in applying molecular tools, including next-generation sequencing to improve parasite identification and surveillance.

My interest in the pork industry grew through field-based research with pig producers and veterinarians in Victoria during 2024 and 2025.

This work highlighted that intestinal parasites are often under-recognised, even though they can affect pig health, welfare and productivity.

I was particularly struck by how limited the contemporary Australian data are compared with Europe and North America.

That gap made me realise there was a real opportunity to build research capacity in pig parasitology and generate practical evidence that could directly support producers, veterinarians and the broader

pork industry.

Your project focuses on intestinal parasites in Australian pigs.

For readers who may be unfamiliar with this area, can you explain in simple terms what these parasites are and why they matter for pig health, welfare and productivity?

Intestinal parasites are organisms that live in a pig's digestive system and use the animal as a host.

They include worms such as ascaris suum (large roundworms of pigs) and trichuris suis (whipworm), oesophagostomum spp (swine nodular worm), as well as single-celled parasites such as coccidia.

Some infections may cause obvious signs, while others can remain hidden and still affect the animal over time.

They matter because they can reduce feed efficiency, slow growth, damage the intestine or liver and make pigs more vulnerable to other health problems.

In young or heavily infected animals, they can also contribute to diarrhoea, poor condition and reduced welfare.

For example, adult ascaris suum can reach approximately 40cm in length and may contribute to gastrointestinal obstruction when present in high numbers (see Figure 1).

During larval migration, a suum can also cause tissue damage, particularly in the

• continued P6



Dr Ghazanfar (Ghaz) Abbas, recipient of the APRIL Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme Award.

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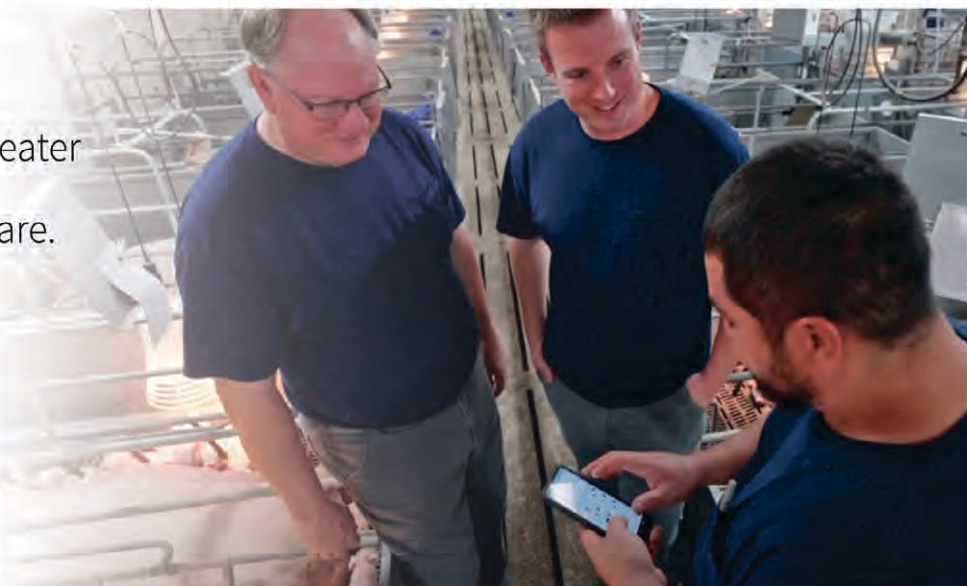
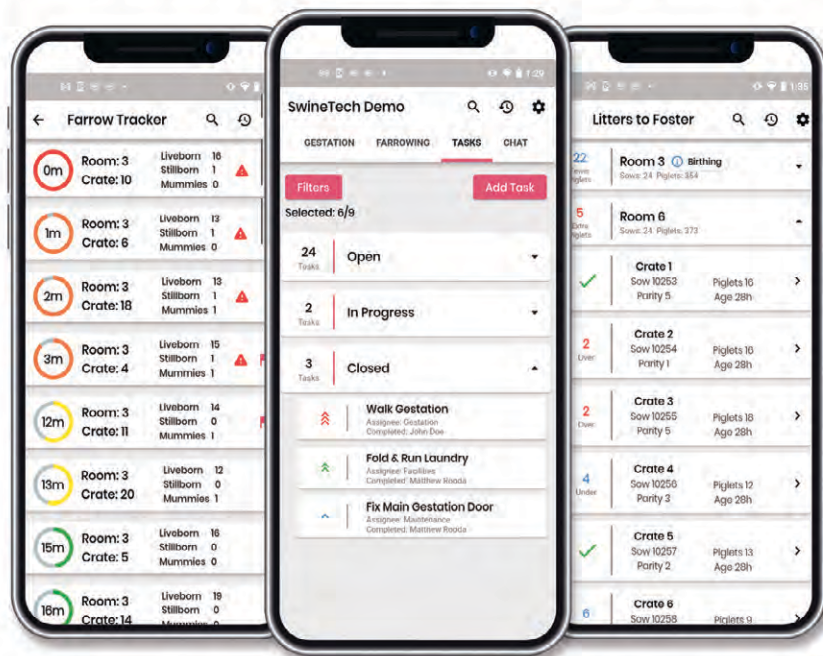


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Workflow

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Process

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Step 3 Direct Execution

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Dr Abbas working to transform pig parasite management

from P4

liver, where migrating larvae produce characteristic lesions commonly referred to as 'milk spots'.

From a production perspective, even mild infections across a herd can lead to poorer weight gain, higher feed costs and losses such as liver condemnation at slaughter.

The challenge is that these parasites are often overlooked because the effects can be gradual and may not be immediately visible.

That is why better surveillance is so important.

By understanding which parasites are present, how common they are and how heavy the infection burdens can be, we can help producers and veterinarians make more informed decisions about prevention, treatment and herd management.

A key part of your project is investigating how common these parasites are in Australian pig herds, which species are present and how heavy the infection burdens can be.

Why is it important to have this baseline information now?

This baseline information is important because we currently do not have a clear contemporary national picture of intestinal parasites in Australian pigs.

Our recent research in Victorian pig populations identified a range of parasitic infections – including ascaris suum, trichuris suis, oesophagostomum spp, metastrongylus spp, trichostrongylus axei, cystoisospora suis and eimeria spp – using faecal egg/oocyst flo-

tation in combination with advanced molecular diagnostic techniques (see Figure 2).

Without knowing which parasites are present, how widely they are distributed and how heavy the infections can be, it is difficult for producers and veterinarians to judge the real level of risk or decide where control efforts should be focused.

The timing is also important because Australian pig production systems have changed considerably over the past few decades, while most of the available local parasite data are old or limited to particular regions.

At the same time, there is increasing emphasis on animal welfare, productivity, biosecurity and responsible use of veterinary medicines.

Reliable baseline data are essential if we want parasite control to be targeted and evidence based rather than relying mainly on routine or blanket treatment.

This information will also allow us to identify differences between age groups and production systems, recognise high risk farms or management practices and establish a reference point for monitoring future changes.

In practical terms, it gives the industry the foundation needed to improve surveillance, evaluate treatment programs and develop more effective and sustainable parasite-control strategies.

What are the main questions you're hoping to answer through this research, and how could the findings help support the Australian pork industry?

The project is built around four main questions.

First, which intestinal parasites are currently affecting Australian pigs, how common are they and how heavy are the infections across different age groups and production systems?

Second, what control practices are producers currently using and where are the main knowledge or management gaps?

Third, are the antiparasitic drugs used in Australian pigs still working effectively?

Finally, can newer diagnostic tools, including next-generation sequencing and the ascaris suum ELISA, improve how we detect and monitor these infections?

Answering these questions will give the industry a much clearer evidence base for parasite control.

The findings could help producers and veterinarians identify high-risk situations, choose treatments more strategically, avoid unnecessary or ineffective drug use and detect reduced drug efficacy before it becomes a bigger problem.

The project will also support the development of more practical surveillance approaches and industry-specific recommendations.

Ultimately, the aim is to help the Australian pork industry move from largely routine or experience-based parasite control toward a more targeted, evidence-driven and sustainable approach that improves pig health, welfare and productivity.

Your research will also assess how well commonly used an-

tiparasitic drugs are working in Australian pigs.

Why is this an important question for the industry?

Antiparasitic drugs are medicines used to prevent or treat infections caused by parasites.

In pigs, these include drugs used against intestinal worms and coccidia.

They work by killing the parasites or stopping them from developing and reproducing, helping to protect pig health and reduce contamination of the farm environment.

It is important to assess how well these drugs are working because the Australian pig industry relies on a relatively small number of treatment options and some have been used routinely for many years.

At present, we have very limited Australian data showing whether these products are still achieving the expected level of control under field conditions.

How did you feel when you found out you had received the fellowship, and what does this support mean for you and your research?

I am genuinely excited and grateful to receive the fellowship.

It was also a strong affirmation that intestinal parasites in pigs are an important and timely area of research for the Australian pork industry.

When we look at the international picture, a great deal of research on pig parasites has been conducted in Europe, North America and other parts of the world.

In Australia, how-

continued P7

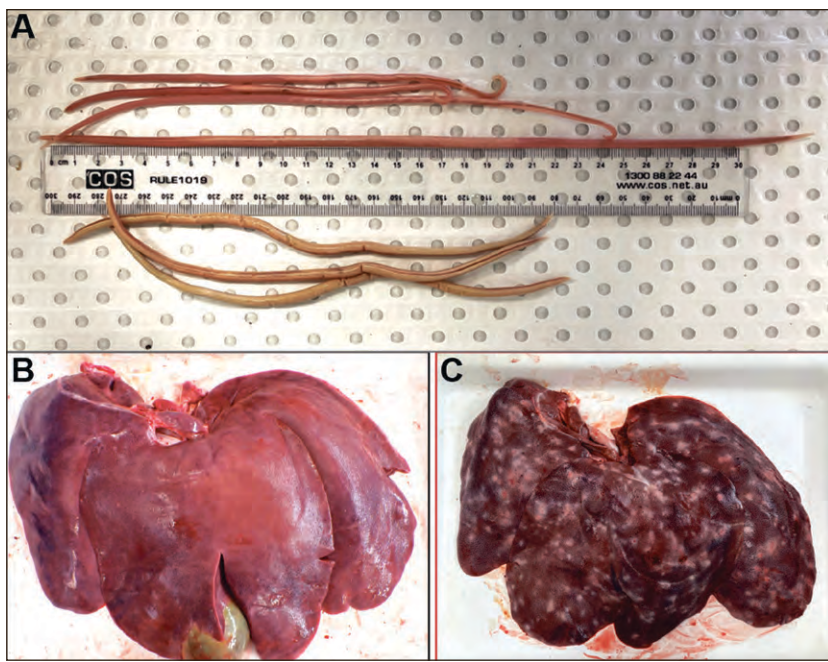
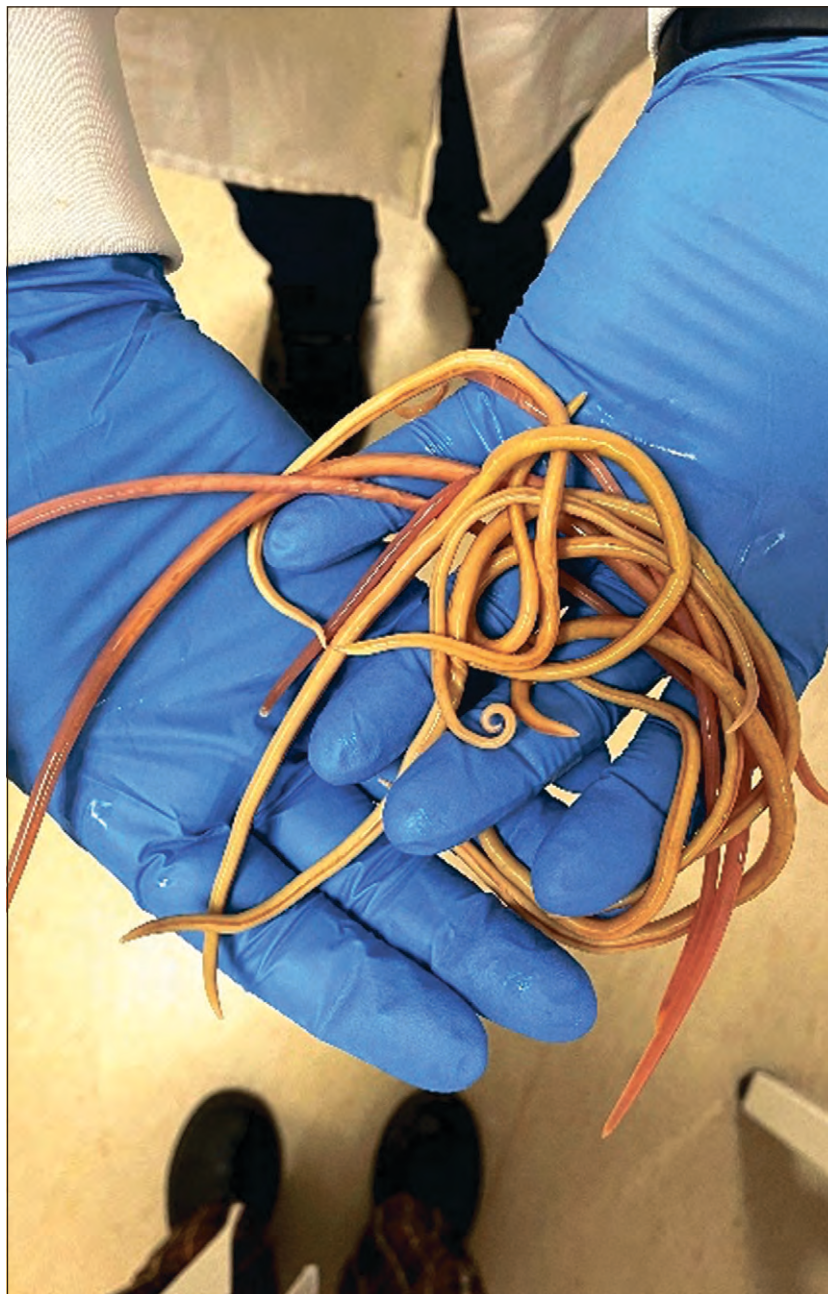
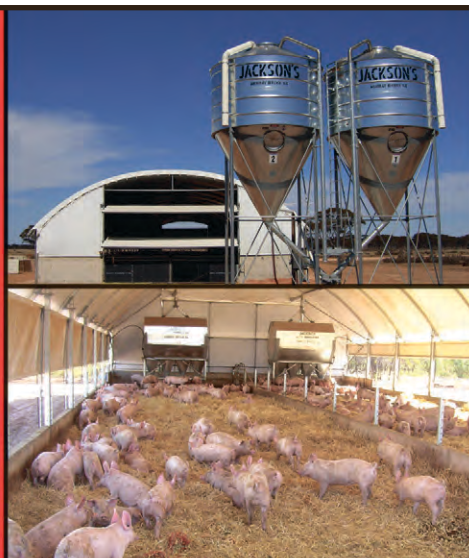


Figure 1. Adult ascaris suum recovered from the small intestine of a pig (A), normal pig liver (B) and pig liver exhibiting characteristic 'milk spot' lesions associated with a suum infection (C). Samples were collected from a local abattoir in Victoria as part of a research project on parasitic infections in Victorian pigs at the University of Melbourne.



Ghaz with large adult roundworms (ascaris suum) recovered from a pig gastrointestinal tract.

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Dr Abbas working to transform pig parasite management

from P6
ever, the evidence base is extremely limited and much of the earlier work dates back to the 1990s.

That means we still lack a contemporary national understanding of which parasites are present, how common they are, how heavy infection burdens can be and whether current control measures are working effectively.

Our pilot studies in Victoria have already shown that Australian pigs can carry a diverse range of parasites and infection prevalence may be higher and more complex than previously recognised.

Those findings made it clear to me that there is much more work to be done, both scientifically and in terms of building research capacity.

For me, this fellowship is therefore much more than support for a single project.

It provides an opportunity to develop an independent research program in pig parasitology, strengthen my expertise in field epidemiology, molecular diagnostics and drug-efficacy assessment and build closer relationships with producers, veterinarians and industry

partners.

My long-term goal is to establish pig parasitology as a recognised and sustainable area of research in Australia.

I want to help build the evidence, tools and collaborations needed to improve parasite surveillance and control, while also creating a platform for future students, researchers and industry-led projects.

From a career perspective, the fellowship is an important step toward research independence.

It will help me establish a clear research niche, build national and international collaborations and develop the track record needed to compete for future fundings.

Most importantly, it gives me the opportunity to contribute to making a practical difference to pig health, welfare and productivity in Australia.

Where do you hope your studies and research will lead you in the future?

Do you see yourself continuing in pig health and parasitology research or expanding into other areas of animal health and disease control?

I see myself continuing to build a long-term research program in pig health and parasitology because there is still a major gap in Australian knowledge and research capacity in this area.

My immediate goal is to establish pig parasitology as a recognised and sustainable field of research in Australia, supported by strong links with producers, veterinarians, industry bodies and international collaborators.

In the future, I would like to expand this work beyond prevalence studies into more applied areas, including parasite transmission, host-parasite interaction, drug efficacy and resistance, improved diagnostics, targeted treatment strategies and alternatives that reduce reliance on routine chemical control.

I am particularly interested in developing practical tools that can be used by producers and veterinarians to make better decisions at the herd level.

At the same time, I see this work as part of a broader animal health research program.

The approaches I am developing in epidemiology, molecular

diagnostics, surveillance and treatment evaluation can also be applied to other livestock diseases.

My long-term ambition is therefore to lead a multidisciplinary research group focused on evidence-based disease control, animal welfare and sustainable livestock production.

I also hope to train students and early career researchers in this area.

Building capacity is important because Australia currently has very limited expertise in pig parasitology.

Ultimately, I want my research to generate practical benefits for the pork industry while also creating a lasting platform for future animal health research.

We thank Dr Abbas for sharing his insights and congratulate him on receiving the APIETC Postdoctoral Fellowship.

We look forward to following the progress of his project 'Transforming the management of intestinal parasites and antiparasitic resistance in Australian pigs', due for completion in late 2028.

APRIL

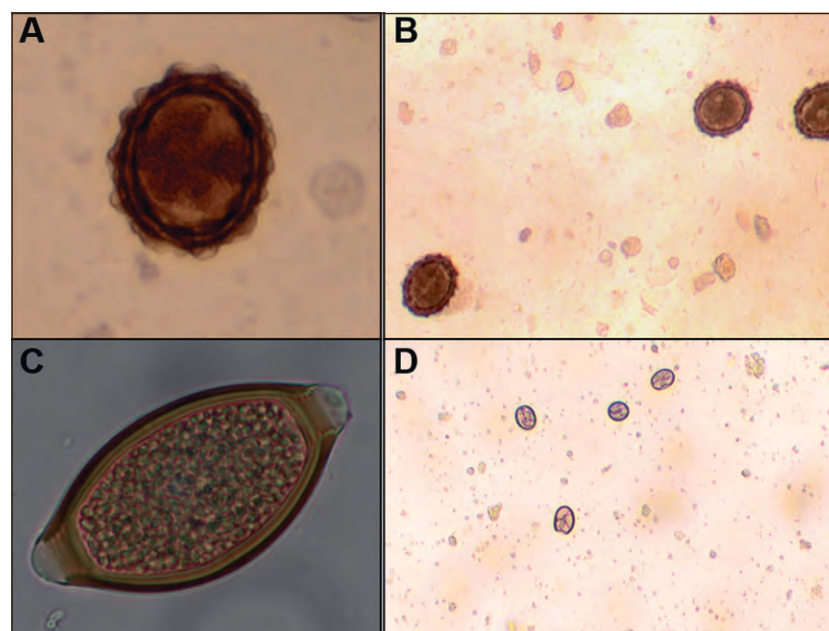


Figure 2. Parasite eggs and oocysts detected microscopically in faecal samples from pigs in Victoria. (A, B) ascaris suum eggs, (C) trichuris suis egg and (D) coccidian oocysts.



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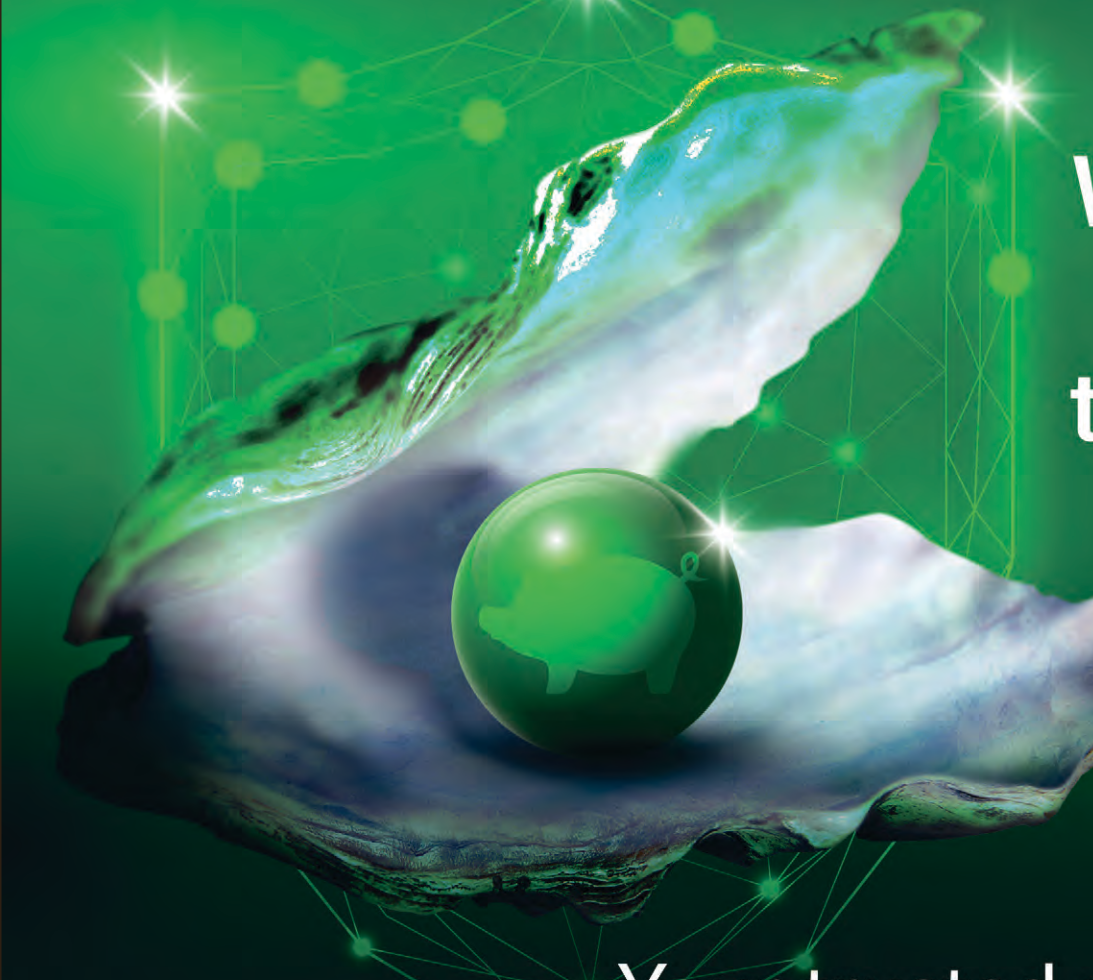


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Raj Patel

Food justice and a taste for power

RAJEEV 'Raj' Patel is an award-winning author, filmmaker, academic and one of the world's leading voices on food systems, justice and democracy.

A member of the Slow Food Advisory Board, Mr Patel is research professor at the Lyndon B Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin, a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems and author of influential books, including *Stuffed and Starved, The Value of Nothing, A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things* and *Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice*.

Throughout his career, Mr Patel has challenged conventional narratives about hunger, agricultural development and economic growth, arguing that food is fundamentally a question of power, justice and democracy.

His work bridges research and activism, drawing on decades of engagement with farmers' movements, food sovereignty networks and grassroots communities around the world.

He recently addressed

Cant Comment

by BRENDON CANT



the Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2026 conference 'Food Justice and the Taste for Power' in Italy, where participants explored how power shapes food systems, from production and trade to culture, access and pleasure.

Before the conference, he shared answers to some challenging questions posed by Voices of Terra Madre on behalf of the global Slow Food Movement, which I've long followed enthusiastically.

Here's a snapshot sample of those questions and answers.

In your work, you often show that hunger and abundance co-exist within the same food system.

Why is power such a crucial lens for understanding what we grow, eat, and value?

The easiest way to see power in the food system is to look at its shape.

It's an hourglass, with millions of farmers and farmworkers at the top, eight billion eaters at the bottom and between them a narrow waist of corporations through which almost everything must pass – a handful of grain traders, seed and chemical firms, processors and retailers.

Whoever controls the waist of the hourglass decides what gets grown, what it costs, who profits and who goes without.

That is why hunger and abundance can share a planet and often the same city.

Both are produced by the same arrangement. But power in food does not stop at the checkout.

It works on each and every one of us.

What we find delicious has been trained into us by empire, by advertising, by the industrial engineering of craving.

The sugar in European tea was planted by enslaved workers.

The monotony of so much modern food is a business decision, not an accident of nature.

So when we ask why we grow, eat and value what we do, following the money only gets you halfway.

You also have to follow the flavour and ask who taught us to want what we want.

Power in food is something you can taste.

For decades, dominant actors in agriculture have justified industrial food systems with the promise of "feeding the world."

Yet hunger remains widespread.

What does this contradiction reveal about the true objectives of the global food economy?

The world already grows more than enough food for everyone on it.

People go hungry amid that abundance for the same reason people sleep outside in cities full of empty buildings – not because there is too little but because they cannot afford what exists.

Hunger is a symptom of poverty and

continued P9

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Food justice and a taste for power

from P8

powerlessness, not of scarcity.

"Feeding the world" has never been a description of what industrial agriculture does.

It is the industry's alibi.

Look at where the harvest actually goes – into animal feed, into biofuel tanks, into the sweeteners and starches of ultra-processed food.

Meanwhile, most of the food that humans actually eat still moves through the small farms, fisheries and territorial markets that the industrial model treats as obsolete.

The contradiction tells you the system's real objective.

It was built to generate returns for shareholders and it does that superbly.

Feeding people is incidental, something that sometimes happens, as an accidental consequence of selling people something they need to survive.

Once you see that, the policy conversation changes.

The question is no longer how to produce more but how to make sure everyone can eat well and who gets to decide.

You have written that recent crises, from the pandemic to the war in Ukraine, were presented as periods of shared sacrifice, while in reality they enabled massive transfers of wealth to a handful of corporations.

What lessons should food movements draw from these crises?

Each crisis has followed the same pattern.

Prices spiked far beyond any increase in costs.

We were told to tighten our belts, that we were all in it together.

But when the earnings reports for the same period were released, they showed record profits for grain traders, fertiliser companies and supermarket chains, while food import bills crushed poorer countries and food bank lines lengthened in richer ones.

Economists such as Isabella Weber have given the pattern a name – sellers' inflation.

It's when firms in concentrated industries use an emergency as cover to raise prices well beyond what

their costs require.

This offers three lessons for food movements.

First, crisis is a revenue stream.

Whoever sits on a chokepoint collects rent from fear, whether the Black Sea grain corridor or the Strait of Hormuz through which so much of the world's fertiliser feedstock passes.

Second, do not let 'resilience' be redefined as more of the same – more consolidation, more fossil-dependent inputs.

Third, make demands that remove the leverage itself – public food reserves, price transparency, windfall taxes and, most fundamentally, getting fossil fuels out of the food system.

A food system that runs on oil will always be hostage to whoever controls the oil.

Closing gaps in Australia's feral pig management

AUSTRALIA'S National Feral Pig Action Plan has created an important foundation for tackling one of the country's most persistent pest problems.

It has brought governments, landholders, regional organisations, Indigenous groups and biosecurity agencies closer and has helped shift feral pig management from isolated local efforts towards coordinated landscape-scale action.

However, the plan has some important gaps.

We propose a five-year implementation project designed to address these weaknesses and turn the NFPAP's strategic framework into a stronger more practical delivery program.

One of the biggest gaps is the lack of consistent national monitoring.

Different regions often collect different types of information,

making it difficult to compare results or determine whether feral pig numbers are falling across Australia.

Some programs report the number of pigs removed, while others use camera detections, activity indicators or local observations.

While useful, these measures can't easily be combined into a clear national picture.

Our implementation plan proposes investing \$3.5 million in a national monitoring and data system, which would establish common reporting standards while still allowing regions to use methods suited to their local conditions.

It would also help measure changes in pig activity, control effort and impacts on agriculture, the environment and cultural assets.

Another major issue is short-term funding.

Feral pig control is

not a one-off job.

A major culling operation may reduce numbers quickly but surviving animals can reproduce and recolonise an area if follow-up control is not maintained.

This is the culling-rebound cycle.

To reduce this risk, the plan recommends five-year regional agreements that support initial control, follow-up operations, surveillance and rapid responses to reinvasion.

The plan also shifts the focus from simply counting carcasses.

The number of pigs removed is important but does not show whether a program has protected crops, reduced damage to waterways or helped safeguard cultural sites.

Future projects would therefore be expected to report on practical outcomes, including avoided agricultural losses, en-

vironmental recovery and protection of important cultural assets.

A budget of \$1.75 million is proposed for this work.

Cross-tenure coordination is another priority.

Feral pigs do not recognise property boundaries, national park borders or administrative regions.

If control is conducted on one property but not neighbouring land, untreated areas can become sources of reinvasion.

Under the proposed approach, regional funding would require landholders and relevant agencies to work together across the full management area.

Indigenous-led management is also central to the plan.

A proposed \$4 million investment would support Traditional Owner governance, ranger training, equipment and on Country feral pig control.

This would streng-

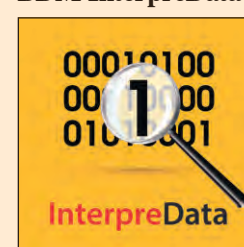
then local capability while supporting the protection of cultural and environmental values.

Overall, the plan proposes a five-year investment of \$32 million, with more than half directed to on-ground regional control.

Its aims are straightforward – build on the NFPAP's strong coordination base, close the gaps in monitoring and funding and deliver measurable long-term protection for Australian agriculture, ecosystems and cultural heritage.

For more information, email graeme@interpredata.net or call 0417 805 422.

Graeme Crook
BDM InterpreData



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APL project findings helping piglets thrive after weaning

WEANING remains one of the most challenging stages of pig production, with iron deficiency and post-weaning diarrhoea commonly affecting piglet health and performance.

A recent Australian Pork Limited project (2022-0003) investigated practical strategies to improve piglet robustness and herd feed conversion efficiency.

The research found that a second iron injection at weaning improved haemoglobin levels, reduced pig removals and supported growth during the critical weeks after weaning.

Benefits were greatest in larger faster-growing pigs most at risk of iron deficiency.

The project also demonstrated that low crude protein diets, fed during the first week after weaning and balanced with the appropriate amino acids, significantly

reduced PWD without compromising growth performance.

These diets also reduced the number of pigs requiring removal from production.

Importantly, when combined, these strategies reduced post-weaning losses and delivered an estimated improvement in herd feed conversion efficiency.

The findings provide producers with practical tools to improve piglet health, welfare and productivity, particularly in younger pigs and higher-challenge production systems.

The final report is available on the APL website, scan the QR code below.

Australian Pork Limited



Scan for the final report.

Aussie Pumps big move to stainless steel

AUSSIE Pumps has been a major supporter of the pork industry and the poultry sector in Australia for a number of years.

Our team keeps up to date with the challenges of these mighty industries.

The growing need for protein for southeast Asian countries indicates that growth and investment are justified.

It seems pork and poultry will be star exports for Australian produce.

The fact that the industries are highly efficient already is undeniable.

Our job as we see it is to provide the best range of pump products suitable for replacing the old-style long-shaft sump pumps.

Aussie's surface-mounted 316 stainless-steel self-priming centrifugal pumps are available from 2.2kW all the way through to big 15kW pumps that will handle over 2000LPM flow.

The fascination with stainless steel isn't only

about the cosmetics.

A 316 mix of stainless steel means 18 percent of the product is chromium, 8 percent is nickel and the rest is pure iron ore.

Aussie observed that cast-iron pumps simply don't last compared to 316 stainless.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "We found out the hard way."

"Our cast-iron pumps were heavy-duty self-priming centrifugal design.

"It was a great hit at first in the industry because of its efficiency, ease of priming and the added benefit of a clean out port.

"That clean out port is a big advantage as you can just hose out any blockages that may occur without having to drag the pump out of the sump.

"That's the advantage of surface-mounted pumps," he said.

At first, Aussie started putting only 316 stainless-steel impellers in those cast-iron pumps to avoid the premature wear that the cast-iron

impellers were facing, not realising just how aggressive and abrasive piggery or abattoirs waste material could be.

Aussie's stainless-steel pumps have had a great reception from many in the processing industry, recognising that stainless steel will last almost forever.

Those stainless-steel motor pumps, close coupled, are highly efficient.

They have flows of up to 2100LPM and even heads as high as 55m.

Big 6" pumps are on the way, though are already available in the cast-iron configuration.

These large pumps feature big 316 stainless steel open impellers, capable of passing solids in suspension.

Portable trash pumps, a versatile option

Even Aussie's portable waste pumps are built into stainless-steel frames, mounted on a stainless-steel base supported with anti-vibration mounts.

The pumps can often be Honda petrol or

Yanmar diesel engine powered and are compact.

The front opening port can be cleaned in a matter of minutes in the event of a choke.

They can draft water through a vertical lift up to 7.6m, making the traditional submersibles obsolete in many applications.

Keeping drains clear, Aussie's Cobra jetter

Aussie Pumps product line also includes a top-quality range of Australian designed and built drain-cleaning jettters.

These machines are capable of clearing up to 9" diameter drains.

They have the ability to clear lines up to 60m.

A complete range of drain-cleaning jetting nozzles are available to suit any particular application, including clearing tree roots.

The range begins with 4000psi, 20LPM combination with Big Bert Bertolini pumps.

They are suitable for up to 6" diameter drains.

A 5000psi model is

the King Cobra, also available in Class A and Class B category.

Clearing block drains up to 6" (150mm) diameter is simple and easy with the Aussie Cobra, available either in 'cube configuration' where it can be easily mounted on the back of a ute or trailer, or in 'trolley configuration' for ease of movement around the farm.

The machine's frame design is an elegant stainless steel that makes it easy for servicing both the engine and the pump.

A free safety plate, heavy-duty wash down gun and 60m of top-quality high-pressure sewer hose are supplied with each machine.

Sewer hoses have to be flexible to be able to do the job and Aussie has mastered that with a top-quality product range.

The Aussie Python is recommended for big operations.

The Python will handle up to 9" (230mm) pipes and has an extremely efficient combination of flow and pressure.

This 4200psi machine will pump 31LPM, providing enough power to clear any block drain, especially combined with the right nozzle.

Aussie's turbo root mulcher nozzle will clear drains of up to 6" diameter, while the big 5000psi jettters using the double turbo root mulcher is good for drains of up to 24".

Big piggeries and abattoirs are aware of our jetter range, and we back the product range up with a free safety training program, together with detailed information about maintenance, repairs, troubleshooting and similar aftermarket support.

Further information is available from aussiepumps.com.au

Aussie Pumps



Aussie has trouble keeping up with jetter demand for the season.

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JOIN us for two days of research, case studies, industry updates and of course, networking at the Australasian Pig Health and Veterinary Association Conference to be held at the Movenpick Hotel in Hobart on October 26-29.

Program highlights include:

Aquaculture

- What can we learn?
- Diagnostics.
- Site tour (places limited).

Respiratory

- Swine influenza
- AI lung scoring
- H5N1.

Welfare

- Minimum weaning age
- Piglet euthanasia
- Pain relief.

Our keynote speaker Dr Bernie Gleeson will be sharing four

decades of hard-won lessons and learnings from a career spent elbow-deep in the pig industry.

Important dates

- Welcome dinner – October 26
- Full program – October 27-28
- Aquaculture tour – October 29

Registration

Register by scanning the QR code below.

Registration is \$325. For further information, email aphvapresident@gmail.com

APHVA



Scan to register for APHVA2026.

OHG Bio proposes effluent processing infrastructure in Wagga

EFFLUENT lagoon storage is a routine part of piggery operations.

OHG Bio has proposed a Wagga Wagga facility to give producers an additional way to manage liquid waste.

OHG Bio Pty Ltd is an Australian biotechnology company driving the future of circular agriculture.

The company has been established as a joint venture between Australia's One Hub Co and Guangdong Guanchi Agricultural Technology Group Co Ltd, a Chinese agricultural biotechnology company and developer of the microbial strains and technology used to convert liquid effluent into microbial fertiliser.

OHG Bio holds ex-



clusive rights to apply this technology within the Australian territory, with a focus on providing dedicated liquid waste processing infrastructure to support Australian piggery operations in managing on-farm effluent.

Effluent management is a standing operational requirement for Australian pork producers, with on-farm systems needing to work within environmental regulations, lagoon storage

capacity and nutrient handling practices.

OHG Bio's proposed infrastructure is intended to give producers an additional option for managing liquid waste streams generated on-site.

Targeting Wagga Wagga for first facility

OHG Bio has identified Wagga Wagga, in the Riverina region of NSW, as the target location for its first Australian facility.

The region sits within an established

livestock production area, with freight and agricultural service infrastructure in place locally.

The proposed facility is intended to process liquid piggery effluent collected from surrounding operations.

Importantly, OHG Bio's technology is designed to treat liquid waste only – solid material is separated on-farm prior to transport, with only the liquid fraction accepted at the plant.

A liquid waste conversion process

The process begins with the liquid effluent, with solids already separated on-farm prior to arrival.

The liquid effluent is first thermally treated, a step designed to target e coli, pathogens and other unde-

sired elements present in the raw material.

Guanchi's microbial formulation is then applied, supporting the breakdown of organic material and the release of plant-available nutrients.

The treated output is a stabilised liquid organic fertiliser containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, suited to on-farm reuse.

What the proposal could mean for piggery operators

For piggery operators, a dedicated local processing option is intended to offer:

- An additional avenue for managing liquid effluent volumes within holding ponds and lagoons

- Potential relief of on-farm storage pressure during peak effluent periods

- A structured local option for managing liquid waste alongside existing environmental and regulatory requirements.

OHG Bio's proposed Wagga Wagga facility represents an early-stage development in regional effluent-processing infrastructure for the NSW pork sector, with further details expected to be announced as the project progresses.

OHG Bio



A piggery effluent pond.

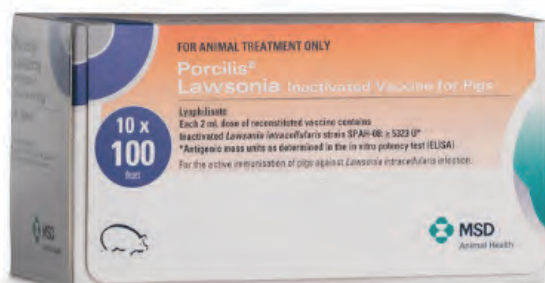
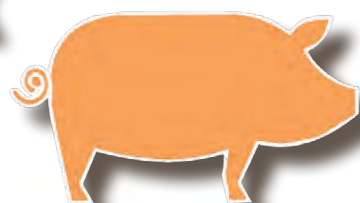
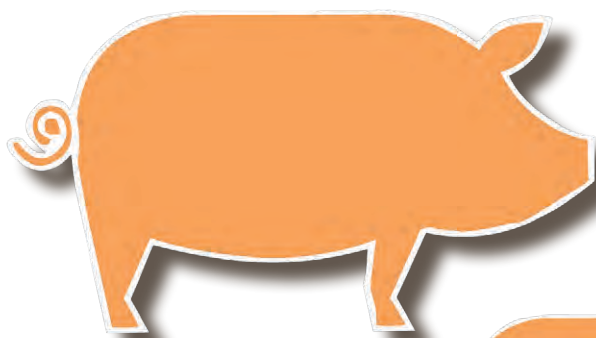


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Japanese encephalitis virus detected in Queensland pigs

AUSTRALIAN pork producers are being urged to remain vigilant for Japanese encephalitis virus, following a fresh detection in commercial pigs in Queensland.

Animal Health Australia advises there is currently no active emergency animal disease response for JEV in Australia.

The September 2026 detection follows JEV detections in commercial pigs and a person in May, and a feral pig in June.

With JEV continuing to circulate in Australia, further detections can occur, particularly when mosquito activity increases.

What does JEV mean for piggeries?

Japanese encephalitis is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by a flavivirus.

The same virus family includes Murray Valley encephalitis and West Nile virus.

JEV is zoonotic, meaning it can infect both animals and people.

However, it is spread by infected mosquitoes, rather than through direct contact between pigs and people.

The virus is maintained through a cycle involving mosquitoes and animals.

Wading waterbirds are important natural hosts, while pigs act as amplifying hosts.

An infected pig can develop high levels of virus in its blood.

When mosquitoes feed on an infected pig, they can acquire the virus and subsequently transmit it to other susceptible animals or people.

Feral pigs may also contribute to the spread of JEV.

Humans and horses are considered dead-end hosts because, while they can become infected, they generally do not develop sufficient levels of virus in their blood to infect mosquitoes.

JEV has been detected in a range of animal species around the world, though most infected animals show no obvious signs of disease.

Importantly for pork producers, JEV is not a food safety concern.

Commercially produced pork and pork products remain safe to eat.

Watch breeding herds closely

For pig farmers, reproductive performance is one of the key areas to watch.

JEV infection in pigs can be associated with:

- Increased numbers

of mummified or still-born piglets

- Weak piglets, sometimes displaying neurological signs at birth

- Neurological signs in young pigs, including tremors or paddling

- Infertility in boars
- Swollen or congested testes in affected boars.

These signs can have a number of causes, so producers should seek veterinary advice if unusual reproductive or neurological problems emerge.

Report suspected cases

JEV is a nationally notifiable animal disease.

If you suspect JEV in pigs or horses, contact your private veterinarian or state or territory agriculture department immediately.

You can also contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Reduce mosquito pressure around the piggery

With mosquitoes playing the critical role in JEV transmission, producers should be looking closely at mosquito management around their properties.

Steps to reduce mosquito breeding and adult mosquito activity include:

- Remove standing water and anything capable of holding water, including old equipment, scrap materials, wheel ruts and pot-holes

- Where practical, seal or screen uncovered water sources and storage facilities such as tanks

- Keep effluent systems, gutters, downpipes and drains flowing freely and clear of debris

- Ensure windows and doors in staff facilities are fitted with well-maintained mosquito-proof screens

- Monitor water sources for mosquito larvae

- Where larvae are detected, treat natural and artificial water environments in accordance with APVMA permit 93296, including dams, channels and tanks

- Monitor for adult mosquitoes around the piggery

- Where adult mosquitoes are present, treatment of exterior animal housing and other dark, cool areas around piggery infrastructure can be undertaken in accordance with APVMA permit 93322

- Staff facilities and surrounding areas can also be treated in ac-

cordance with the permit.

Producers should ensure any mosquito-control products are used strictly in accordance with their approved label or permit conditions.

The APVMA permit allowing topical use of permethrin on pigs has not yet been renewed.

Producers should consult their veterinarian before applying any product directly to pigs.

Protecting people working on piggeries

People who work at, live at or provide services to piggeries in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia are eligible for, and are recommended to receive, JEV vaccination.

More information on vaccination is available from scanning the relevant QR code below.

For pork producers, the latest detection is a reminder that mosquito management needs to be part of the piggery's ongoing biosecurity program, particularly during periods of increased mosquito activity.



Scan for information on Queensland vaccination.



Scan for information on NSW vaccination.



Scan for information on Victoria vaccination.



Scan for information on South Australia vaccination.

Alarm working but not received

MODERN pig production can depend on technology that quietly performs important work in the background.

Environmental controllers, monitoring systems and other equipment may supervise conditions continuously and generate an alarm when something moves outside an expected range.

That sounds reassuring, but detecting a problem is only the first half of the process.

The other half is getting the warning to the right person in time for them to act.

An alarm is really a chain

A controller may identify an abnormal condition perfectly, yet the notification that follows can depend on several other systems.

The alarm might travel through a local network, router, internet connection or mobile service.

It may then pass through a cloud platform before becoming an SMS, email, phone call or app notification.

Each link introduces another dependency.

A system can therefore appear healthy at the shed while the notification path beyond it is no longer working as expected.

As an example, a router may have been replaced, a SIM may have changed, an internet service may have moved to another provider or an old staff member may still be listed as the primary contact.

None of those changes necessarily affects the controller itself.

The first indication of a problem may only come when an alarm genuinely needs to reach somebody.

Test the whole journey

Testing an alarm by confirming that the controller generates it is useful, though it does not necessarily prove that the complete process works.

A better test follows the alarm from beginning to end.

If a controlled test condition is created, does the monitoring system recognise it?

Does the notification leave the site?

Does it reach the external service

it depends on?

Does the intended person actually receive it?

If nobody responds, does the system escalate the warning to another person?

And does the process still work outside normal business hours?

The important measurement is not simply whether an alarm was generated.

It is whether an appropriate person became aware of the condition in time to respond.

Know what the alarm depends on

It is worth documenting the communication path for important alerts.

That does not require a complicated technical manual.

For each critical alarm system, useful information might include:

- How notifications leave the site

- Whether they depend on internet, mobile coverage or a third-party cloud service

- Who currently receives them

- Who receives an escalation if the first person does not respond

- Which supplier supports the controller

- Which provider supports the communications service

- Where account and administration information is held

- What alternative process exists if the normal notification path is unavailable.

Support information should also be available independently of the system experiencing the problem.

A telephone number stored only inside an inaccessible online portal is not very useful during an outage.

Small technology changes can have unexpected effects

Alarm paths should be checked after significant technology changes.

Replacing a router, changing internet providers, installing a new firewall, changing mobile services or modifying network equipment can affect communications without anyone deliberately changing the alarm system.

Staff changes matter too.

• continued P13

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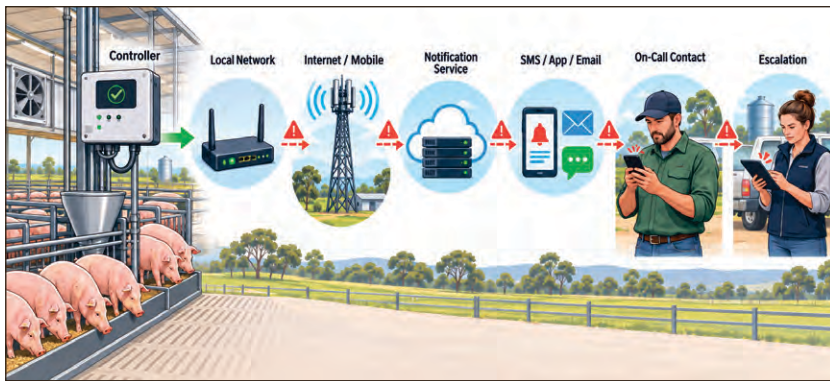
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An alarm is an end-to-end communications process. The controller may detect a condition correctly, but the local network, internet or mobile service, external notification platform and current escalation contacts must all work before the right person receives the warning.

Alarm working but not received

from P12

A notification process configured several years ago may still contain obsolete mobile numbers, email addresses or user accounts.

Periodic review helps ensure the people being contacted are still the people expected to respond.

Consider what happens when communications fail

No communications service is available all the time.

That makes it important to understand what happens when the normal alarm-delivery path is unavailable.

Does the system retain alarms locally?

Is there another communications path?

Can somebody identify that remote notifications are offline?

Is there a practical temporary procedure until communications are restored?

The appropriate answer will differ between sites and systems, but the question should be answered before an outage rather than during one.

Detection is only the beginning

Modern monitoring equipment can provide excellent visibility into operating conditions.

But an alarm system should be thought of as an end-to-end process rather than simply a controller feature.

The controller has to detect the problem.

The communications infrastructure has to carry the message.

The notification service has to deliver it.

The contact information has to be current.

And somebody ultimately has to receive and act on the warning.

A green status screen can show that part of the system is working.

The more useful question is simpler – if something important happened tonight, would the right person actually know?

Founder and principal consultant of IT-ICU, an Australian technology consultancy established in 1997, the author has more than 20 years of hands-on experience across infrastructure, networking, business systems and complex multi-vendor technical troubleshooting.

For more information, email contact@it-icu.com, visit www.it-icu.com or call 0401 903 525.

Mervyn Jackson
IT-ICU

Two Queensland men charged

A QUEENSLAND pork industry identity and another man have faced court over allegations involving millions of dollars in undeclared pork sales, interstate cash movements and the fraudulent relabelling of frozen meat products.

Darren Wilson, 63, and Gary Cameron Ronald Wilson are among four people charged following a joint investigation by the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission, NSW Police Force Anti-Money Laundering Unit and NSW Crime Commission.

Authorities allege about \$10 million in sales transactions were deleted or never recorded between 2017 and 2026, with the proceeds allegedly retained for personal use.

Investigators also allege more than \$30 million in cash was transported from NSW into Queensland, including substantial sums allegedly concealed in interstate freight vehicles.

The Queensland-based men have been charged with offences including fraud, receiving and possessing tainted property, destroying records, making fraudulent omissions in records and making false declarations.

The allegations are being contested through the court process, and the accused are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

Pork businesses at centre of investigation

The case has attracted attention across the pork sector because of the scale of the alleged financial activity and the businesses involved.

Mr Wilson is a long-standing Queensland pork industry identity who established Wilpak Wholesale Meats in Ipswich in the 1980s.

The business subsequently expanded into meat processing and pig production.

Court proceedings allege sales records connected with approximately \$10 million in transactions

were either deleted or not created.

Investigators allege this resulted in money being excluded from normal business records and retained for personal use.

The Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission has described the investigation as a significant cross-border operation involving authorities in two states.

More than \$25m in assets restrained

Authorities have seized more than \$3 million in cash and two motor vehicles, while the total value of assets restrained as suspected proceeds of crime exceeds \$25 million.

Further asset seizures and restraint proceedings are expected as the investigation and associated court processes continue.

The four people charged are facing different allegations.

The two NSW-based individuals have been charged with offences relating to the alleged destruction or conceal-

ment of accounting records, while the Queensland pair face the broader range of charges.

The allegations against the Queensland men include claims that sales invoices were destroyed or not created, that tainted property was received and possessed, and that frozen meat products were relabelled.

Court proceedings continue

The Wilsons' matters were mentioned in the Brisbane Magistrates Court on September 14.

Neither man was required to appear personally, and their bail was extended.

The matter is due to return to court later this year.

The charges follow months of investigation by Queensland and NSW law enforcement agencies, with authorities continuing to pursue suspected proceeds and financial records connected to the alleged activity.

No findings of guilt have been made against any of the accused.

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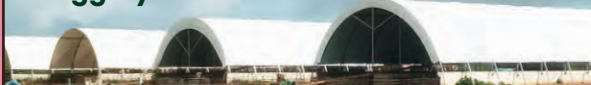
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