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Putting global key performance indicators into context

YOU have probably seen the herd performance indicators for different European countries published in the latest edition of the Pig Tales newsletter from the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia.

These were reported in the February edition of *Australian Pork Newspaper* and for reproduction they confirm what we have known for a long time, and that is they are considerably and consistently better than Australia, with the Danes leading the way with 15.6 piglets born alive per litter and just over 30 pigs weaned per sow/year.

The Dutch were a close second.

Average carcass weight was also higher than Australia's, resulting in the Dutch and Danes producing 43 percent and 33 percent more carcass weight per sow/year than us.

Again we have been well aware of this and the difference in carcass weight reflects different market demands in Australia and these other countries.

A similar situation exists in the US and Canada, with born alive running around 13.5 and 14.4 respectively and increasing in both counties.

Their carcass weights are also

Pork CRC

Initiatives

by **DR ROGER CAMPBELL**
CEO

20-25 percent higher than in Australia and the US is probably the lowest cost producer of pork in the world.

In 2015, cost of production in the US will average about \$US1.47/kg carcass weight or at the current exchange rate \$A2.08/kg carcass weight.

What about margins?

However, what is not reported is most EU countries will at best break even in 2015 and a recent report suggests Danish producers haven't made any money from pigs in the past 10 years.

A similar situation exists in the US and Canada and the margins received by US producers in 2014 and 2015 are shown in Figure 1.

The good returns in 2014 were due largely to reduced

supply caused by porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus.

This was a minor problem in late 2014 and early 2015 and supply has increased and prices have fallen accordingly, bringing the US back to what is the normal level of profitability and price seasonality, which wasn't affected by PEDv in 2013 and 2014.

I am not sure if the Australian industry could return to this seasonal pattern of demand and price (high from August to November and low from March to June) without some rationalisation of the industry.

The seasonal pattern in Australia was largely reduced and/or removed by the importation of pork for manufacturing and helped by the increasing demand for high-integrity Australian pork.

Differentiation and demand

It would seem that unlike Australia, the domestic demand for pork hasn't really increased over time in Europe or North America, and both are reliant on population growth and export markets for their success.

Both, and particularly the US, are well set up to take advantage of increasing global demand for pork, particularly in Asia, with China being at the top of the priority list for the EU and the US.

When this might eventuate remains to be seen but the likelihood that it will is high.

Australia is also an export target for the Europeans and North Americans and both would like to see changes to the import pro-

continued P3

Processed pork under the hammer

A RECENT Monday morning began with a frenzy due to the announcement from the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer that processed meats such as bacon and ham cause cancer, and red meat (including pork within its definition) is a probable cause of cancer.

As you might expect, the media picked up this announcement and ran with it strongly.

The reporting was not without some cynicism – highly warranted in my opinion.

The scientific fraternity has long been criticised for its ability to communicate effectively with the wider community and for good reason.

You probably remember the hype around how the world was practically going to end with the change to January 1, 2000 (the Y2K controversy).

Well didn't that end as a flop.

We've also seen the lack of success in the strategy by scientists to scare people into believing in the pending disaster that is climate change, irrespective of its scientific merit.

People like the truth uncontaminated by hype – they do not like to be threatened.

This time it relates to meat and cancer.

That processed meat has been put into a category for causing cancer equivalent to asbestos and tobacco is absolutely laughable.

Thankfully, any reasonable thinking person can probably work this out to be the case.

The truth is this announcement has not been based on any new science but a review of literature that has existed for years, and the claims have been made before.

It's likely they'll be made again because this cancer research body keeps min-

Australian Pork

Point of View

by **ANDREW SPENCER** CEO

ing the same data set to see what it can find.

When the media reports scientific discoveries, especially when they are concerned with issues around health, you often hear the word 'linked'.

The fact is a lot of scientific studies are designed to show links, such as between diet and health effects.

Using complicated statistics it is possible to quite regularly show that some characteristic of a group of people is linked to a health outcome.

The problem is this is 'association' and not 'causation', and in my opinion this is a lot of what is wrong with the WHO's cancer announcement.

To give an example (I call this the 'bald man's hat syndrome'), if you were to do a study of baldness in men you'd notice that bald men have a much greater chance of being regular wearers of hats (for obvious reasons around protecting their scalp) than non-bald men.

Poor science would make the claim "wearing hats causes baldness", which we know is not true.

This is a classic case of association ('link') rather than causation but being interpreted wrongly.

Another example mentioned to me recently was "people with bigger feet are better readers"; which is obvious when you think about it, because adults have big feet and infants have tiny feet.

Sounds like the "lies,

damned lies and statistics" saying we have heard before.

Eating large amounts of processed pork or red meat generally could very easily be associated with obesity, which is known as a precursor to a higher likelihood of suffering from cancer.

The meat is not the problem; the obesity is.

In this way, eating a lot of anything can be associated with obesity and by extension, cancer.

The WHO will argue that it has corrected the data for attributes such as age, weight, obesity, smoking and so on but this is a lot easier said than done.

Many studies will not have collected the data to enable this to happen for example.

The pity is we need science communication to work.

It's especially important for our industry when we're trying to explain our impact on the environment or science-based animal welfare management.

Every time science gets the communication wrong, like in this case, the community gets that much more cynical about what science is trying to say and that's a problem.

Like everything in life, moderation is the answer and a message built around this instead of the hysteria created by comparisons with tobacco and asbestos would have served society much better. 🐷

Figure 1: Margins for US pork producers against month of the year for 2014 and 2015.



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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2015

NOV 9-11 – 8th Global Food Processing Summit and Expo, 2015, Dubai, UAE
www.foodprocessing.global-summit.com

NOV 22 - 25 – Australasian Pig Science Association conference, Melbourne, VIC
www.apsa.asn.au

2016

JAN 12-14 – Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Alberta Canada
www.banffpork.ca

JAN 26-28 – International Production & Processing Expo, Georgia, USA
www.ippexpo.com

JAN 27 – Centralia Swine Research Update, Ontario, Canada
www.centraliaswineresearch.ca

FEB 16 - 18 – VIV MEA, Abu Dhabi, UAE
www.vivmea.nl

FEB 27 - MAR 1 – American Association of Swine Veterinarians annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, US
www.aasv.org/annmtg/index.php

MAR 13 - 15 – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand
www.vivasia.nl

MAR 23-25 – 6th International Livestock, Dairy, Meat Processing, and Aquaculture Exposition, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
www.ildex.com

APR 18 - 20 – Global Feed & Food Congress, Antalya, Turkey
www.ifif.org

MAY 10 - 11 – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire UK
www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

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

JUN 7 - 10 – International Pig Veterinary Society/European Symposium of Porcine Health Management, Dublin, Ireland
www.ipvs2016.com

JUN 8-10 – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, Iowa, US
www.worldpork.org

JUL 5-10 – Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, Wagga Wagga, NSW
www.icmj.com.au

SEP 6 - 8 – VIV China, Beijing, China
www.vivchina.nl

NOV 15 - 18 – EuroTier, Hanover, Germany
www.eurotier.com

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

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Reducing variation in finisher herd performance

IN this issue I'm back to talking about variation in finisher herd performance.

To recap: variation within herds on the same farm continues to be a major cost for the Australian pork industry.

One of the main causes of this variation is pigs with low weaning weights (<5kg at 21 days) have compromised performance throughout the grower-finisher phase.

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

To address this issue of within-herd variation, APL has commissioned two projects to reduce the variation in slaughter stock by enhancing the performance of lightweight weaners, with nutritional interventions in up to 35kg live weight and >30kg live weight.

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

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

Despite an intervention that increased feed

costs per kg of gain by 15 percent, there was no boost in the performance of lightweight weaners to the mean level of the population, let alone to the performance of a heavier-weight weaner.

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

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

In the second study, 'Containing variance in pigs beyond 30kg live weight' (Project 2013/2410, Tony Edwards and Megan Edwards), while not expecting to reduce the variance once established, investigated a number of management strategies to contain any further expansion of the performance variation.

The two production strategies evaluated were:

1. The grading of the pigs into three distinct live weight ranges (heavy, medium and small, evaluated as single entities or as a mixed group); and
2. Applying feeding programs based on either

weight or age.

The coefficient of variation of the total population was 17.6 percent on arrival at the facility.

After grading into heavy, medium and small groups, this variance was reduced to about 10 percent within each category.

The mixed pens involved equal proportions of heavies, mediums and smalls and had an initial CV of 14.1 percent.

Pigs fed by weight all started at the same weight (albeit at different ages) beyond 30kg live weight and were influenced by the performance prior to 30kg as the growth rate graded from heavy down to the small group (936, 903, and 891g/day respectively) and the final variance (CVs) also favoured the heavy group (6.5, 7.4 and 8.9 percent respectively).

The direct comparison of pigs fed by weight or by age (in the medium and small pigs) had minor differences in performance and a tendency for increased variance in the age fed pigs in the grower phase (no difference in the finisher phase).

The heavy and small pigs in the mixed pens

tended to grow slower than their segregated counterparts but the medium pigs were similar.

Although the variance within each weight category in the mixed pens was similar to that of their segregated counterparts, the overall pen variance was higher due to the broader range of weights at the start.

The take-home message from this study was that grading pigs into weight categories was an effective means of reducing the initial variance, and feeding by weight rather than age tended to result in a lower final variance.

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

News of interest is the update of Robyn Terry's (APL Production Innovation and Animal Welfare manager) attendance at the 2015 Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition meeting.

Prof Robert van Barneveld (SunPork Pty Ltd) provided the meeting with an insightful presentation on reducing variation in pork production systems.

In order to maintain variance within the pork production system, careful management of the gestating and lactating sow is required.

Birth weight is the be-

ginning of the variation and the variation you begin with will not improve during the life of the piglet.

Factors that affect the variation of birth weight are:

- The parity of the dam (gilt or multiparous);
- The sex of the piglet;
- The piglet's position in the uterus; and
- The nutrition and body condition of the dam.

Therefore we should be focusing on maintaining the metabolic status of the sow for the entirety of her reproductive cycle – not ranging between anabolic and catabolic.

Once the sow is lactating, the variance has already been created.

Therefore the focus should be on:

- Managing the lactating sow so she doesn't lose weight;
- Increasing milk production and ensuring an adequate colostrum supply;
- Increasing weaning age; and
- Reducing the variation in weaning age in the population.

Post-weaning, in addition to feeding by weight rather than age, the use of segregated parity flows is useful because the growth rate of gilt progeny is inherently slower than that of sow progeny.

Stay tuned because interventions to optimise gilt progeny are being investigated as part of the Growth and Development R&D program.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8804 or darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au



by **DARRYL D'SOUZA PhD**
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Putting global key performance indicators into context

from P1
tocols, so we certainly can't be complacent and nothing encourages competition like high costs and good margins.

The bottom line is we probably have more to gain by further differentiating our industry from competitors to help ensure consumers don't need to and don't want to buy imported pork and actually buy even more Australian pork than they do now.

The industry has made tremendous progress in this respect by markedly reducing the confinement of pregnant sows and opportunities remain in improving the eating quality of Australian pork and potentially by reducing antibiotic use.

We have made progress in both areas but challenges and great returns exist for researchers and industry, particularly in developing alternatives to and/or more targeted use of antibiotics.

COP
Opportunity also clearly exists for reducing COP by improving reproduction and carcass weight.

The latter might be limited by market 'demand' for fresh pork but we do have more retailers entering the market and maybe an appetite by others to increase the use of Australian pork in manufactured products.

On reproduction, I told you last month that we have seen quite marked improvements in the 'better' herds in our benchmarking project in born alive and the number of pigs weaned/sow/year.

This has been reflected in feedback from other

producers during the recent roadshows and other industry meetings.

I will let you know what we learn from the annual benchmarking meeting on November 5 and 6 but it seems something (good) is going on.

Improving reproduction is also a challenge for our researchers and they will probably need to think outside the box because both Pork CRC and APL have invested heavily in the area and achieved significant gains over time.

However it's difficult to match the genetic gains and changes that have been achieved overseas in the same period.

The challenge is to improve the number of piglets weaned per mated sow or maybe per 100 mated sows, so all factors are taken into account; remembering that this will need to be achieved within the biosecurity framework currently set by industry.

However I am sure they are up to it but may have to seek input from those working in related and even unrelated areas.

A few reminders
A number of things will be occurring over the next few months that warrant consideration.

In particular I want to remind you about the Roseworthy pig course and using AusScan to determine the energy value of your grain and the amino acid levels of protein meals.

Roseworthy course
A reminder that the Science and Practice of Pig Production course will run between January 18 and 29, 2016 at the University of Adelaide Roseworthy Campus.

The course covers everything you need to know about pork production.

Feedback from those who have attended in the past has been very positive and for some even career changing.

Pork CRC will cover the travel and accommodation costs of the first 20 producers or their staff to register for the course.

You should consider taking advantage of the offer. Details including the program and registration form are on our website (porkcrc.com.au).

If you want more information, contact Dr William van Wettere (william.vanwettere@adelaide.edu.au or 08 8313 7911) or me (roger.campbell@porkcrc.com.au).

AusScan and AusScan Online

Given harvest is under way it is worth considering having your grain tested for digestible energy because we know it can vary considerably, even within grains, and knowing what you have is the first step to improving the accuracy and cost effectiveness of diet formulations.

We have a number of laboratories licensed to use our DE calibrations for grains and these are on our website and shown in Table 1.

At the moment, all but Feed Central (Queensland) are using the older calibrations for DE, though these are not much different from the latest calibrations, which are only available online through AusScan Online.

Feed Central has an online account and can also do analyses for the total and reactive lysine levels

in canola meal and soybean meal (calibrations only available online).

The ratio of reactive to total lysine reflects the level of heat damage due to processing in both meals, and this can vary by 30-35 percent, so again knowing what you have is the best way to ensure the accurate formulation of your diets.

This information has been sent to all nutritionists and all laboratories are being encouraged to open an online account.

You are encouraged to use the service and to contact your nutritionist to ensure your grains and canola and soybean meal are 'analysed' for DE and total and reactive lysine respectively.

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Livestock Logic 60 Portland Rd, Hamilton Vic 3300	Dr David Rendell d.rendell@livestocklogic.com.au feed@livestocklogic.com.au 03 5572 1419
SGS Agritech PO Box 549, Toowoomba Qld 4350	Mr Robert Lascelles robert.lascelles@sgs.com copy to: kobi.ringuet@sgs.com 07 3622 4700
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Table 1



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Attendance assistance packages available for Australian Pork Limited members.

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If you are not already a member contact APL now.

Upcoming editions of Australian Pork Newspaper will have more information

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The BEC presenters and assorted industry attendees at the recent Hilyses launch in Brisbane.



Once presentations had concluded, Q&A began, with producers keen to know how Hilyses could benefit them.

New feed additive for Australian market

LEADER in premixes, ingredients and stock feed commodities BEC Feed Solutions recently launched a new feed additive into the Australian market.

The product, Hilyses, is obtained from *saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeast fermentation originating from ethanol production in Brazil.

Hilyses has been used successfully in overseas markets for a number of years, and its introduction into Australia will bring several benefits to the pig industry in terms of enhanced immune system and intestinal integrity, decreased mortality and improved feed efficiency.

According to BEC Animal Health Innovation and Research manager Dr David Isaac, Hilyses is a complete yeast product.

"Hilyses contains free nucleotides and nucleo-

sides as well as short chain peptides, beta glucans and MOS," Dr Isaac said.

"The synergistic effect of all these yeast components improves the pig's gut health and provides the building blocks for growth, especially in young animals, when the cellular turnover is under high activity and some tissues have limited capacity of synthesising these nucleotides via de novo (endogenously).

"The main point of difference between Hilyses and other yeast products available on the market is the hydrolysis of the DNA and RNA of the cell, which results in free nucleotides and nucleosides, the bio-available form of the building blocks for cell proliferation.

"The autolysis and hydrolysis process will favour the breakdown of yeast components but all

of them will still be in a highly bio-available form in one single additive."

Hilyses contains an important percentage of free nucleotides as well as a highly digestible protein and is rich in yeast components that assist in immune system modulation such as beta glucan 1,3/1,6 and MOS.

ICC Brazil R&D co-ordinator Dr Melina Bonato said, "Hilyses is a unique solution when we think about yeast benefits in animal nutrition."

"We do not necessarily need to isolate yeast components for their functionality and a highly bio-available product will bring an important economic gain while also considering partial replacement of protein sources, toxins and pathogen binders by Hilyses."

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Isabela Barros of ICC provided a run-down of Hilyses including its benefits and basic structure.



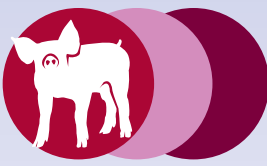
Dr Melina Bonato informed the launch attendees of overseas Hilyses field trial results.



BEC's Dr David Isaac elaborated on the results of Hilyses trials in Australia.

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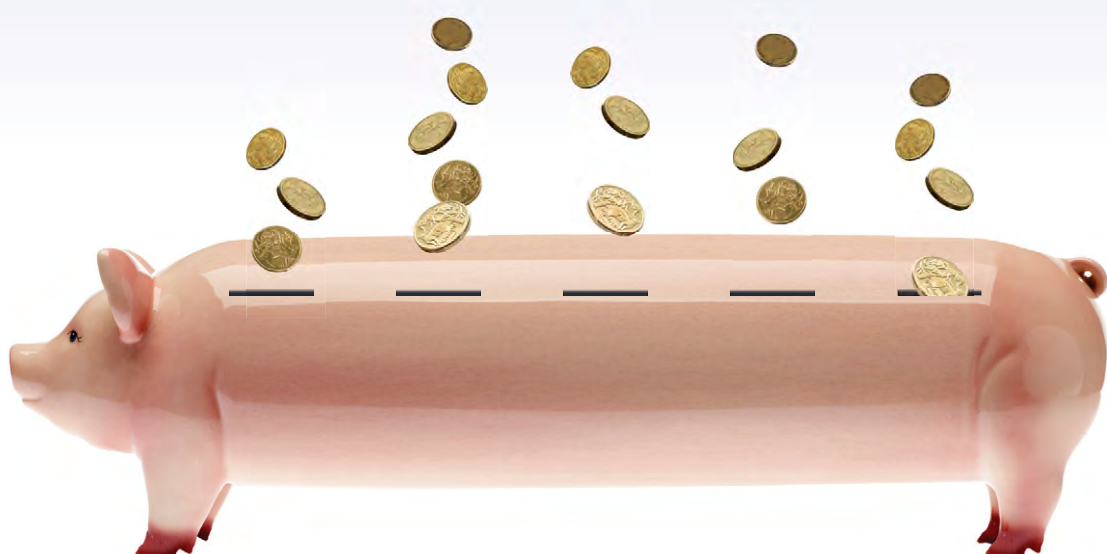
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Doing the things you can't

PORK Queensland Inc. is the state's pig industry representative body, providing services for the Queensland pork industry and aligned supply chain partners.

At our recent annual general meeting, directors were reappointed for a further year with Robyn Boundy as secretary/treasurer, together with John Riley, Paul Taylor and Laurie Brosnan as directors, while I will be continuing in the role of chairman.

At each meeting we reflect on the past period



President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



and consider how to better serve members.

We have limited funds and directors provide their time free of charge, claiming only for direct travel expenses.

I have detailed a range of activities in which PQI represents Queensland

producers and I challenge you to consider supporting the organisation by becoming a member to allow ongoing representation, especially around state-based issues that may not be a focus for the national body Australian Pork Limited.

Apart from maintaining associate membership with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, PQI activities have included:

1. An instrumental role in developing a gas safety plan that will reduce or eliminate the hefty \$3900 annual fee for producers recovering biogas from pig effluent.

2. Representing producers on State Government department working groups addressing animal welfare, biosecurity and the development of Queensland's foot and mouth disease response plan.

3. Providing a submission to the Queensland Government supporting the acknowledgement of skills of pig farmers, which removed the burden of completing expensive and unnecessary training for those with recognised prior learnings.

4. Being heavily involved, as a key industry party, in developing and reviewing the Queensland legislation and alignment with the National Building Code, resulting in the removal of unnecessary building requirements for piggeries previously requiring exemptions from certifiers.

5. QFF providing greater representation on common issues affecting other farming groups thanks to PQI being an associate member. QFF can also provide support on industrial relations issues relating to hiring and firing staff. PQI has worked with QFF in streamlining applications and approvals for water licences for expansion projects on the Darling Downs.

6. Being the go-to organisation representing pork producers and providing a conduit for information flow in both directions. This includes any proposed changes to impacting legislation. PQI has also been responsible for removing a significant level of red tape and regulatory oversight in the licensing of piggeries.

These are just a few of the things PQI does for Queensland producers, and if you are not a member already, please consider supporting our representative body by joining PQI and allowing us to do the things you can't.

Membership fees are only \$150 per annum for producers with 300 sows or less and \$300 per annum for those with 301 or more sows.

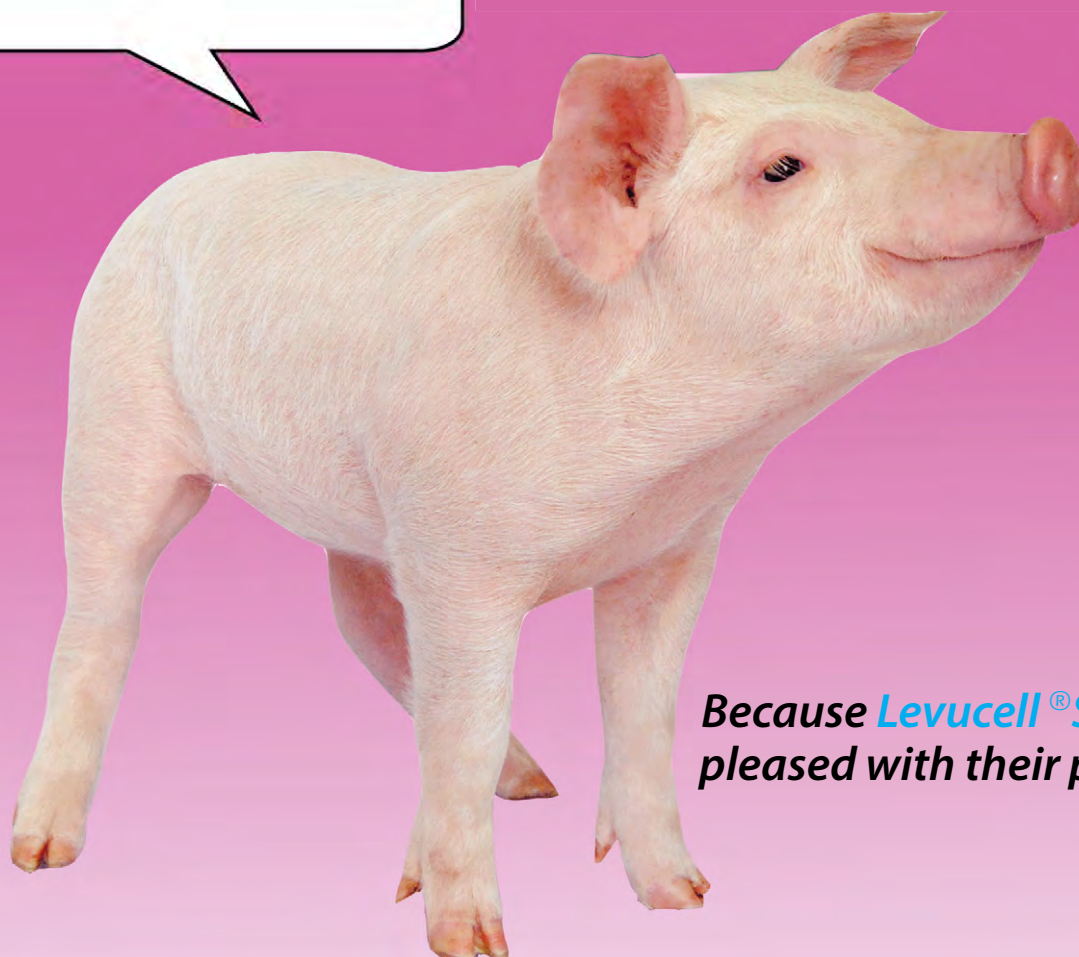
Supply chain companies can support the industry by becoming associate members for the base fee of \$150 per annum.

Please contact our secretary Robyn Boundy (robyn.boundy@bigpond.com) or 0429 923 014, me (0407 622 166) or any of the directors to arrange a membership application or discuss issues.

As this will be my last article for the year, I'd like to wish all producers and their families a merry Christmas and prosperous 2016.

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Bring home this bacon

THE sizzle, smell, or even just the name.

Glazed, gobbled, crispy or cured; the maverick of the meat kingdom that gets Australians salivating; the thing that takes pride of place on our breakfast plates: bacon.

Aussie consumers love to eat their pork.

In fact each one of us consumes nearly 23.5kg of it a year, so when it comes to bringing home the bacon, you'd hope there was an obvious choice.

Unfortunately for most Aussies however, many brands behind the partner to your eggs or the B to your LAT have been tell-

ing a few porkies to make it onto the table.

Seventy-five percent of bacon consumed in Australia is imported, with the majority rapidly grown within intensive indoor housing systems where pigs are not free to exhibit their natural behaviours in comfort.

For those who want a better alternative, bringing home the bacon hasn't been an easy choice – until recently.

Introducing Borrowdale Bacon.

Achieving the highest level of RSPCA Approved Farming, the Australian Pork Certified Free Range, antibiotic and hor-

mone-free bacon launched in selected retailers and onto your plates earlier this year.

Borrowdale's priority is the pigs' environmental enrichment.

With unrestricted access to the outdoors, pigs are able to exhibit their natural behaviours with wallows, trees and foraging areas and open access to dry shelter.

There are no sow stalls in sight, giving pigs freedom from stress, fear or pain.

We can't blame the little piggy who preferred to stay at home.

Bred from Large White landrace sows and Belgian meat master boars, when Borrowdale's piggies go to market, there's no question about how

they got there.

They are produced the old-fashioned way by honest to goodness Aussie farmers on 10,000ha of pig heaven in Goondiwindi, Queensland.

Borrowdale believes in high welfare standards for animals, and is proud to provide a locally grown alternative amid the plethora of foreign foods available in Australian markets.

The bacon is naturally wood smoked to create authentic flavour, so for animal lovers who also love their food or bacon fiends who want the perfect pork, this is the bacon you've been achin' for.

Borrowdale Bacon is available at Thomas Dux and the Australian Meat Emporium. 🐷



APL PigPass Portal and logo updated

PRODUCERS should be aware that Australian Pork Limited has recently updated the APL PigPass Portal homepage.

The portal is an important part of APL's service delivery, and this update has given APL significantly more flexibility in deploying new features and providing users with better access to their data.

This update will serve as a platform to deliver new features relating to movement reporting, as well as to tailor the site better for supply chain users such as saleyards and processors.

These changes are possible only due to APL's continued expansion of the client relationship management database.

They include improved error logging and hit tracking so we can best target invest-

ment in our development efforts.

Producers are reminded that the APL members-only section can be accessed through the portal, in addition to existing contact details, PigPass and movement reporting functions.

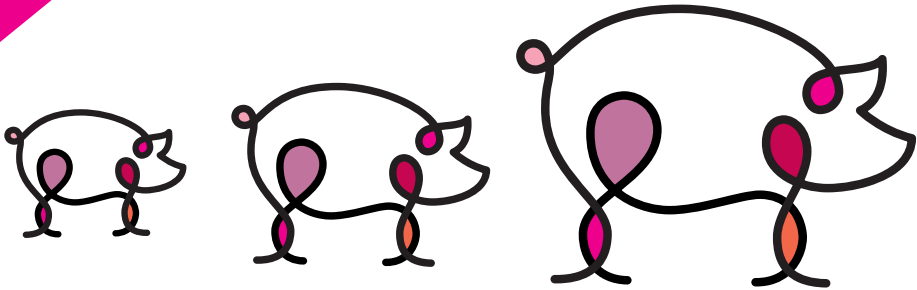
The PigPass logo has also been updated, along with a range of communications materials on how to register for PigPass, report a movement and fill out PigPass National Vendor Declarations.

APL is in the process of collating feedback on the PigPass NVD review and drafting a new version eight PigPass for release around the end of the year.

If you are having any difficulties logging in to the APL Portal, please contact the PigPass helpdesk on 1800 001 458 or email helpdesk@pigpass.com.au



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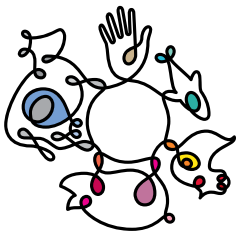
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Will history be kind to us?

I RECENTLY celebrated my eighth year of work in the Australian pork industry.

Reflecting back on those times, it seems we have come an awfully long way.

Joining Australian Pork Limited in August 2007 was one of the more emotionally challenging work experiences of my life.

Spending the first six or so weeks at producers' kitchen tables, watching them cry at the thought of losing their livelihoods, their farms and their self-respect was both sobering and motivating.

At that time we were not globally cost competitive, there were few barriers to entry, our product was inconsistent with only rudimentary quality assurance and producer margins had gone from wafer thin to seriously negative.

In 2007-8 Australian pig producers lost over \$300 million, and as an industry we felt out of control of costs, pricing and reacting to one night-

mare after another.

If someone had said to us back in 2007 the following will all be true in 2015, how many of us would have believed them?

1. The average pig producer nationally has been profitable for all but two months since August 2008.

2. There have been no community relations disasters like the cattle 'live exports' situations, and the issues we have had, such as H1N1, have been managed well and blown over quickly.

3. We now have over 90 percent of pigs produced under our world-class



Marketing Matters

by **PETER HAYDON**
General Manager Marketing



quality assurance system APIQ✓.

4. Producers created a world first when they voted to phase out gestation stalls by 2017; a move that has not only improved our licence to operate but also made Australian producers' sow management a competitive advantage.

5. Increased the marketing levy for the first time in 17 years and beat the marketing commitments 30 months ahead of time.

6. Pig prices have increased by more than double the rate of consumer price index inflation since June 2007.

7. The seasonality of pig prices has moved from high in December and low in July to fairly consistent growth every month.

8. We now have demand driving prices more than supply, giving producers a better negotiating position with buyers.

9. We have two traceability systems in PigPass and Physi-Trace.

10. We can manage effluent to significantly reduce carbon footprints and be a source of revenue for producers.

The last period of industry change was caused by the profitability crisis of 2007-8.

That horrible time acted as a catalyst that opened us as an industry to

changes we would never have believed possible.

The forecasts of beef prices for the next year or two provide another opportunity to transform ourselves for the better.

The time to change is when things are going fairly well, so if not now, when?

We are ahead of our strategic plan in fresh Australian pork consumption and pig price right now.

We are working on how to re-imagine our future with more aggressive change.

And we are clear we don't have all the best ideas, so if you can help with suggestions, please contact me at peter.haydon@australianpork.com.au

As another Englishman once said (almost): History will be kind to us because we intend to write it. 🐷

China's changing diet means it needs a global food chain

THE changing diet of the Chinese population means that self-sufficiency is no longer a viable aim for the country, according to a new report released by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

China is eating more and more meat, as the daily animal calorie intake has more than doubled per person since 1991 as wealth has risen.

Soft commodity foodstuffs such as fruit, vegetables, corn and wheat are likely to be havens for long-term investors as the changing diet of the Chinese people marches towards parity with diets of western countries.

Richard Ferguson, agricultural adviser to PwC and author of the report, said China's changing diet is already exerting a powerful influence on domestic and international agriculture.

"Amid volatility in commodities markets, China's continuing shift towards consumerism means the outlook for soft foodstuffs is relatively bright," he said.

Rising calorie consumption

In 1971, the average total intake per person in China was 1863 calories a day compared to 3025 in the UK.

By 2011 the Chinese average intake was 3074 calories a day compared to 3414 in the UK.

The biggest change has been meat consumption, or animal calories, which have increased by well over 400 percent per person, per day since 1971.

China has left self-sufficiency behind and has become more dependent on feedstock imports of soya bean and corn in particular.

The domestic agricultural market is shifting towards meat production, and also to higher value fruit and vegetables.

Supply challenges such as diminished viable farmland, polluted water supplies, depleted aquifers, overuse of fertilisers and land rights disputes mean that a new market is emerging for companies that specialise in digital mapping, traceability, soil analysis, precision farming and waste management.

China is also trying to secure its food supply lines overseas through investments in foreign farmland and the acquisition of foreign companies.

Some countries are erecting legal barriers in response to land and food company purchases by buyers from countries such as China.

Mr Ferguson said self-sufficiency is no longer a practical policy goal for China.

"The government appears to recognise this with its priorities shifting towards high-value crops such as fruits and vegetables, and a focus on quality and food safety," he said.

"Simultaneously, China is venturing overseas to bolster its food security though investments in foreign farmland and the acquisition of companies across the broader food value chain.

"This is where the global impact of China's increasing food needs will be felt most acutely.

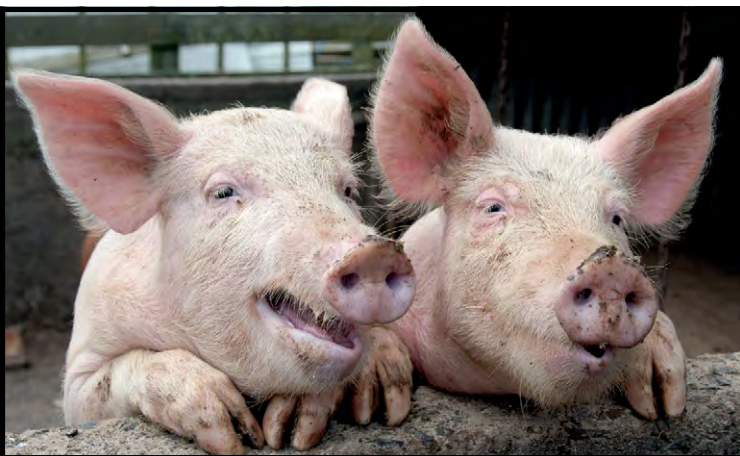
"These acquisition trends, driven by domestic policy imperatives, are likely to continue." 🐷



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Levucell SB improves sow feed intake in lactation

RESULTS of a meta-analysis show that probiotic yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* boulardii CNCM I-1079 (Levucell SB) helps increase sow feed intake during lactation.

The study was presented by Lallemand Animal Nutrition at the American Dairy Science Association and American Society of Animal Science joint annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Optimal feed intake in early lactation is key to ensuring sufficient milk production and limiting sow body weight loss, which impacts both piglet and sow performance.

These results confirm the monogastric-specific probiotic represents a valuable tool for lactating sow management. **Up to an extra 260g of feed/day in early lactation**

The meta-analysis encompassed 10 recent commercial trials performed with *S. cerevisiae* boulardii CNCM I-1079 throughout Europe and North America and in-

cluded 1111 sows.

This robust statistical method showed an overall significant effect ($P < 0.05$) of the probiotic on sow feed intake in lactation ranging from 0.18kg to 0.26kg of extra feed/day/sow (depending on the statistical model used).

A powerful analysis

Lallemand Animal Nutrition applied R&D manager Dr Eric Chevaux said the probiotic action of *S. cerevisiae* boulardii CNCM I-1079 helps improve sow feed intake by balancing the microbiota of the digestive system.

Documenting the effect across multiple trials was a result of producer feedback. "When it comes to feed intake measurement, inter-individual variability remains high, even when parameters such as parity, feed or environment are fixed," Dr Chevaux said.

"This meta-analysis was conducted in order to bring a quantitative evaluation on the effect of the live yeast on sow feed intake in lactation."

Dr Chevaux notes the

statistical method used is recognised by scientists and helps ensure the effects are significant and the conclusions robust.

Long-term benefits on performance

Lallemand Animal Nutrition swine product manager Dr David Saornil said when feed intake during lactation is improved, both piglet and sow productivity can be improved.

"The effects are numerous: piglets' average daily gain can be increased due to better milk production; sows appear to lose less body weight during lactation; and the wean-to-estrus interval can be reduced," he said.

"We know that significant weight loss during the first lactation has negative effects on future litter size, which is a phenomenon known as 'second litter syndrome'.

"The importance of sow body weight cannot be underestimated during this key step of pig production."



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Technologies

Expressions of interest to join the APL R&D Specialist Groups

FOR some time now Australian Pork Limited's research and development priorities have been set through the existence of six Specialist Groups consisting of valued experts within each area.

APL, at the direction of the Board will now be dissolving the existing six Specialist Groups, which will be reformatting in line with new direction to increase the transformational activities of APL R&D.

The four Specialist Groups will be as follows:

1. Market Development, Supply Chain and Product Quality; secretariat Peter Smith.



2. Production and Welfare; secretariat Robyn Terry.

3. Environmental Management; secretariat Janine Price.

4. Food Safety, Biosecurity and Quality Assurance; secretariat Heather Channon.

With consideration of the reformatting Specialist Group structure, we are calling for expressions

of interest in becoming a member both from past Specialist Group members and other members of industry for Specialist Groups 2, 3 and 4 (Specialist Group 1 will remain the same).

Specialist Group members are required to attend one meeting to set the R&D priorities for the coming year and to review the project proposals following the 2016/17 APL R&D call for tenders.

To express an interest in joining one of these groups or for further information, please contact Ashley Norval at norval@australianpork.com.au or on 02 6270 8823.

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Naturally ahead



Pig Farm Perspective

by Harry the happy pig



“MAY you live in interesting times”, or so an ancient saying goes, by way of cursing an enemy to live in complicated times.

And certainly in more recent memory, no age has been fraught with more insecurity than the times we live in now.

The global economy swings from crisis to crisis every few years, droughts, El Nino and accelerating climate change are wreaking havoc across our world and wars and famines in crisis zones around the globe threaten to engulf even us in Australia.

However all is not doom and gloom in our slice of the world.

Most pig producers are benefitting from good pig prices, low feed costs and low interest rates.

We should never rest on our laurels, but continue to look outward towards the rest of the world, using these outside events as reminders to always keep our guard up and be wary of that next shock coming over the horizon.

After all, if you’ve lived as long as I have, you’ll understand there are no happy endings in story books, only respite until the next crisis hits.

This is a good time to start talking about risk management and future proofing your piggery.

From a veterinary perspective, existing endemic disease on farm is a major reason why producers use the anti-

biotics they do today.

What happens when the antibiotics we have been using for all these years become unavailable, either through biological action (rendered ineffective due to bacterial resistance development), supply problems (supply of products being cut due to issues with import permits) or the actions of health authorities (DMZ, a popular antibiotic for controlling swine dysentery, was banned in 2008)?

How will a ban on amoxicillin or tetracycline affect the daily operations of your enterprise?

My point is there is a need to consider a new paradigm, where we risk proof our farms by eradicating existing endemic diseases.

This is a long and difficult process but there are great rewards in the end.

Different farms will have different journeys to reach their goal.

To paraphrase Tolstoy (badly), healthy farms are all alike; unhealthy farms are unhealthy in their own ways.

Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae eradication is the foremost example here.

‘Swiss depopulation’ is a known and proven method of eliminating this disease.

When this disease is eradicated, producers find their incidences of other respiratory diseases fall off accordingly.

This is possible through a four-week production break, mov-

ing all contaminated stock below 10 months of age off site in one hit, intensive medication of remaining stock and careful biosecurity afterwards to ensure the disease does not re-enter the farm.

Make sure you are familiar with the logistics of doing the above before starting.

For example, it is easy to talk about moving all stock under 10 months of age off site in one hit, but often this is not realistic and animals are moved off site in multiple batches.

When should the four-week quarantine and clean-up period begin?

Does it matter if a few infected pigs are left on site at this time?

There is a very big potential risk to the success of the clean-up if these details are not accounted for beforehand.

Consult a veterinarian familiar with the process if you have any doubts.

Your veterinarian should have experience with disease eradication and must be able to be on farm to oversee the process and troubleshoot problems.

From my experience, there is a very high chance of failure if the process is being remotely managed.

This concludes my second monthly article.

Next month I will discuss methods of preventing the entry of new diseases onto an existing farm.

See you next month and may you live in simple and carefree times. 🐷

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Human DNA found in hot dogs

A NEW study has found the presence of human DNA and other meats not mentioned on the label in some US pork, chicken, turkey, beef and vegetarian hot dogs and sausages.

Clear Food, part of Clear Labs – the standard for molecular food quality in the global food industry, analysed 345 individual hot dogs and sausages from 75 different brands sold at 10 food retailers.

The findings showed that 14.4 percent of hot dogs were problematic in some way.

Problems included the presence of ingredients not on the label and hygienic issues, such as the presence of human DNA.

Clear Food used next-generation genomic technology to analyse the samples at a molecular level, ingredient by ingredient.

In terms of substitutions, the study found evidence of meats not found on labels, an absence of ingredients advertised on labels and meat in some vegetarian products.

Chicken was found in

10 samples, beef in four, turkey in three and lamb in two, all in products that were not supposed to contain those ingredients.

Clear Food also found pork substitution in 3 percent of the samples tested.

In most cases, pork found its way into chicken and turkey sausages.

In terms of hygiene, Clear Food also found human DNA in 2 percent of the samples.

Two-thirds of the samples with human DNA were in vegetarian products. 🐷

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Yvonne Lau

Scholarship improves understanding of pork industry

YVONNE Lau, a recent animal science graduate from Murdoch University, has been working with the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia Pork Innovation group for the past three months.

Yvonne received a training scholarship from Australian Pork Limited, allowing her to spend time at DAFWA to gain exposure to and an understanding of the Western Australian pork industry.

Her thesis, funded by Pork CRC, examined the influence of indoor versus outdoor piggery environments on piglet behaviour during the post-weaning period.

The project investigated both quantitative behavioural scores and quali-

tative behavioural assessment and compared the two.

The piglets were filmed in an experimental arena (a novel arena test) and exposed to four challenges (isolation; a novel object; food; and social interaction with a non-sibling piglet) on the day of weaning.

Weaning of piglets is one of the most critical phases in the pig production cycle, during which they experience physical, physiological and affec-

tive challenges.

Yvonne concluded from her study that although outdoor piggeries have greater piglet mortality rates compared with intensive piggeries, outdoor farrowing systems provide an environment that enhances behavioural development, contributing to better adaptation to social challenges later in life.

During her tenure at DAFWA, Yvonne has assisted in research projects, worked with grow-

er-finisher pigs at Medina Research Station, worked in DAFWA's meat laboratory and visited a number of producers while assisting with a current on-farm study. 🐷

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Aussie Fire Smart Cart

WHEN fires are burning and conditions worsen, moving a fire pump into position is stressful and tricky.

Engine-driven pumps are often stored in sheds, weigh in excess of 26kg and can be difficult for a single person to carry.

With this in mind, Aussie Pumps has launched a trolley-mounted version of the Aussie Fire Chief bush firefighting pump.

Called the Aussie Fire Cart, the pump can be easily manoeuvred for speedy deployment and is claimed to be Australia's best portable firefighting pump.

The only pump of its kind backed by an exclusive five-year warranty, the Fire Chief is designed to not only outlast competitors but also produce an unequalled combination of pressure and flow.

With a maximum head of 75m and maximum flow of 450l/pm, the pump simply produces more water at high pressure.

Powered by a genuine Honda 5.5hp motor, the unit is loaded with user-friendly features.

The big-belly body enables the pump to prime fast from vertical lifts of 7.6m and the huge 7.5"-di-

ameter, single-piece impeller weighs up to 2.5 times that of competitors.

Aussie Pumps' Brad Farrugia said, "It's that huge, closed-vane impeller that provides the extra performance."

"The ability to port more water literally means fires are doused faster, which is vital."

"We simply put more metal into the impeller because we know that improves the life expectancy of the pump."

The 2" flanged, bolt-on suction port means the check valve can be serviced without having to dismantle the complete pump.

A three-way outlet provides a choice of either two 1" outlets or a 1.5" outlet for top performance.

The outlet ports are fitted with metal caps and chains, not plastic.

A new heavy-duty steel trolley, fitted with big 10" foam-filled tyres means the pump operates from a robust and steady base but at the same time is highly mobile.

"We came up with the Fire Cart idea because pumps are often moved around the property and used for a variety of applications on a farm,"

Farrugia said.

"The new trolley makes deploying pumps convenient and ultimately much safer."

"In a bushfire, its speed of action could save outbuildings, livestock or even human life."

The Aussie Fire Cart is featured in the latest edition of Aussie Pumps' Fire Smart Survival Guide, a comprehensive booklet covering protection of property, livestock and lives during bushfire season.

The guide is available from Aussie Pumps distributors around Australia and online at www.aussiepumps.com.au 🐷



Kerry McArthur from Blayney, NSW with the new Aussie Fire Cart, which converts an Aussie Fire Chief high-performance fire pump into a mobile unit that can easily be deployed around a property.

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Helen Fletcher

Positive winds of change bode well for producers

TOOWOOMBA-based management consultant Helen Fletcher is celebrating 21 years of promoting and facilitating business improvement in the pork industry.

Helen's work is not just focused on her business Fletcher Consulting, but also extends to being a foundation member of the Australian Pork Industry Quality assurance panel.

This panel provides advice on the quality and food safety systems for Australian piggeries.

Over 90 percent of Australia's sow herd is now covered by APIQ.

"The epic journey started when I hadn't been in Toowoomba very long," Helen said.

"I was presenting a

management development program for a local recruitment company and there were two participants who worked on a piggery near Millmerran owned by Simon Hall.

"I was so impressed by their enthusiasm for the work they did and their love of pigs that I decided I wanted to do some work for that company.

"It's sadly a fact of life that too many people grumble about their work and it was really refreshing to come across unprompted enthusiasm."

Helen approached Cameron, Hall and McLean piggeries, CHM Alliance Pty Ltd, in the early days of its creation and facilitated access to federal government training

funds to run communication skills courses for farm employees.

These courses were the precursor to the development and implementation of the accredited certificate and diploma courses now presented in Australia by the CHM registered training organisation.

McLean Farms Pty Ltd general manager Agricultural Division Brian McLean has worked with Helen since the establishment of her consulting practice.

"When Helen started working with us we were basic, traditional Darling Downs pig farmers," Brian said.

"We wanted to establish professional pig production operations within a



co-operative alliance of local companies.

"Over 20 years Helen has played a key role in bringing our individual farming operations to being a leading alliance of companies with sophisticated systems of management, training, quality and food safety.

"We needed international ISO certification because we were sending pigs to Japan.

"Export has been a significant aspect of our business.

"Helen has also provided communication skills and management training for our managers and staff that has always included personal development for individuals.

"It has made a significant difference to our business and we have grown from strength to strength."

Over the years the scope of the projects undertaken by Helen Fletcher has varied considerably.

Assignments have included improving, managing and developing quality and food safety systems for agribusinesses involved in the pork industry and the production and processing of table eggs, feed mills, food transport, electrical services and the supply of lubricants.

This work has included substantial experience in establishing compliant practices for the export of food and compliance with customer requirements.

Integral to successfully completing these short

and long-term commitments has been the training and development of client company personnel in learning necessary skills to manage new demands and staff effectively.

Toowoomba also proved to be an excellent base for working with a range of clients in Brisbane, north Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne and Tasmania.

These clients included engineering companies, universities and banking corporations.

A major project involved working with a national legal firm to establish the consulting practice.

"It has been a privilege to see the huge changes in farm practices over the past 21 years," Helen said.

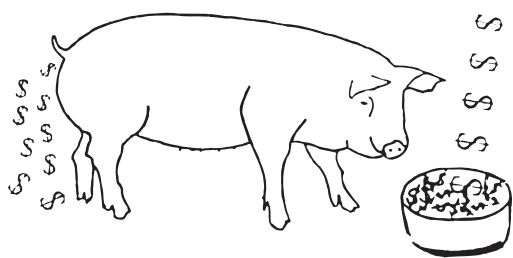
"I believe the pork industry has positioned itself exceptionally well moving into a time of increased regulation and public and private scrutiny. "The APIQ Standard is playing a crucial role in assisting pork producers to protect the integrity of APIQ and all stakeholders and add value to producers."

Helen recently presented another management development program for Australian piggery supervisors and managers in Dalby.

"After 21 years I was still impressed by the enthusiasm of the participants and their love of the work they do," she said.

"The future of the pork industry is in good hands." 🐷

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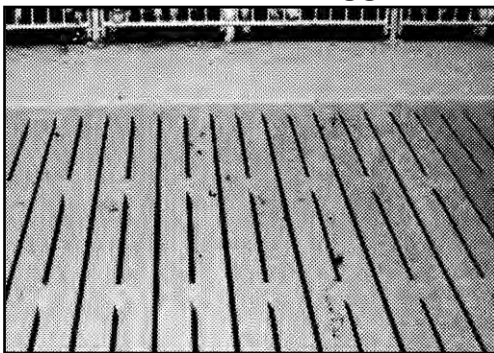
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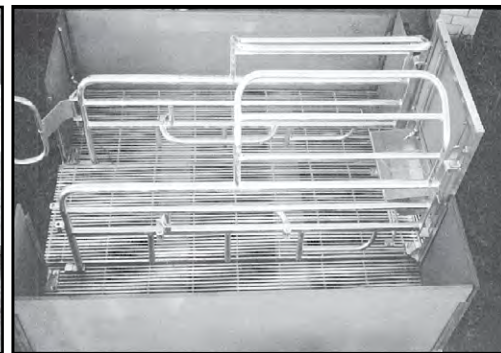
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New 'energy sparing' enzyme could save millions

A REVOLUTIONARY 'energy sparing' enzyme has the potential to save the Australian pork industry millions of dollars each year by preventing the counterproductive immune response caused by beta-mannans.

Beta-mannans are non-starch carbohydrates found in many feed ingredients including soybeans, oilseeds and cereals.

Beta-mannans have a similar molecular structure to some pathogens and microbes, causing the animal's immune system to recognise them as invading pathogens.

This triggers an innate immune system response that consumes energy and valuable nutrients that could otherwise be used for growth and production.



Monogastric species such as pigs and poultry are particularly sensitive to beta-mannans.

Elanco ANZ technical consultant for Enzymes Dr Avril Grieve said while the adverse effects of beta-mannans upon livestock performance are well known, many Australian livestock producers incorrectly believe the problem is only associated with soybeans.

"Soybeans contain particularly high levels of beta-mannans," Dr Grieve said.

"However, just about every type of cereal and oilseed, including wheat, barley and canola, contains low to moderate levels of beta-mannans that can trigger a costly feed-induced immune response.

"It is estimated that mounting this immune

response can consume up to 3 percent of the total metabolisable energy contained in the feed.

"Given that about 1.4 million tonnes of grain is used in the Australian pork industry each year, this wasted energy is the equivalent of 42,000 tonnes of grain worth about \$11.5 million."

Hemicell HT contains the active ingredient endo-1,4-beta-D-mannanase, which is produced by the fermentation of the bacterium bacillus lentus.

Added to rations at 400ppm, it breaks down beta-mannans in the feed so the resulting metabolites no longer resemble pathogens or microbes.

As a result, energy that would otherwise be used for an innate immune response can be channelled

towards growth.

International studies have shown Hemicell HT significantly improves intestinal integrity, feed efficiency, weight gain, uniformity and carcass quality in pigs, broilers and layers.

Alternatively, Hemicell HT can be used to reduce feed costs by reducing the amount of energy required to achieve similar livestock performance.

"Hemicell HT will provide a cost-effective response when added to any ration containing more than 0.2 percent soluble beta-mannans," Dr Grieve said.

"Most enzymes improve nutrient digestibility by 'opening up' feed components that the animal is otherwise unable to access.

"These enzymes can be thought of as 'energy releasing'.

"Other enzymes improve performance by reducing fibre viscosity and rate of passage through the digestive tract.

"By comparison, Hemicell HT is the first 'energy sparing' enzyme to become commercially available.

"It doesn't improve digestibility per se but makes better use of the energy contained in the feed available to the animal for growth.

"In fact, adding Hemicell HT to rations is the equivalent of providing 368kJ/kg of dietary energy."

Specially formulated for use in steam palletisation manufacturing processes, Hemicell HT

is approved for use in pigs, broilers, layers and breeders in many overseas countries.

It has no withholding periods or restrictions when fed alone or in combination with other feed ingredients.

Elanco Animal Health is a global innovation-driven company that develops and markets products to improve animal health, food animal production and companion animal care.

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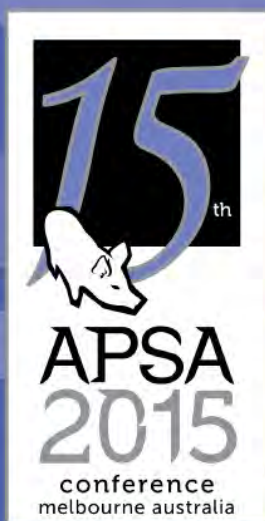
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Australasian Pig
Science Association (Inc)

APSA 2015

15th Biennial Conference
Grand Hyatt
Melbourne, Australia

22nd - 25th November 2015

Industry Workshop Sunday 22 November 2015

Economics in the Evolution of Acidification and Phytobiotics. Value from an investment perspective; a compilation of Australian and global research.

Presentations by:
Maarten van der Heijden,
Business Manager Selko Feed Additives

Juan Antonio Mesonero Escuredo, DVM,
Global Product Manager Health Feed Additives

Christine Clark,
AusPac Ingredients



Registration Costs

APSA Member	Full Registration	920.00
	Day Registration	395.00
Non-Member	Full Registration	1,255.00
	Day Registration	495.00
Student	Full Registration	335.00
Conference Dinner Ticket		135.00

www.apsa.asn.au

Quality speakers for APSA

WITH less than a month to go until the 2015 Australasian Pig Science Association conference in Melbourne, final preparations are well under way to ensure this event will be a success.

Following is a list of topics and speakers at the event.

The 2015 APSA conference will be held from November 22-25 at the Grand Hyatt, Melbourne.

Visit www.apsa.asn.au to find out more.

Symposium – Impact of heat stress on performance and health of pigs – speakers:
Prof Frank Dunshea, Dr Nicholas Gabler and Dr Jason Ross

Performance, health and wellbeing of pigs are significantly compromised at all stages of the production cycle due to acute or chronic heat stress, the incidence of which is occurring in many pig producing countries including Australia and is gradually increasing with the global climate changes.

Dr Jason Ross and his colleagues at Iowa State University have recently documented the negative impacts of heat stress on the reproduc-

tion performance and health of gilts and sows, including the effects of in-utero heat stress on progeny development.

Dr Ross's paper and presentation will highlight the physiological changes caused by heat stress and will specifically discuss the changes in lifetime performance and body composition of the progenies that were exposed to heat stress during gestation.

Dr Nick Gabler and his colleagues at Iowa State University will discuss the impact of heat stress on performance and intestinal health of wean to finish pigs.

Specifically, Dr Gabler's presentation will highlight the impact of heat stress on intestinal barrier integrity, endotoxin translocation and glucose transportation.

Prof Frank Dunshea from the University of Melbourne will present nutritional strategies that will mitigate the negative impact of heat stress on production efficiency, health and wellbeing of pigs.

The roles of nutrition and individual nutrients to counteract the altered physiological responses under heat stress will be covered.

Review: Mating in lactation – an opportunity to revolutionise sow management? – speaker: Dr Jeff Downing

Novel techniques to facilitate mating in lactation have been the focus of a research program within the Pork CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork.

The aims of the program were to reduce the requirement for sow confinement as well as improve the performance of progeny post-weaning by facilitating a controlled, gradual weaning process.

Dr Jeff Downing has been a key driver of this research program and will review the outcomes to date, discuss the application of mating in lactation for commercial genotypes and provide his views on how the industry may be best placed to adopt this technology.

Review – Antibiotic stewardship – speakers: Dr Bernie Gleeson and Prof John Turnidge

The natural ability of bacteria to develop resistance to antimicrobials necessitates the prudent use of antimicrobials to ensure they remain effective in the treatment of diseases in both hu-

mans and animals.

Although the majority of antibiotic resistance in human medicine is due to human consumption of antibiotics, there is increasing pressure on veterinarians to reduce the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals.

Prof John Turnidge from the national surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic usage program will discuss antimicrobial stewardship, defined as the optimal selection, dosage and duration of antimicrobial treatment that results in the best clinical outcome for the treatment or prevention of infection, with minimal impact on the development of resistance.

Dr Bernie Gleeson from SunPork Farms will examine the question of whether antibiotic-free pork production is possible.

What alternatives do we have and what do we still need?

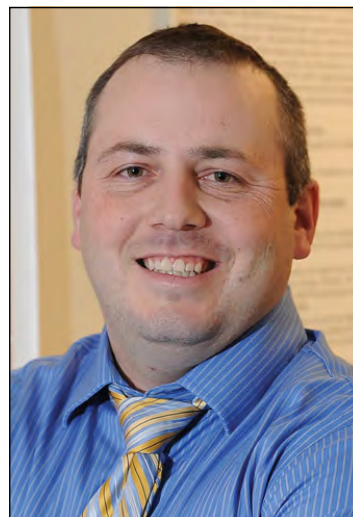
The presentation will cover the role of diagnostics, immunity, nutrition, genetics, housing, stockperson training, location and production flows on disease control and the associated production benefits and costs. 🐷



Prof Frank Dunshea



Dr Nicholas Gabler



Dr Jason Ross

Prof Frank Dunshea

Prof Frank Dunshea's 30-year research career in the area of growth physiology and nutrition and the use of domestic animals in nutritional and biomedical research has an impressive breadth and quality.

He has published over 600 journals, conferences, books, patents and technical articles.

His research has had a high scientific impact, with many of the results being rapidly adopted by industry.

Prof Dunshea is a respected research leader in livestock industries across Australia and remains committed to ensuring that all animal industries operate in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Much of his work has focused on improving efficiency through reducing inputs and outputs while maintaining product quality and consumer health. In addition to many awards, he is a fellow of the Australian Nutrition Society, APSA and the Australian Society of Animal Production as well as chair of the Australian Academy of Science Committee for Nutrition.

In 2013 the American Society of Animal Science awarded Prof Dunshea the Non-Ruminant Research Award, which marked the first time

in the award's 66-year history that a scientist outside the northern hemisphere had received this prestigious award.

Dr Nicholas Gabler

Dr Nicholas Gabler is an associate professor in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University.

His research and teaching has been focused on fundamental swine nutrition, metabolism and physiology.

He obtained his bachelor degree in Agricultural Science from La Trobe University, Melbourne.

This was followed by a PhD in 2005 from La Trobe in conjunction with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

Upon completion of his PhD, Dr Gabler conducted postdoctoral research at Purdue University and then Iowa State University.

Here he worked on evaluating sources of n-3 fatty acids (docosahexaenoic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid) in nursery-finisher pig production.

In 2008 he joined the Animal Science Department at Iowa State University as an assistant professor.

Presently, Dr Gabler has an active and diverse research program that focuses on understanding and im-

proving swine feed efficiency and intestinal physiology at the basic and applied, cellular and whole animal levels.

He has worked extensively in defining the physiological differences associated with swine feed efficiency and studying the effects of environmental factors such as nutrition and heat stress on growing pig metabolism, intestinal function and integrity.

More recently, Dr Gabler has been conducting extensive research examining the impact respiratory and enteric pathogen health challenges have on pig metabolism and performance.

Dr Jason Ross

Dr Jason Ross is an associate professor and the Lloyd L. Anderson Endowed Professor in Physiology in the department of Animal Science at Iowa State University.

Dr Ross received his Bachelor of Science degree at Iowa State University in 2000 and launched his scientific career by pursuing and accomplishing a Masters of Science degree at Oklahoma State University majoring in Animal Science.

After earning the Masters of Science degree, Dr Ross continued his research program and earned

➔ continued P19

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Dr Jeff Downing



Dr Bernie Gleeson



Prof John Turnidge

Quality speakers for APSA

from P18

a Doctor of Philosophy, also at Oklahoma State, majoring in Animal Reproduction and minoring in Biochemistry.

Upon completion of his PhD, Dr Ross immediately began working as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Missouri for 21 months before joining the Animal Science department at Iowa State University in August, 2008 as a tenure-track assistant professor with responsibilities in research (65 percent) and teaching (35 percent).

Dr Ross's research program focuses on using both basic and applied research approaches to test hypotheses from which the results will help enable livestock producers and associated industries to improve swine production efficiency.

His program's primary research efforts involve (1) identifying measures during gilt development predicting puberty onset; (2) evaluating the direct effects of heat stress on pig physiology and reproduction; (3) investigating epigenetic mechanisms that impact piglet performance in response to in-utero environments that are influenced by maternal nutrition or maternal exposure to heat stress; (4) characterising molecular pathways essential for pig ovarian and female gamete function and effects of perturbations to them that occur as a result of exogenous stress; and (5) creating genetically modified pigs to provide biological models to advance both agriculture and human health.

Dr Jeff Downing

Dr Jeff Downing has been with the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney since 1997 and he is currently employed as senior lecturer.

He teaches in both the undergraduate Bachelor of Animal Bioscience degree and the postgraduate Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

Prior to his employment at Sydney University he worked at the CSIRO Division of Animal Production.

Dr Downing was awarded his PhD in 1995 with his thesis submission being 'Interaction of nutrition and ovulation rate in ewes'.

His research interests have been varied, concentrating on nutrition and its interaction with ovulation rate in ewes while at CSIRO.

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At the University of Sydney his research has been directed to measuring stress in layer production systems, welfare and production in commercial ducks, fatty acid metabolism in broilers and pigs and more recently, investigating ways of inducing oestrus in lactating sows.

He has published over 80 journal articles. With funding from Pork CRC, Dr Downing initiated interest in developing strategies of inducing oestrus during lactation with the view to removing the constraint of having to wean sows to re-mate them.

It is this theme that will be expanded on at the APSA conference in 2015.

Dr Bernie Gleeson

Dr Bernie Gleeson graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Sydney in 2002.

He then completed a Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Studies, studying ruminant medicine, also from the University of Sydney in 2003.

Prior to studying Veterinary Science, Dr Gleeson was a farmer for 10 years near Gunnedah in north-west NSW and also managed a piggery in Western Australia.

He moved to Bendigo to join Chris Richards and Associates in late 2005 to take up a position as a pig health veterinarian, consulting to pig herds around Australia on all matters of pig health and production.

Dr Gleeson recently joined SunPork Farms as a veterinarian as part of the technical services team for the company.

Prof John Turnidge

Prof John Turnidge is Emeritus Senior Staff Specialist, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, for SA Pathology based at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide.

He is an infectious disease physician and microbiologist who has had a long career in Adelaide and Melbourne working with antibiotic resistance and appropriate antibiotic use.

Prof Turnidge is a voting member of the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing subcommittee of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (US), until recently was the chair of the Australian Group on

Antimicrobial Resistance, co-founded the Australian Society for Antimicrobials and is a past president of the Australian Society for Microbiology.

Prof Turnidge also chaired the Joint Expert

Technical Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and for a time the Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

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References: 1. Kim D et al. Vaccine 20. 2011; 3206-3212. 2. Seo HW et al. Vaccine 2012; 6671-6677. © 2014 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. ABN 94 156 476 425. Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard Rhodes, NSW 2138. www.zoetis.com.au 06/15 TPAH0177

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