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APRIL PhD Top-Up Scholarship recipient Cintia Amaral.

Up-and-coming researcher seizes every opportunity

AUSTRALASIAN Pork Research Institute Limited PhD Top-Up Scholarship recipient Cintia Amaral is making the most of every opportunity her PhD has to offer.

Keen to expand her knowledge, build industry connections and gain hands-on experience, Cintia recently embarked on an international research journey across the US and Denmark.



Along the way, she worked with leading researchers, explored cutting-edge technologies and gained valuable insights into

global meat and pork production systems.

Below Cintia shares how these experiences have shaped her research and strengthened her passion for a career in the pork industry.

I believe it is important to take every opportunity to learn during a PhD, as these experiences are valuable in preparing for the next stage of a career after graduation.

continued P2

Reflections from October 2026 Delegates Forum

LAST month, the Australian pork industry came together in Adelaide for Australian Pork Limited's October 2026 Delegates Forum.

These occasions are always a valuable opportunity to engage with our industry and one of APL's most important priorities each year.

This Delegates Forum was also my first as chief executive officer of APL, and I was proud to share my vision to continue to grow and together build a profitable and sustainable future for Australian pork.

One of the key highlights of the October forum was the breadth of industry in attendance, as we opened the second day to more APL members than ever before.

Across two days, presentations covered the industry and grains outlook, animal welfare, biosecurity, sustainability, marketing, consumer demand and research to improve productivity, profitability and pork quality.

Open question and answer forums, a producer-led innova-



Point of View

by DARRYL D'SOUZA
CEO



tion challenge and networking opportunities also ensured members could share their perspectives and help shape the industry's future.

The focal point for me were the two open forums, and it was great to hear from producers, their thoughts, questions relating to key areas currently affecting our industry.

APL remains committed to providing up-to-date information to all members, and summary notes along with recorded presentations will be available to all APL members via the Member Portal.

I am also taking this opportunity to provide a high-level overview and learnings from the presentations.

State of the industry and wider agriculture

Current ABARES forecasts point to a

decline in overall agricultural value, driven by lower cattle and sheep slaughter values and reduced crop production.

Despite this, poultry production continues to grow, supported by increases in chicken slaughter and ongoing freedom from avian influenza.

Cattle slaughter is forecast to decline, though production remains historically high.

Lamb production is expected to increase due to higher lambing rates, strong availability and heavier carcass weights.

Australia's national sheep flock is also forecast to continue expanding.

Closer to home, Australian pork production remains relatively stable.

The national sow herd is slightly

higher than the previous year, while average carcass weights have increased.

Long-term consumption data also indicates fresh pork consumption is continuing to grow gradually, with pork outperforming the overall fresh meat category.

Despite these promising figures, it is important to acknowledge that many in our industry are facing ongoing profitability challenges, with farmgate prices remaining below levels seen during recent strong market conditions in 2024-25.

While APL cannot influence commercial pricing arrangements, we remain focused on driving consumer demand and expanding market opportunities.

Exports remain a significant area of focus.

Our Singapore market has declined due to government-driven supplier diversification policies, which have increased competition from other nations particularly China.

Export volumes

continued P2



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All producers are encouraged to send in emails or letters to be published in APN, outlining any concerns or issues you may have with the industry.

This is an open forum where you can cover any topic, whether for or against an issue.

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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2026

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

NOV 20 – Ag Day 2026 – Australia. <https://agday.org.au>

2027

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

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

FEB 24-25 – RSPCA Animal Welfare Seminar 2027 – Online. <https://www.rspca.org.au/learn/animal-welfare-seminar/rspca-animal-welfare-seminar-2027/>

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

JUN 9-10 – World Pork Expo 2027 – Iowa, USA. <https://www.worldpork.org>

AUG 31 – Annual Swine Conference (37th Edition) – Illinois, USA. <https://conference.hogvet.com>

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

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

porknews.com.au
0450 672 553

Up-and-coming researcher seizes every opportunity

◀ from P1

With that in mind, I began exploring opportunities abroad that could expand my knowledge and give me international research experience.

As the US is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of meat, I contacted a potential host supervisor at Colorado State University, which is well known for its work in meat science.

This led to an opportunity to spend four months as a visiting scholar, collaborating on ongoing research projects within the meat science group.

During this period, I also collaborated on a project with the University of Wyoming and participated in a joint trial involving Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University.

I attended courses, industry workshops, lectures and the Reciprocal Meat Conference, where I presented a poster on my PhD research.

Before returning to Australia, I visited Kansas State University, Iowa State University, Purdue University and the University of Minnesota to learn more about their research in animal and meat science.

Following my experience in the US, I spent one week in Denmark on a technical visit with Front-matec.

This company man-

ufactures AutoFom III, an objective online technology used to predict pork carcass composition in abattoirs.

During the visit, I gained a better understanding of computed tomography calibration procedures, image analysis and the development of prediction models to calibrate AutoFom III.

The program also included a visit to the Danish Meat Research Centre, where I learned about the national trials conducted to validate and approve carcass classification technologies and their calibration procedures.

I also visited a commercial pork abattoir, where I had the opportunity to see AutoFom III operating under commercial conditions.

As part of this visit, I attended a meeting with the production management team to learn how carcass composition and predicted cut yields can support cut-floor optimisation, production forecasting, processing efficiency and maximising carcass value.

One common aspect I observed in both countries was the strong collaboration between universities, research centres and industry in supporting research, innovation and technology development to address real industry needs.

I also noticed a willingness to openly

share information about ongoing projects, which supports knowledge exchange across the sector.

Another interesting aspect I observed in the US was the opportunity for students to work closely with industry, supporting the management and analysis of non-sensitive data generated through the company's internal operations and processes.

This gives students practical industry experience and strengthens collaboration between universities and industry.

This time abroad allowed me to learn about different aspects of the meat supply chain, from animal production to processing.

These experiences exposed me to different research groups, facilities and ap-

proaches, enhancing my understanding of how research is conducted and applied in practice.

I also gained practical insights into how carcass assessment technologies can be translated into commercially relevant decisions within pork processing systems.

This is particularly relevant to my PhD research, which focuses on evaluating alternative reference methods for calibrating technologies used to predict pork carcass composition and commercial cut weights within the Australian pork industry.

The knowledge gained from these international experiences will directly contribute to my PhD research and support the final stages of my thesis.

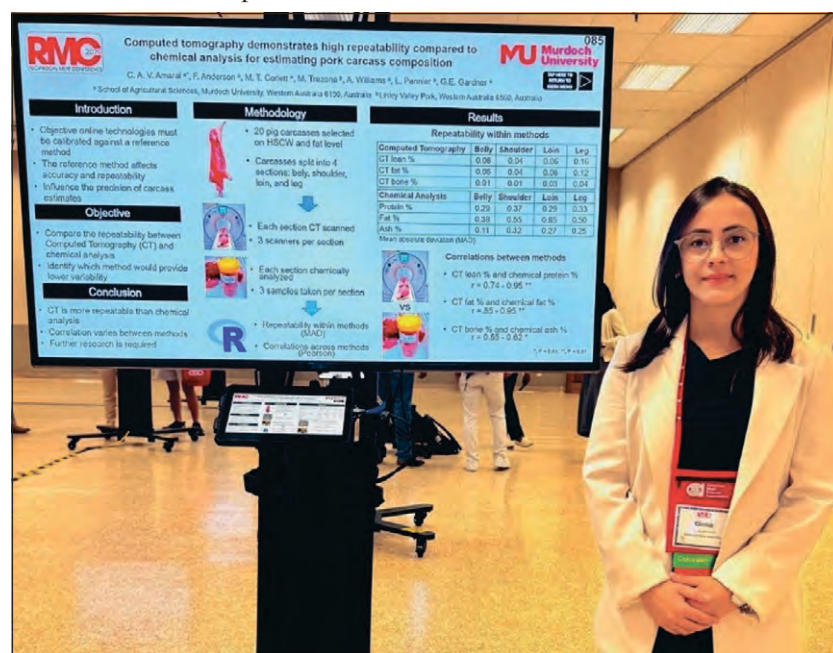
Additionally, the skills developed and professional connections established during this time will be valuable for my future career within the pork industry.

Well done to Cintia for getting out there and experiencing the broader industry.

Her enthusiasm for learning and willingness to seek out new opportunities are inspiring, and it's great to see her bringing valuable knowledge and connections back to the Australian pork industry.

We wish Cintia all the best with the remainder of her PhD and look forward to seeing where her research and career take her next.

Cintia's research trip was in part supported by APRIL and Murdoch University. 🐷
APRIL



Cintia attended courses, industry workshops, lectures and the Reciprocal Meat Conference, where she presented a poster on her PhD research.

Reflections from APL's October 2026 Delegates Forum

◀ from P1

and values have both fallen over the past year.

In response, APL is working closely with exporters to identify high-potential growth markets.

Priority markets identified through industry consultation include Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea.

Imports hiding in plain sight

While overall imports continue to decline, delegates heard how imported pork is displacing Australian fresh pork in foodservice.

In the past year alone, around 40 tonnes a week of fresh Australian pork has been replaced by im-

ports in two Mexican quick service restaurant chains.

The Australian customers are none the wiser, because menus are not required to say where the pork comes from.

APL's recent call for transparency generated around 500 pieces of media coverage in only four days, reaching an estimated 10 million Australians.

Most importantly, the issue is now firmly on the radar of the minister and the department responsible.

We will keep pushing until Australians can make an informed choice wherever they buy pork.

Grains outlook

As always, we were

pleased to invite pig producer, grower and chair of Grains Research Development Corporation Sharon Starick to provide a summary of the grains outlook.

Australia's winter crop is forecast to remain above average, with a particularly strong barley harvest expected.

National grain production is forecast at approximately 61 million tonnes, supported by strong production across Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.

Barley production is forecast to reach record levels, providing favourable feed supply conditions for producers.

However, local feed prices will continue

to be influenced by freight costs, export demand, grain quality, exchange rates and global grain markets.

Delegates also heard about the planned refresh of the Australian Pork Sustainability Framework.

The update will make the framework more measurable and transparent, with no material change to how producers run their businesses day to day.

Delegates will have the chance to provide feedback over the coming months, ahead of Board sign-off in early 2027.

As part of the Annual General Meeting, also held during this period, we also saw the renomination of

producer directors to the APL Board, Dawson Bradford and Dr Cherie Collins.

APL congratulates the directors on their reappointment and looks forward to working with them for another term.

I would like to sincerely thank all those from the pork industry who took the time away from their own farms and operations to participate in this delegates' meeting and represent the views and issues of our members.

I also thank everyone in the room for their engagement and contributions, their messages of encouragement and look forward to welcoming everyone again in May 2027. 🐷

**Australian
Pork**

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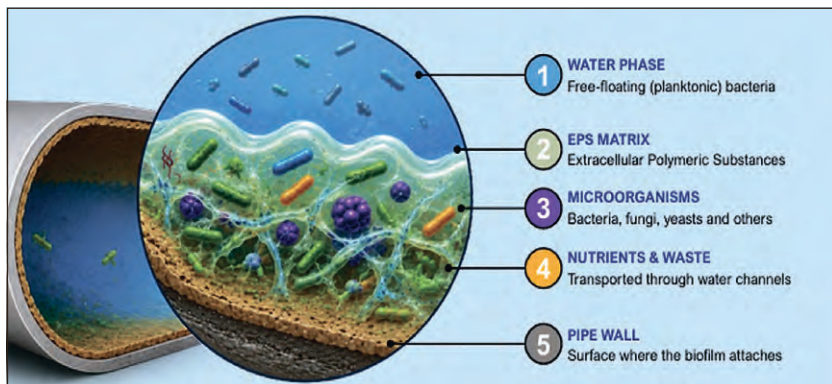


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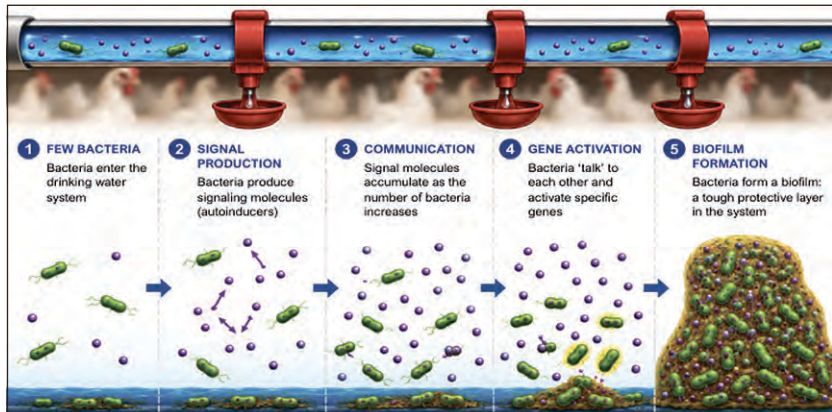
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Biofilm formation often begins within hours after a clean surface comes into contact with water.



In addition to the microbiological risks, biofilm can also affect the effectiveness of on-farm health management programs.

No effective water hygiene without biofilm removal

BIOFILM is not just slime, it is a microbial fortress where bacteria survive, cooperate and protect themselves.

A drinking water system completely free of biofilm seems virtually impossible in practice.

Unmanaged biofilm forms a permanent microbiological reservoir that can negatively affect water quality, animal health and technical performance.

Despite the growing awareness of water hygiene, the role of biofilm is still underestimated on many poultry and swine farms.

One of the biggest misconceptions is that clear water automatically means clean water.

In reality, the majority of the microbial population is

often not found in the water itself, but on the inner surfaces of the drinking water lines.

Various studies have shown that more than 95 percent of the microorganisms present in a drinking water system may reside within the biofilm rather than in the water phase.

To address the root cause of microbial contamination, an approach specifically designed to remove biofilm is needed.

The formation of biofilm

Biofilm is a complex microbial community consisting of bacteria, fungi, yeasts, organic matter and mineral deposits.

These microorganisms are embedded in a self-produced matrix of extracellular polymeric substances.

This EPS matrix forms a protective structure that shields microorganisms from external influences such as disinfectants, temperature fluctuations and dehydration.

Within a biofilm, microorganisms do not function as individual cells but as an organised community.

Through a process known as quorum sensing, bacteria communicate with each other using chemical signalling molecules.

This allows them to coordinate their metabolism, growth rates and production of protective slime layers.

In addition, horizontal gene transfer frequently occurs within biofilms, enabling bacteria to exchange genetic material.

As a result, traits such as increased tolerance to disinfectants and antibiotics can spread more rapidly throughout the microbial community.

Biofilm formation often begins within hours after a clean surface comes into contact with water.

Pioneer organisms

such as *Pseudomonas* spp attach themselves to the pipe wall and start producing EPS, creating a foundation for other bacterial species to colonise.

Under the microscope, a mature biofilm reveals a complex three-dimensional architecture containing microscopic water channels that transport oxygen, nutrients and metabolites throughout the structure.

This sophisticated organisation explains why bacteria embedded in a biofilm are significantly better protected than free-floating bacteria in the water.

Depending on the bacterial species and the composition of the biofilm, microorganisms can be tens to thousands of times more resistant to disinfectants than the same bacteria in their planktonic state.

Reduced efficacy of medications and vaccines

In addition to the microbiological risks, biofilm can also affect the effectiveness of on-farm health management programs.

The EPS matrix behaves like a sponge and can absorb active compounds from the drinking water.

As a result, antibiotics, organic acids, vaccines and other additives may become partially trapped or used within the biofilm before reaching the animals.

This can lead to less predictable uptake and reduced efficacy of treatments or vaccinations administered through the drinking water system.

Water analysis

Though most water analyses focus on the water itself, the bulk of the microbial load is typically found in the biofilm lining the inside of the water line.

Under favourable conditions, more than 95 percent of the microorganisms present

in a drinking water system may reside within the biofilm, while less than 5 percent remain free-floating in the water.

This also explains why water samples can sometimes show acceptable microbiological results while health problems persist on the farm.

At the moment of sampling, the analysis primarily measures the bacteria present in the water phase, whereas a much larger microbial population may remain hidden within the biofilm.

Chlorine-based disinfectants versus Intra Hydrocare

For this reason, disinfection alone is insufficient.

Products such as chlorine and chlorine dioxide are effective at reducing free-floating bacteria in the water, but they have a limited effect on the underlying biofilm structure.

As a result, the microbial load in the water may decrease while the primary source of contamination remains present inside the drinking system.

Intra Hydrocare is specifically for use in drinking water and designed to break down and remove biofilm.

Due to the high stability of its active components, the product remains effective throughout the entire drinking water system, constantly targeting the biofilm where pathogens hide.

A biofilm reduction focused approach targets the source of microbial contamination itself.

This is why biofilm control forms the foundation of a sustainable water hygiene program and provides optimal support for animal health, technical performance and farm profitability.

Reproduced from an article written by Arjan van de Vondervoort, Intracare, Netherlands.

Help shape the future of Victoria's swine industry Chairperson and Committee Members sought

The Victorian Government is seeking expressions of interest for the positions of Chairperson and up to eight Committee Members on the Swine Industry Projects Advisory Committee.

Appointments are for a three-year term.

Make an impact

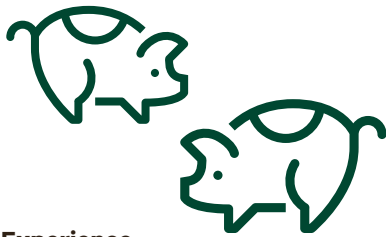
The Committee provides independent advice to the Minister for Agriculture on investments and initiatives that strengthen Victoria's swine industry through improved biosecurity, animal health and market access.

We are seeking experience in:

- Pig, pork and allied industries
- Biosecurity and market access
- Quality assurance and food safety
- Finance, law or business management
- Agricultural, animal or veterinary science
- Public policy

Desirable Experience

- Producer/duty payer representation
- Board or committee experience
- Research investment and innovation
- Processing, packing or export experience



Applications are encouraged from industry leaders, producers, scientists and professionals with relevant expertise and a commitment to supporting Victoria's swine industry.

Apply now

Submit an Expression of Interest and CV through Join a Public Board.

The Position Description is available through Join a Public Board or by emailing biosecurity.governance@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

The Victorian Government encourages applications from people of all backgrounds and is committed to ensuring boards and committees reflect the diversity of the Victorian community.

**Applications close:
15 November 2026**

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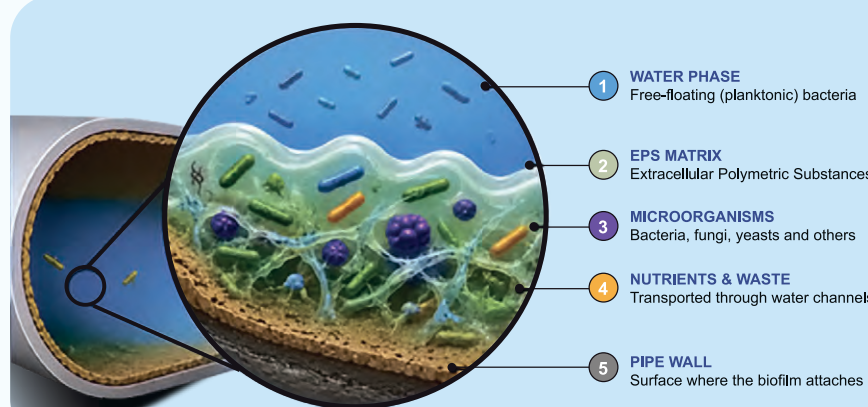
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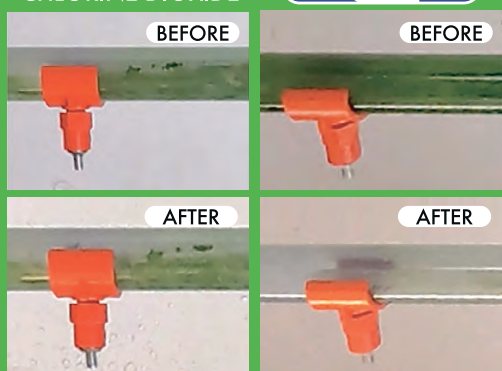
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Contaminated drinking water directly impacts animal health, welfare and performance. Biofilm present in the pipelines is the breeding ground for pathogenic microorganisms and thereby continuously pollutes the drinking water.



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Clean water and clearer biosecurity

ON pig farms, biosecurity is often considered at the gate – vehicles, people, equipment and movement between sheds.

But one of the most important pathways can be much harder to see.

Intake water may look clean, pass through treatment and reach pigs without raising any obvious alarms.

Yet water moves through every part of the production system – from source and treatment to storage tanks, pipes, drinker

lines and animal access points.

Along the way, water quality can change and pick up a range of hidden biosecurity risks.

Biofilms are one of the most overlooked challenges.

These sticky microbial layers form along the inside of pipes and water infrastructure, where they can shelter microorganisms from routine treatment.

If disturbed, biofilms can release contamination back into the system, turning a localised reservoir into a broader production challenge.

A Pork CRC project involving 57 commercial Australian piggeries found that around 23 percent of source samples exceeded the study's proposed acceptable level for e coli.

At the shed drinker, that figure increased to 65 percent.

Total coliform exceedances also rose from approximately 45 percent at the source to 73 percent in the shed.

In practical terms, the message for Australian producers is clear – water that appears acceptable at intake may tell a very different story by the time it reaches the pigs.

Testing the source alone is unlikely to provide a complete picture of the water quality risks within the system.

Effective water biosecurity is therefore about more than treating water once.

Testing at key checkpoints, in-

cluding source, post-treatment and end-of-line water, can help identify where water quality is changing, whether treatment systems are working and where biofilms or infrastructure may be contributing to ongoing pathogen pressure.

Genics Pork MultiPath supports this disease surveillance approach by detecting multiple respiratory and enteric pathogens from a single sample, including water, saliva, faeces or bio-aerosols samples.

Developed with support from Australian Pork Limited, this highly sensitive and specific pathogen detection tool can help strengthen disease monitoring across

key biosecurity checkpoints.

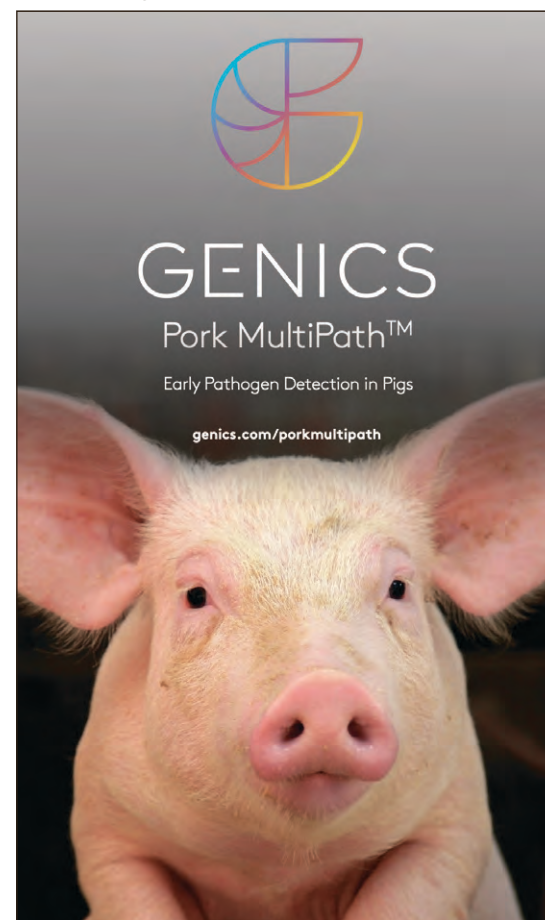
Together, water testing and population-level surveillance methods can provide a clearer view of risks that might otherwise go unnoticed, helping producers act before small signals become larger production problems.

To learn more about Genics Pork MultiPath, scan the QR code below.

Australian Pork Limited and Genics



Scan to learn more.



Genics Pork MultiPath, a highly sensitive and specific pathogen detection tool.

PREMI-BOOST+ PIGLETS

Vetsense Premi-Boost+ is a specialised nutritional paste designed to support the health and vitality of weak, underweight and premature piglets.

Formulated with a precise blend of essential vitamins, minerals and amino acids, Premi-Boost+ provides comprehensive support for the early development and growth of piglets.

- ✓ Supports growth, development and vitality
- ✓ Boosts energy in weak and underweight newborns
- ✓ Promotes immune function, digestive health and overall wellbeing
- ✓ Aids in the prevention of nutritional deficiencies and supports optimal growth trajectories
- ✓ Easy-to-administer paste formulation ensures accurate dosing and maximum effectiveness.

CONVENIENT DOSING APPLICATOR

Premi-Boost+ 250mL comes with a separate dosing applicator that delivers precisely 2mL per dose. This ensures accurate and convenient administration to newborn, underweight and premature piglets.

The applicator simplifies the dosing process, making it easy for caregivers to provide the necessary nutritional support to young animals.



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APL launches tool to support producers' EAD preparedness

AN emergency animal disease outbreak has the potential to cause major challenges for pork producers, including the need to dispose of large numbers of animals on farm.

Mass disposal may be needed to limit disease spread and protect animal welfare.

Though producers hope never to need it, having a plan in place before an EAD event can support faster more appropriate decision making.

Identifying potential disposal sites in advance allows producers to consider practical and regulatory requirements before an emergency occurs.

To support industry preparedness, Australian Pork Limited has supported the development of an online Mass Disposal Planner for pork producers.

This resource helps producers identify and assess potential burial sites for mass pig disposal, using site-specific information and relevant legislative requirements.

Producers can enter details about their property and proposed disposal site.

The Mass Disposal Planner then calculates disposal requirements and provides relevant information and resources, including legislative requirements for the selected jurisdiction.

The planner also supports producers with meeting their VEBS Performance Indicator 1.1c and can assist with environmental planning applications and general farm emergency preparedness.

After the required details are entered, the Mass Disposal Planner generates

a downloadable PDF report.

It can also be used multiple times, enabling producers to assess and compare different potential burial sites on their property.

The Mass Disposal Planner for the pork industry supports broader EAD preparedness by helping producers identify options and consider the suitability of different locations.

No producer wants to face mass pig disposal, but preparation is essential to managing the potential impacts of an EAD outbreak.

Producers are encouraged to use the Mass Disposal Planner to identify and assess potential burial sites while there is time to review options and address any issues.

The planner is freely available on the Australian Pork website, scan the QR code below.

Disclaimer

The tool is intended for general information and preparedness purposes and should not replace site-specific specialist, regulatory or professional advice.

While reasonable care has been taken to ensure the information is accurate, APL does not guarantee its accuracy or completeness and accepts no liability for reliance on the tool.

Australian Pork Limited



Scan for the Mass Disposal Planner.

Bourke Abattoir goes with Gorman-Rupp pumps

DARLING Irrigation supplies solutions for irrigation, domestic water systems, mining hydraulics, stock watering and more.

With a staff of around 50 and four locations in western NSW – and one in Launceston – Darling Irrigation assists a wide range of customers with quality water systems.

The company recently undertook a contract for the design and construction of water and wastewater infrastructure for the upgraded Bourke Abattoir.

Wanting to deliver a quality project with pumps that were reliable, easy to maintain and safe for operators,

Darling Irrigation approached Hydro Innovations for solutions using Gorman-Rupp self-priming pumps.

There were five applications for a total of nine pumps from kill floor hose down to pond storage transfer and effluent pumping.

As some of these applications contained abrasive media in the pumped water, Hydro Innovations offered pumps with Gorman-Rupp 'hard iron' internals to reduce wear rates and considerably lengthen the intervals between servicing.

Darling Irrigation chose the Gorman Rupp pumps for their strong international reputation, reliability and longevity in tough

pumping conditions.

And because they are self-priming pumps, they could be mounted at ground level so that operators have easy and safe access to the pumps for monitoring and maintenance, without the need for cranes.

On the job for Darling Irrigation project manager Phil Chegidden has been impressed by how easy the pumps were to install, how quickly the pumps prime and how smoothly they operate.

He said he could understand why many abattoirs have standardised on Gorman-Rupp pumps for their wastewater systems.

For further infor-

mation regarding the extensive range of Gorman Rupp self-priming pumps and the services that Hydro Innovations is able to offer to remedy your wastewater, sew-

erage, aeration and any pump issues, visit our very informative website at www.hydroinnovations.com.au or phone 02 9898 1800.

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Darling Irrigation chose the Gorman Rupp pumps for their strong international reputation, reliability and longevity in tough pumping conditions.

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Pan-fried pork belly and onions coming up.



A Greek pasta dish, a Greek salad and marinated fried pork belly strips went down a treat with everyone for a recent Sunday birthday celebration lunch.



Pasture-raised Berkshire pork is the pork of choice for the author. This pork belly is lovingly grown and regularly sold at weekend farmers' markets by Travis and Zoe of Allington Family Farm at Tenterden in WA's Great Southern.



Marinating pork belly strips always adds something to the resultant flavour and is a must do with some recipes.



On the menu as French pork belly at the oddly named Tiger Fish restaurant on Cottesloe Beach, it impressed the author, who was coerced into a little sharing too.



Tinned diced tomatoes are a pantry staple in my kitchen and adding them to this pork belly fry-up with onions made for a tasty meal.

Pork goes gloriously belly up

PORK belly is just glorious.

In all its forms, all its cooking styles, all its recipes and in all the countries in which it is admired... it is simply glorious.

While I lay no claim to being a masterful home chef, I do buy and cook pork belly often.

But most often I enjoy it when eating out, especially roast pork belly at a favourite restaurant in Perth's Northbridge entertainment precinct.

For pork belly lovers, it is somewhat confusingly (Confucius'ly?) named the Good Fortune Roast Duck House, as this Chinese restaurant is also home to delicious duck.

According to Australian Pork Limited, cooking a fool proof 1kg roast pork belly is a six-step process.

Step 1

Remove your roast from the packaging and pat dry with paper towel.

With a small sharp knife, deeply score the rind at 1cm intervals, being careful to not cut into the meat.

If time allows, leave the scored roast uncovered in the fridge

Cant
Comment
by BRENDON CANT



for one hour, or ideally overnight.

This process further dries the rind and aids the crackling process.

Step 2

When you're ready to cook, put your pork on a wire rack in the sink and pour a jug of boiling water over the rind.

Pat dry thoroughly with paper towel.

Step 3

Rub the roast with oil and salt (more if you like salty crackling), making sure the oil and salt penetrate the scores.

Step 4

Place the roast on a wire rack inside a baking tray and cook at 240C until the rind crackles and is golden brown, for up to 40 minutes.

Step 5

Turn the oven down to 180C and cook for 25 minutes.

Step 6

Once cooked, let the roast rest for 10 min-

utes before slicing.

To me pork belly is a versatile pork cut, not to be confined to roasting alone, albeit top of my pork pops is a well-done crispy oven-cooked pork belly.

As per the pictures on this page, I also enjoy marinating pork belly strips and then frying them with onions for example.

I've also been known to, lazily I admit, bypass the marinating and simply pan fry pork belly strip tomatoes and an onion.

That's yummy too.

Whenever pan-frying pork belly strips, be sure to cook the fat side on high heat first before laying the strips down.

This almost gives you the sought-after essential crackling.

So, no matter how you choose to enjoy your pork belly, go get 'crackling'.

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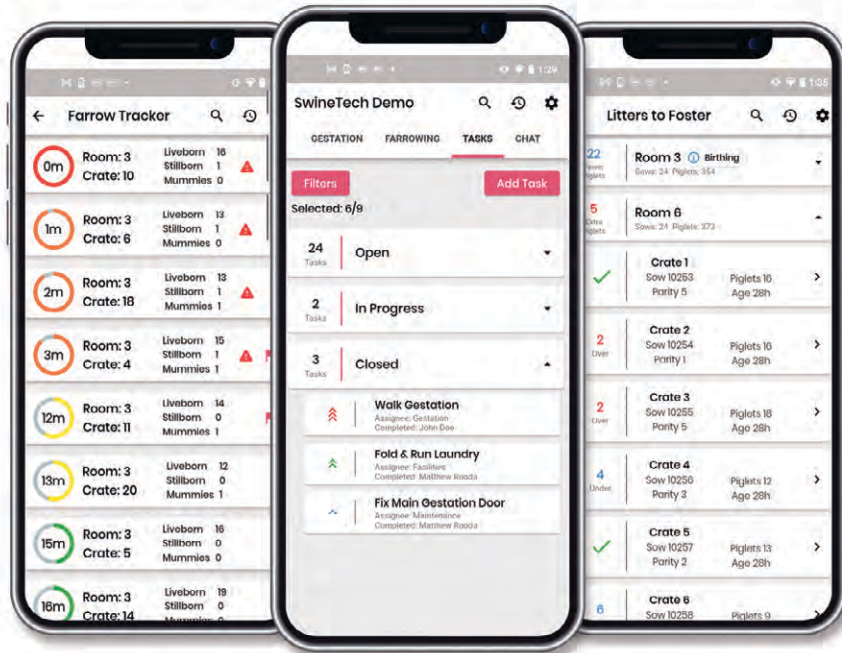


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Workflow

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Process

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Guzman y Gomez has confirmed that its Australian operations use both Australian and Danish pork.

Imported pork on fast-food menus fuels calls for greater transparency

AUSTRALIAN pork producers are calling for stronger food-labelling requirements after it emerged that Mexican fast-food chain Guzman y Gomez uses imported pork alongside locally produced meat in its Australian menu items.

The restaurant chain

sources pork from both Australia and Denmark for meals including burritos and tacos.

The practice has reignited debate about whether customers should be told where meat served by restaurants and takeaway outlets originates.

Industry representatives argue that clearer information would help consumers make informed purchasing decisions while giving Australian farmers a fairer opportunity to compete with overseas suppliers.

Pork industry pushes for mandatory menu labelling

Australian Pork Limited is advocating for country-of-origin information to be displayed on menus, bringing pork in food-service businesses closer to the labelling requirements now applying to seafood.

Under seafood-labelling rules introduced in Australia in July 2026, hospitality businesses must identify the origin of seafood served for immediate consumption.

Supporters of reform want a comparable approach for pork and potentially other meats.

At present, customers ordering many restaurant and takeaway meals may have little indication of whether the meat they are eating was raised domestically or imported.

The pork industry says this creates an uneven playing field, particularly when businesses promote their support for Australian produce without clearly identifying the origin of every ingredient.

Farmers question reliance on imported supplies

Australian pig producers have raised concerns about the use of overseas pork when domestic farms are capable of supplying the market.

Farmers point to Australia's animal-welfare, environmental and workplace requirements as important factors in the cost of

• continued P11

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Imported pork on fast-food menus fuels calls for greater transparency

from P10
local production.
They argue that consumers should be able to distinguish Australian pork from imported alternatives when deciding where to spend their money.

Producers have also challenged the suggestion that seasonal considerations can explain the use of imported pork.

Pig farming operates throughout the year, with domestic producers supplying animals on an ongoing basis.

For farmers, the issue extends beyond an individual restaurant chain.

They say more transparent labelling could strengthen consumer confidence in Australian agriculture and encourage greater support for local producers.

Imported pork accounts for a significant share of consumption

Australia relies heavily on imported pork to meet domestic demand.

Figures cited by the pork industry indicate that the country imported approximately 167,000 tonnes of pork

and pork products in 2025, valued at slightly more than \$1 billion.

Industry estimates suggest imported products make up more than 40 percent of the pork consumed in Australia.

Imported pork is used across the food-service sector, including restaurants, pubs and fast-food outlets.

It is also a major ingredient in processed products such as ham and bacon.

Imports are permitted under Australian biosecurity controls designed to reduce the risk of exotic animal diseases entering the country.

The scale of imports means that the question of origin affects consumers well beyond fast-food restaurants, particularly when pork is incorporated into prepared meals or processed products.

Consumers want more information

Research commissioned by Australian Pork Limited has indicated strong consumer support for greater transparency about the origin of pork served in restaurants.

Industry representatives say customers

should be given the information needed to choose Australian products if they prefer to support domestic farmers.

They also argue that clear labelling could help customers weigh up price, production standards and the economic benefits of purchasing locally produced food.

Without consistent information, consumers may struggle to identify the origin of meat used in takeaway meals, even when they actively seek Australian produce.

Guzman y Gomez defends its sourcing approach

Guzman y Gomez has confirmed that its Australian operations use both Australian and Danish pork.

The company has attributed its sourcing decisions to considerations including product quality, availability and price.

The chain has also highlighted its support for Australian farmers and its focus on sourcing quality ingredients.

However, the debate has raised questions about how businesses

communicate their sourcing practices and whether general commitments to Australian produce provide enough detail for customers.

Calls for reform continue

The dispute has added momentum to the pork industry's campaign for consistent origin information across the hospitality sector.

Supporters of reform say extending menu-labelling requirements to pork would bring greater consistency to food-origin disclosures and give customers more control over their purchasing decisions.

For Australian farmers, the central concern is ensuring that locally produced pork can compete on a fairer basis.

For consumers, the issue is whether they should have access to straightforward information about the origin of the meat they order.

As pressure for reform grows, the debate is likely to focus on whether Australia should extend its approach to seafood labelling to other animal products sold through restaurants and takeaway businesses.



GyG's sourcing considerations include product quality, availability and price.

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Gallagher manager corporate Clarissa Crothers-Stomps.

Disease risk in Australian pork production

FOR Australian pork producers, biosecurity has always been a priority.

However, over the past decade the conversation has shifted from simply preventing disease to understanding the broader financial consequences that an outbreak can create.

Whether the threat comes from African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, Japanese encephalitis virus or emerging diseases overseas, producers are increasingly asking the same question: "What would the fi-



nancial impact on my business be if a major disease outbreak occurred tomorrow?"

Australia remains free from many of the devastating diseases affecting pig populations overseas, but recent events have highlighted how quickly global disease outbreaks can disrupt supply chains, markets and producer confidence.

For producers, the risk extends well beyond livestock losses.

A disease event can trigger movement restrictions, market disruptions, depopulation programs, prolonged clean-up periods and significant challenges in returning to normal production.

While government and industry response frameworks provide important support mechanisms, many producers are surprised to learn that these arrangements are principally designed to support disease control and eradication efforts, rather than address the broader financial impacts on a business.

This distinction is important.

The Australian pork industry has built a strong reputation for biosecurity and preparedness, supported by coordinated industry and government responses to emergency animal disease threats.

However, disease risks continue to evolve.

Increasing global trade, movement of

people and goods, changing wildlife interactions and emerging disease threats all contribute to an increasingly complex operating environment for producers.

Over the past several years, Gallagher has been working closely with pork producers across Australia to better understand these exposures, the practical challenges producers face during a disease event and the areas where traditional risk transfer mechanisms may not adequately respond.

What we have heard consistently from producers is that while biosecurity remains critical, many businesses are seeking greater certainty around the financial consequences of a major disease outbreak.

This feedback has led to significant collaboration between Gallagher's specialist agriculture team, producers and insurance markets, both locally and internationally.

Through these discussions, we have been exploring innovative approaches to addressing disease-related exposures that have historically been

difficult and, in some cases, impossible to insure.

Importantly, this is not about replacing biosecurity.

No insurance policy can prevent a disease event, and robust biosecurity practices will always remain the industry's first and most important line of defence.

Disease risk is ultimately a business risk

As for any significant business risk, disease exposure deserves careful consideration, planning and discussion.

At Gallagher, our work with pork producers across Australia has reinforced a simple lesson – the most effective conversations occur before an outbreak, not after one.

Understanding both the operational and financial impact of disease risk enables producers to make informed decisions that support the long-term sustainability of their businesses.

While Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement compensation plays a critical role in supporting industry responses to

continued P13



Gallagher has been working with Australian pork producers to better understand risk exposures.

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Disease risk in Australian pork production

from P12
emergency animal disease events, it is primarily focused on the four D's – detection, destruction, disposal and decontamination.

What it does not address are the broader financial impacts that can arise from a disease outbreak, including consequential loss, business interruption and loss of gross profit.

It is this challenge that has driven Gallagher to work closely with pork producers and insurance markets, both locally and internationally, to develop innovative solutions designed specifically for the Australian pork industry.

If you have not recently reviewed how a disease outbreak could affect your business financially, now is the time to start that to understand

where potential gaps may exist.

About the author

Clarissa Crothers-Stomps is manager corporate at Gallagher and works closely with pork producers and agribusinesses across Australia.

With more than 20 years' experience in insurance and risk advisory, she specialises in helping businesses identify, manage and transfer complex operational and financial risks.

Clarissa has been actively involved in developing innovative risk solutions for the Australian pork industry and regularly works with producers on disease risk, business resilience and long-term sustainability planning.

Contact the author at Clarissa.CrothersStomps@ajg.com.au or 0466 469 392.

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Piggeries take drain hygiene seriously

CLEAN water and sanitation are the foundation of our civilisation.

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The farms can house around thousands of sows at any one time.

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A blocked drain might sound like a small problem.

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The Australian pork industry is big business.

It contributes more than \$6.9 billion to the Australian economy and supports about 36,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Australia has a national sow herd of approximately 289,000 and produces hundreds of thousands of tonnes of pork each year.

At this scale, equipment has to work.

There is little room for machinery that is difficult to use, unreliable or simply not up to the job.

Simple solution to dirt problem

Having the right equipment on hand

is essential for maintaining a clean and efficient piggery.

Already familiar with Aussie Pumps products, a farm in Goondiwindi recently added an Aussie King Cobra 5000psi 16LPM trailer-mounted drain cleaner to its equipment lineup.

The King Cobra is a Class A jetter.

It does not require RTO certification, making it a practical and readily available drain-cleaning solution for farm personnel.

When a drain blocks, there is no need to wait around

for a contractor.

The King Cobra can be taken directly to the problem and put to work.

Wastewater and effluent can contain high organic loads and potentially harmful pathogens.

Keeping drains clear helps maintain a cleaner working environment and supports good farm hygiene and biosecurity practices.

"The Aussie jetter does an amazing job of keeping the piggery clean and free of blocked drains," said a representative from the farm.

"For the operation, it is a relatively simple piece of equipment solving a very practical problem."

Pumps built for the job

Aussie Pumps has been supplying equipment for Australian agriculture for decades.

Piggeries are among the toughest environments for pumping equipment.

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Keeping Australian pork production moving

For pork producers, good equipment is not about having the biggest machine in the shed.

It is about having the right machine when you need it.

Aussie Pumps is at the edge of piggery hygiene.

These new jetter and effluent pump models are sure to improve efficiency and cleanliness in any pork production operations.

For further information, contact Aussie Pumps on 02 8865 3500.

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Aussie Jetter heading out from Sydney factory to keep piggeries clean.



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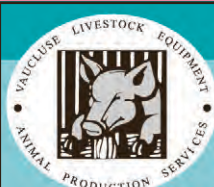
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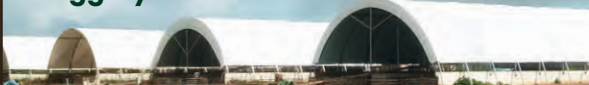
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