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# Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

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Attendees at the 2015 student workshop.

## Big old year and promising new year

ON behalf of Pork CRC I send our thoughts to all those affected by the recent fires in South Australia.

They were devastating for everyone in the areas affected, which included the University of Adelaide Roseworthy campus where we work and a number of piggeries.

Luckily, the piggeries came out of it better than expected, but staff will take some time to recover, as will other businesses and individuals involved in the terrible event.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with you.

### Good one

It's fair to say 2015 was a good year for the industry and all indicators show that 2016 might be just as rewarding.

I think we'll see production grow in 2016 and beyond in response to the good margins achieved in the past couple of years, but more in response to increasing demand for high integrity Australian pork.



### Initiatives

by **DR ROGER CAMPBELL**  
CEO



### Retailer recharge

It seems the major retailers aim to substantially increase the sale of Australian fresh pork over the next five years.

They will consider increasing the use of Australian pork in manufactured product and of course we have more competition at the retail level, with some of the new players happy to take much heavier carcasses and cuts than has generally been the case in Australia.

The impact and importance

of the retailers I think is best illustrated by Coles, which since 2011 has increased the sale/use of Australian pork and pigs by 40 percent (from 390,000 to 560,000 pigs) and the company plans to double sales in the next five years.

### Promising production

On the production front, I continue to see improvements in reproduction and the efficiency of progeny.

At our most recent Pork CRC benchmarking meeting in Melbourne it was obvious that all participants have improved the reproductive efficiency of their herds and we now have participants setting genuine benchmarks, with the best approaching global best practice – using Australian genetics and knowhow.

### Best herd

The best herd in the program for reproduction is based in New Zealand.

The owner is weaning almost 30 pigs per mated sow/year and he and participants who have visited NZ farms recently are convinced it is all genetics based – with herds

in NZ commonly achieving 14-14.5 born alive.

NZ, of course, also has some climate advantages over parts of Australia, but this probably has a bigger effect on farrowing rate and lactation performance than born alive.

Nevertheless, the better Australian herds are approaching 27 pigs weaned/sow/year and, more importantly, those with the better KPIs in reproduction are telling the other participants how they are achieving their figures.

All are improving as a result and at the moment they are using our NZ participants to set future targets.

The project has become a real learning experience for all involved and if you want to 'learn' from the best and improve, I strongly recommend you join Pork CRC's benchmark project.

If interested, contact Dr Rowan O'Hagan (email [rowanohagan@bigpond.com](mailto:rowanohagan@bigpond.com)) who manages the project for us.

### Dean Boyd

We were fortunate to have Dr Dean Boyd from Hanor in the US attend our Pork CRC stakeholders' day on November 21 and take part in a think-tank with nutritionists during the Australasian Pig Science Association conference in Melbourne.

He covered many topics and I will elaborate on his messages through the first few months of 2016.

The more important or most

continued P3

## Hectic November in Melbourne

IT'S a relief to be back after a couple of very busy weeks in Melbourne with pork industry issues to follow up.

Tuesday, November 17 saw the last Australian Pork Limited Board meeting for the year followed on the next day by the Delegates' Forum and on November 19, the annual conference and APL annual general meeting.

There were some really good discussions at the Delegates' Forum, including one about the future of the industry's sow stall phase-out initiative and inclusion of a gestation stall free standard within the APIQ✓ system.

We within APL management had made some mistakes about the communication of the future of APIQ✓ with a GSF standard when this should have been opened for first discussion at the Delegates' Forum.

APIQ✓ certification under the condition of having completed a sow stall phase-out is clearly a controversial issue within the industry.

While the APL Board brought a preferred position to the forum, it was agreed that there would be further consultations with industry before a final decision was made as to sow stalls and an APIQ✓ standard.

Our general manager Marketing Peter Haydon outlined what he saw as the dynamics of supply and demand in the past, future and present for the Australian pork industry.

Pig prices being where they are indicates a very strong level of demand and there's no reason to suggest that this is not going to continue for at least the medium term.

Our Policy analyst James Battams outlined the preliminary results from the industry survey.

This survey has confirmed to us what the APIQ✓ verification process has already shown; that there are still many producers today using sow stalls that



### Point of View

by **ANDREW SPENCER** CEO

intend to phase them out before the 2017 deadline.

Those producers who complete the survey will get access to the report on the outcomes, which should show some really interesting data about our industry.

Two things of note happened at our annual general meeting.

First, a resolution was passed to simplify the process of becoming a member of APL.

Once pig movement reporting through PigPass is mandated in state legislation, APL will be able to provide data back to prospective members where membership forms are pre-populated with levy payment history for a simple signature to become a member of APL.

Second, Mr Rod Hamann was elected as a new APL director. Rod is a very well-known figure in the Australian pork industry.

continued P2



Pork CRC had a strong presence at APSA 2015, including its Executive Management team of Charles Rikard-Bell, Rebecca Smith, Roger Campbell, Geoff Crook and Richard Westmacott.

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## Pig Industry Calendar of Events

### 2016

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

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

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

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

**FEB 27 - MAR 1** – American Association of Swine Veterinarians annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, US [www.aasv.org/annmtg/index.php](http://www.aasv.org/annmtg/index.php)

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

**MAR 23-25** – 6th International Livestock, Dairy, Meat Processing, and Aquaculture Exposition, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam [www.ildex.com](http://www.ildex.com)

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

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

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

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

**JUN 8-10** – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, Iowa, US [www.worldpork.org](http://www.worldpork.org)

**JUL 5-10** – Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, Wagga Wagga, NSW [www.icmj.com.au](http://www.icmj.com.au)

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

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

### 2017

**MAR 15 - 17** – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand [www.vivasia.nl](http://www.vivasia.nl)

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

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# Bushfires, biosecurity and boar taint

ANOTHER year is almost done.

If I had a dollar for every time I have heard the phrase “I can’t believe this year has flown by so quickly”...

And summer is well and truly upon us.

The all-too-common bushfire season also appears to have come very early this year.

While the toll on the people, livestock and land in South Australia has been devastating, things could have been so much worse.

In these terrible times we often learn a lot about people, which brings me to a point I would like to make.

The pork industry is fairly small, so the recent SA bushfires that burnt part of the Wasleys Piggery caught the attention of all of us.

We waited for news, we phoned around and we all wanted to help.

Thankfully in the end, while still horrific, we were relieved to hear the damage to property and livestock was not as devastating as feared.

Anyway, the point I want to make is we at Australian Pork Limited were able to get a glimpse, thanks to Facebook and Twitter, of the harrowing scenes relayed between piggery staff.

The messages being posted were all about staff desperately wanting to get to work and save the pigs, and the routes staff could take to get to the piggery.

I could not help but feel immense pride to be part of an industry where farmers and their workers truly hold the welfare of their stock in the very highest regard.

I was also disgusted by the opportunistic and yes, expected, comments posted by the animal activists.

Anyway, the less said about them the better.

Here at APL, worries of



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



another kind appear to be surfacing again.

In January 2014 I reported on the views articulated by the US National Pork Producers Council.

The NPPC reported in its Capital Update of December 20, 2013 that: “PRRS is not a food-safety issue, and there is negligible risk of PRRS transmission from the legal importation of pork from countries with the disease. Thanks to the work of experts nominated by NPPC to the New Zealand Independent Working Group and the New Zealand PRRS Expert Working Group, scientific evidence was used to illustrate the minimal risk of spreading the virus. In fact, based on a conservative risk assessment model, New Zealand’s chances of getting PRRS from legally imported uncooked pork products are such that it would get one case every 1227 years. NPPC is also working to remove PRRS-related restrictions in Australia and South Africa.

“The US and some other countries continue to assert that Australia’s science-based Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards are a trade barrier, and industry groups such as the NPPC, supported by some members of Congress, are intensively lobbying US trade negotiators to get Australia to water down its SPS standards, including through discussions on the Trans-Pacific Part-

nership free trade agreement.”

My response to the above views was suitably straightforward as well and went along the following lines: “To put it bluntly, I think this is a bit rich coming from a country that has struggled to manage PRRS and has seen a recent porcine epidemic diarrhoea outbreak spread unabated to 20 states. The US should perhaps spend more time focusing on its own SPS standards and biosecurity programs to achieve better outcomes for American producers, rather than seeking to undermine Australia’s standards. Furthermore, I hardly think a country that currently imports more than 150,000 tonnes of pork annually can be accused of protectionism.”

Needless to say, this pressure from the NPPC and additionally some European Union countries on the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has been immense and thankfully DAWR has reiterated its position on the issue, which is: “the science does not support a review of the Biosecurity Import Risk Assessment”.

The latest news on the grapevine is that certain importers are pushing for changes to the import protocols to allow bone-in products.

APL will be working with DAWR to ensure we fight these moves and en-

sure our SPS standards and biosecurity programs are maintained.

Finally, the issue of boar taint: there are a few things to report on relating to Australian pork, as well as news from overseas.

First, APL has been in discussions with Coles to review its position on the use of the boar taint vaccine Improvac.

I am disappointed to report that we have been unsuccessful on this matter – so close yet so far.

APL will nevertheless continue to work closely with Coles to address the issue of boar taint and more importantly, the welfare implications of raising entire male pigs.

The topic of entire male pigs and boar taint was front and centre at the recently held Australasian Pig Science Association’s 15th biennial conference in Melbourne (November 22-25).

The Dunkin Memorial Lecture titled ‘Entire Male Pig Production in Europe’ was presented by Dr Giuseppe Bee, the leader of the Swine Nutrition and Pork Quality research group at Agroscope Institute for Livestock Sciences, Switzerland.

In 2010, various members of the EU agreed to phase out piglet castration by January 1, 2018, and as an intermediate step, surgical castration without analgesia and/or anaesthesia by January 2012.

With the 2018 deadline approaching, Dr Bee provided an excellent update on how the various countries in the EU are addressing the issue, including the meat quality and consumer acceptance concerns around possible alternatives.

Some take-home messages from his presentation included:

- Boar taint is an issue with a substantial proportion of consumers susceptible to the off odour and off flavour. This proportion of boar taint susceptible consumers does seem to vary across Europe and is higher in northern Europe compared to southern Europe.

- Entire male pigs with

boar taint, however, were similar to that reported here in Australia and other countries. I recall a Pan Pacific Pork Expo meeting where the incidence of boar taint in the UK was reported as 3 percent – not the case!

- The R&D efforts are focusing on rapid real-time boar taint detection and genetic technologies to eliminate or reduce the incidence of boar taint in entire male pigs.

- It appears the reluctance to use the boar taint vaccine has more to do with the export market’s acceptance of this technology rather than consumer concerns in Europe.

- Given the lack of viable technologies to overcome the boar taint issue currently or in the near future, it is unlikely the voluntary phase-out of piglet castration by January 1, 2018 will be adopted by the EU states.

Outside the UK, Spain and Portugal, which are mainly entire male pig production systems, the Netherlands has been the standout in terms of moving its production system to entire male pigs (greater than 60 percent of all male pigs are left entire).

Unfortunately for us, the Dutch solution for managing the boar taint issue has a very Australian focus.

As previously reported, I outlined the implementation of a sensory ‘boar taint detector’ on-line, which is a fancy term for abattoir employees who are sensitive to boar taint ‘smelling’ every carcass.

A lot of this ‘high’ tainted pork is being exported to the UK and Australia, which stinks I say!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pork industry and all the researchers for their continued support in 2015, and on behalf of APL’s Research and Innovation division, would like to wish all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2016.

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

## Hectic November in Melbourne

from P1

try, being a past director of the Pork CRC and closely involved with the Australian Pork Farms Group, and now part of SunPork Farms.

Rod replaces John Coward, who is now retired from the APL Board.

John has been an excellent contributor to the Board and APL outcomes, and it’s great that he has agreed to stay on as chair of the Pan Pacific Pork Expo Committee planning the function for May next year.

Saturday, November 21 saw the Pork CRC stakeholders’ conference in Melbourne.

While getting a great summary of CRC research outcomes, we also saw the planning around a transition pro-

cess into what will be known as the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited.

APRIL is planned to provide a continuation of the collaborative research we’ve been able to undertake through the Pork CRC but without the stewardship of government underpinning it.

A prospectus has now been issued and we seek collaboration partners.

The Australasian Pig Science Association conference followed on Sunday, November 22, also in Melbourne.

This conference did a great job of demonstrating the level of vibrancy of research and development activities in the Australian pork industry.

The number of registered delegates, includ-

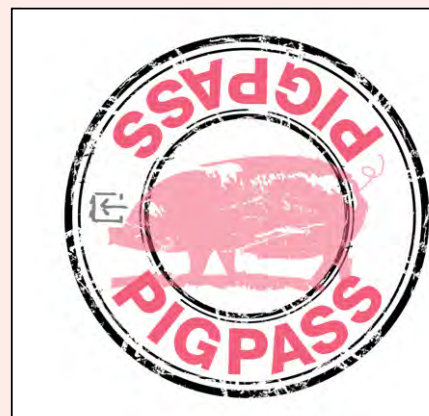
ing many from overseas places such as China, really shows how highly the research and development coming out of Australia is appreciated.

The conference continued until Wednesday, November 25 when many of us could take a deep breath and return to our homes.

It’s certainly a source of immense satisfaction that many of our pig producers are running profitable businesses in these times – that’s something highly deserved after many difficult years in the past and lots of hard work.

I hope it contributes to all involved in the Australian pork industry enjoying a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

That’s when you’ll hear from me next. 🐷



**CORRECTION:** In the November edition of Australian Pork Newspaper the incorrect PigPass logo was used in conjunction with the ‘APL PigPass Portal and logo updated’ story on Page 7. The correct and updated PigPass logo is above. The publisher apologises for any confusion.





Pork CRC project leader Assoc Prof Susanne Hermes, AGBU, University of New England and Dr Dean Boyd, Hanor, US, chatted pig genetics at APSA 2015.



Nerylee Watson, Pork CRC PhD candidate, University of South Australia, Dr Roger Campbell, Pork CRC CEO and Dr Karen Murphy, Pork CRC project leader, University of South Australia, enjoyed the 2015 Pork CRC stakeholders' meeting.

# Big old year and promising new year

from P1

relevant things discussed by Dean included:

1. That sow lines exist that have larger litters and heavier pigs at birth and across the herd these result in more pigs sold per sow lifetime than for sows that might be selected on born alive. I have discussed these types of dam lines previously and within our benchmarking group the better herds have made much of their improvement in pigs weaned/sow/year by changing how they select daughter nucleus herd replacements and F1 females. This is something to watch in 2016. Figure 1 shows the effects of line on litter size and piglet birth weight.

2. Bigger crates – better weaning numbers. Hanor has looked at the size of the farrowing crate on the number of pigs weaned. They compared a 'traditional' crate (1.52m x 2.44m) with a larger crate (1.7m x 2.7m). Over 72,000 litters they found 0.62 extra piglets were weaned per litter from the larger crates and the number increased with parity from an extra 0.29 piglets weaned for gilts to 1.29 piglets for parity six and older sows.

3. Xylanase and progeny survival. Dean and other

researchers discovered that including a xylanase enzyme in grower-finisher diets reduced wean-finish mortality and the strategy has been implemented across their farms. It is thought the xylanase reduces the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. The implication and practicalities were discussed with nutritionists and all will receive further information from Dean.

4. A super dose of phytase for weaner pigs improves performance. Dean showed results for weaner pigs offered diets with high doses of phytase (to destroy phytate) and different levels and sources of iron. The bottom line was higher phytase levels improved performance, as did increasing the iron content of the diet to 300ppm, using FeSo4. Both strategies have been implemented in Hanor's weaner nutrition program. The information has been sent to all nutritionists.

## APSA highlights

Some excellent science was presented and discussed at the 15th biennial APSA meeting in Melbourne from November 22 to 25.

I will cover the more interesting Australian outcomes in 2016, but want to briefly summarise the

main lessons learnt from a number of papers presented by Danish researchers at the conference.

Most of their research is conducted in commercial herds and we learnt that a consequence of their large litter size is that nurse sows comprise 20-40 percent of the herd and that the system is (or can be) quite complex.

We learnt they have a farrowing rate of about 86 percent and the single biggest driver of weaning weight and subsequent reproduction is feed intake in lactation.

The latter is reflected in weight and protein loss in lactation and the Danes are currently re-establishing the lysine needs of lactating sows because, as I have reported previously, their current recommendation (0.7 percent SID lysine) would seem deficient for sows rearing 14 piglets and consuming 6-7kg/feed per day over a 24 to 26-day lactation.

## Energetic litters

We also heard from one researcher the results of a study with sows grouped after weaning in which they were fed a low or high-energy diet during gestation.

Both diets were pelleted and the sows were in groups of 14 and fed twice daily.

The high (normal) diet contained 13MJ DE/kg.

The low-energy diet contained 11MJ DE/kg.

They were fed at levels to achieve the same energy intake, meaning sows on the low-energy diet were given 15 percent more feed/day than those on the low-energy diet.

The authors did not report the effects of the two diets on sow aggressiveness or behaviour, but they found no effect of diet on farrowing rate (86.8 percent and 84.7 percent for the low and high-energy diets respectively) and that total born was significantly higher for sows fed the low-energy diet (18.3 v 17.9 total born).

Before you rush to formulate a lower-energy diet for your sows, you should also know that using the low-energy diet was more costly and sows fed the low-energy diet actually consumed more energy than those fed the high-energy diet, so the effect may have been associated with energy intake and probably in early gestation.

## Anthony answers

We know from Pork CRC supported research by Anthony Martyniuk that the use of low-energy/high-fibre diets in the period after mixing reduces aggression in group housed sows, but Anthony found no effect of diet type on reproduction and, like the Danes, reported that the low-energy strategy was more costly.

I will follow up on the Danish study and expand on these topics and some of the other more interesting papers presented at APSA over the next few months.

## Big finish

Pork CRC held its annual stakeholders' day in Melbourne on November 21 and at the meeting released its printed annual report and the prospectus for the transition from Pork CRC to the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited.

The annual report and prospectus are both now on our website.

On behalf of all at Pork CRC, I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to working with you all in 2016.

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



APSA 2015 lactation and welfare session Pork CRC supported presenters Diana Turpin, Kate Plush, Julia Sophia Huser, Charles Rikard-Bell (session chair), Cameron Ralph, Rebecca Morrison and David Lines.

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Dr Dean Boyd (front right) of Hanor, US, made a point during his chat to Pork CRC invited nutritionists during APSA 2015.

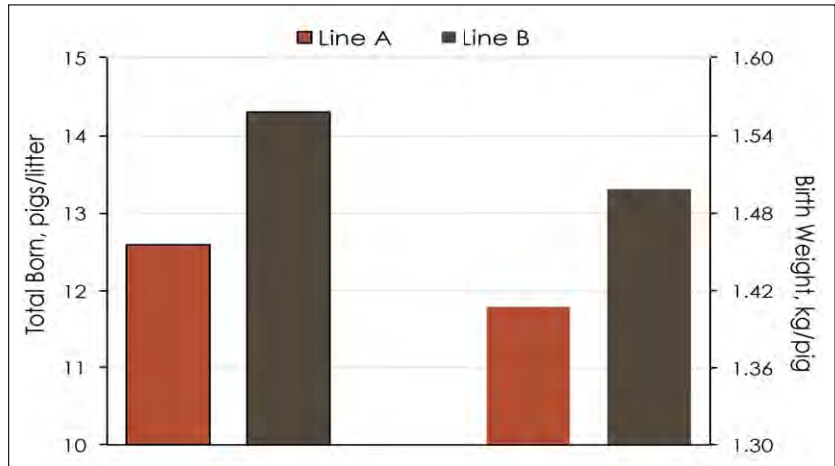


Figure 1: Effects of dam line on litter size and piglet birth weight.



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Horst Schurger

**Celebrating the best  
home-grown ham**

WHETHER a feature of lunchboxes or the stunning centrepiece of a festive feast, Australian ham is the great all-rounder and recently it was the centre of celebrations.

Australian Ham Week, which ran from November 29 until December 5, celebrated and promoted the best 100 percent Australian ham.

Australian Pork Limited marketing manager Mitch Edwards said not all hams available are made from local pork.

"More than 56 percent of people are unaware that ham can be made using imported pork," he said.

"Australian ham tastes great, is safe, quality assured and supports our local farmers.

"Australian Ham Week raises awareness that not all hams are equal and helps people find home-grown ham in shops.

"To ensure your ham is Australian, buy a bone-in ham or look for the pink PorkMark logo."

While ham is a year-round favourite, this time of year a glazed ham takes pride of place in festive meals.

"It just isn't Christmas without Australian ham and the best ham is made using Australian pork,"

Mr Edwards said.

"While I enjoy the ham sliced straight from the bone, you're bound to impress your friends and family if the Christmas centrepiece is a stunning glazed ham."

As part of Ham Week, a number of restaurants offered specially created dishes and butchers and retailers offered taste testings.

The Australian Ham Awards are a central part of Ham Week celebrations, with judges assessing hams to find the best traditional bone-in, boneless and nationally available hams.

This year's judges were fleischmeister Horst Schurger, who has a Master's degree in Butchering and Smallgoods from the Master College in Monchengladbach, Ger-

many, and chefs Simon Bestley and Paul McDonald.

They assessed more than 140 entries on a range of criteria including appearance, texture, aroma and taste.

The Best Australian Ham and Best Traditional Bone-In Ham titles were awarded to Sunshine Meats, Milperra, NSW.

Owner Jose Pereira said the key was simple, good ingredients.

"I start with the best and freshest Australian produce," he said.

"I make my ham as I would for myself and my family to eat.

"I never make a product that I wouldn't eat myself."

The judges described it as a 'ham-some ham' with

continued P5



Paul McDonald



Simon Bestley

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

Naturally ahead

**Biomin**



# Martyniuk mastering mothering matters

I HAVE been with Pork CRC since 2011.

During this year I completed my honours degree at University of Adelaide under the supervision of Dr Will van Wettere and Dr Susan Hazel.

My honours project, titled 'Feeding strategies to reduce frustration and aggression among group housed gilts and sows', was funded by Australian Pork Limited and was successful in proving that by incorporating straw into the diet of group housed sows post-mixing, you could reduce the levels of fighting and aggression without compromising production.

I thoroughly enjoyed this year and understood how valuable my work was to the pork industry.

From 2012 I began working on my Pork CRC supported Master's thesis at University of Adelaide (under the supervision of Prof Paul Hughes and Dr Will van Wettere).

My Master's project looked at the effects of reduced confinement farrowing accommodation on production and the welfare of sows and piglets. To do this I used three experiments.

The first experiment used multi-suckling pens from day 14 of lactation to eliminate confinement for the second half of lactation.

This was successful and showed that at reduced stocking densities you could successfully house sows and litters in a pen with no adverse effects on production when compared to a farrowing crate and help improve the welfare of the sow.

This system was only effective from day 14 of lactation and therefore sows still needed to be confined.

Our goal was to reduce this further, which led to my second experiment.

## Reduced confinement

The aim of my second experiment was to reduce the time the sow was confined to seven days.

I undertook this project in conjunction with a trial Robyn Terry was performing, which involved inducing oestrus in lactating sows.

To do this we used the low-confinement crates installed at one of the then Australian Pork Farms Group farms.

Here there were two designs installed.

The first was a swing-sided crate and the second a step in, step out crate.

From day seven of lactation these crates were opened to allow the sows freedom to move.

This project successfully showed that sow welfare was improved, however, numerically, it would appear that piglet productivity and welfare were compromised.

But due to a lack of animals, this was not significant.

The next step was to try to further reduce confinement and to farrow sows in low-confinement crates.

## Roseworthy housing

To do this I explored the role gestation housing has on farrowing conditions for the sow.

This project was completed at Roseworthy where we built custom crates.

Sows were then housed during the final four weeks of gestation in either confinement (stalls) or no confinement (groups) and then when moved into the farrowing house were either allowed to farrow in confinement or an open crate.

The crate design was

loosely based on a swing-sided crate.

The results of this project showed that gestation housing systems do effect the performance of the sow in the farrowing crate.

Sows held in low confinement should be allowed to farrow in low-confinement housing in order to reduce stress levels on the sow, which led to difficulties farrowing.

## Industry placement

I am currently completing the final stages of my Master's thesis.

While I completed my studies I was working part time for APFG and once I finished my full-time study the company agreed to employ me full time.

I began working in September 2014 as a part-time research technician and part-time production worker/trainee manager at the Shea-Oak Log site.

In this role I was responsible for running commercial trials as well as

learning the day to day routine of the piggery with the aspiration of one day becoming a farm manager.

In July this year a position became available as the operational assurance co-ordinator for SunPork Farms South, which I happily accepted.

I now visit our internal farms and use my knowledge to help these farms perform to their best by helping deliver training and standardised production practices, as well as introduce new techniques to improve production.

## Best practice

Currently my main focus is implementing best practice techniques in the farrowing house and the breeding section through continual training and development of our staff, which I follow up with ongoing monitoring and auditing of these agreed practices.

www.porkcrc.com.au  
**Anthony Martyniuk**



Anthony Martyniuk

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from P4

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Andrew's Choice from

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It is for sale in more than 1200 stores.

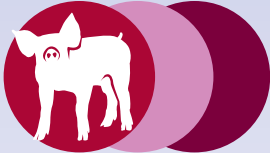
IGA is very proud of its range of hams in the lead-up to Christmas and the summer entertaining season.

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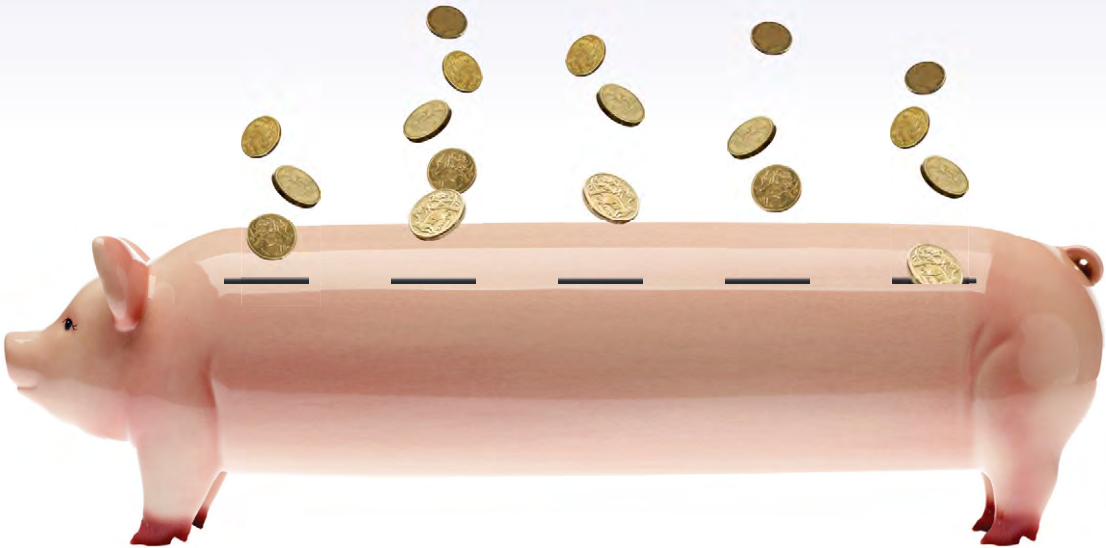
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Boneless Ham	
1st	Andrew's Choice, Laverton North, VIC 03 8360 8688
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# Preparing your piggery for summer storms

DO you have a risk management plan in place to manage seasonal disasters?

If not, you need to look at the risks and be prepared.

Ensure that feed and veterinary supplies are adequate to manage any incident.

Is there suitable external lairage should an event occur that damages pig housing?

You should have a backup energy supply in case power supplies fail.

Install a direct connection into the internal power supply and store extra fuel.

You need adequate water supplies and are advised to have arrangements in place to access water if needed.

Stockpile phone numbers of key stakeholders, abattoirs, the Department of Agriculture, vets, feed mills, livestock carriers, emergency service centres such as local gov-

ernment co-ordination centres and senior industry personnel.

DAF call centres are a valuable source of assistance.

Queensland producers call 13 25 23.

You should have a standard landline phone that does not require electricity.

Adjust all support stabiliser wires to grain elevators and silos.

Ensure all loose materials are tied down or stacked away to avoid the risk of becoming airborne.

Prepare suitable temporary housing and

food supplies for staff if roads are at risk of being cut.

Seal exposed ends of roofs to prevent the iron from being lifted off by strong wind.

Ensure all equipment is well maintained to avoid failure in a disaster.

In the event of strong wind, ensure the leeward sides of sheds are open to prevent the roofs lifting off.

Best wishes to all producers and be proactive rather than reactive to the summer risks. 🐷

**Robyn Boundy**



# Protecting Australia from classical swine fever

## ■ Important CSF questions answered

CLASSICAL swine fever, also known as hog cholera, is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs.

It is considered one of the most important diseases of pigs worldwide because of the economic impacts on pig production in countries where it is present.

Australia has been free from CSF since our last outbreak in 1961.

In 2015, the World Organisation for Animal Health introduced a process to officially recognise countries' CSF freedom.

This involves reviewing Australia's surveillance systems for CSF, including the number of negative investigations for CSF each year, as well as information on producer awareness programs.

Australia is among the first countries to be officially recognised as free from CSF.

Such recognition has important implications for Australia's trade and market access opportunities.

However, CSF remains endemic in many neighbouring countries including Timor Leste and Indonesia, and Australia faces the constant threat of reintroduction.

Maintaining biosecurity on farms, adhering to restrictions on feeding swill and reporting suspect cases of CSF is important for Australia to remain free.

### Why is official CSF freedom important?

The pork industry is a significant contributor to Australian livestock production and the national economy.

An outbreak of CSF could have substantial impacts on productivity and international market access, and may be difficult and costly to eradicate.

One study suggested that losses to regional pig industries could be as much as 37 percent if the disease became established.

### What are the risks?

Illegal importation of infected pig products or genetic material remains the most likely source for entry of CSF into Australia.

Although swill feeding is prohibited, unlawful or inadvertent feeding of illegally imported infected products to domestic or feral pigs presents the greatest risk and is believed to be the source of Australia's previous CSF outbreaks.

### How is Australia maintaining freedom?

Australia maintains CSF freedom through the enforcement of strict biosecurity policies.

Stringent import regulations exist for pork and pork products.

At a federal level, the

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources enforces rigorous inspection and quarantine protocols at Australia's national borders, and conducts offshore disease surveillance in Australia's close neighbours.

An on-shore targeted surveillance program runs under the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy to provide an early warning system for exotic diseases, including CSF in feral pigs in northern Australia.

Pork producers maintain high biosecurity through APIQ✓ and are working with Animal Health Australia and governments to develop a swill feeding communication and compliance program to address swill feeding risks among smallholders and those outside the APIQ✓ program.

### How can you help?

CSF is a nationally notifiable disease, and early outbreak detection by producers is essential to mount an effective response to minimise productivity and trade losses.

Australian pig producers should maintain current knowledge and remain alert to disease risks to ensure rapid recognition and reporting of a potential outbreak.

### Know the signs

The signs and severity of CSF can vary greatly based on factors such as the strain of the virus and the immune status of the herd.

Pigs infected with CSF may develop severe disease, with signs including fever (39.5-42C), loss of appetite, diarrhoea or constipation, neurological abnormalities, abortions and skin discolouration or blotching (particularly on extremities such as the ears and snout).

However, signs can be milder including general ill-thrift, fluctuating fever, pneumonia, hair loss and skin inflammation.

Some animals may carry the disease for extended periods but show no signs.

In general, young native animals are affected more severely, but the emergence of milder strains of CSF virus reinforces the need for vigilant testing and reporting of all suspect cases.

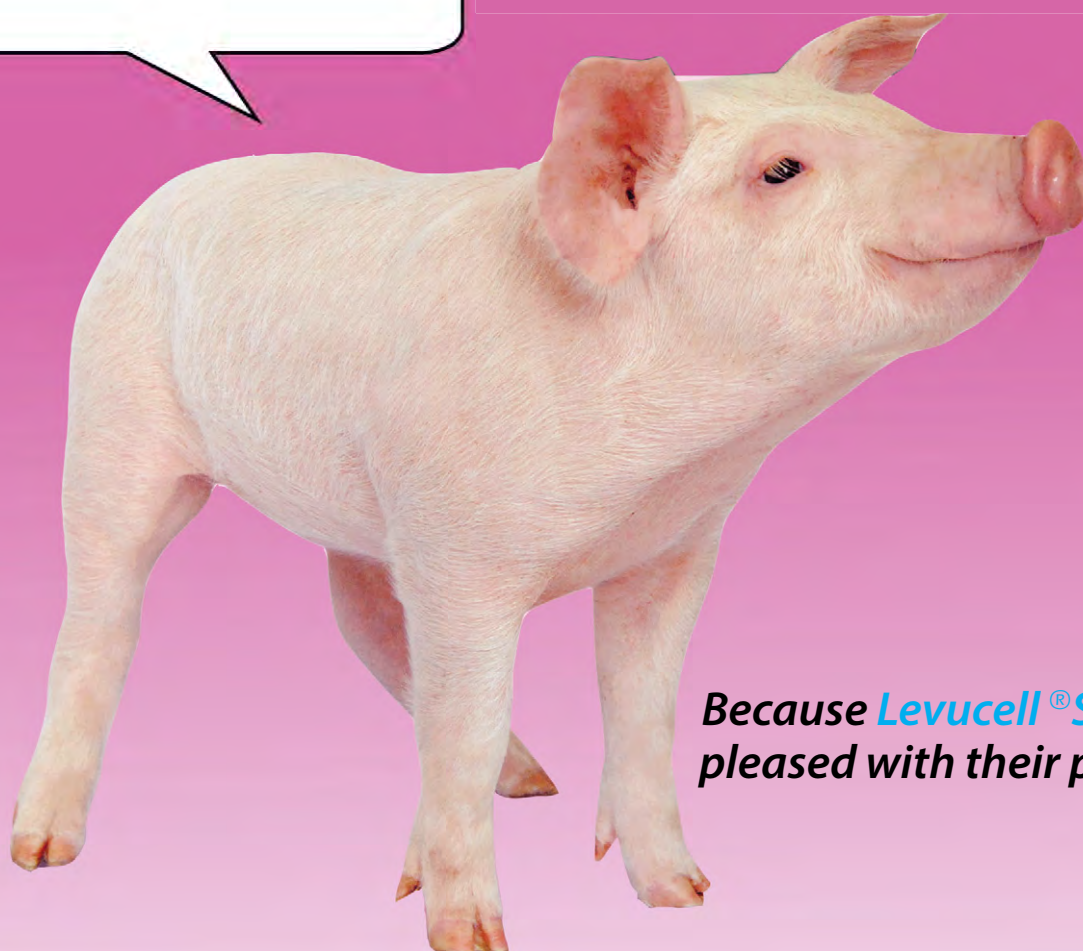
If you suspect an exotic disease, please contact your veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch hotline on 1800 675 888 for advice and assistance. 🐷

**Corissa Miller and Richard Niall**  
Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources – Biosecurity Animal Division

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# High stakes for Pork CRC as transition plan paraded

WHAT a big five days it was.

That is Pork CRC's annual stakeholders' meeting and the Australasian Pig Science Association's biennial conference.

It all commenced on Saturday, November 21 with a grand gathering at Melbourne's Grand Hyatt for Pork CRC's stakeholders' meeting, at which two very important documents were tabled, one reflecting on the year that was and the other looking at what the years ahead may well look like.

Pork CRC's 2014/15 annual report was tabled and distributed as part of a busy full-day schedule that included an update by Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell on achievements to date for the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork, an outline by Robert van Barneveld of the transition plan from Pork CRC to Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited and an end-user perspective on research and development and commercialisation by



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

Robert Parkes of Ridley, who said Pork CRC was the benchmark in how Ridley interacted with researchers and this was a credit to Pork CRC.

In the annual report, Dr Campbell said Pork CRC's participants and researchers had made major progress in 2014/15 in

reducing the confinement of sows without adversely affecting reproduction and provided industry with technologies to better understand and control common diseases.

They had also improved the eating quality of Australian pork, demonstrated how effluent could be successfully converted into useable biogas and shown how grains and other ingredients could be more efficiently used through processing and near-infrared spectroscopy technologies.

In the same period, 70 to 80 percent of Australian producers had reduced confinement of sows by 77-82 percent.

Dr Campbell said: "We can all be proud of this achievement, which has contributed to the term high integrity Australian pork becoming a marketable reality and differentiation of our product continues to be reflected in improved demand and price."

Despite some increase in feed costs during 2014/15, margins were above the previous year and higher than for most other global pork industries.

Pork CRC would continue its efforts to further differentiate Australian pork and ensure the industry remained profitable and sustainable.

APRIL's core objectives, as outlined by Prof van Barneveld, included:

- Generate and manage income arising from CRC commercialisation activities beyond 2019 with target annual income exceeding \$1 million;
- Reinvest commercial income in research activities relevant to the Australian pork industry;
- Generate significant co-investment in research activities to contribute to a targeted Australian pork industry research portfolio exceeding \$8 million annually; and
- Underpin the sustainability of Australian

pork production through world-class basic and applied research outcomes.

The APRIL Transition Committee comprises Prof van Barneveld, Dennis Mutton, Roger Campbell, Geoff Crook, Rod Hamann, Brian Luxford, Darryl D'Souza, Andrew Spencer, Frank Dunshea, John Pluske and Charles Rikard-Bell.



Ian Carter, New Zealand Pork chair, Ian Barugh, Massey University, NZ and Chris Trengrove, Pork CRC director and NZ pork producer, enjoyed the Pork CRC 2015 stakeholders' meeting. NZ Pork is an Essential Participant in Pork CRC.



Robert Parkes of Ridley praised Pork CRC for how it worked so well with its participants such as Ridley.



Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell reported to the stakeholders' meeting on the year that was.



Prof Robert van Barneveld outlined the Pork CRC's transition to APRIL at the 2015 stakeholders' meeting in Melbourne.

## ALDI supports Aussie pig farmers

ALDI has become the first major supermarket to support Australian pig farmers by using the pink Australian Pork logo on its own branded BERG Christmas hams.

The supermarket signed up to the Australian PorkMark program, recognising the logo was developed to help consumers identify products made from 100 percent Australian pork.

ALDI has also recently nationally launched a sliced Ham Off The Bone 175g in its BERG Deli range, which also displays the Australian PorkMark.

Australian Pork Lim-

ited general Manager of Marketing Peter Haydon congratulated the retailer on putting country of origin front and centre.

"People want to buy Australian ham and the PorkMark was designed to make it easier for them to find it," Mr Haydon said.

"While we have many licensees who have signed up and put this logo on their ham and bacon, ALDI is the first major supermarket to do so."

Fifty-six percent of consumers remain unaware that ham or bacon made in Australia could be made using importable pork, but 69 percent

of people would prefer to buy ham made from Australian pork.

"Most people are shocked to learn that their ham and bacon may not be Australian," Mr Haydon said.

"The pink square PorkMark makes it clear a ham has been made here from Australian-grown pork.

"As people plan their Christmas lunch, they should look for the logo or buy a bone-in ham to guarantee it's Australian."

ALDI's BERG Deli Ham Off The Bone 175g, Christmas Half Leg Ham and Quarter Portion Ham are available in shops now.

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# Planning starts for Pan Pacific Pork Expo

PAN Pacific Pork Expo is just around the corner.

Don't miss your chance to be where the Australian pork industry gets together to share experiences and explore the latest technologies and equipment available from around the world.

You'll also be able to listen to the latest information available on a range of topical subjects presented over a two-day event, not to mention the chance to chew the fat with old friends and make new ones.

PPPE 2016 will be held from May 25-26, 2016 on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Registration is now open at [www.pppe.com.au](http://www.pppe.com.au) for

those who wish to attend.

The website will also be updated by mid-December to cater for those wishing to book accommodation and flights.

PPPE occurs every second year, with the 2014 exhibition heralded a huge success.

Over 560 delegates attended the event, consisting of pork producers, industry experts, students and media.

The 2014 theme 'Forward Thinking: Creating Opportunities', rang true throughout the exhibition.

The two-day event featured over 58 trade exhibition booths and provided the perfect opportunity for delegates to network with key industry stake-

holders, especially during the extended exhibition hours and during both the industry cocktail party and happy two hours social functions held within the exhibition hall.

PPPE 2014 boasted a diverse group of speakers covering both the plenary and concurrent sessions.

Topics included, but were not limited to: The future for pork production in Australia; Biosecurity risk and challenges; and Potential opportunities for Australian pork in local and international markets.

Also covered were: Research outcomes and topics with directly applicable take home messages; Current and future approaches to sow housing

in Australia and overseas; Eating quality pathways and a differentiation strategy to deliver to market; and Addressing environmental challenges, driving sustainability and realising new opportunities.

In addition to the presentations, Chris Richards and Associates facilitated the interactive Elanco Animal Health Workshop, which was popular among producers and students.

PPPE 2016 hopes to build on the success of previous events.

The theme, 'Inspiring Transformation' will direct the flavour of the exhibition.

Plenary and concurrent session topics will be announced soon.

Keep an eye out in *Australian Pork Newspaper* and on the PPPE website as more information arises.

For companies that wish to support through exhibitions, presentations and sponsorships, the PPPE prospectus is now online at [www.pppe.com.au](http://www.pppe.com.au)

For those producer members of Australian Pork Limited there will again be member support packages available to assist with transport and accommodation for you to attend the event.

For further inquiries associated with PPPE 2016, contact Jess Hooper-Chase on 02 6270 8832 or email [Jess.Hooper-Chase@australianpork.com.au](mailto:Jess.Hooper-Chase@australianpork.com.au)

## Predicting the unpredictable – leaders debate challenges

MORE than 40 industry leaders representing in excess of 2.8 million sows gathered at the world-famous Melbourne Cricket Ground for the Alltech Elite Herd dinner to discuss challenges facing the global pork industry and debate how to move forward.

Alltech Asia-Pacific vice-president Matthew Smith opened with a reference to forecasts that poultry consumption will overtake pork by 2020.

"Chicken consumption is growing, in large part due to efficient broiler performance, consistency in appearance, texture and taste and no religious restrictions," Smith said.

Chicken producers have been leading the way in innovation and flexibility in the number of consumer products on the market.

"There have been more new products created with chicken meat than all other meat sources com-

bined," he said.

Smithfield chief science and technology officer Terry Coffey discussed the challenges of being the world's largest swine producer, especially in regard to the sheer size of business.

He stressed Smithfield's focus on driving production efficiency across its brands.

"Part of our challenge in producing pork with enhanced attributes is what to do with the lesser-value cuts that are not as desirable," he said.

Coffey also referred to the fact that Smithfield has some organic farms where inputs are fully traceable.

He said this forms a very small part of the business and demand for these products has not grown in recent years.

The importance of provenance (where food is grown) was discussed in a debate about locally sourced products.

Rivalea general manager of research and innovation Brian Luxford said due to restrictions limiting the importation of genetics in Australia, improvements in production efficiency must be made elsewhere.

He stressed his belief that companies must promote the idea of buying local and ensuring consumers know the origin of their pork products.

Coles head of product technology Mark Field said when making a purchase, the consumer will look at a range of factors such as value, marketing, provenance, innovation and convenience.

"We remain focused on listening to the needs of the customer and delivering products they can trust," he said.

Summarising the night's debate, Alltech chief innovation officer Aidan Connolly said the pig business is global.

"While we once looked at local prices and only pork proteins, we're now globally interconnected," he said.

"Prices go up and down together."

At a separate Alltech breakfast at the Australasian Pig Science Association conference, Connolly addressed an audience of more than 60 executives from countries across Asia, discussing the trend to move away from antibiotics in production.

"Around 46 countries now have restrictions on the use of antimicrobials, particularly as growth promoters," he said.

Using examples of iconic global brands such as McDonald's, Walmart and Subway, he said change will not necessarily come from legislation alone.

"Governments are push-

ing the food industry in new directions, but the majority of change will come from companies themselves," he said.

Connolly highlighted trends in the global swine industry towards antibiotic-free production and Alltech's leading role in this area.

He spoke about the Alltech Antibiotic-Free program, which includes almost four decades of research, practical applications and technical experts, providing a holistic approach to help producers address the challenges that can occur in antibiotic-free production.

He spoke of very large sow units in the US and other countries that have

removed antibiotic growth promoters and are using Alltech's program, emphasising that these companies now have lower mortality and are consistent leaders in feed conversion.

Connolly also shared his experience with an application of the Alltech Antibiotic-Free program in the 'seed, feed and weed' approach: seeding the gut with favourable microflora, utilising nutritional technologies in feed that maintain optimum pH, water balance and support gut microbial population, and weeding out challenges in order to maintain gut health and integrity to support overall performance.



Industry leaders, representing nearly three million sows, gathered in Melbourne at the Alltech Elite Herd dinner.



Alltech chief innovation officer Aidan Connolly shared his predictions of coming trends in the pig industry at APSA 2015.

## Fire damages piggeries

AN out-of-control fire north of Adelaide has killed over 300 pigs and damaged a number of farm buildings as well as destroyed machinery and crops.

Wasleys Piggery was the worst affected, and is one of South Australia's largest pig farms with about 32,000 pigs on site.

Initial losses after the blaze are estimated at 300 grower pigs either killed or euthanised, however losses could have been far greater if not for the heroic efforts of piggery staff and their dedication

to the wellbeing of their animals.

Piggery workers are expecting more reproductive consequential losses in weeks and months to come given sow stress and gilt flow disruption.

A small producer in the area also lost five sows to the fire but all other small to medium producers escaped unscathed.

A Ridley feedmill was destroyed by the fire and its loss is expected to significantly impact on feed supplies to the pig industry.

SunPork Farms runs a

feedmill that was unaffected by the fire and staff have been working additional shifts to help cover the shortfall caused by the destruction of the Ridley mill.

Other piggery businesses in the greater area include Lienert's Piggery, which suffered significant crop damage; Shea-Oak Log, where flames came within metres of the property but no damage occurred; and Roseworthy Piggery, which was saved from the fires by a last-minute wind change.

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# Will demand grow by 10 percent in 2016?

SINCE the last publication of *Australian Pork Newspaper* we have dusted off the crystal ball and peered into the future.

Now, you may be saying we can't possibly know what's going to happen and while of course you are right, there is information that makes some outcomes significantly more likely than others.

First, we can look back and see that 2010 was a pricing turning point.

Since then, pig prices have been driven more by demand than supply.

This is both relatively rare and highly desirable because pig prices mainly driven by demand have grown at 4 percent a year versus 1 percent a year when supply driven.

If we look back over the period since 2010 we find that on average, demand for Australian pork has grown by 4.8 percent per year.

The seven-year rule of consistency says this rate of growth should steadily accelerate.

While history cannot foretell the future it can often be a useful indicator.

On top of the 4.8 percent growth there is a pricing accelerator.



## Marketing Matters

by **PETER HAYDON**  
General Manager Marketing



That is that beef and lamb have risen in farm-gate prices and some of those increases have been passed onto consumers.

This has already increased prices of beef in store by almost 11 percent, and while pork has increased also (by about 6 percent), pork has become relatively better value for money versus beef.

It is estimated that this represents about half the final increase in beef prices, which suggests there is another 2.5 percent extra demand to come.

While we can't know how long this will continue, it is unlikely to end before late 2017 and some financial analysts told me it could go for as long as eight to 10 years.

The third amplifier that will drive increased de-

mand is the third tranche of the levy increase that starts from July 2016.

We continue to trial various combinations of marketing and sales activities and it appears in 2016-17 the minimum this will add is another 3 percent of demand for Australian pork.

So the power of amplification suggests that 2016-17 demand growth could be as high as 4.8 percent plus 2.5 percent plus 3 percent, which equals 10.3 percent.

That's either an extra 28,000 sows or an extra \$0.30/kg or a combination of those such as 14,000 sows and \$0.15/kg.

Do you believe these numbers?

It matters not!

What matters is we are creating scenarios to see the future and we will

measure how good or bad we are at creating them accurately.

Once we know how to see tomorrow, we will start using what we are currently working on.

With additional trials we will know what will be successful in creating additional demand should the industry need it.

At present there are at least four streams of work creating options for 2017-18 activity.

Why do we need these additional tools that we are not going to use immediately?

Well, we want to be ready when producers come to us and say we have increased production by a large amount.

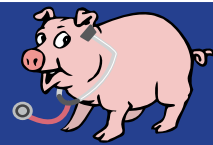
Ready means a ready-to-go set of activities that keep supply ahead of demand.

So in the end, the power of amplification is not just more sales at higher prices, it is more certainty that as an industry we have plans to keep demand ahead of supply.

I'll be at my mum's house in the UK for Christmas, so from all of us in marketing and sales, have a fantastic Christmas, a joyous New Year and may 2016 be even better than we hope.

## Pig Farm Perspective

by Harry the happy pig



DEMIGODS feature prominently in numerous mythologies as the offspring of human and divine pairings.

These demigods were gifted with the knowledge of their celestial parents and entrusted to set mankind on the right path.

Philosophers have compared academics to these demigods, possessing the gifts of human knowledge and tasked to lead humanity out of ignorance.

Today my topic turns towards a finding from Iowa State University and its academics.

A team of veterinary researchers from the university has pinpointed the cause of congenital tremor disease in piglets.

Wow!

We've known about this disease for over 90 years now, with repeated failed attempts to identify its cause.

Finally, someone has found something!

Sure, it is not a cure for global warming or cancer or the common cold, but for someone working closely with producers who has struggled to explain it, this is as close as it gets.

The researchers have used next-generation DNA sequencing techniques to identify the virus, which they believe comes from a

family of viruses called pestiviruses.

For anyone who has not seen this, congenital tremors in piglets are easily observed in the first few hours of life.

These piglets shake and tremble involuntarily and may die from starvation due to the inability to latch onto a teat.

This is often observed in gilt-heavy herds such as new or repopulated herds.

The researchers have set their sights on investigating this at a deeper level by sampling piglets from affected farms and later going on towards developing a vaccine for this, but what can we do about these tremors in the meantime?

This is the bit where the academics have not got the answers.

Pestiviruses are known to be short lived in the environment.

Depending on when they infect an animal in the womb, they may damage the developing nervous system or cause 'persistently infected' animals.

The virus can reshape the immune system of a PI animal in the womb, making the immune system think the virus is a part of the body.

A PI animal thus mounts no response to the virus, and sheds the

virus throughout its life.

How is all this relevant?

Well my theory is the virus does not live long in the environment and is easily dried out.

But it continues to recirculate in the herd in the form of PI animals.

Herds that have experienced this trembling piglet problem continue to see the issue recirculate years later in the offspring of naïve animals that have a low level of immunity towards the virus.

Some way of infecting the naïve gilts, and raising their immunity to prevent piglet infection before conceiving, is likely to be the best way to deal with this until these academics can come up with a vaccine.

Your trusty swine veterinarians in Australia are already in regular contact and coming up with farm-based solutions for you – all the time – in situations like this.

Many people have negative conceptions of academics and their ivory towers.

I would say they can only show us the way.

We have to find practical field-based solutions on our own, based on their guidance.

Not demigods, merely pipers at the gates of dawn.



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**- Dr Sarah Jenkin**  
CRA Pig Veterinarian





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# Athorn on the job

IN 2007, Rebecca Athorn graduated from the University of Queensland with an Honours degree in Animal Science.

Her honours project had investigated ractopamine supplementation in finisher diets and its effect upon production, carcass characteristics and profitability.

After completing her degree, she moved from Queensland to South Australia to begin a Pork CRC supported PhD project looking at the effect of increased feeding levels during early gestation on progesterone concentrations in blood circulation and its effect on embryo survival and litter size in gilts, under the supervision of Dr Pieter Langendijk from the South Australian Research and Development Institute and Dr Philip Stott from the University of Adelaide.

Rebecca's thesis proved that gilts can be fed at feed levels that still promote growth and development leading to increased longevity, without any detrimental effects on embryo survival and possibly even positive effects on pregnancy rates.

#### PhD outcomes

Outcomes from her PhD studies basically flipped on its head the long-believed dogma that gilts should be restricted fed during early pregnancy in order to improve reproduction (as increased feeding levels increase the clearance of the pregnancy sustaining hormone progesterone from systemic blood circulation due to an increase in hepatic metabolism).

Rebecca was able to prove that local progesterone supply (oppositely affected by increased feed level) to the uterus played an important role in embryo survival, alongside that of systemic progesterone.

This was an important finding because it meant producers could change the way they managed their gestating gilts and they could feed them at levels that would still promote growth and development, leading to increased longevity without any detrimental effects on reproductive outcomes.

#### Industry placement

In 2012, as one of the first recipients of the Pork CRC's Industry Placement Program Award, Rebecca joined the Research and Innovation division of Rivala Australia.

During the program she was involved in a number of Pork CRC funded projects investigating the

stimulation of lactational oestrus under commercial conditions.

As part of the program Rebecca also had the opportunity to travel to Canada for five months to work with Prof George Foxcroft on a collaborative study between SARDI, Pork CRC and the University of Alberta, looking at the genomic aspects of lactational oestrus in primiparous sows.

In addition, working in an industry setting also allowed Rebecca to further develop the findings from her PhD, leading to feeding recommendations for early parity sows during early gestation housed in groups.

#### Research appointment

In April 2015, at the completion of the IPP, Rebecca was appointed a research scientist within the R&I division.

In her new role at Rivala she is project leader for Pork CRC Project 1A-112 'Oestrus stimulation during lactation in commercial environment', where an entire piggery has switched to an oestrus stimulation protocol and will persevere with it for 12 months to assess the performance and economics of this approach of mating during lactation; a key plank of Pork CRC.

The stimulation protocol involves periodic separation of sows and piglets in the farrowing house and boar stimulation with nose to nose contact.

Sows that display standing oestrus in the farrowing house are then mated and followed through to assess subsequent reproductive outcomes.

In addition to this project, Rebecca also conducts and manages both internal and industry funded collaborative projects looking at the nutrition of sows during gestation and lactation, pre-weaning survival, sow and piglet welfare, gilt development and sow longevity.

During her PhD and as a research scientist at Rivala, Rebecca has enjoyed the opportunity to publish and present her findings in peer-reviewed scientific journals, at international conferences such as the International Conference on Pig Reproduction, European Society for Domestic Animal Reproduction and the University of Minnesota/University of Alberta Swine Reproduction Workshop at the Allen D Leman Swine Conference, as well as at domestic conferences such as the Australasian Pig Science Association conference.

#### Internal workings

Alongside external industry funded projects Rebecca also works on a number of internal projects in order to improve everyday production and increase efficiencies across the Rivala business.

These are usually cross discipline and she works with the company's own nutritionists and researchers in the areas of welfare and genetics, as well as farm production staff.

She has also been able to further extend the work she did during her

PhD to early parity sows housed in groups, with the findings from these studies having led to recommended feeding strategies for group housed sows in Australia, which have been recommended in the industry publications 'Feeding pregnant sows in group housing systems' and 'Mixing sows – How to maximise welfare'; both released by Pork CRC.

For further information, contact Dr Rebecca Athorn at [rathorn@rivala.com.au](mailto:rathorn@rivala.com.au)



Goornong, Victoria pork producers Nanette and Alister Carr enjoyed dinner with Pork CRC staff including office administrator Rebecca Smith after Pork CRC's 2015 stakeholders' meeting in Melbourne. The Carrs' 240 sow birth to bacon closed herd is the subject of a Pork CRC lactation/oestrus trial with Dr Rebecca Athorn of Rivala.

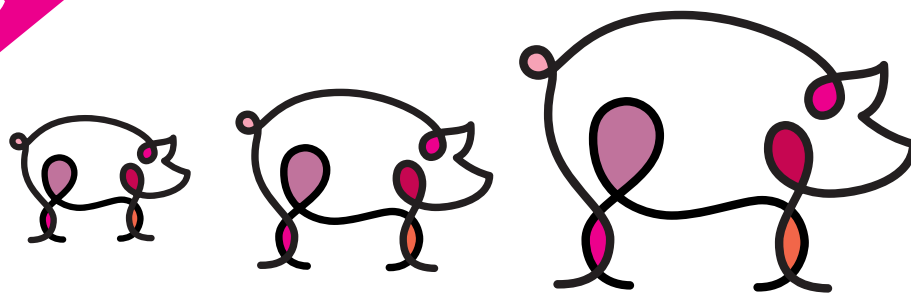


Dr Rebecca Athorn addressed the APSA 2015 conference in Melbourne. Her topic was 'Split suckling versus intermittent suckling with primiparous sows: skip-a-heat effects on oestrus during lactation and reproductive performance'.

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

Jefo wishes all our friends and clients a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2016!

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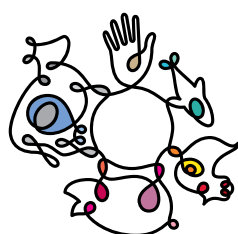
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# Water supply for outdoor pig herds

WATER supply is extremely important for the outdoor pig herd and the increasing likelihood of an El Nino event means it's time to review your setup before the heat hits.

Water supply lines should be buried at least 60cm deep to keep water as cool as possible.

Black poly pipe supply lines above ground heat up very quickly and the water will be too hot for pigs to drink.

Nipple drinkers and small bowl drinkers are

generally unsuitable for outdoor use because they get too hot for use unless well positioned so they are in shade all day.

They can also be more prone to blockages and leaks from the mud and muck the pigs might leave behind.

Large troughs are usually the preferred option but they need some sort of guard so the pigs don't use their trough as a wallow.

If you do use large troughs, remember to consider whether all classes

of pig can access the water; otherwise the smaller pigs will be drinking the wallow water.

Also, be aware of the quality of the water you use.

Summer water supplies can be affected by the presence of blue-green algae blooms.

Blue-green algae is toxic

to pigs, so plan your water supply carefully.

Make sure you have good emergency supplies of water for at least three days (a week's supply in reserve is better).

Pigs outdoors also need water for wallows for cooling themselves – make sure your supply can cope with this demand.

Remember that when temperatures climb above 30C pigs will be feeling heat stress even if they have good shade.

Don't cause further stress by having an inadequate water supply when it is most needed.

**Jayne Morgan**  
NSW DPI Development  
Officer Pigs



Pigs will use troughs as a wallow if there are no guards in place.

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## Murray Valley Pork launches Cranberry and Chocolate Pork Roast for the holiday season

MURRAY Valley Pork, the premium pork brand from Rivalea, recently announced the release of a delicious new Cranberry and Chocolate Pork Roast.

Available now, this new seasonal product is a real treat for consumers and their families to enjoy over the Christmas and new year holiday period.

This unusual but perfectly matched flavour combination of cranberry and dark cocoa beans is mixed in the core and then rolled into an absolutely

delicious Murray Valley Pork loin to create the mouth-watering final pork roast.

To top it off, the pork roast is finished with a cranberry sprinkle on the exterior to add an additional hint of sweetness.

Murray Valley Pork brand manager Sean Barrett said: "We have brought together two unique flavours in cranberry and chocolate to

create a signature taste for the holidays."

The new Cranberry and Chocolate Pork Roast has been given a four-star health rating from Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

Murray Valley Pork Cranberry and Chocolate Pork Roast is available exclusively through butchers.

Visit [www.murrayvalleypork.com.au](http://www.murrayvalleypork.com.au) to find your local stockist.



## Japan to raise support for pork farmers

JAPAN will expand handouts to pork and beef farmers by raising the percentage of losses covered by the government from 80 percent to 90 percent, according to a draft of the policy outline for a Trans-Pacific Partnership deal.

The draft stated the government will also boost purchases of domestic rice for reserve stocks to prevent prices from falling due to new tariff-free import quotas from Australia and

the US under the TPP agreement.

These steps are expected to ease farmers' worries over the TPP deal and an increase in imports of cheaper foreign farm products.

The TPP pact still requires ratification by member countries.

The draft also said Japan aims to raise the value of farm and fishery product exports to 1 trillion yen before an initial target year of 2020, versus about 612 billion yen in 2014.

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# Aussie Pumps chooses Honda to protect farms this summer

AUSSIE Pumps, a leading supplier of high-pressure fire pumps and engine drive transfer pumps, has joined with Honda for this season's sizzling fire and El Nino conditions.

Aussie Pumps offers the most comprehensive range of Honda-powered, petrol-drive pumps from 1" through to 6" to cater for a wide range of agricultural and domestic applications.

Aussie Pumps product manager Brad Farrugia said, "We only choose Honda for our petrol en-

gine range of Aussie QP pumps because of their reliability, market popularity and national after-market support."

"All our pumps are superbly match tested so as not to overload what we believe is the world's best petrol-drive industrial air-cooled engine."

The product range starts with the Aussie Pumps Ultralite QP1 model powered by a 1hp light-weight four-stroke Honda engine.

This lightweight, high-speed 1" pump offers superb engine technology

and produces up to a 40m head and flows to 120l/pm.

A bigger version, suitable for personal firefighting protection, water transfer and even light sprayer irrigation duties is available in a dual 1" and 1.5" configuration powered by Honda's GXH50 lightweight high-speed engine.

"The GXH50 engine is amazing," Farrugia said.

"It delivers the power right where you want it.

"It enables our pumps to outperform others.

"It's the perfect match

of pump hydraulic design and engine capability that provides the excellent performance."

Aussie Pumps' Fire Chief and Mr. T twin impeller pumps have set new standards for performance and reliability in the field.

"You will note that we are the only company that offers a five-year warranty on products like this, not only in Australia but right through the South Pacific and Asia," Farrugia said.

"That shows the confidence we get from matching our pumps' superbly designed guide vanes and impellers to the power and torque that Honda can deliver."

Bigger pumps for tanker applications feature in Aussie's Gusher range.

These 3" and 4" transfer

pumps are built to the highest quality standards and outperform similar products.

"We hear horror stories every day about grey imports or cheap clones letting customers down in both fire and water transfer applications," Farrugia said.

"Paradoxically, failures seem to occur when the pump is needed most in vital applications that can include firefighting or stock watering."

Aussie's Brigade Boss series, conceived in the company's think-tank new product development program provides both high pressure and high flow from big 3" and 4" pumps.

The Brigade Boss will develop heads of up to 70m (that's about 100psi) and flows to 1200l/pm.

The pumps are powered by 13hp Honda petrol engines, fully warranted and supported by Honda's great aftermarket support program, not only in Australia but around the world.

This season, the obvious problem farmers and householders face is the predicted cataclysmic dry conditions.

These pumps will perform vital roles in keeping people safe, keeping stock and crops alive and even helping provide clean and fresh water to houses without town water.

"It is no wonder Aussie Pumps has been awarded one of the very few Honda Platinum partnerships," Farrugia said.

"It is a clear indication of our unique relationship and mutual support that has stood the test of time

over the past 20 years.

"Aussie Pumps owes a huge amount of its success as Australia's foremost self-priming pump manufacturer/distributor to the support we get from Honda's quality, engineering advice and aftermarket program.

"Our advice to consumers?

"It's simple: don't waste your time with rip-off pumps driven by copy Honda engines.

"Go for the original with the best pump in the business."

Further information on Aussie Pumps' great range of Honda-powered firefighting and transfer pumps is available by visiting [www.aussiepumps.com.au](http://www.aussiepumps.com.au) or calling your local authorised Aussie Pumps Gold Distributor.



Aussie's 'Honda team' saluted the Aussie Pumps Honda lineup.

## RATTOFF rat bait for rodent control in piggeries

CCD Animal Health would like to advise that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has approved a permit for the use of RATTOFF (zinc phosphide) rat bait sachets around piggeries.

This permit was approved to provide piggery operators with an effective rat control alternative to the use of the first and second-generation anticoagulant baits.

The APVMA permit came into effect on Oc-

tober 29, 2015 and has application in all states of Australia.

Key points include:

- RATTOFF ZP sachets approved for rat control around piggeries;
- Use as part of an integrated pest management program;
- External perimeter baiting of buildings used for commercial piggery operations;
- Use only in commercial plastic bait stations;
- Four to 10 sachets per bait station – use higher

rate where baits are rapidly consumed;

- Remove all alternative food sources, clean up feed spills, cover feed bins; and
- Collect and dispose of baited rats.

RATTOFF rat bait sachets are a fast-acting rodenticide that can control rats within a few hours of ingestion.

The bait kills the rat due to heart and respiratory failure and then rapidly degrades in the carcass, with a greatly

reduced risk of secondary poisoning in non-target species.

RATTOFF consists of sterilised wheat grains coated with attractants and is available in 5kg and 10kg buckets.

For further information regarding supply options, copies of the APVMA permit or MSDS information, please contact CCD Animal Health customer service on 1300 791 009 or your local CCD representative.

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# BASF reveals new product that unlocks hidden nutrients

GLOBAL chemical company BASF launched an exciting new feed enzyme, Natuphos E, at the recent Australasian Pig Science Association conference.

Natuphos E contains a natural enzyme known as phytase, which enables pigs and poultry to better utilise phosphorus and other important nutrients such as energy, proteins and minerals – bringing a range of benefits to the feed manufacturing industry.

The majority of phosphorus in grains and oilseeds is bound as phytate, an anti-nutritive factor found in feed.

Phytate-bound phosphorus is unavailable to animals such as pigs and poultry and is wasted when excreted, meaning

manufacturers are forced to add inorganic phosphates to feed mixes to balance out the required phosphorus.

Natuphos E releases the phosphorus from phytate, alleviating the need to add inorganic sources, saving manufacturers money and slowing the use of non-renewable rock phosphates.

In addition to making phytate-bound phosphorus available to animals, it also releases other associated nutrients, making animals generally more efficient at digesting their feed, leading to less excretion of undigested nutrients.

BASF's animal nutrition expert Leon Hall said BASF introduced the world's first phytase feed enzyme, Natuphos,

25 years ago.

"We are very excited to announce that the next-generation technology is here and it has been built on decades of experience," he said.

"Our new phytase is called Natuphos E because it's more efficient, economical and environmentally friendly than its predecessor, which has been the industry gold standard for the past two-and-a-half decades.

"This novel, hybrid six-phytase shows excellent stability properties.

"It withstands the rigours of feed production and handling, and shows

excellent efficiency in the animal."

BEC Feed Solutions has been appointed the distributor for Natuphos E in Australia, which is manufactured by BASF in Ger-

many, using the company's trusted aspergillus niger fermentation technology.

For more information, visit [www.basf.com.au](http://www.basf.com.au) or [www.becfeedsolutions.com.au](http://www.becfeedsolutions.com.au)



The BASF and BEC teams were very excited to explain the benefits of the new feed enzyme Natuphos E to a host of people at the recent launch in Melbourne. BASF's quality is second to none and the company has built a reputation on solid research and confidence in its products. Combine this with BEC's service and backing and you have a partnership that is keen to deliver.

## New Technical and Service manager for CEFN Genetics

CEFN Genetics has appointed Nigel Young as its new National Technical and Service manager to interface with valued customers on CEFN's breeding program and to develop and maintain co-operative business working relationships.

Nigel has more than 25 years' experience within

the pig industry in the UK, New Zealand and Australia from working as a stockperson to a national operations manager.

He has worked with various size operations from 400 to 16,000 sows.

He brings an extensive knowledge and understanding of pig production including breeding and selection programs, biosecurity, environmental issues, workplace health and safety, budgeting and financial aspects of pig breeding.

Nigel is looking forward to the role in consulting and improving the breeding outcomes of customers through the use of

CEFN's advanced breeding techniques and partnership programs.

You can contact Nigel on 0477 477 537 or [nigel@cefn.com.au](mailto:nigel@cefn.com.au)



Nigel Young



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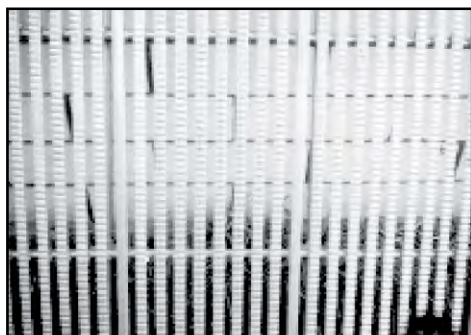
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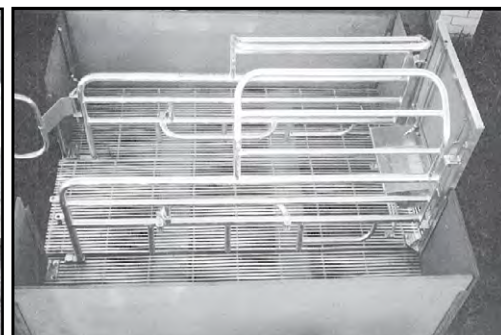
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**Phillip Marr**  
Senior Technical Services and Sales Manager



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

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



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## AusPac Ingredients welcome reception



## APSA president praises everyone involved in the 2015 conference



AUSTRALASIAN Pig Science Association president Dr Cherie Collins said the APSA biennial conference continues to go from strength to strength and is now widely recognised as one of the premier international pig science forums.

She said the hard work and dedication of many people over the years has seen APSA grow from humble beginnings in Albury in 1987 to the international conference that it is today, attracting delegates from around the world.

The growth and success of APSA has come about from the hard work and dedication of many people over almost 30 years and is set to con-

tinue for many more.

Dr Collins said the 2015 conference would not have been possible without the considerable time and effort contributed by many individuals.

She said the continued support of members and colleagues within the pig science community in the submission of high-quality papers is gratefully acknowledged.

The APSA committee would also like to thank all those who attended the 2015 conference, particularly those who travelled considerable distances to participate.

This year's proceedings were a milestone for APSA, with the proceedings published in full as a special issue of *Animal*

*Production Science*.

This move to publication in a journal provides greater exposure for APSA and ensures our authors are more widely recognised for their outstanding scientific contributions.

The APSA committee would like to thank all who have made this transition a success, in particular the assistance of Dr Chris Anderson, CSIRO Publishing for his willingness to take on the APSA proceedings and his guidance and support during this process.

The committee would also like to thank all the referees who reviewed the scientific content of the papers, your contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

## AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture

DR Giuseppe Bee presented the AC Dunkin Memorial Address at the 2015 Australasian Pig Science Association conference, discussing the topic of 'Entire male pig production in Europe'.

Dr Bee outlined that in Europe, the proportion of male pigs that are left 'entire' has been high for many years in the British Isles and Iberian Peninsula, and has recently increased in the Netherlands and to a lesser extent in Germany and France.

Various European Union partners agreed in 2010 on a road map to abandon piglet castration by January 1, 2018.

Despite significant commercial in-confidence research on instrumental methods for detecting boar-tainted carcasses at slaughter plants, nothing

is currently being adopted at an industrial scale.

A few abattoirs sort out the most heavily tainted carcasses using human nose methods.

However, there are major concerns with their accuracy, which is currently not documented in any publicly available technical report.



Dr Giuseppe Bee

More APSA highlights to follow in the next edition of *Australian Pork Newspaper*.



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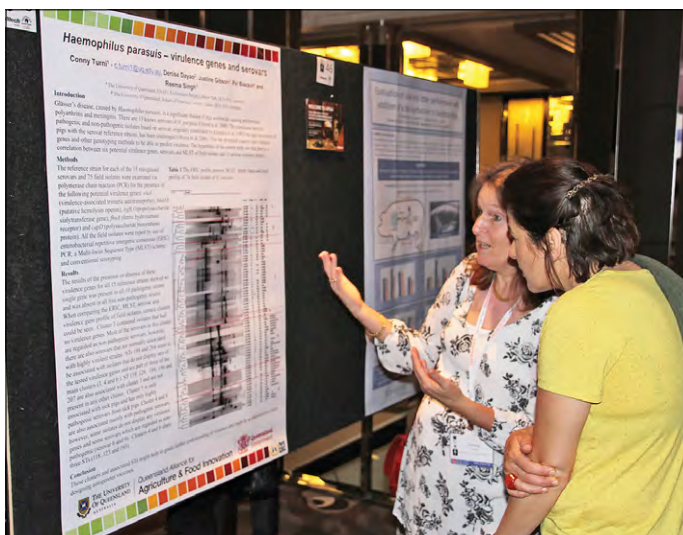
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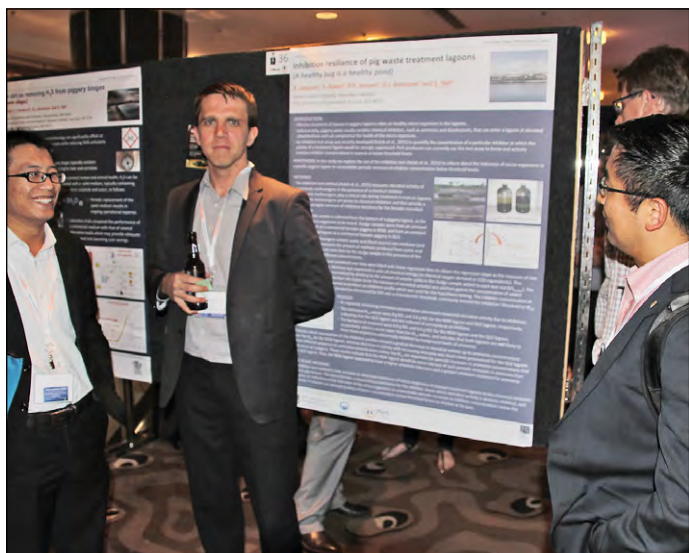
## Alltech poster session



Tracy Muller (right) of SunPork Farms at her APSA poster on nutritional lick blocks with Brooke Dearlove (left) of University of Adelaide and Julia Sophia Huser of Sunpork Farms. Photo: Brendon Cant



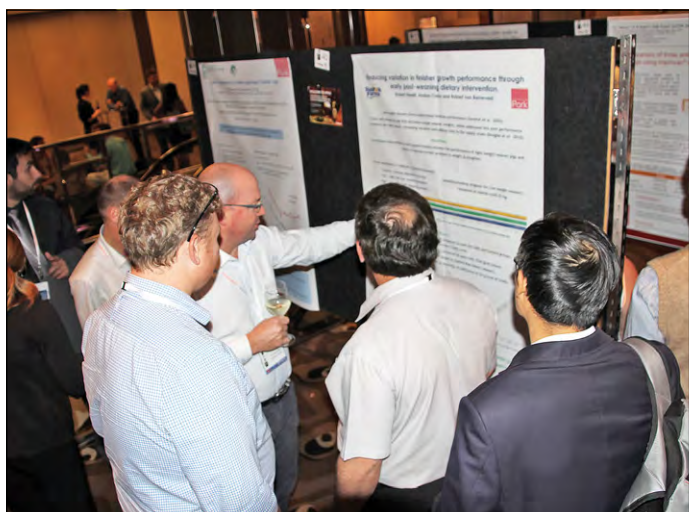
The poster on haemophilus parasuis, a significant cause of disease in pigs worldwide leading to polyserositis, poly arthritis and meningitis sparked plenty of questions.



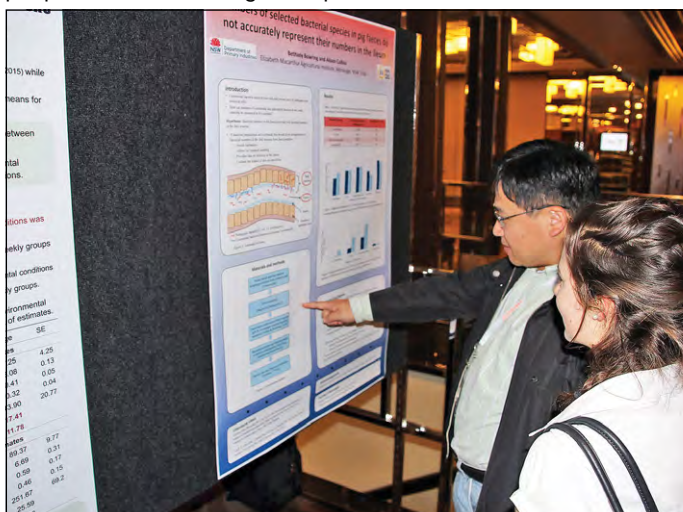
Dr Stephan Tait explained the inhibition resilience of microbes in pig effluent lagoons to a couple of international visitors.



The poster session sponsored by Alltech was a great way to get people to discuss a range of topics.



Prof Rob van Barneveld of SunPork Farms pointed out a few facts in regards to reducing variation in finisher growth performance through early post-weaning dietary intervention.

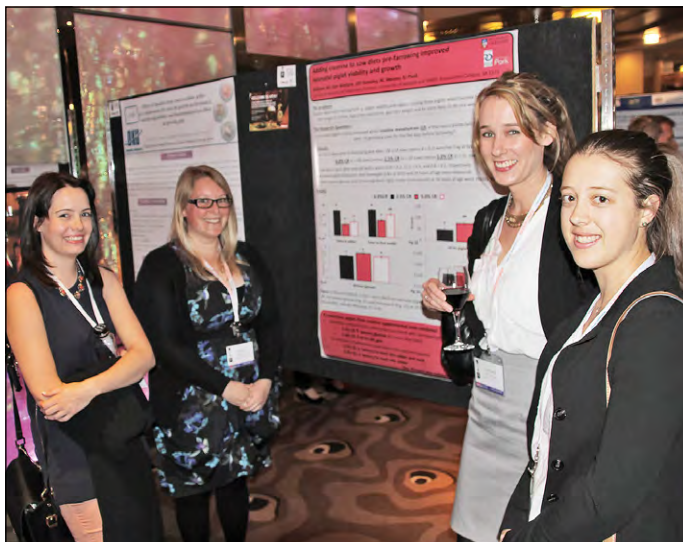


Lots of questions were asked during the poster sessions. Bethany Bowring discussed how the number of selected bacterial species in pig faeces does not accurately represent their numbers in the ileum.



Mark Peebles of Lienert, winner of the poster session raffle Sahibzada Shaffiullah of Charles Sturt University and Dr Ray King of Pork CRC enjoyed a celebratory drink.

www.porknews.com.au



Emma Greenwood and Brooke Dearlove, both of University of Adelaide, Lechelle van Breda of University of Sydney and Patricia Condous of University of Adelaide caught up at the poster session.

## APSA awards

### Batterham Memorial Award



Heather Channon, pictured here with Andrew Spencer, received the Batterham Memorial Award. This prestigious award is offered by APSA in memory of Dr Ted Batterham who made a major contribution to pig science in Australia.

### APSA Fellow



Prof Frank Dunshea presented Prof John Pluske the APSA Fellow plaque. This award is offered in recognition of past and present members who have made an outstanding contribution to APSA, research in pig science and the wider Australian pig industry. The award was first presented in 2007 and is sponsored by APSA.

### International APSA Travel Scholarship Award



Dr Hyatt Frobose received the APSA Travel Scholarship from Dr Jae Kim. The purpose of this award is to introduce outstanding early career international pig scientists and their cutting-edge research to the Australasian pork industry. The scholarship provides travel support to promising early career scientists for presentation of their work at the Australasian Pig Science Association conference.



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