

# Next generation poultry education

IT was great to finally feel a type of normalcy with the first education activity for the year.

We were able to take part in the National Youth Science Forum, where we enabled current Year 12 students to 'test drive' our virtual chicken experience.

It was a wonderful opportunity to chat about chickens with a great group of STEM students.

Their insightful questions and commentary definitely enhanced the overall interaction.

One student remarked that "the virtual chicken is cool and interesting without all the gross stuff" – a very accurate description of the virtual chicken experience.

We hope that we will be able to engage more with



by **TAMSYN CROWLEY**  
Director



both school students and the general public over the coming year.

If this interests you, please check out our latest job opportunity, the PHA Education and Training Officer – contact the UNE jobs website for more details or contact us at [poultryhub@une.edu.au](mailto:poultryhub@une.edu.au)

This month we will officially open our next funding round, which will enable further re-

search investment in our fantastic industry.

Did you know that PoultryHub Australia managed over \$3 million in research dollars last year?

If you are keen to know more about our research portfolio, check out our website [poultryhub.org](http://poultryhub.org) or contact us directly.

Finally, I would like to bring our next exciting event to your attention – our undergraduate hackathon, aptly named

'Chook Chat Hack'.

This event will focus on novel ideas as to how we can create the next generation chicken.

Specifically, we will ask teams of students to tackle the looming food shortage of 2050 issue, and how the answer could be chickens and eggs.

Is the answer in science, agri-tech, economics, psychology, engineering, marketing or none of the above?

Why did the chicken cross the road?

It's anyone's guess.

This event is centred on engagement and the sharing of ideas.

University students will be invited to form teams and submit a short video detailing their ideas.

A panel of industry experts will judge the videos and the winners will receive a cash prize.

If you would like to be involved, stay tuned for our official announcement later this month.

We will also be running PoultryGrad mid-year and a suite of scholarships for honours students.

The best way to stay up to date is to check out the programs page on [poultryhub.org](http://poultryhub.org)

PHA looks forward to engaging with you over the coming year.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with your ideas and questions – [poultryhub@ue.edu.au](mailto:poultryhub@ue.edu.au)



This interactive tool has applications across all levels of education and will be integrated into training packages and education sessions.



There is a testing function that enables the user to select a specified part of the chicken with tweezers and place on the tray.



'Vicky' the virtual chicken allows users to experience all parts of the chicken from inside out, even down to the different cuts of meat.



Two students from the National Youth Science Forum enjoying PoultryHub Australia's virtual chicken experience.

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## Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

### 2021

**APR 14-15** – Poultry Symposium for Production & Processing, live and virtual event, US, [www.thepoultryfederation.com](http://www.thepoultryfederation.com)

**JUN 21-23** – European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat and XIX European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products, Krakow, Poland [www.eggmeat2021.com](http://www.eggmeat2021.com)

**AUG 8-12** – World Poultry Congress, Paris, France [www.wpcparis2020.com](http://www.wpcparis2020.com)

**AUG 16-18** – World Poultry Science Association (WPSA) – Cambridge, UK [www.wpsa2020.org](http://www.wpsa2020.org)

### 2022

**MAR 30 - APR 1** – 7th International Conference on Poultry Intestinal Health, Columbia, [www.ihsig.com](http://www.ihsig.com)

**MAY 15-17** – Poultry Information Exchange and Australasian Milling Conference (PIX/AMC), [www.pixamc.com.au](http://www.pixamc.com.au)

**How to supply event details: Send all details to National Poultry Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum Qld 4178, call 07 3286 1833 or email: [design@collins.media](mailto:design@collins.media)**

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## HAVE YOUR SAY!

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

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

Please send your letters to: [editorial@collins.media](mailto:editorial@collins.media) or PO Box 162, Wynnum Qld 4178

# Supermarkets contributing unnecessary carbon emissions in Aussie egg industry

IN 2021 there are few industries not focussed towards reducing their carbon footprint.

The motivation is driven by consumer demand, climate change and the economic benefits of reducing energy and input costs.

Australia's egg industry is no different.

Our commercial egg sector already enjoys a relatively low carbon footprint compared to other agricultural industries.

However, in a joint venture between Australian Eggs and AgriFutures Australia, research is underway to offset our remaining emissions and help the egg industry to eventually become carbon neutral.

Egg farmers across Australia have worked hard to achieve major envi-



ronmental advancements within their farming practices over the past few years.

This includes adopting solar power, improving bird genetics, reducing a reliance on mass-produced grain and composting animal waste into organic fertiliser.

According to Australian Eggs – our industry's research and development

arm – early modelling shows that in the future “carbon neutral eggs could be produced for as little as an extra few cents per dozen.”

### Supermarkets adding to carbon footprint

It defies belief therefore, that several of Australia's major supermarket chains are adding to the carbon footprint of agribusiness, rather than

helping farmers reduce it.

I am talking about the absurd policies of big food giants when it comes to stocking locally grown food in local stores.

Just as consumers want a reduced carbon footprint, they want also to buy food grown in their local area.

It would make sense that eggs produced in a certain area were available in the local supermarkets in that same region.

But the problem many small egg producers face, those who have the capability to supply a local supermarket, is in the supermarket chain's distribution policy.

Instead of allowing all local eggs to be distributed directly from the farm gate to the local supermarket, the multi-national food retailers require farmers to transport their goods to the supermarket's main distribution centre based in a capital city.

The product travels hundreds of kilometres to the distribution warehouse, only to be transported all the way back again to the local supermarket in the same town where the product was produced in the first place.

In a few cases, the supermarket giants do allow local farmers to deliver directly to local stores.

But this is not always consistent.

An example, eggs produced on a Queensland farm are transported by road to Brisbane – about 209km away.

Here, they are unloaded and then reloaded on to another truck and driven a further 209km back to a supermarket in the same town, for local consumers to buy.

It beggars belief that these eggs had completed a 418km round journey which, for the purposes of local shoppers, is superfluous.

Such a trip only serves to increase the overall cost and subsequent carbon footprint of these eggs, due to additional freight and fuel consumption.

Why not allow local farmers to consistently deliver their product directly to the local supermarket?

### Supermarkets hypocritical when it comes to locally sourced foods

This system is particularly hypocritical, when you consider the supermarket giants themselves are claiming to be striving to become completely carbon neutral.

Woolworths has set a goal to become carbon positive by 2050.

This is Australia's largest supermarket chain and according to a recent report “is responsible for 1 percent of the nation's carbon emissions.”

In a statement in September 2020, Woolworths said reducing its emissions was the ‘right thing’ to do for the environment and local communities.

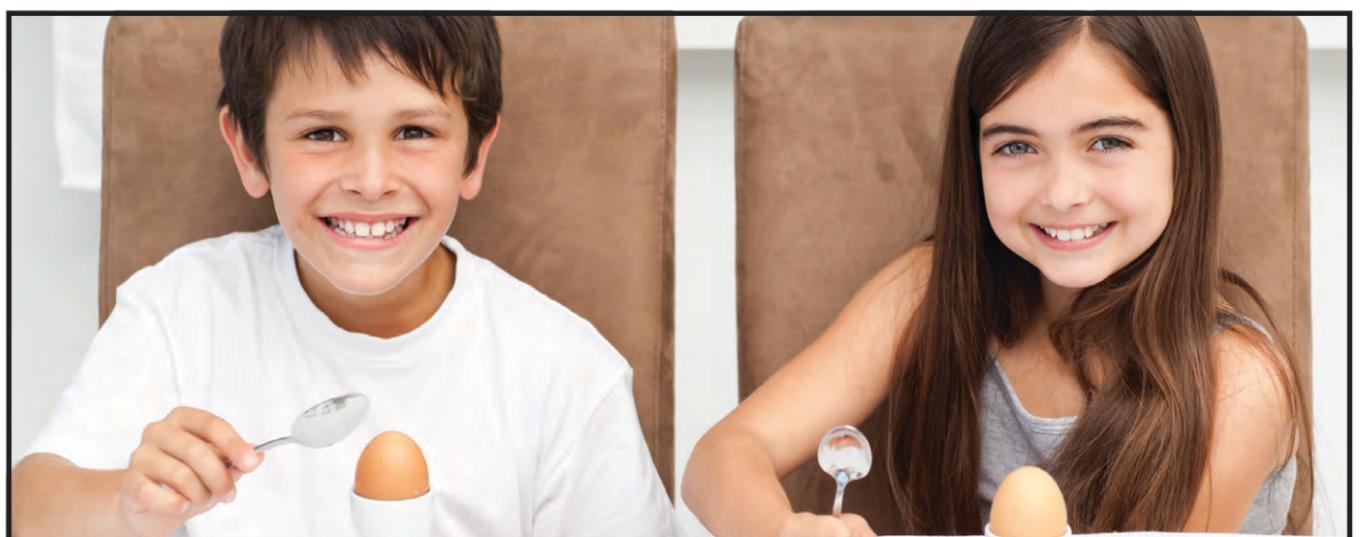
The above statement however does not line up with the fact that local farmers transport locally grown product to a capital city distribution centre, where it then travels all the way back to a Woolworths store in their local town.

Why not review the policy to ensure that a locally produced product is delivered direct to local stores from the nearby farm gate.

The result would be fresher locally produced food and a greatly reduced carbon footprint.



Melinda Hashimoto asks supermarket giants to do the right thing and reduce carbon emissions.



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# Unwanted scramble for plant-based eggs

WHILE I always turn my nose up at scrambled eggs and omelettes made with powdered or dehydrated eggs, typically those served at the breakfast smorgasbord in conference hosting hotels, I was gobsmacked to learn recently of 100 percent plant-based liquid eggs.

I'm a fresh egg man, whether they be fried, scrambled, poached or hard boiled.

No compromise there. When *Inside FMCG*, an excellent Australian published magazine covering fast moving consumer goods, cooked up an interesting article headlined 'Beyond the meat: what's driving the next plant-based foods boom', I quickly cracked onto the egg bit.

The author Allen Zelden is founder of Intrinsic Global, which assists plant-based companies to scale up and grow through increased sales, raised funds and access to global networks and manufacturing. Zelden admitted up-



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

front that of all the animal proteins, none are more versatile, functional and universal than eggs.

Unsurprisingly, he also felt that the plant-based egg category was a massive global opportunity, with so few egg alternatives on the market.

India is considered to have the world's largest vegetarian population and as eggs are contentiously accepted by many

vegetarian communities, a company known as EVO Foods is apparently on a mission to bring the plant-based revolution to India, with the country's first 100 percent plant-based liquid egg.

EVO Foods co-founder Shradha Bhansali had this to say, "We at EVO see plant-based eggs starting the whole plant-based foods market for India."

"Food in India is deeply rooted in tradition, culture and community, and a plant-based meat product might actually turn off a lot of flexitarians and vegetarians.

"We believe eggs are the best gateway products to introduce Indian consumers to plant-based foods because eggs represent a grey area in the vegetarian and non-vegetarian debate in India."

As Indian consumers become increasingly aware of global trends, food is the most socially complex category.

Though India has the lowest global meat consumption, conversely it will shortly overtake the US as the second largest egg-producing market.

With an intimate understanding of the challenges and opportunities in their region, Bhansali and co-founder Kartik Dixit created a 'clean' protein alternative for India's traditional egg market.

EVO's liquid egg uses advanced plant biochemistry and food science to extract proteins from legumes and other plant

sources to create a sustainable yet delicious evolved egg replica without cholesterol, antibiotics or any animal cruelty, according to its founders.

Ultimately, plant-based eggs are still a very new market.

According to SPINS data, US retail sales for plant-based eggs grew from \$A3.91 million to \$A13.04 million last year.

However, from all the plant-based food categories, eggs have easily seen the highest dollar value sales growth over the past three years, with a massive 228.2 percent

Impressive compared to the plant-based meat category, which only saw 37.8 percent growth for the same period.

With pricing considered a foundational acceptance factor in guiding consumer food choices, international expansion is very much on EVO's roadmap.

"In the US currently the average price of plant-based eggs is 184 percent higher than the price of animal-based eggs."

"This is where EVO can capitalise on the demand by providing high quality and affordable plant-based eggs," Bhansali said.

As for me, fresh eggs will always be on my plate and I'll never be scrambling for alternatives.

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Only real eggs make their way onto the author's plate.



The author only shells out for real eggs. Nothing else is welcome at his table.

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## Stockyard Industries expands its sales team

STOCKYARD Industries is expanding its team and would like to welcome Roby Parker as the new territory sales representative for Queensland and northern NSW.

Roby has been in the agricultural industry all his life, with more than eight years experience in sales.

He has travelled around Australia in roles with Elders, Tru-

Test Datamars, cattle and sheep live export, and grain farming on various properties.

Roby is passionate about the success of all agricultural business and looks forward to focussing his abilities on the pig and poultry sectors.

Roby will be based in Clifton and will work alongside current regional manager Joe Oliveira, servicing both the pig and poultry industries.

Roby's initial focus will be on assisting customers with consumable product needs and, on gaining subsequent knowledge and experience, will be capable of supporting all project and technical requirements.

Roby looks forward to meeting Stockyard customers in person and growing our respective businesses together.

He can be contacted on 0437 859 421 or roby@stockyardindustries.com



Stockyard Industries welcome Roby Parker as its new territory sales representative for Queensland and northern NSW.

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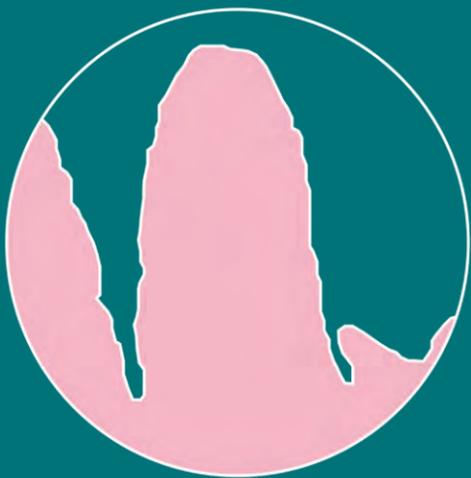
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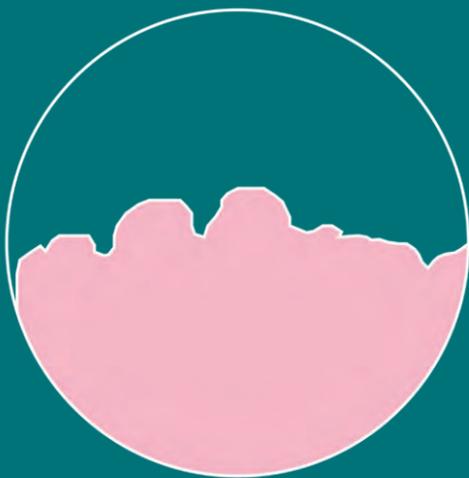
The most common infections in poultry species can usually be mitigated through the implementation of strict biosecurity programmes and good hygiene practices. However, Salmonella, particularly *S. enteritidis* (SE), remains a serious problem in poultry production.

Therefore, finding a feed additive effective against Salmonella is of fundamental importance in supporting flock health and performance to boost producer profitability.

A healthy bird's intestinal villi.



The effect of Salmonella infection on intestinal villi.



When populations of potentially pathogenic bacteria, such as Salmonella, within the GIT of the bird increases, this can result in damage to gut structures causing a reduced villi length.

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Nature's Answer

## Australian producers can now apply for grants to drive innovation and sustainability

AUSTRALIAN farmers, producers and manufacturers can now apply for financial support from the Coles Nurture Fund to help them innovate and grow.

Coles has opened a new round of the Coles Nurture Fund to provide grants of up to \$500,000 for small and medium-sized businesses to develop new products, technologies and processes.

Coles chief executive officer Steven Cain encouraged businesses to apply for financial support in Round 9 of the Coles Nurture Fund.

“At Coles, we want to win together with Australian producers by funding projects which drive innovation to inspire customers or improve sustainability on Aussie farms and production facilities,” Mr Cain said.

“Together we hope to

drive differentiation, sustainable practices, extend growing seasons and improve productivity.”

Businesses with innovative ideas, fewer than 50 full-time employees and a turnover of less than \$25 million in annual revenue are eligible to apply.

Since it was established in 2015, the Coles Nurture Fund has awarded more than \$24 million in financial support to over 60 Australian businesses to help them introduce ground-breaking technology, improve sustainability, establish new products and drive productivity.

Previous Nurture Fund projects include Australia’s first quinoa processing plant, an automated indoor facility that grows highly nutritious cattle fodder in just six days, and

fence posts made from recycled soft plastic.

National Farmers Federation chief executive officer Tony Mahar said Australian farmers are among the most innovative in the world.

“For five years the Coles Nurture Fund has recognised and rewarded Aussie farmers who are leading the way in ingenuity and innovation.”

“Each round of the Nurture Fund uncovers inspiring farm businesses pushing the boundaries when it comes to processes, technologies and value-adding.

“The Fund’s focus on sustainability and increased efficiencies is in direct alignment with the NFF’s vision to grow Australia’s overall farm gate output to \$100 billion by 2030, up from \$60 billion today,” Mr Mahar said.

To apply for Round 9 of the Coles Nurture Fund, log onto [coles.com.au/nurturefund](http://coles.com.au/nurturefund)

Applications close at 5pm AEST on Friday March 19, 2021.



2019 Gary Sansom Scholar Josh Angove with Julie Sansom.

## Gary Sansom Scholarship aims to attract best and brightest to chicken meat industry

THE prestigious Gary Sansom Scholarship aims to uncover future chicken meat industry leaders and champion important research working to boost the productivity and sustainability of chicken meat production.

Applications for the 2021 Gary Sansom Scholarship are now open.

The Gary Sansom Scholarship identifies high quality students and, with the support of a generous bursary, allows the successful candidate to foster a career pathway in the chicken meat industry and support their industry-relevant research.

The scholarship is named in honour of the late Gary Sansom.

Mr Sansom was a former AgriFutures Chicken Meat Advisory Panel

chair and was the Australian Chicken Meat Federation president.

AgriFutures Australia manager research Georgie Townsend said the scholarship supports Mr Sansom’s vision for the industry – to ensure it is valued and respected by all sectors of the Australian community and to develop leadership in the research community.

“Gary was a long-standing supporter of initiatives to encourage new people into the chicken meat industry,” Ms Townsend said.

“It’s important that the scholarship is awarded to someone who is passionate about the chicken meat industry and who wants the industry to thrive into the future.”

University of Adelaide PhD student Joshua An-

gove was the 2019 Gary Sansom Scholarship recipient.

His research project aims to understand whether optimising breeder hen rearing environments can improve growth and carcass characteristics in the progeny they produce, while trying to understand the contributing physiology behind offspring performance variation.

“Chicken meat production has experienced unparalleled expansion globally, primarily through genetic advances and improvements in our understanding of bird nutritional requirements,” Mr Angove said.

“To continue this expansion the chicken meat industry requires new economically viable approaches to propel the industry into the future.”

Understanding and optimising the maternal environment is one potential methodology.

The end goal of his research is to develop and apply an economically viable targeted approach that utilises the maternal environment to enhance commercial chicken meat production.

“I encourage anyone interested in the chicken meat industry to apply for the scholarship,” Mr Angove said.

“As a young scientist the networking from attending conferences, particularly those the Gary Sansom Scholarship have afforded me, is invaluable.

“Meeting industry and academic professionals has showcased opportunities across the entire poultry industry.”

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## Join Queensland United Egg Producers for quality representation

QUEENSLAND United Egg Producers is your industry representative and advocacy voice.

If you're not a member there are good reasons you should join.

QUEP represents over 90 percent of Queensland's egg production, but we would love more egg farmers to be members.

The organisation has a member-elected Board and an appointed chief executive officer to carry out the various roles to ensure you as egg farmers in Queensland have a voice.

The organisation engages with government agencies such as Safe-Food Production Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



by **JOHN COWARD**  
CEO



Queensland, and Queensland Health.

The CEO sits on a number of high-level committees and working groups coordinated by various departments, including the Minister for Agriculture's biosecurity committee.

Recently QUEP provided input into the COVID-19 response plans, the salmonella enteritidis strategies that are part of your accreditation, and more recently the on farm quarantine arrangements for overseas workers.

QUEP is also a member of the Queensland Farmers Federation, to provide a collective voice with other intensive farming groups and the wider agriculture industry, and offer members a range of alternate support packages.

Join up now, and add strength and support for addressing the issues that impact your business. QUEP membership is \$250 up front, plus an

annual 1 to 2 cent levy per laying hen typically to support the CEO role. The organisation focusses on providing representation on the things individual farmers have insufficient time to do themselves.

With salmonella enteritidis, COVID-19 and avian influenza on the radar as well as the issues mentioned above, having representation and a point of contact is essential!

We need members from each production system, irrespective of the size of your operation. Contact CEO John Coward on 0407 622 166 or email john.coward1@gmail.com to discuss membership. 🐔

## Jefo announces Lisa Nietschke as RSM SA

JEFO, a global leader in high-performance non-medicated nutritional solutions for animals, recently announced that Lisa Nietschke joined the Jefo Australia team as regional sales manager South Australia, on February 8.

Jefo Australia's managing director Wayne Bradshaw said, "Lisa will be an outstanding asset to the Jefo Australia team."

"She has a wealth of knowledge and history in the Australian animal feed industry and I am honoured that she has joined our team."

"Lisa not only has bachelor's degree in animal science, and the practical experience of formulating and balancing diets for monogastric and ruminant animals, Lisa is also a member by examination of the Australian Association of Ruminant Nutritionists."

President and founder of the Jefo Group Jean Fontaine said: "Lisa is a fantastic asset to the team led by Wayne Bradshaw, who has been working with our strategic partners within Australia and New Zealand for 16 years now, and our commitment is stronger than ever."

Lisa has worked in Australian intensive industries for 12 years and has knowledge in all areas of monogastric and ruminant nutrition, as well as in research, development and extension.

Lisa has seen the real benefits that the Jefo matrix technology offers to modern day intensive animal production and performance.

"I am happy to join a company that is offering key solutions to provide a real return-on-investment to the farmers," Ms Nietschke said.

Lisa can be contacted on 0407 701 944 or at lnietschke@jefo.com 🐔

Lisa can be contacted on 0407 701 944 or at lnietschke@jefo.com 🐔

Lisa can be contacted on 0407 701 944 or at lnietschke@jefo.com 🐔



Jefo Australia's new regional sales manager South Australia Lisa Nietschke.

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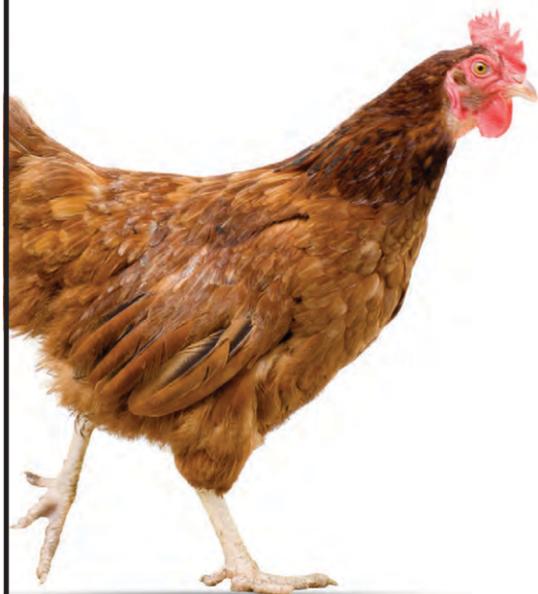
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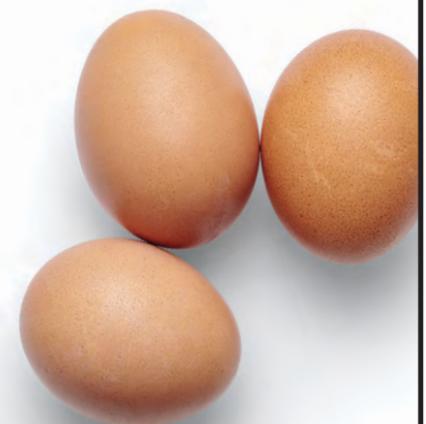
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### So, which came first?

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# Five trends in agrifood for 2021

ALLTECH'S 2021 Agri-Food Outlook focusses on trends that largely resulted from limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While China's quick rebound back to its place as the world's largest feed producer is Alltech's top story of its 2021 Agri-Food Outlook, other industry trends stem primarily from the global coronavirus event.

The occurrences of the past year caused a shift in supply chains to trust-based transactions, saw the rise of ecommerce, made health a consumer priority and created innovation through empathy and inclusion.

Alltech highlighted these five trends in its 2021 Agri-Food Outlook, presented in a virtual event on January 26.

**China**  
China's pig herd was decimated over the past two years, as African swine fever spread quickly throughout the country.

But in 2020, China saw a faster-than-expected recovery.

Alltech president of Asia Jonathan Forrest Wilson said: "The swine market in China came back faster than anyone would have expected."

According to Alltech China director of customer experience Winnie Jia, China's pig production capacity has recovered to 90 percent of its 2017 numbers and growth is expected to continue.

Alltech president and chief executive officer Mark Lyons said, "China has exceeded expectations, with an incredible rebound in 2020."

"It has resumed the position as the No. 1 feed-producing country, and it started 2021 with strength."

Mr Wilson said the industry had largely restructured, with backyard farms replaced with modern, large-scale facilities.

"The reduction in backyard farms really increased the need for modern compound feeds."

"Waste that was previously fed to pigs is no longer an acceptable feedstock," he said.

Poultry prices in China improved slightly in the second half of 2020, "but performance continued to be weak and the world market demand for poultry recovered steadily, and the supply is growing rapidly," Ms Jia said.

In the ruminant market, "feed costs are rising, and overcapacity and biosafety are still the three main challenges for the whole industry."

"We expect there will be more investment in the breeding program of beef cattle and sheep this year," she said.

## Shifts in supply chain

Global food supply chains faced great challenges due to the pandemic, but remained strong, Mr Lyons said, adding that the past year has created demand for more trust and transparency from food producers.

"After six years of abundant global grain supplies and relatively stable commodity markets, we have now entered a period of tightening supplies and strong demand, resulting in a 57 percent increase in corn prices and a 52

percent increase in soybean meal prices during the past five months," he said.

Alltech global purchasing and supply chain director Eric Glenn said, "These are price levels that we haven't seen since 2014."

"Premix companies are also telling me that logistics remain a concern for shipments out of China, that there is a lot of congestion at import ports and that truck freight within local markets has been tight."

"This has led to higher prices for vitamins and amino acids that many people expect will continue into the second quarter."

"Amino acids such as lysine and methionine are also expected to be in strong demand as commodities like soybean meal and corn have increased in price," Mr Glenn said.

While food producers face those challenges, IMI Global senior director of operations Kathryn Britton said they also must realise consumers' growing desire for more transparency in food and livestock production.

"Because we're able, as an industry, to have a story about food production and translate that through the supply chain, consumers were able to continue to trust in the food that they were purchasing."

"It's important to consumers that food companies tell an "accurate, authentic story about food."

"If we don't know the source, if we don't know where that feed product is coming from, or where that animal is coming from, and then be able to track that



through the supply chain, we can't tell an authentic story to the consumer about that product," Ms Britton said.

**Ecommerce**  
Ecommerce exploded in 2020 as a result of lockdowns and stay-at-home orders related to the pandemic.

Now that consumers have become accustomed to ordering more things online, companies need to build on the trust that has been created and build their brands.

Alltech digital marketing manager Anand Iyer said, "Nobody wants to buy from a brand they don't know about."

"Quality of the product, traceability – these are all things brands need to consider," he said, adding that there were several things companies can do to build a good rapport with customers.

"A comprehensive and easy-to-understand privacy policy, partnership badge, contact information and so-

cial proof are great ways to build trust and credibility."

"Personalisation, exceptional customer service and one-to-one relationship will help build trust with your customers."

## Health

Health became an even greater priority for consumers in 2020, "strengthening a trend that was already underway," Mr Lyons said.

"We started to seek out health-boosting foods, and even as restrictions lifted, these new, healthier habits continued."

"This trend will have major implications for the food supply chain."

Alltech director of Acutia and human nutrition initiatives Nikki Putnam Badding said fear and functionality are drivers of health purchases.

"Fear has always been a purchase driver in the health space," she said.

"Over the past 10 years, we've seen health-conscious consumers turn to functional foods, or foods

with health benefits above and beyond the norm, like selenium-enriched eggs or DHA-enriched milk, to give them a greater sense of control over their health and well-being."

Reinforcing previously mentioned trends, she said trust and transparency are becoming more important for consumers, who traditionally base their food purchases on price, taste, familiarity and health.

"But gaining in popularity is the review and consideration of the entire product life cycle, from welfare to supply chain transparency to brand alignment with personal values," Ms Putnam Badding said.

## Innovation

Businesses face the challenge and opportunity of using empathy and inclusion to drive innovation and collaboration.

"Innovation is fuelled by cultures of collaboration where there's an openness to every idea, where every person can be seen, heard

and valued for their contributions," Dr Lyons said.

"There's never been more pressure on businesses, nor has there ever been more opportunity."

Alltech Mexico general manager Bianca Martins said companies should have inclusion programs – not just diversity goals.

"We talk about diversity, we talk about equity, but inclusion is much stronger than anything," she said.

"Diversity is the traits and characteristics that make people unique, but inclusion refers to the behaviours and social norms that ensure people feel welcome and comfortable to be part of something really important."

"Companies can support inclusion by having a clear mission and purpose, showing empathy, understanding that every employee brings unique experiences, and having an inclusive culture." 🐔



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## Discover how Ragazzini hose pump pushes sludge uphill

BLANTYRE Farms is a highly productive mixed farming and livestock business situated near Young in NSW.

They needed a reliable pump to transfer sludge from their covered methane gas dam.

In other words, they found themselves facing that very old, very Australian conundrum of pushing slurry uphill.

That's when Blantyre Farms' maintenance manager Mark Schulz contacted Hydro Innovations – to find a suitable pump for the application.

The problem for the farm was that the slurry had the consistency of molasses, and pumping it 1km uphill to the ponds was no easy feat for standard pumps.

Hydro Innovations' NSW regional manager Phil Rothheudt said: "Ordinary pumps just couldn't handle the slurry."

Phil's solution was to use a Ragazzini peristaltic pump model MS3.

The operation of this style of pump is derived from human intestinal muscle movements – peristalsis – an alternating contraction and relaxation of muscles around a tube to coax the contents through.

"Peristaltic pumps are

usually found in medical situations, and are often used to pump blood," Mr Rothheudt said.

Mr Schulz was happy with the results stating: "The information supplied by Phil to select the correct pump for our application was great, as was the communication for the actual purchase."

"Our success is due to a team with many years of expertise," Mr Rothheudt said.

"We can turn an enquiry around in the same day and offer a solution – we know the specifics, that's what matters."

Ragazzini pumps use a roller on bearing design, so the casing does not have to be filled and re-filled with expensive lubricating fluid.

This means hose changes are quicker and cleaner, and enables owners to take advantage of Ragazzini's fast-leak detection system, which will alert owners when a hose needs replacing.

Pumps can be used on suction lifts up to 9m and can produce pressures to 15-bar.

For more information, contact Hydro Innovations on 02 9898 1800 or at sales@hydroinnovations.com.au



A Ragazzini peristaltic pump model MS3 was the solution for Blantyre Farms.

# Avian influenza global impacts

WITH the spread of avian influenza across the globe, new variants are being identified in both wild birds and housed poultry.

**India**  
AI had been confirmed in 12 states for crow, migratory and wild birds, and in nine states for poultry birds.

Control and containment operations are taking place in the affected epicentres and compensation will be paid to those farmers whose poultry birds, eggs and feed are culled as per the country's action plan.

The current outbreak comes only months after India declared the country disease free.

Food regulator FSSAI issued guidelines advising consumers to not eat half-boiled eggs and undercooked chicken, and to ensure the proper cooking of poultry meat.

The FSSAI urged consumers and businesses "not to panic", however to ensure proper handling and cooking of poultry meat and eggs for safe consumption.

The World Health Organisation has stated it is safe to consume meat and eggs,

with no epidemiological data to suggest the disease can be transmitted to humans through cooked food.

**England**  
Recently, Cornwall Council confirmed two swans from the Falmouth area were infected with the H5N8 strain of AI.

This has poultry farms in the area concerned due to the prolific spread of the disease.

The council is working with Public Health England, DEFRA and other agencies to monitor the situation closely, however no immediate risk to human health exists.

The UK's chief veterinary officer Christine Middlemiss has urged all bird keepers to ensure they do all they can to strengthen and maintain biosecurity.

"Following a number of confirmed cases of avian influenza in both wild and captive birds we have taken swift action to limit the spread of the disease," Ms Middlemiss said.

"It is important that bird keepers ensure they are doing all they can to maintain and strengthen biosecurity measures on their premises to prevent further outbreaks, including keeping

their birds housed or otherwise separate from wild birds.

"People should avoid contact with dead or sick wild birds and report findings of dead wild birds."

**Wales**  
The Welsh Government confirmed the presence of the H5N8 strain of AI in pheasants at premises in Penysarn near Amlwch on Anglesey, and has said a temporary control zone had been imposed around the site.

The mortality of birds on the premises is high and those surviving will be culled.

The confirmation follows several outbreaks of AI in other parts of the UK.

Chief veterinary officer for Wales Christianne Glossop said: "This case serves to reinforce the need for all keepers of poultry and other captive birds to practice the very highest levels of biosecurity."

Poultry keepers with more than 50 birds must be on the country's poultry register, and those with fewer are strongly advised to register their birds to enable disease control, as they will be immediately informed of an AI outbreak.

**Ireland**  
A case of AI was confirmed in Donegal late January 2021.

The Department of Agriculture said a confirmed case of the virus was found in a whooper swan discovered in the Redcastle area.

To date, there have been 26 cases of wild birds with AI in 24 separate events in Ireland since early November 2020.

The disease was also confirmed in a turkey flock in Wicklow on December 10 and in two separate poultry premises in Northern Ireland in January this year.

Poultry owners were advised to familiarise themselves with the clinical signs of the disease and report any suspect cases immediately.

**Senegal**  
After authorities had initially ruled out AI, scientific analysis confirmed the disease killed at least 750 pelicans found dead in the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary late January 2021.

The sanctuary has since been closed to the public.

Situated in the Senegal River delta, Djoudj is home to more than 3 million

birds from almost 400 species, with its mixture of wetlands, savannah, marshes, lakes and canals.

National Parks director Bocar Thiam had ruled out bird flu as he believed AI only affected grain-eating birds, as opposed to fish-eating birds such as pelicans.

"We have the results of the analysis – it is indeed bird flu type A H5N1," Mr Thiam said.

The pelican bodies and waste have been destroyed, and the parks director has confirmed they will do more to prevent the disease from spreading.

An AI outbreak in late 2020 resulted in the slaughtering of about 40,000 birds on January 2, and almost 60,000 birds died in preceding weeks.

Authorities now believe the cluster has been stamped out.

The government struggles to stop illegal imports from neighbouring countries, though Senegal's borders have been closed to poultry products since a 2005 bird flu epidemic.

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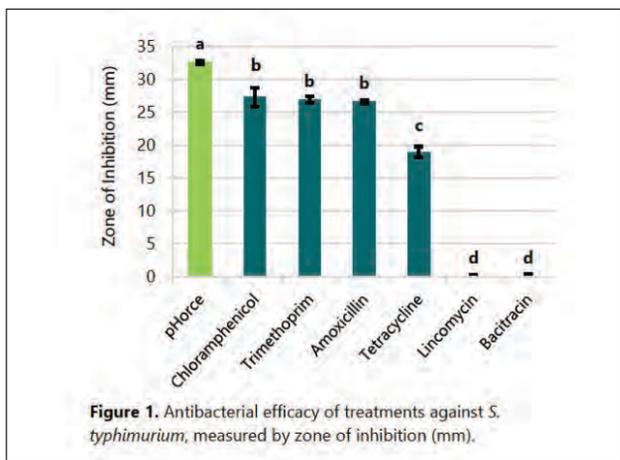


Figure 1. Antibacterial efficacy of treatments against *S. typhimurium*, measured by zone of inhibition (mm).

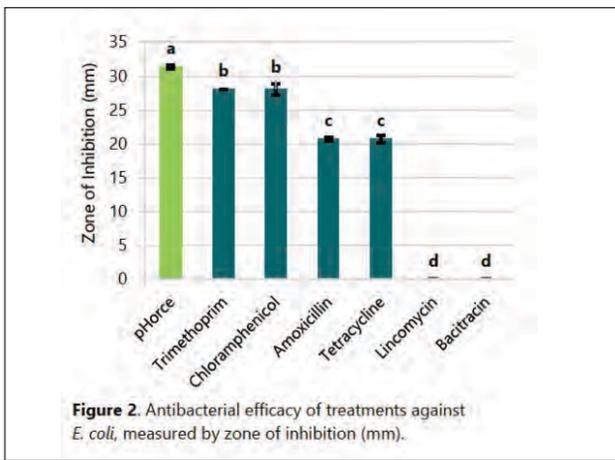


Figure 2. Antibacterial efficacy of treatments against *E. coli*, measured by zone of inhibition (mm).

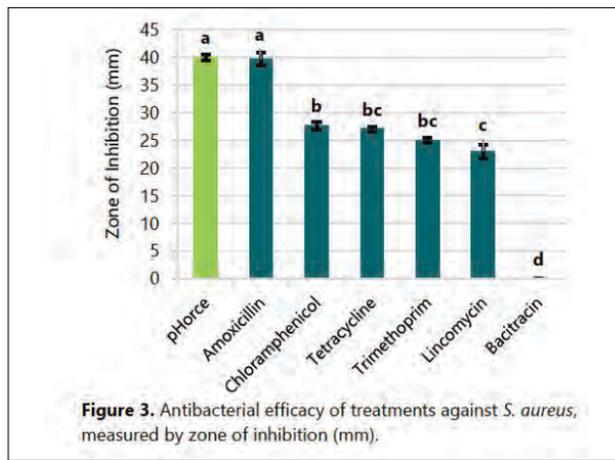


Figure 3. Antibacterial efficacy of treatments against *S. aureus*, measured by zone of inhibition (mm).

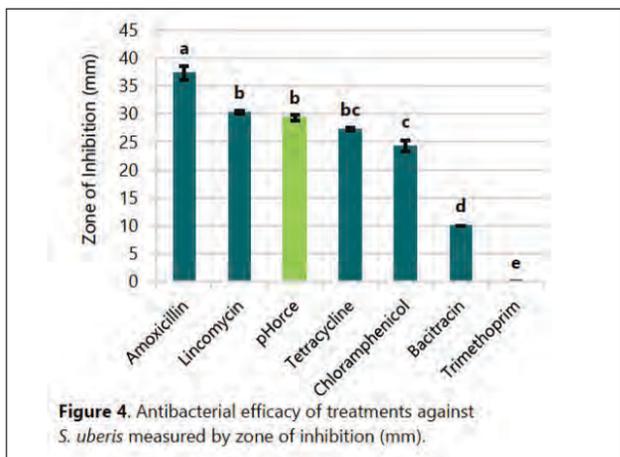


Figure 4. Antibacterial efficacy of treatments against *S. uberis* measured by zone of inhibition (mm).

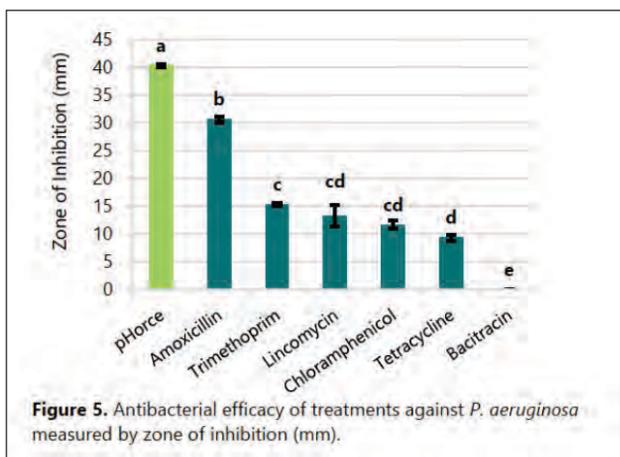


Figure 5. Antibacterial efficacy of treatments against *P. aeruginosa* measured by zone of inhibition (mm).

# Antibacterial action of pHorce



THE antibacterial effect of a product can be easily compared using a zone of inhibition test.

This highlights the sensitivity of a known bacteria to multiple products.

The larger the zone of inhibition, the more effective the product is against the chosen bacteria.

pHorce is a highly concentrated liquid blend of formic and propionic acid formulated on Anpario's innovative carrier system.

The triple action effect of pHorce provides proven anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral function.

This work is part of Anpario's 4R's approach – review, reduce and replace antimicrobials responsibly – which helps to maintain gut health

and support healthier livestock through the use of natural products.

**Trial design**  
The trial was undertaken by an independent microbiology laboratory in the UK in 2020.

A variety of antibiotics and bacterial challenges were selected to account for the most common challenges and associated therapeutic treatment globally.

Bacteria were suspended in 20ml of diluent, shaken and the con-

centration adjusted to contain between  $1.5 \times 10^8$  -  $5.0 \times 10^8$  cfu/ml. Plates were prepared in triplicate and incubated at  $36C \pm 1$  hour for 24 hours.

The zone of inhibition was measured using callipers.

Bacteria selected for use in the trial included salmonella typhimurium, escherichia coli (O157) and staphylococcus aureus.

Antibacterial efficacy of the following

treatments against each bacteria were assessed: lincomycin, amoxicillin, trimethoprim and bacitracin.

**Results**

pHorce demonstrated a significantly larger zone of inhibition against salmonella typhimurium (Figure 1) and e coli than any of the other treatments tested (Figure 2).

When testing efficacy of treatment against staphylococcus aureus, the antimicrobial activ-

ity of pHorce was comparable to Amoxicillin and was significantly more than all the other antibiotics tested (Figure 3).

Amoxicillin was most effective against staphylococcus uberis.

However, the antimicrobial efficacy of pHorce was comparable to Lincomycin and Tetracycline and was significantly more than other antibiotic treatments (Figure 4).

pHorce produced a significantly larger zone of inhibition compared to all antibiotics tested for efficacy against pseudomonas aeruginosa (Figure 5).

The results of the trial indicated that pHorce was able to produce a larger zone of inhibition than all the antibiotics tested in four of the five bacterial challenges.

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ABARES head of forecasting and trade Dr Jared Greenville explained value creation is about creating jobs and income for Australians prior to a product being exported.

## Australian economy thrives under raw deal: Insights

AN ABARES Insights article released recently explores whether Australia is missing out on domestic value creation opportunities because of the focus on trade in raw and minimally processed agricultural products.

Analysis of value creation in Australia through agricultural exports: Playing to advantages' analyses returns from agricultural exports and compares value-creation pathways, such as adding attributes to products or downstream processing.

ABARES head of forecasting and trade Dr Jared Greenville explained value creation is about

creating jobs and income for Australians prior to a product being exported.

"The public debate often asks whether Australia is missing out on value creation due to the focus on raw agricultural exports," Dr Greenville said.

"But for Australia, trade in raw commodities and a small set of minimally processed products have provided the largest and most important value-creation opportunities for Australian agriculture – a feature that is likely to continue in coming decades.

"Raw agricultural production activities are also evolving to be more consumer facing, with on-

farm production practices changing to meet consumer demands.

"These include the addition of attributes to raw products, such as traceability and organic production.

"So, while these changes may generally increase the cost of production, they also generate returns for the economy, creating income and jobs similar to activities such as domestic processing."

Further steps to meet consumer demands with changes to on-farm production, akin to planting new varieties that make for more specialised products, can also create additional export value.

"Past reliance on raw commodities and a small set of minimally processed products does not mean that this is the only value-creation path for the sector," Dr Greenville said.

"Other opportunities may exist, but a competitive and open economy is essential to ensure resources are effectively allocated to their highest value use where private enterprises can determine what to produce and where to sell."

The Insights article can be viewed by visiting [agriculture.gov.au/abares/publications/insights/value-creation-in-Australia-through-agricultural-exports](http://agriculture.gov.au/abares/publications/insights/value-creation-in-Australia-through-agricultural-exports)

## Workers urged to speak out if mistreated on farms

NATIONAL Farmers' Federation President Fiona Simson encourages workers to report any on-farm mistreatment or abuse to the relevant authorities.

"I continue to be saddened to learn of instances where often young men and women, many visitors to our country, are subject to mistreatment when working on Australian farms," NFF President Simson said.

"Seasonal, short term workers are at the heart of our sector.

"Without them it just wouldn't be possible to plant, pick and pack our produce and get it to market.

"As a community, we must all work together to stamp out such abhorrent conduct – conduct that is not befitting of the standards and expectations of contemporary Australia and in some cases is simply illegal.

"Today and every day, I compel workers, who believe they have been mistreated to report their experience to the appropriate authority.

"If a worker believes they have been underpaid, they must inform the Fair Work Ombudsman by calling 13 13 94.

"If the mistreatment is of a potential criminal nature, such as sexual assault, it is a police matter."

A complaint should be made to the local police, Crime Stoppers on

1300 333 000 or in the case of an emergency, by calling 000.

"Community members, be they politicians, farmers, or farm workers, also have a duty to report operators potentially doing the wrong thing," Ms Simson said.

"Politicising and opportunistic statements are one thing, actions and solutions are another.

"It is important to highlight these issues in public discourse, but to get real action the available channels must also be utilised.

"Reporting, investigating and ultimately holding to account those not complying with the law, is the most effective deterrent."

Ms Simson said reports of workers being underpaid was damaging to Australia's reputation as a place of choice to live and work.

"The actions of a very few, inflict a stain on our industry, that very unfortunately threatens to tarnish the reputation of majority of the growers who do the right thing.

"Most importantly, these actions have a profound, often long-lasting damaging impact on the men and women subject to them."

The NFF's Horticulture Council has spearheaded efforts to stamp out worker mistreatment and supports the grower-led Fair Farms initiative. Fair Farms

supports all members of the Australian horticulture supply chain with the tools, information and training they need to be a compliant and ethical employer.

"We have long called for the introduction of a national labour hire regulation scheme, to hold labour hire entities to account, which research shows is a link in the ag workforce, where wrong doing occurs," Ms Simson said.

The introduction of a dedicated ag workforce solution, as called for by the NFF for four years now, would ensure foreign workers holding the visa would only be placed with fully accredited employers.

"I am angered by almost weekly media reports of workers having what can be a frightening experience on Australian farms," Ms Simson said.

"Enough is enough. "I can't be more direct, if you are a farm worker and you believe you have been subject to mistreatment, you must report your experience either to the Fair Work Ombudsman or the police."

Other useful resources about workplace safety, rights and conditions are: Fair Work Ombudsman's Horticulture Showcase, SafeWork Australia, Jobsearch and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

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**CID LINES**



Outgrower project team (R-L): Dana Asia Cambodia projects lead Ms Sreykhuoch, technical consultant Mr Jhun, KJC Farm supervisor Mr Nak, Outgrower trainers Ms Salat and Ms Mom.



Outgrower farmers receiving certificates upon completion of training.

## Outgrower farming in Cambodia: the expanding network of poultry microenterprises

THE devastating economic impact of COVID-19 has left many people in Cambodia without work.

The normally bustling tourist town of Siem Reap has seen an estimated 85 percent reduction in tourism compared to previous years, according to the Cambodian Government.

Here, the local economy relies almost entirely on income from tourists visiting the famous Angkor Wat site.

Now, all those who once worked in the tourist industry as drivers or guides and those in the hospitality and hotel industry find themselves without work

and without income.

In many cases, these people have families living in rural villages who rely on their income to support the family.

As an organisation working to find ways of tackling the root causes of poverty in Cambodia, Dana Asia is developing social business and training to bring new opportunities to the most marginalised communities.

Dana Asia's Outgrower project aims to address the issues of poverty by giving families an alternative option for income generation – poultry farming.

Smallholder poultry farming can be done in

addition to other work to reduce a family's reliance on one income stream.

After a period of intensive training by the experienced team on Dana Asia's social business farm KJC Farm, a chicken shed is constructed and Outgrower farmers are given up to 500 chicks to raise.

When mature, the chickens are sold into the restaurant market and profit generated goes to the farmer.

As of January 6, 2021 a total of six farms are in operation across two communities in Siem Reap province.

These farmers are currently achieving an aver-

age 96.7 percent survival rate.

When the chickens reach maturity, the KJC sales team facilitates the sale of the chickens to generate an income for the farmer.

With restaurants and hotels so quiet, alternative markets are being sought.

Local ceremonies offer such a market, with chickens being widely consumed at weddings and other local festivals.

Any further expansion of the Outgrower network will be slower than originally planned until the market improves.

In the meantime, the business model is being refined and the training

program developed to be ready for growth when the time comes.

Since the first pilot commenced in November 2018, the Outgrower project team has learnt a considerable amount about smallholder farming within the unique Cambodian context.

The project has not been without its challenges.

Most issues faced by Outgrower farmers have been related to inadequate biosecurity practices.

The concept of biosecurity was almost unheard of in the local style of chicken growing, which accounts for why many local smallholders struggled

to keep their chickens alive to the point of sale.

The Outgrower training therefore gives particular focus to the importance of biosecurity and includes a period of applied practice on KJC Farm, under the strict supervision of the farm manager.

Only once trainees have completed the training sessions and the period of hands-on work experience will they qualify as Outgrower farmers.

In order for the project to continue, ongoing funding is needed.

As little as \$10 a month can make a significant contribution to supporting the training of Outgrower

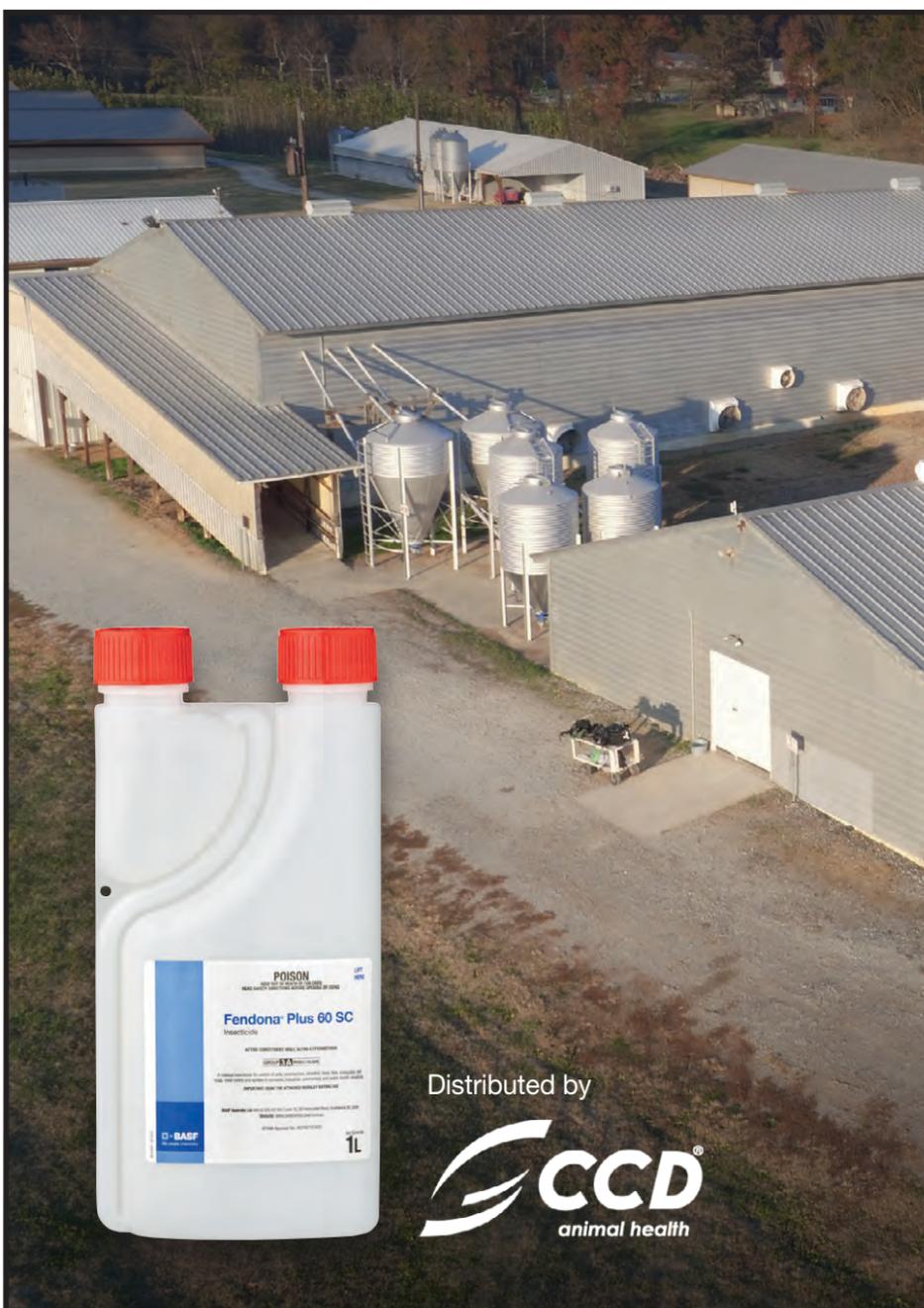
farmers and help them become successful entrepreneurs.

Donations can be made online at [danaasia.org/become-an-investor](http://danaasia.org/become-an-investor)

All donations are tax-deductible.

Anyone interested in learning more about Dana Asia's work in Cambodia is welcome to contact Dana Asia's chief executive officer Duncan Power at [duncan@danaasia.org](mailto:duncan@danaasia.org) or on 0419 472 802.

To discuss this project in more detail, we invite you to contact our Australian technical advisors Peter Van Den Akker on 0412 806 817 and Ian Curtis on 0428 523 664. 🐔



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## Portable poultry sludge pump makes sense

MOVING liquid manure in poultry farms is a continuing challenge and can be a real cost driver.

When electric drive pumps are out of service or in the event of power failures, heavy duty portable engine drive trash pumps can fulfil a vital role in emergency sludge removal.

Aussie Pumps manufacturers 2", 3" and 4" portable pumps that are available in either petrol or diesel drive.

The Aussie trash pump range is designed to handle solids in suspension and, as a key facet, come with a huge cleanout port built into the front of the pump's body.

The cleanout port is mounted below the suction port providing a huge advantage in that it can be opened just by undoing two toggles by hand and pulling the whole front cover assembly off including the

volute, revealing the interior of the pump and with full access to the impeller.

Thus, not only can the impeller passages and pump body be cleared of debris but, where necessary, both impeller and mechanical seal can be changed out without completely dismantling the pump!

That's a huge convenient advantage during any service.

An additional feature is that the pipework or hoses connected to the pump on the suction or discharge side do not need to be disturbed.

The pumps have the capacity to handle spherical compressible solids up to 38mm (1.5").

Best of all, Aussie trash pumps self-prime through a vertical lift of 7.6m, without the use of priming aids.

With flow up to 1800Lpm, the Aussie pumps offer heads of up

to 27m, allowing them to transport the sludge reasonably long distances over horizontal surfaces.

The heart of the pump is a huge high spheroidal graphite cast-iron impeller and volute that are extremely wear resistant.

A silicon carbide mechanical seal is standard, designed for long-sustained operation.

The whole machine, engine and pump included, are encased in a heavy duty frame.

The 2", 3" and 4" pumps in Honda petrol engine configuration come with a sturdy frame, mounted on a steel base with anti-vibration mounts.

The diesel versions, using Yanmar air-cooled diesels, with either recoil or electric start, come with galvanised steel frames and base plates with the anti-vibration mount feature.

For areas where there is a possibility of any

build-up of potentially dangerous gases, a 'mine spec' version is available, with a super heavy duty frame, battery isolation, E-stop and an integrated fire extinguisher.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "We build these pumps right here in Sydney."

"They're designed for the most rugged applications and find their way into pumping abattoir waste, piggeries, poultry farm sludge and even handling dairy effluent."

A big 6" semi trash version, also with a high SG open impeller, will move up to 2500Lpm, and is available in Honda petrol or Yanmar diesel drive.

Further information, including a comprehensive brochure on pumps for the agriculture market are readily available from [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au)



The Aussie 4" trash pump self-priming and will pump 1800L per minute.



A 4" Aussie diesel trash pump with the cover plate out, providing access to the impeller and mechanical seal for easier servicing.

## Draft report of independent review of AgVet chemicals regulatory system

AN independent panel has released its draft report on the review of Australia's agricultural and veterinary chemicals regulatory system.

Ensuring farmers have access to AgVet chemicals that are both safe and effective is crucial to our agricultural and livestock industries, the community and the environment.

The panel's draft recommendations strengthen the identity, vision and leadership of AgVet chemicals regulation and provide for a regulatory system fit for the next 30 years.

The recommendations enhance the existing protections for the health and safety of humans, animals and the environment, while improving access to safe chemical products and broadening the range of uses of products already in the market.

In developing the recommendations in the draft report, the panel

consulted with 188 stakeholder groups and received 100 submissions to its issues paper, which was released in March 2020.

In April 2020, the panel gained approval to extend consultation on the issues paper by three months due to COVID-19 and requests from numerous stakeholders.

The extended consultation period delayed the release of the draft report.

For the panel to deliver its final report to the Minister in May 2021, all feedback must be received by February 26, 2021.

The report's 139 recommendations will deliver significant benefits to a broad range of industry and AgVet chemicals users across Australia, particularly farmers, with a conservative estimate of around \$160 million in savings in regulatory costs to industry over 10 years.

Key draft reforms include:

- Nationally consistent control of use of AgVet chemicals under a single national law, administered by the Commonwealth, which enables a single national licensing framework for professional users of pesticides and veterinary medicines, access to uses based on climatic region instead of state boundaries and a national produce and environmental monitoring program

- Improved access for Australian users of AgVet chemicals via a licensing pathway for safe and effective products already registered by a comparable international regulator

- Enhanced leadership, consultation and surveillance for the whole regulatory system via a Commissioner for Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Stewardship

- A revised scope for the regulatory system

utilising tailored pathways based on risk – better focussing regulatory effort to where it is most needed

- Fast track access to market through prioritised registration for products meeting a specific set of criteria

- Substance-based active constituent approvals, rather than site of manufacture improving the resilience of the supply chain.

The panel invites comment on the draft recommendations to refine them prior to providing its final report to the Minister in May 2021.

To have your say, read the draft report and submit your feedback online.

Public comments are invited by 26 February 2021.

For more information and to have your say on the AgVet chemicals regulatory reform, visit [haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/agvet-chemicals-regulatory-reform](http://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/agvet-chemicals-regulatory-reform)

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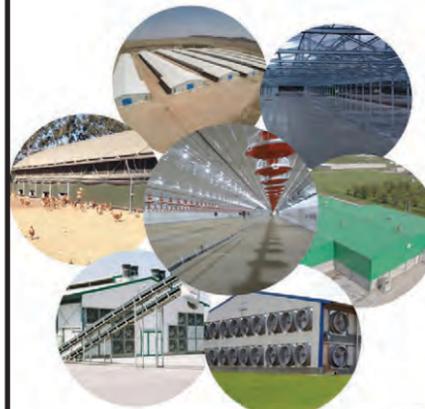
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# South Korea's layer houses struck by highly pathogenic avian influenza

THE highly pathogenic avian influenza variant H5N6 has struck South Korea's layer houses.

The country has identified three more highly pathogenic bird flu cases from local poultry farms to raise the total caseload to 46.

Authorities said they have found the highly contagious H5N8 strain of avian influenza in Buan, 280km south of Seoul, and the central city of

Sejong, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs.

Earlier in the day, South Korea also found another case from a duck farm in Cheonan, 92km south of Seoul.

The ministry said it has issued a seven-day standstill order for all poultry farms within the newly infected areas.

South Korea has reported a series of avian influenza cases from poultry farms since late November.

The ministry said another suspected infection was reported at a duck farm in Eumseong, 131km south of the capital city.

Of the total reported farm-linked cases so far, Gyeonggi Province that surrounds Seoul accounted for 12, trailed by South Jeolla Province with 10.

South Korea has culled more than 13 million poultry according to the latest data provided.

The country culls birds

within a 3km radius of infected farms.

The number of cases reported from wild birds, meanwhile, reached 52.

Increased demand and the upcoming Lunar New Year holiday celebrations have seen local egg prices soar, with a 22.4 percent increase.

For the first time since 2017, the Korean Government will temporarily remove egg import tariffs to resolve the supply shortage.

# Sweden to cull 1.3 million chickens after bird flu found

SWEDEN will cull 1.3 million chickens in Kalmar county after a bird flu outbreak was reported at a poultry farm.

According to a local media report, an extensive spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N8 and H5N5 was found at the farm located in Monstera municipality.

A large flock of chickens were affected, and the infection spread fur-

ther in the facility, which now leads to 1.3 million poultry having to be killed and destroyed.

To carry out the work, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the National Veterinary Institute asked the Swedish Armed Forces for help.

According to the SVA, the virus can survive for months under optimal conditions, which makes decontamination and disinfection important.

It is unclear, though,

how the country's supply of eggs will be affected.

Since November 2020, Sweden has had five confirmed cases of bird flu in domestic poultry herds.

In addition to Kalmar county, the neighbouring Skane county has also been hit hard by an outbreak on four farms, where 1.4 million chickens have been culled.

Restricted areas remain around the affected farms.

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