



Jess Spencer and Dion Andary of Days Eggs test drove the biosecurity virtual reality program launched by Australian Eggs through the sustainability framework report 2021.

Biosecurity VR tool improving skill levels

THE industry has launched two game-changers for Australian farmers – a farm sustainability dashboard and a biosecurity virtual reality tool – to help egg farmers to continue to improve on-farm and business practices.

These two tools are announced in the third sustainability framework report.

The Australian Eggs sustainability framework report examines the relationship between the Australian community and the egg industry, using insights from annual CSIRO community research.

In direct response to key issues raised by the community and industry as part of the sustainability framework process, Australian Eggs has developed the tools.

Days Eggs, a family-managed egg business located in South Australia

that has been producing and delivering eggs for over 30 years, are the state's largest egg producer.

Days Eggs poultry welfare manager Jess Spencer believes the biosecurity virtual reality tool, launched through the sustainability framework report of 2021, improves efficiency in training and allows farm managers to raise the initial skill set of new members, as well as providing additional training to help raise the skill set of current team members who may learn better through this type of training delivery.

Australian Eggs world-leading agritech tools will help farmers improve sustainability and biosecurity practices.

Ms Spencer explains a key benefit of delivering biosecurity training virtually is that it allows complete induction training in a controlled environment

without the need to be on farm.

"This in turn increases safety and mitigates welfare risks by reducing the chance of any issues arising from new staff learning on farm, who aren't competent in biosecurity yet," she said.

"The content of the VR program is based on current biosecurity measures and will provide a great tool for basic induction biosecurity training of new staff, as well as refresher training for other staff.

"It encourages the user to seek out biosecurity issues and gives them feedback on their answers as well as tips."

The world-leading agritech, part of Australian Eggs sustainability framework process, supports learning by not allowing the user to progress to other areas until they have answered all questions within an area correctly.

With the display screen, the program allows managers to view how the user fared with their answers, giving an idea of their understanding of biosecurity and what their training needs are.

"It makes the person using it actively think about what the risks are and what they must do to mitigate them," Ms Spencer said.

Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies said, "Our new biosecurity VR tool allows new and existing staff to be trained in a close to real-life environment, driving efficiencies and improving training outcomes."

"It's great to know the initiatives we developed in response to community issues raised through our sustainability framework are making an impact, with Australians' trust in our industry continuing to grow."

Chook Chat Hack is a hit

POULTRY Hub Australia's Chook Chat Hack was a real hit and attracted a great deal of interest.

Teams of undergraduate students studying at Australian universities were asked to tackle the looming food shortage of 2050, and how chickens and eggs could be the answer.

Teams participated in a five-day hack and were provided with all the information needed to make their video entry.

The winner received \$3,000 in cash and the runner-up, a deluxe chicken coop... of course!

The ideas the groups had were tremendous.

I was really excited to see the submissions and thoroughly enjoyed interacting with all the teams and answering their chicken questions.

To check out the videos of all our finalists and the winners, head to our website, poultryhub.org.

We are back into the



by **TAMSYN CROWLEY**
Director



swing of things with research and welcomed 13 preliminary proposals from our open call for research.

Many fantastic ideas were received from teams of capable scientists and their industry partners.

I look forward to bringing you the details of the successful projects very soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that we have \$5,000 honours scholarships, which are available for honours students undertaking a poultry research project at an Australian university.

PHA is committed to attracting the best and brightest students to our industry and retaining them.

For more details of the scholarship or how to apply, contact us at poultryhub@une.edu.au or head to our website.

Last month, the PHA team had the pleasure of meeting the Governor General and his wife Mrs Hurley.

They paid us a visit to learn more about poultry and the work we are doing.

We talked at length about the training we have been undertaking

continued P2



The Governor General David Hurley, Mrs Hurley, UNE's Chancellor Mr James Harris, Dr Natalie Morgan, Tamsyn Crowley and Hailey Cameron.



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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

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

AUG 8-12 – World Poultry Congress, Paris, France www.wpcparis2020.com

AUG 16-18 – World Poultry Science Association (WPSA) – Cambridge, UK www.wpsa2020.org

NOV 21-22 – AVAMS21, Gold Coast www.avams2020.com.au

2022

MAR 30 - APR 1 – 7th International Conference on Poultry Intestinal Health, Columbia, www.ihsig.com

MAY 15-17 – Poultry Information Exchange and Australasian Milling Conference (PIX/AMC), 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

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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 or PO Box 162, Wynnum Qld 4178

Safe quality eggs - result of costs borne by business

RECENTLY, one of Egg Farmers of Australia's members told me a person they had been speaking with had been selling eggs as pocket money for their grandchildren and didn't realise that they needed to be accredited.

The person had not considered that if someone became sick from eating their eggs, they could be sued and lose their home.

Several egg farmers have not sought public liability insurance, and consumers rarely think about the cost to farmers



of doing business in order to provide safe, quality eggs.

So, where do the costs add up for egg farmers?

These differ across states, but below is a list of many mandatory and operational requirements that egg farmers under-

take to bring yummy eggs to you.

- Administering mandatory vaccinations to ensure hen health and avoid poultry diseases

- Employment of vets and nutritionists to ensure the best welfare for hens

- Sourcing of grain from an approved supplier to ensure feed is disease-free

- Purchase of machinery including a feed mill to mix feed for the hens

- Use of egg wash, single-use fillers and egg cartons to reduce the risk of disease

- Purchase of foot baths and foot mats to reduce the risk of avian influenza, salmonella enteritidis and poultry diseases coming on farm

- Bearing the cost of personal protection equipment to reduce the risk of COVID-19 – a risk to the on-farm workforce and their families

- Implementation of staff training across all areas of the production system, including biosecurity, animal welfare and human safety, which are of particular importance given the recent transition overseas of avian influenza from birds to humans

- A refrigerated storage room for holding eggs

- Refrigerated trucks to move eggs from farm to store in optimal egg conditions

- Logistic costs for the transport of chicks from hatchery to farm

- Quality assurance programs such as Egg

Standards of Australia accreditation, Safe Food Production Queensland and Food Licencing in NSW

- Farm insurance, public liability insurance, and vehicle insurance and registrations

- Work cover insurance for employees

- Payment of employee wages and benefits

- Payment of levy at hatchery for Australian Eggs to support research, development and marketing

- Land tax and income tax

- Industry representation levies for Egg Farmers of Australia to liaise with government on behalf of all egg farmers

- Industry marketing, research, development, extension and innovation in order to continue farming using the latest cutting-edge practices.

All these costs are paid out before a farmer sees any return for their hard work.

Depending on their suppliers, payment for the eggs can be anywhere from 30-90 days.

So why do farmers do it?

Because they love what they do and want to bring the best product to you.

So, when you next pick up a dozen eggs, pause with gratitude for the farmer, their employees and hens that have worked hard to bring a safe and quality product to you and your family. 🐣



Garry from Smalls Trading Co packing eggs.

Chook Chat Hack is a hit

from P1

and how it has benefited both the industry and the young people of the New England region.

Mrs Hurley even had a go at our virtual chicken!

We provided them with an opportunity to see the facilities, chat with many of the poultry scientists at the University of New England and of course, see cute fluffy chickens.

The visit was finished off with a round of *You are My Sunshine* and an inquiry about how PHA could help with a chicken coop at Government house.

All in all, a great day. 🐣



Mrs Hurley trying her hand at the virtual chicken.



The Governor General and Mrs Hurley talking with Dr Morgan and Mr Bailey about chickens.

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Today's egg shoppers are spoilt for choice and occasionally confused.



The author holds high hopes for his \$37 Ross or Cobb pastured chook once it hits his oven for next Sunday's roast.

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The chicken and the egg

HAVING chirped away last month about the almost endless and potentially confusing range of choices for egg buyers, I simply had to take a couple of phone pics of the myriad variety of eggs on offer when subsequently shopping at a favourite nearby independent supermarket.

The shop concerned does a great job of creatively displaying its produce, contrasting big time with what the two big supermarkets tend to do, or not do.

The colourful egg carton packaging also added to the visual shopper-stopper experience.

Similarly, most of the cartons and adjacent signage told the story of the production type and place of origin – including details such as the fact eggs were collected by hand.



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

Handy information or information overload, I wondered.

I further wondered how categorised cage eggs and even barn laid for that matter could compete in today's shopper sensory overloaded world.

I'm thinking that they do still compete, albeit only at a person's price point.

If shopper choice was ever insulated from the realities of household budgets and big picture economics, I doubt 'old school eggs' would be around much longer, other than in foodservice.

I expect their shelf life with shoppers will diminish in due course.

Issues around animal welfare, place of origin, farming system, feeding formulas, and health and supplement regimes are all increasingly influencing how cashed up shoppers and those with healthy credit card limits make their buying decisions when it comes to food items.

In other words, unless egg producers and indeed chicken producers can pitch palatable, truthful consumption stories, backed by a form of reputable auditing and perhaps industry or governmental certification, they may struggle to reach inside the hearts, minds and pockets of modern consumers.

Speaking of chicken meat, I recently splashed out and spent \$20/kg on a pasture-raised meat bird.

That was a total of \$37 on what I hope roasts up into a true taste delight.

Though I had initially sought to buy a Sommerlad pasture-raised chook, I ended up with a Ross or

Cobb broiler.

Frozen immediately after killing, as per the photo and bought from a boutique Perth metropolitan butcher, it should do the trick once thawed, nicely stuffed, then crisped up in the oven at 200C for 20 minutes, before finishing off for one hour at 180C.

The Sommerlad chicken story is a particularly fascinating one and I'm determined to get my hands on one, albeit availability seems limited here in the west.

Michael Sommerlad has been working on the genetics of Sommerlad chickens for maybe 20 years, selectively breeding a meat bird that can thrive in the harshest of Australia's outdoor conditions.

He prioritises optimal animal welfare and food quality from a bird with the genetic capacity to better exploit a free range pastured environment, with features such as active foraging behaviour and enhanced physiological capacity to utilise grass and other plant materials, increased heat resistance, balanced body confirmation, strong legs

and improved mobility.

He also chases what he refers to as "good livability", with improved natural resistance to diseases endemic to Australian poultry flocks.

According to Michael, all of these factors contribute to a bird with far better animal welfare outcomes than modern broilers, particularly with regard to mobility and heat tolerance.

Sommerlad chickens are 100 percent Australian, developed specifically for Australian farming conditions and are selected for the table between 10 and 16 weeks of age – standard supermarket chickens are typically processed at about five weeks.

A Sommerlad's naturally slow growth rate allows its organs, muscles and bones to grow in harmony, and its longer outdoor life allows time to develop intramuscular fat and nutrient dense meat, with outstanding texture and flavour, according to Michael.

I look forward to checking the flavour claim when I get my hands on one.

Can't wait. 🐔



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Mice on the march throughout NSW

AS mice numbers have increased in parts of the western region and soared in pockets throughout NSW, it is important landholders conduct thorough checks of paddocks, as well as sheds and machinery, for signs of mice activity.

Until recently, explosions in mouse populations in grain-growing areas were often followed by population crashes and consecutive years of little activity and damage.

However, mice now appear to have become a more persistent problem, with base populations carrying over from one year to the next, particularly in parts of the southern and northern cropping regions.

It is believed current farming systems – no-till, stubble retention – could be contributing to mice becoming an annual rather than cyclical problem.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation recognises the enormity of the mouse problem and the severe impact it has on businesses, families, communities and the broader industry.

In response to the increasing prevalence of mice in many key grain-growing regions of Australia, the GRDC has injected a further \$4.1 million into mouse control research, development and extension initiatives.

The three key investments to be led by CSIRO will focus on understand-

ing mouse ecology, biology and management, increasing surveillance and mouse feeding preferences.

The GRDC is committed to exploring all options in an effort to provide growers with better mouse control solutions.

In addition to the new investments, the GRDC will continue to support a wide range of other ongoing mouse-related research, development and extension initiatives.

If mice are becoming an increasing problem in your area, the GRDC and CSIRO have the latest advice and information to help manage the issue.

Five quick tips for mouse control

- Apply broad scale zinc

phosphide bait – according to the label, at the prescribed rate of 1kg/ha

- Apply bait at seeding or within 24 hours – while seed is still covered by soil increasing the likelihood of mice taking the bait prior to finding the seed, and re-bait through the season as needed

- Timing is critical – delays of 4-5 days in baiting after seeding can give mice time to find crop seed and high populations can cause up to 5 percent damage each night

- Monitor and check paddocks regularly, and update local data using the MouseAlert website – feralscan.org.au/mousealert/

- After harvest and prior to sowing, minimise sources of food and shelter, and control weeds and volunteer crops along fence lines, clean up residual grain by grazing or rolling stubbles.

While currently no permit allows Local Land Services to produce a baited product for mice control, a wide range of baits are registered for use on mice.

These rodent control products are not restricted and can be purchased from rural supply stores.

The store's agronomist should be able to help you and provide advice on the products they sell.

A complete list of currently registered products is available at apvma.gov.au

For further information, visit grdc.com.au

Under the microscope: Australia's efforts to curb antimicrobial resistance

THE Australian Government has published the final progress report for Australia's first national Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2015–2019, detailing efforts to limit the incidence of antimicrobial resistance in Australia.

AMR is recognised as one of the most serious health problems facing the world.

As bacteria, viruses and fungi continue to develop resistance to existing medications, this presents a greater risk of serious health impacts, as well as affecting food production and the livelihoods and security of producers.

In 2020, the Australian Government released the national Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2020 and Beyond, and announced more than \$22.5 million over four years in the 2020–21 budget to implement it.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said that globally the use of antibiotics in livestock had been recognised as a potential source for antimicrobial resistance.

"Australia is a world leader in minimising the use of antibiotics in food-producing ani-

mals, which means that there is a low risk of developing antimicrobial resistance from animals in this country," Minister Littleproud said.

"We have introduced regulatory and industry changes to ensure registered animal antimicrobials that are medically important for human health no longer claim to promote growth in animals."

Minister for Health and Aged Care Greg Hunt said the report identified important AMR initiatives and the collaborative efforts by government and private sector organisations across the One Health sectors of human and animal health, food and the environment.

"These combined efforts aim to minimise the emergence and spread of drug-resistant organisms in Australia, and the region will ensure antimicrobial medicines continue to be effective and available to treat infections into the future," Minister Hunt said.

"We have seen antibiotic dispensing rates for Australians steadily decrease, down approximately 13 percent since a peak in 2015, equating to around two

million fewer prescriptions dispensed, which is a really positive development.

"This and other initiatives show there is increasing understanding and awareness among doctors and the community of the importance of only using antibiotics when absolutely necessary."

Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley said Australian research is adding to our understanding of how antimicrobials enter our environment and accumulate over time.

"It's not just limited to hospital floors, drug-resistant bacteria, viruses and fungi can evolve in any environment," Minister Ley said.

"Our new national AMR strategy will be supported with initiatives including developing a One Health surveillance system, a national antimicrobial resistance research and development agenda and a national monitoring and evaluation framework."

Minister Ley is a member of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

For more information, visit amr.gov.au



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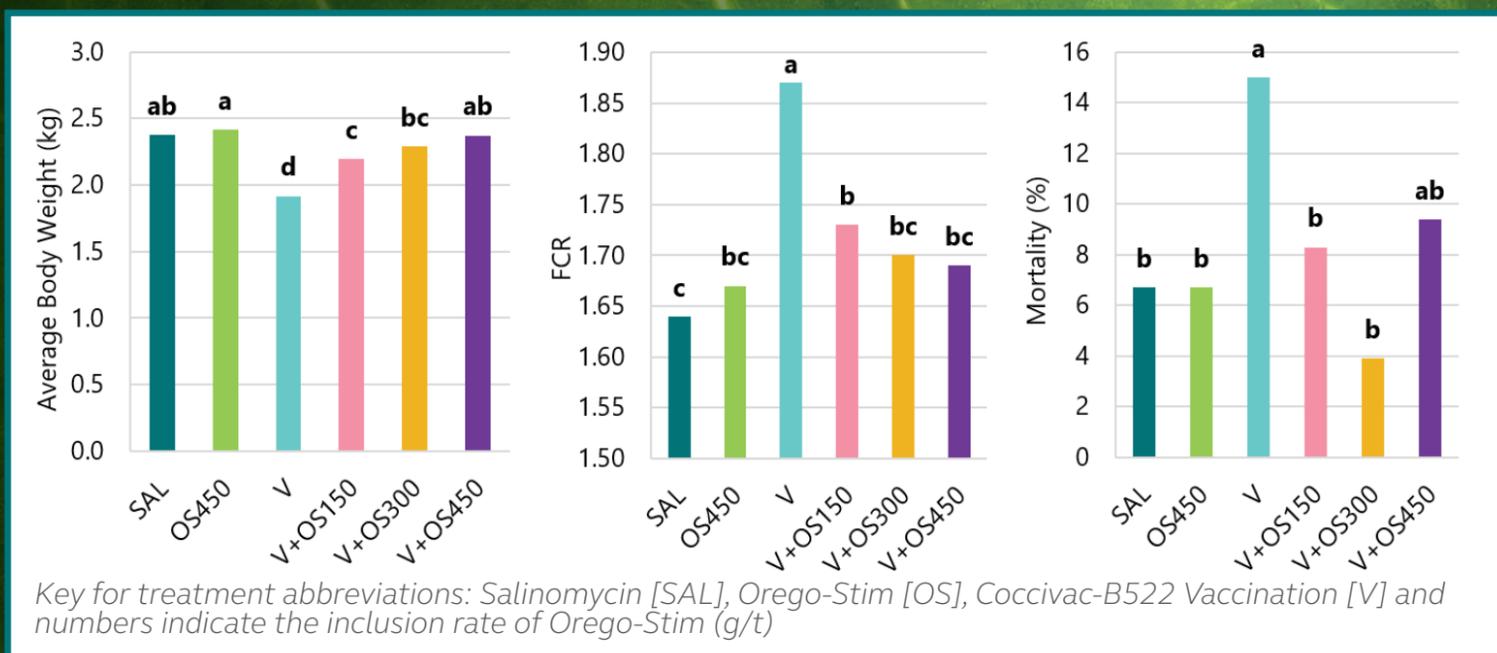


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A recent trial was conducted by Southern Poultry Research Inc., USA. Orego-Stim supplementation at various levels during coccidial challenge supported vaccination. It was shown to increase broiler average body weight gain, improve feed efficiency and lower mortality compared to vaccination alone. At certain levels, Orego-Stim provided performance benefits which were as good as those achieved with Salinomycin, a commonly used anticoccidial.



The trial also found that Orego-Stim supplementation enabled low level oocyst cycling in the litter, which is essential for the development of the bird's natural immunity against coccidiosis. In addition, when used in combination with vaccination, Orego-Stim significantly lowered average lesion scores compared to those seen in Salinomycin treated birds. The supplementation of this natural phytogetic enabled the birds to achieve their genetic potential during coccidiosis challenge.

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USE OF CAGES



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ARE NOT
KEPT IN CAGES**

USE OF HORMONES



**HORMONES
ARE NOT USED
TO PRODUCE CHICKEN
MEAT IN AUSTRALIA
AND HAVE NOT BEEN
FOR OVER 50 YEARS**

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS



**ONLY USED
IF NEEDED
TO TREAT OR PREVENT ILLNESS**
**NOT USED FOR
GROWTH PROMOTION
STRICTLY REGULATED**

For all the facts and further information, visit www.facts.chicken.org.au

ACMF recently launched a new website to help educate consumers on the facts behind Australian chicken meat production in a simple and clear tone.

Chicken consumption increases despite myths

THE data is in... chicken meat consumption is on the rise again.

On March 2, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics released updated statistics on Australia's agricultural commodities – including forecasts for commodity production in 2020-21 and five-year forward projections – and chicken meat has retained, in fact improved, its position as Australia's favourite meat! In 2020-21, ABARES forecasts Australians will consume approximately 46.4kg per person, rising to 46.9kg in 2021-22.

That accounts for 46 percent of all meat – ex-

cluding fish and seafood – consumed in Australia.

Surprisingly, while the popularity of chicken remains strong, so do several long-held myths and misconceptions about Australia's chicken meat industry.

In fact, new research tells us that many of these misperceptions have not shifted in the last decade!

Conducted by AgriFutures, the research found that, while there has been a positive shift in consumer understanding, 40 percent of consumers incorrectly believe that hormones and steroids can be used.

Around 12 percent of

survey respondents said that antibiotics are used to increase the growth rate of meat chickens.

Conversely, only 18 percent of consumers surveyed correctly believed that meat chickens are raised without cages.

Similar research was conducted in 2008, and the most recent report shows that consumer belief in these myths remains.

To address these myths, Australian Chicken Meat Federation has recently launched a new website at facts.chicken.org.au/ – which educates consumers on the facts behind Australian chicken meat

production in a simple and clear tone.

ACMF has also been actively debunking myths on its Twitter and LinkedIn platforms, using a range of new assets such as infographics, motion graphics and its popular Chook Chat blog.

In addition, AgriFutures conducted a media relations campaign based on this research, and produced myth-busting content for its social channels.

Other valuable findings from the research include:

- Chicken meat continues to be the preferred protein for most Australian consumers because of its convenience, value for

money and flavour

- More consumers – 37 percent – indicated increasing rather than decreasing – 8 percent – their consumption of chicken meat in the past 12 months, with price and ease of preparation the main reasons for increasing consumption

- Price is the main purchase driver for the average Australian chicken meat shopper, though consumers are paying more attention to on-package labelling information on chicken meat products.

A summary of the research is available through AgriFutures, agrifutures.com.au

QFF calls on State Government to consider farm safety opportunities

THE Queensland Farmers' Federation is calling on the State Government to implement co-funding opportunities for farmers and other businesses to undertake a range of safety improvements after new statistics showed Queensland had one of the highest numbers of on-farm deaths in the country.

The Non-intentional Farm Related Incidents in Australia 2020 report compiled by AgriFutures Australia and AgHealth showed a total of 58 on-farm deaths were reported by the media during the period January 1 to December 31, 2020 – 16 of which were in Queensland.

QFF chief executive officer Dr Georgina Davis said agriculture was one of the most dangerous sectors to work in due to the combination of hazards, including heavy plant and machinery, chemicals, noise, dust, sun and heat exposure, working with animals, alone or in remote locations.

"Safety is a serious consideration on Queensland farms to ensure farmers, work-

ers and other people on farm are not exposed to risks to their health and safety, and QFF remains committed to promoting and advancing safe workplaces to turn these statistics around," Dr Davis said.

"We believe significant improvements could be made by implementing a government co-funded grants program in Queensland, supporting safety improvements such as installing crush protection devices on quad bikes, upgrading switchboards, fitting powerline markers, raising the height of distribution lines, devices to boost mobile phone coverage for remote workers and training."

"A similar scheme is already operating successfully in NSW and we appeal to the Queensland Government to take a common-sense approach to addressing risk and ensuring the safety of our farmers at work."

"Reducing farm fatalities requires significant investment of energy, capital and human resources, but we have many opportunities and we must make the most of them." 🐔



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Chicken is a winner all round

CHICKEN meat continues to be the most popular form of protein for consumers.

New research funded by AgriFutures Australia shows that more than two-thirds of Australian households serve chicken at least twice a week despite long held misperceptions about the conditions in which chickens are raised, and the use of antibiotics and hormones.

Many consumers believe hormones and steroids can be used, and that antibiotics are used to increase the growth rate of meat chickens – despite the introduction of an industry-wide policy 15 years ago

of no use of antibiotics for growth promotion.

The Australian Chicken Meat Foundation executive director Dr Vivien Kite said that these beliefs are simply untrue.

“In Australia, meat chickens are not raised in cages and the use of hormones and steroids was banned decades ago,” Dr Kite said.

“Our rigorous Australian standards restrict antibiotic use only to treat unwell chickens or prevent infections if there is a high risk of disease.

“Also, strict withholding periods exist to ensure there are no antibiotics present at the time

of processing.”

Centre for Global Food and Resources at the University of Adelaide executive director and lead researcher Professor Wendy Umberger said it was interesting that these misperceptions still exist after such a long period of time.

“While its concerning that these myths still exist, the research found consumers are generally satisfied with the quality and safety of chicken meat.” Prof Umberger said.

“Chicken has the lowest environmental footprint of all meats and is the least expensive form of

meat protein.

“More than 99 percent of chicken meat sold in Australia is born, bred and raised in Australia, giving shoppers confidence that their choice is good for them, their wallet and the environment.”

Fast facts

- The gross value of production, or farm gate value, of the chicken meat industry in 2020-21 will be approximately \$2.89 billion

- In 2020-21, it is predicted the average Australian will consume 46.4kg of chicken per year compared to 19.8kg of beef and veal, and 5.5kg of sheep meat

- Chicken meat continues to be the dominant meat protein consumed by Australians, with over two-thirds of Australian households serving chicken meat at least twice per week

- Price, taste, health and nutrition, country of origin and food safety are the most important drivers of food choices for the average Australian grocery shopper

- Chicken meat continues to be the preferred protein for most Australian consumers because of its convenience, value for money and flavour

- More consumers indicated increasing rather than decreasing their consumption of chicken meat, and price and ease of preparation are the main reasons for increasing consumption

- Price is the main pur-

chase driver for the average Australian chicken meat shopper, however consumers are paying more attention to on-package labelling information on chicken meat products

- Overall, consumers' main concerns about chicken meat production are similar to 2008, while use of steroids and hormones, and use of antibiotics in chicken meat production remain top concerns, country of origin is of equally high concern to consumers

- Consumers generally have a poor understanding of chicken meat production practices in Australia – especially around ‘high-concern’ issues, including the use of steroids, hormones and antibiotics, the sale of overseas-produced chicken in Australia and the use of cages

- Only 17 percent of consumers correctly believe steroids and hormones cannot be used, but 40 percent believe they can be

- 59 percent of consumers are not sure if chickens produced overseas are sold in Australia

- Only 18 percent of consumers correctly believe meat chickens cannot be raised in cages, with 50 percent of consumers uncertain.

For more information on this study, visit agri-futures.com.au/chicken-meat or to understand the facts about chicken meat production in Australia, visit facts.chicken.org.au/



More than 99 percent of chicken meat sold in Australia is born, bred and raised in Australia, giving shoppers confidence that their choice is good for them, their wallet and the environment. Photo: Toa Heftiba

Chook Chat Hack kick off

THE world is on track to run short of chicken and eggs by the year 2050.

Have the university students of Australia found a way to keep scrambled eggs on the plates of the nation?

Poultry Hub, AgriFutures Chicken Meat Australia and Australian Eggs offered students enrolled in Australian universities the chance to win over \$4,000 worth of prizes if they came up with an answer.

Was the solution in science, agritech, economics, psychology, engineering, marketing, design or none of the above?

Students registered for the online Chook Chat Hack, through which they accessed insider information and expert advice to help them hatch a winning idea.

The first 100 registered students received

a limited-edition space chook trucker cap.

Poultry Hub Australia director Tamsyn Crowley said, “Many people don’t realise that the poultry industry produces efficient, sustainable and affordable protein through the production of chicken meat and eggs.”

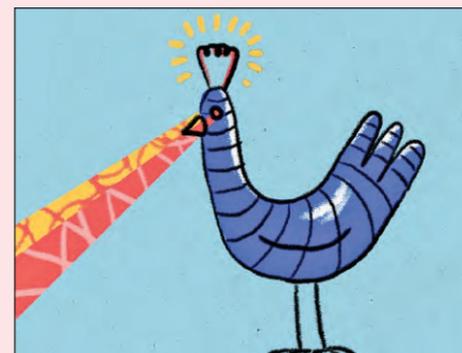
“We’re at the forefront of global issues such as food security and poverty reduction – plus we get to spend a lot of time with chooks, and who doesn’t love a feathered friend!”

The Chook Chat Hack kicked off on March 28 and ran for five days.

Students registered to take part solo or entered as a team of up to five people.

First prize was \$3,000 cash and runners-up received a super deluxe chicken coop.

For more information, visit poultryhub.org/chook-chat-hack



The Chook Chat Hack competition called for the best idea to ensure the future of the poultry industry.

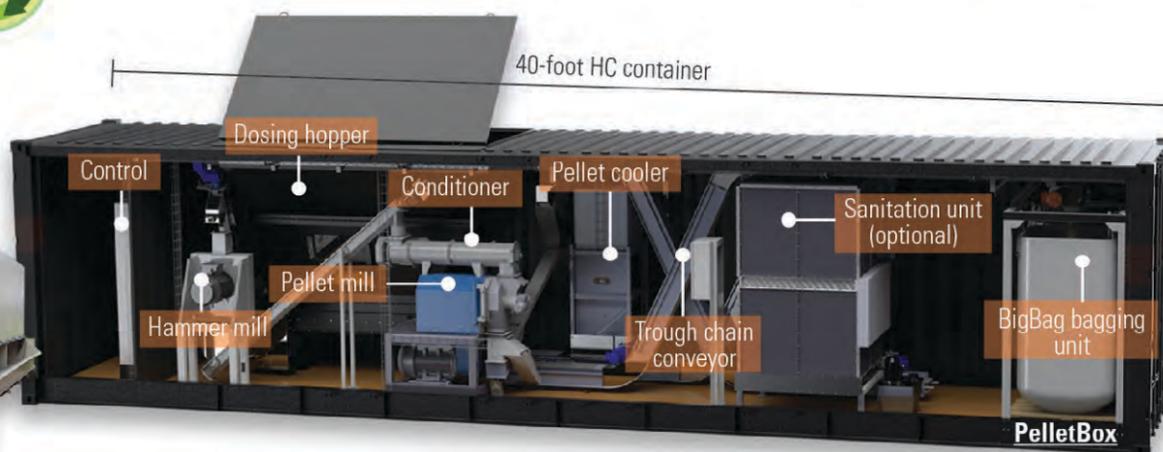
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New animal industries antimicrobial stewardship website

THE animal industries research, development and extension strategy now has a home.

The launch of the new Animal Industries Antimicrobial Stewardship RD&E Strategy website represents five years of work on behalf of Australian livestock industries, with the aim to understand and improve veterinary antimicrobial stewardship and share knowledge and ideas.

In Australia, the animal industries are responsible for maintaining the health, welfare and productivity of the livestock in their care and ensuring safe food products for human consumption.

Access to antimicrobials are an important part of maintaining this responsibility, however they must be used without detriment to human, animal or plant health.

Use of antimicrobials may result in the development of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, which subsequently reduces the efficacy of antimicrobials to treat infection.

The development of AMR is a threat to managing infections in animals and humans, however access to the current range of antimicrobials needs to be preserved so that treatments remain available for injured or ill people and animals.

Historical Australian initiatives have resulted in very low levels of AMR bacteria from food animals, however, further progress is needed to ensure this situation remains and Australian industries are afforded relevant opportunities to capitalise on this status.

The Australian red meat, dairy, pork and poultry industries have formed strong links to share information, opportunities and experiences related to progressing AMS in Australian animal industries.

They recently collaborated on the preparation of the Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Livestock Industries

report and the establishment of the Australian Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship conference in November 2018.

Since that conference, there has been discussion on how to better collaborate on AMS research, development and extension activities of mutual interest and benefit.

To this end, the Animal Industry Antimicrobial Stewardship Research, Development and Extension Strategy has been produced.

This strategy is focussed on prioritising RD&E that enhances AMS activities, rather than a sole focus on reduction in AMR or AMU, which are already

comparatively low internationally.

The AIAS has been developed primarily to meet the needs of Australia's food animal industries but will also benefit the implementation of Australia's National AMR Strategy 2 and the Australian Animal Sector National Antimicrobial Resistance Plan 3.

The Australian Veterinary Association, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, and AMR management experts were also consulted during the development of the strategy to ensure the AIAS fit within national and international AMR management initiatives and linked to biosecurity initiatives that impact AMU.

Accordingly, the AIAS aims to create a collaborative mechanism for animal industries to identify common RD&E priorities for the effective monitoring of AMU and surveillance of AMR to inform stewardship actions that meet Australia's animal health and market access needs, without impacting food safety or human health.

Through this strategy, animal industries could maintain access to antimicrobials provided their use was:

- Reviewed using evidence-based science
- Responsible and appropriately managed the risks of AMR development
- Continuously refined and reduced

• Managing the risk of having to replace effective antimicrobials with less effective antimicrobials.

This strategy sets out the framework and how it was used to identify priority AMU and AMR R&D and how those outputs feed up through the logic to enhance AMS, through extension.

Formalised under the AIAS RD&E Strategy, the website is self-sustainable through the Australian Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship conference, which will be held at the Intercontinental Sanctuary Cove, Gold Coast in Queensland from November 21-23, 2021.

Australian Chicken Meat Federation deputy executive director and chair of the organising committee for AVAMS21 Dr Kylie Hewson said, "This conference will provide those who manage animal health in all sectors the opportunity to contribute to, and learn about, the growing number of antimicrobial stewardship initiatives underway in Australia and develop collaborative opportunities to strengthen these initiatives and address barriers that impede further progress in antimicrobial stewardship."

"Australian approaches to the appropriate use of antimicrobials in animals have always had their basis in the principles of antimicrobial stewardship and lead the world in many of these initiatives," Dr Hewson said.

"However, there is more that can be done to capture current efforts and clarify areas that require further progress.

"All animal sectors have the dual responsibilities of minimising the development of antimicrobial resistance, while upholding our collective responsibility to ensure high standards of animal health and welfare are maintained.

"While the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted global focus to human health, we must continue to focus on making improvements in animal health to minimise the potential risks to animal and human health, such as AMR.

"The efficacy of antimicrobials to treat human bacterial infections, which are a common complication of respiratory diseases such as those caused by COVID-19, is now more important than it has been in a generation.

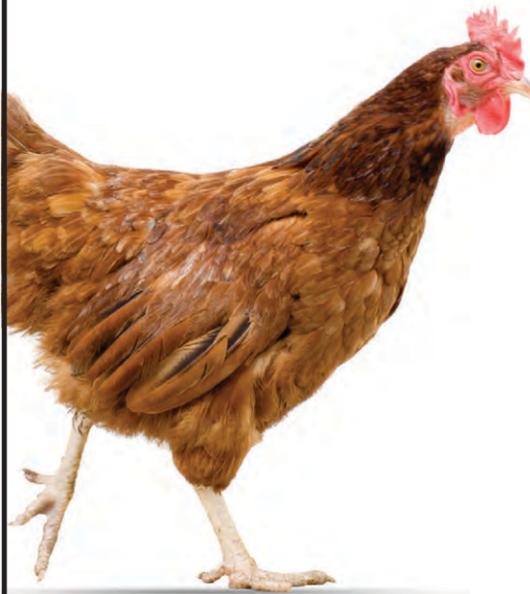
"We must ensure the animal sector is doing all it can to use antimicrobials responsibly to manage animal health and welfare while minimising its contribution to the AMR burden.

"I look forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast in 2021, where there will be plenty of opportunity to expand professional networks and hopefully leave the conference with a resolve to action changes in your sector."

For more information, visit aiasrstrategy.com.au



The Animal Industries Antimicrobial Stewardship research, development and extension strategy website launched in March 2021.



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NUTRITION SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE PERFORMANCE



Manning Valley Eggs owner Peter Matuszny believes the farm sustainability dashboard will be an extremely useful tool.



Australian Eggs launches world leading agritech tools

AUSTRALIAN Eggs has launched two key agricultural technology initiatives – a farm sustainability dashboard and biosecurity virtual reality tool – to help egg farmers continue improving on-farm and business practices, following the release of its third sustainability framework report.

The Australian Eggs sustainability framework report examines the relationship between the Australian community and the egg industry, using insights from annual CSIRO community research to identify opportunities for the industry to progress in important areas, including the en-



vironment, food security and safety, hen welfare, human nutrition, and economic viability.

In direct response to key issues raised by the community and industry as part of the sustainability framework process, Australian Eggs has developed the farm sustainability dashboard and biosecurity VR tool, with both set to be game

changers for Australian egg farmers.

Recognising that industry improvement typically occurs on-farm, the farm sustainability dashboard identifies opportunities for egg farmers to improve sustainable practices across all aspects of their business, helping them to safeguard against future market and industry changes and align with community expectations.

Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies said, "Industry commitment to sustainability is broad, with many egg farming businesses already exploring opportunities for improvement."

"The farm sustainability dashboard provides prac-

tical feedback and directs egg farmers on how they can achieve their sustainable goals, whether they are well advanced in pursuing sustainable practices or just starting out," Mr McMonnies said.

"We developed the dashboard as an online tool to broaden and accelerate industry adoption and enable farming businesses that are otherwise separated and isolated to access knowledge and feedback specific to their operations and requirements."

The dashboard offers a range of sustainability learning modules, including environmental management, production efficiency, supply chain

impacts, energy and water use, on-farm practices, and even business management and market considerations.

Each module was developed with industry experts and once completed, the farmer receives guidance on areas for improvement in their business.

The final output also includes a farm self-assessment score, with egg producers encouraged to interact with the dashboard annually to benchmark themselves.

Manning Valley Eggs owner Peter Matuszny, with five free range farm properties that are all established on sustainable farming practices, believes that the dashboard

will be an extremely useful tool.

"Sustainability is part of farming and we focus on these issues every day," Mr Matuszny said.

"The sustainability dashboard provides a reference point to help make assessments of progress and focus on emerging issues."

Australian Eggs has also developed an agricultural industry leading biosecurity virtual reality tool, designed to facilitate improvements in biosecurity on farm by harnessing technology to enhance understanding of biosecurity risks and improve on-farm practices.

The tool, which was developed in Australia and

has been trialled by egg farmers, allows users to walk through a virtual farm to identify risks and assess the effectiveness of their current biosecurity measures, including where and how improvements can be made on their own farm.

"Training farm workers with booklets can be very dry and does not reflect the progressive farming practices and technological advancement of Australia's egg farming industry," Mr McMonnies said.

"Our new biosecurity VR tool allows new and existing staff to be trained in a close to real-life environment, driving efficien-

continued P12



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Australian Eggs launches tools

from P11

cies and improving training outcomes.”

Other advancements to have come out of the sustainability framework process, and been invested in over the past year, include a trial of artificial intelligence to track the wellbeing of a flock remotely, a traceability project to provide greater transparency over the origin and production of eggs, and a joint carbon neutral research project to develop carbon-neutral eggs and chicken meat.

“Through our CSIRO research we have seen an ongoing increase in trust in the egg industry over the past three years, with the responsiveness of the egg industry to community concerns identified as the strongest driver of trust,” Mr McMonnies said.

“It’s great to know that the outcomes and initiatives we de-

veloped in response to community issues raised through our sustainability framework process – including our training programs, tools and research – are making an impact not only in the industry but also with Australians’ trust in our industry continuing to grow.”

The 2021 sustainability framework report completes the third annual cycle with the process starting in April 2017.

The process was developed to support the Australian egg industry’s objective of farming eggs for Australians in a way that is socially, environmentally and economically responsible.

The full sustainability framework report 2021 is available for download at australianeggs.org.au/assets/Uploads/Sustainability-Framework-Report-2021.pdf



Australia is facing unprecedented water shortages in response to a changing climate and rising demand for water, which presents a serious challenge for the local chicken meat industry.

Future proofing water security for Australia’s chicken meat industry

THE Australian chicken meat industry currently delivers more economic and nutritional value per megalitre of water than other meat products and horticultural industries.

It’s now focussed on finding ways to get smarter about its future water security.

New research shows Australian chicken meat production is highly water efficient.

As competition for water increases, the chicken meat industry is well positioned to deliver greater economic value than most other commodities.

The report has identified that there are both on-farm and off-farm opportunities to improve water

security for the chicken meat industry.

This includes pathways to improve water allocation security and the implementation of new technologies.

Australia is facing unprecedented water shortages in response to a changing climate and rising demand for water, which presents a serious challenge for the local chicken meat industry.

New research funded by AgriFutures Chicken Meat Program and delivered by Integrity Ag and Environment, has addressed this challenge head on, investigating water use and water security in Australian chicken breeder farms, hatcheries,

grow-out farms and processing plants.

Compared to other Australian agricultural commodities, chicken meat production was found to be highly water efficient.

Chicken meat outperforms all of the comparison horticultural and meat products assessed in the study for both economic and nutritional value per megalitre of water required.

Integrity Ag and Environment environmental engineer Marty Robinson and IA&E agricultural and environmental engineer and lead researcher Eugene McGahan have worked to deliver the research project over the past 18 months.

“We were pleased to find that the chicken meat industry is one of Australia’s top performers for water use efficiency,” Mr Robinson said.

“That makes it one of the most economically valuable industries in Australian agriculture and that’s something consumers and policymakers alike should know about.”

AgriFutures Australia manager research chicken meat Annie Lane said the intent of the research was to identify and recommend clear pathways to improve water productivity for the chicken meat industry in order to future proof its water security.

“The research has given us not only a robust knowledge base about the industry’s water use but also a number of real solutions to improve water security,” Ms Lane said.

“These include several close-loop options, as well as water allocation or licensing policy settings that can be changed.

“As competition for water increases, the Australian chicken meat industry is strongly positioned to deliver greater economic value than most other agricultural commodities. “Knowing how water efficient the chicken meat industry is will help us to engage effectively with regulators and policymakers to improve future water security.”

Given its positive scorecard for water efficiency, the chicken meat industry is far from being complacent about water security.

The possibility of future water scarcity due to climate change and increased competition for the resource means the chicken meat producers are considering all water security options available along the industry’s supply chain.

The research project

identified and tested the viability of a number of the available options.

“I want chicken meat producers to know that there are real and viable options for improving water security out there that they can implement now,” Mr Robinson said.

“It’s critical that new technologies and approaches be considered as design elements for any future developments of new facilities or retrofits of existing facilities.

“Trading water, covering run-off dams to reduce evaporation, water-efficient cooling methods and advanced water treatment plants are several options producers could implement over the next five years.

“Many of these water security options have already been implemented successfully at farms and processing plants in Australia, so there are examples people can look to.

“Then of course we also have a watching brief on emerging water security technologies like managed aquifer recharge, which is now proven at a commercial scale in Western Australia.”

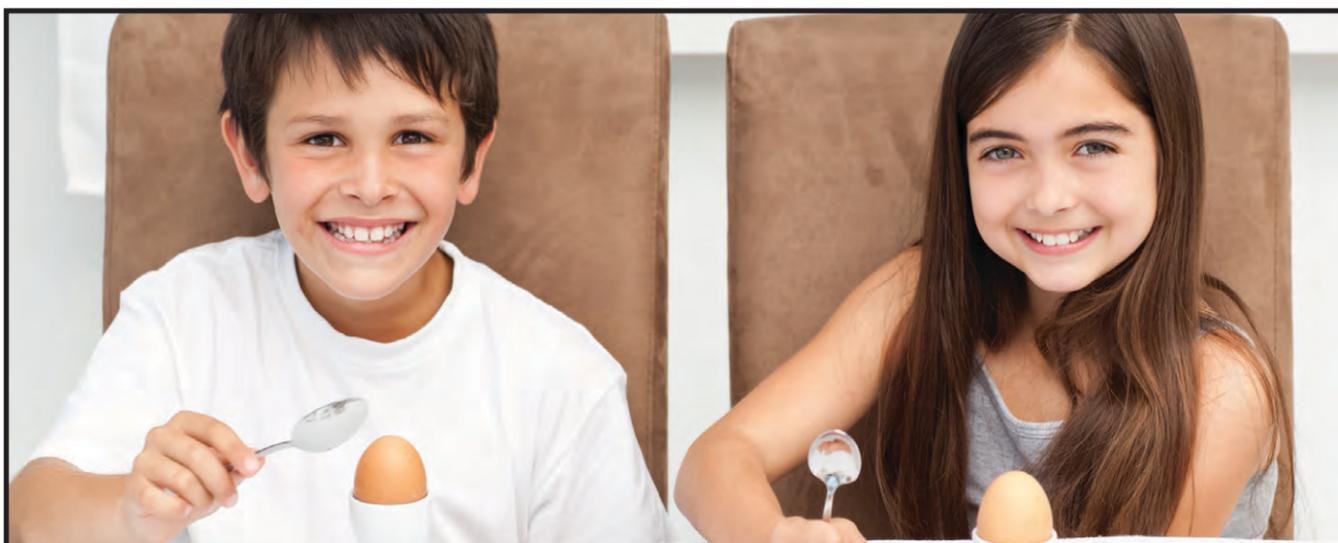
Speaking of what is next for the industry and furthering water security, there is more work to be done to develop a complete picture of how the chicken meat industry uses water.

“The next step after this research project is to develop a national benchmark based on a holistic life cycle assessment of all the chicken meat industry supply chains in Australia,” Mr Robinson said.

The research report ‘Water security in the chicken meat industry’ was produced by Integrity Ag and Environment with funding from the AgriFutures Chicken Meat Program.



Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies said many egg farming businesses were already exploring opportunities for improvement.



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Insects for feed

THE Insect Protein Association of Australia provides support, referral and advocacy for individuals and companies who are engaged or interested in working with insects as a product, or farming insects for sale as a protein for livestock feed.

The insect for feed steering committee is a sub-committee within the IPAA.

It is currently investigating relevant issues and policy needs of the sector, and continues to provide insight and support to members in this area.

The insect for feed industry in Australia comprises of five fly farms

scaling to commercial capacity and a variety of smaller operations either developing their processes or commencing their research and development.

In total, currently there are 45 individuals or companies who are actively pursuing farming fly larvae for livestock feed in Australia.

The feed steering committee has determined the following:

Substrate

The IPAA recommends that all insect for livestock feed farmers consider both the waste management and handling regulations relative to their state or territory, in

addition to the relevant livestock feed regulations relating to restricted animal material and other labelling standards and regulations.

It is important to note that insects are considered animals as per the Livestock Feed Act of Australia – guidance relative to what can be fed to insects in each state can therefore be determined, based on the relevant information, for feeding livestock in each state.

Livestock feed

All insects destined to commercial livestock feed or pet food must meet the regulation requirements for these products as outlined by

feed regulation, labelling and processing laws outlined by each state.

The IPAA encourages all members to establish connection with relevant governing bodies on these issues in addition to consulting with the Stock Feed Manufacturers Council of Australia.

Steering committee

The IPAA will continue to work on building best practice and a portfolio of referral for members who are stakeholders in the insects for livestock feed industry, and will update member information accordingly.

For more information, visit insectproteinassoc.com

Rabobank announces support measures for farmers impacted by flood damage



AGRIBUSINESS banking specialist Rabobank has announced it will offer a range of support measures to farming clients adversely impacted by floods and torrential rainfall in NSW and Queensland.

Rabobank group executive country banking Australia Marcel van Doremaele said early indications were that damage from the recent extreme rainfall event affecting the eastern states had primarily been in coastal regions of NSW, particularly the mid-north coast, with reports of livestock losses, flooded paddocks, access issues and damage to fodder crops and fencing.

“As well as the devastating impact this rainfall event has had on a number of communities in northern NSW and southern Queens-

land, there are concerns about damage, particularly in the mid-north coast region of NSW,” Mr van Doremaele said. “We are keeping a close watch on the situation and are continuing to make contact with clients in impacted areas to offer support and gauge the extent of any damage they have sustained.”

Mr van Doremaele said the bank would work directly with clients whose farms or agribusinesses had been impacted to provide support through immediate difficulties and offer a range of assistance measures in applicable circumstances.

These included:

- Deferral of scheduled loan payments
- Waiver of break costs on early redemption of farm management deposits
- Waiver of fees on

loan increases necessary for rebuilding operations

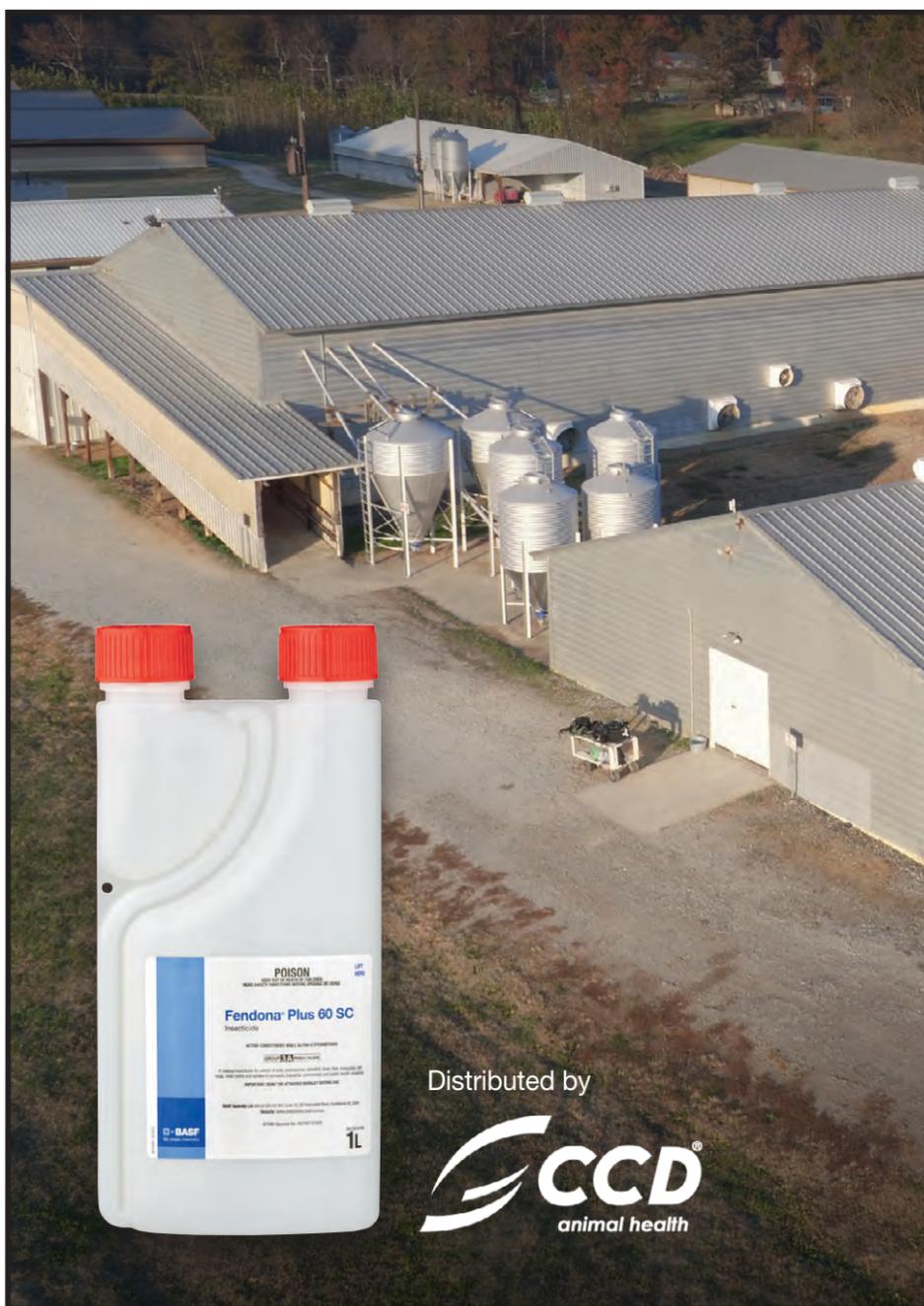
• Waiver of fees for equipment finance contract variations.

Any farming clients who had been impacted by the floods and had not yet spoken to the bank, should contact their local branch or phone Rabobank on 1800 025 484.

Mr van Doremaele noted more heavy rainfall was forecast for northwest and western NSW, with heavy falls also experienced in southeast Queensland.

“While we hope good rainfall totals will be largely welcomed by producers in a number of those areas, there is the concern that excessive volumes could be damaging,” he said.

For more information, visit rabobank.com.au



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Easily accessed and safe bank-mounted aerators from Venturi Aeration.

Aeration system: worker safety or reliability issues

SURFACE aerators are often the 'go to' machine for aeration of lagoons or basins.

They come in several forms, with the most common being fast and slow-speed 'splasher' and draft tube aerators.

The splasher type being better at oxygen transfer and the draft tube being good mixers.

They have one thing in common though.

They are situated in the

middle of the lagoon they are aerating, requiring operators to access them via boats, cranes or haul them in on tethers.

If one of these machines is unreliable in operation, it will be frustrating and dangerous for operators to access, and expensive for the asset owners.

Because of their location, these machines are not likely to receive regular monitoring or routine maintenance, which means

the equipment is likely to break down more often – thus neither performing at peak nor delivering the service life desirable.

The answer to these frustrations is the use of bank-mounted equipment.

Mounted high and dry on the bank of the lagoon or basin rather than in it, the Venturi Aerator performs the same water aeration task as the traditional aerators.

It relies on a self-prim-

ing pump to draw the water from the lagoon, then pumps it at pressure through the Venturi Aerator.

The Venturi Aerator draws in atmospheric air, which mixes with the water being pumped under pressure.

This adds dissolved oxygen to the water and conditions the water as it does so.

This type of system delivers a similar amount of oxygen per kWh as the slow-speed splasher aerators but does it from the easily accessed lagoon bank.

Because access to the units is vastly simpler and safer for operators, monitoring pump oil levels, pump discharge pressure, and even Venturi Aerator air intake levels easily becomes routine.

Adjusting pump clearances is easy with the Gorman-Rupp self-priming pumps.

One operator, two spanners and 10 minutes is all it takes to adjust clearances, keeping the pump and hence the aeration system

running at peak efficiency for the life of the installation.

Routine maintenance such as oil top-ups and gauge checks is much more probable, lengthening the time between major services and greatly extending asset life.

The expected life on a Gorman-Rupp and Venturi Aerator lagoon aeration system is in excess of 25 years.

Imagine the next 25 years of crane and boat-free maintenance!

Venturi aerators are available in sizes from 50mm up to 150mm, with larger systems catered for by using multiple units.

Multiple units can be 'driven' by a single pump, reducing capital outlay and increasing efficiency.

More information on Venturi Aeration units may be obtained from Hydro Innovations at info@hydroinnovations.com.au or hydroinnovations.com.au



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Australia explores safety rules for insect meal

DESPITE the hype around insect ability to upcycle human food waste into animal feed, actually feeding insects raised on trash is prohibited.

A group of insect meal researchers in Australia aims to change that.

Academics, government and industry partners participating in a newly launched cooperative research centre will spend the next two years studying how Australia's existing FeedSafe quality assurance program could be applied to insect meal.

The project will involve a series of tests designed to evaluate safety considerations for the entire insect meal supply chain, beginning with the substrate on which the insects are raised, in hope of finding criteria that would permit the safe recycling of several of the world's most difficult waste streams – food waste, animal effluent and human biosolids.

Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia executive officer Duncan Rowland advised livestock producers in Australia can feed insect meal to fish and poultry in several jurisdictions, but not to pigs or ruminants.

Even in species permitted to consume insect meal, the type of substrate permitted is limited to plant-based materials.

Insect Protein Association of Australia chair and Goterra waste management startup chief executive officer Olympia Yarger believes restrictions have prevented insect production from realising its true potential.

"Insects offer a unique opportunity because they can be reared on a variety of substrates – including waste streams inedible to other species," Ms Yarger said.

"But limiting commercial substrates to plant-based wastes means existing insect operations are competing with livestock producers for agricultural waste streams such as grain detritus, which

relegates insects to the role of unnecessary 'middleman' in the agricultural supply chain.

"Completing the research necessary to open up unique substrate options would allow insects to take their rightful place in the supply chain, recycling previously useless waste streams and creating a new source of protein for animal producers.

"We have to do it now, while the industry is still young, so we can accelerate and scale using waste streams that are not currently dedicated to livestock production."

To determine the safety of using substrates such as post-consumer waste or biosolids, researchers will test each substrate for potential contaminants and then evaluate whether insects raised on that substrate still contain those contaminants after being processed into meal.

As an example, household waste streams could contain rat poisons, bleach and cleaning agents, pathogens or even heavy metals.

Will the resulting meal pose a threat to livestock?

"The feeling around these kinds of substrates is they are bad, and they should not be used in our supply chain," Ms Yarger said. "That's not based in science.

"We need to determine if that is true or not.

"Even if those contaminants do transfer from the substrate to the insect meal, there may still be potential uses for these contaminated insects in bioplastics or biofuels.

"Our job in this research is to qualify the understanding of what 'substrates' mean in the supply chain, and then from there it will be Goterra's mission to determine what we can do with that insect.

"We have to stop pretending that insects are a one-trick pony, and we have to be far more imaginative in how we solve these problems.



Research project looks to adapt existing feed safety standards in Australia to insect meal.

Poultry flocks test positive for avian influenza in Japan and South Korea

THE presence of the HPAI virus has been confirmed at three egg farms in South Korea since March 11.

The first to test positive for the H5N8 virus was a flock of 214,000 birds at Naju.

Though within days, the infection was detected at two farms near Chungju.

The second of these involved 550,000 laying hens.

Naju is in South Jeolla province, around 350km south of Seoul.

Located in North Chungcheong province, Chungju is 150km from the capital.

The latest cases bring South Korea's total outbreaks since November 2020 to 106.

With many of these affecting egg farms, a shortage of local production has pushed prices up.

Egg prices are 45 percent higher than a year ago and 29 million poultry have been culled.

Japan

Japan recorded its first HPAI outbreak for several weeks.

Last week, Japan's agriculture ministry registered the country's first outbreak since February 25.

It brought the country's total primary outbreaks to 52 and total outbreaks to 76.

A chicken farm at Haga in the eastern prefecture of Tochigi was affected and around 77,000 birds were scheduled for culling, while farms within 3km of the outbreak are prohibited from moving any poultry or products.

The latest outbreaks bring the number of prefectures with one or more HPAI outbreak to 18.

Veterinary authorities in Japan and South Korea have confirmed only the presence of the H5N8 virus variant.

Kuwait

The H5N8 HPAI virus has been detected at a second location in Kuwait, according to the latest official report to the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Earlier this month, the

variant was confirmed in a broiler breeder flock of 7000 birds at Abdali in Jahrah governorate.

Around 1900 of the birds died and the rest have been culled, according to the national animal health agency.

There was one previous outbreak linked to the same virus in this northwestern governorate in November of 2020.

India

Recently, mortalities among poultry in the eastern states of Maharashtra and Haryana in northern India were reported.

In the eastern state of Maharashtra, there were 6900 cases in Amravati, and within days a further 5800 dead poultry were recorded, as well as 13 in the Nandurbar district.

Since early January, cases have been recorded in 10 districts in the state.

After an initial slump, demand for poultry recovered to 90 percent of its former level and prices are near-normal.

In Haryana, the rising number of suspected cases of HPAI has put pressure on animal disease testing.

A lab in Hisar has received official government recognition for preliminary testing, along with another facility in Punjab.

These labs will carry out initial testing before passing on positive samples to the nation's high-security centre in Bhopal.

In Panchkula, the Barwala-Raipurrani region is among Asia's largest areas for poultry production.

Suspected in this area in November 2020, the presence of HPAI was confirmed in January 2021.

Haryana authorities have overseen the culling of about 200,000 poultry and the subsequent disinfection of at least nine poultry farms.

More than 130 poultry farms in the area are under close surveillance for a period of at least three months.

Australia

The last avian flu-related movement restrictions have been lifted in the state of Victoria, according to the state's agriculture department.

In July and August 2020, avian influenza was confirmed at four poultry farms near Lethbridge, one at Bairnsdale and an emu farm in Kerang.

At all six premises, depopulation and contamination have been completed.

Surveillance of both domestic and wild birds will continue.



The Bavarian will be kicking off a festival based on the pub food favourite, with the event appropriately dubbed 'Schnitty Fest'.

A 10-week long chicken schnitty festival coming to Australia

GET your knives and forks at the ready schnitty lovers, because there's a 10-week chicken schnitzel festival heading down under – and it looks spectacular.

The Bavarian has announced they'll soon be kicking off a festival based on the pub food favourite, with the event appropriately dubbed 'Schnitty Fest'.

Drawing on its German credentials and inspiration from an Aussie national food icon, the 10-week food fest will be showcasing 10 mouth-watering types of schnitzel, along with holding a \$10 schnitzel Wednesday

every week.

And just wait until you see the drool-worthy schnitties on offer.

Ten incredible flavours have been created by the Bavarian's schnitzel masters, who hand-make hundreds of schnitties daily... pounding chicken and pork to mere millimetres thick, dipping in flour and egg, dredging in house-made breadcrumbs, and pan-frying in hot oil until perfectly golden and blistered.

The Bavarian's food and beverage director John Sullivan said, "We're known of as the 'Haus of Schnitzels and

Steins' for good reason."

"Our schnitties are a perennial favourite on the menu for their generous size, fantastic breadcrumb crunch and tender meat filling, and our schnitzel festival is an homage to this classic Bavarian dish that Australians have made their own."

The chicken schnitty festival will be featuring across the Bavarian locations in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, the ACT and South Australia, and will be available from Wednesday March 31 until Wednesday June 9, 2021.



The 10-week food fest will be showcasing 10 mouth-watering types of schnitzel.

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Biosecurity for the backyard chook

WITH recent media interest in keeping backyard poultry, Australian Eggs reminds consumers to be aware of the animal and human health risks associated, and encourage biosecurity education for all.

Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies said backyard poultry keeping presents risks to animal and human health, and backyard owners need to understand the responsibilities.

"Anecdotally, there has been an increase in the number of people keeping backyard hens, and egg farmers understand

the attraction to producing nutritious and delicious eggs," Mr McMonnies said.

"People need to realise that once you're a suburban 'egg farmer', there are important biosecurity risks to protect against.

"Diseases spread quickly and widely and the potential transfer from backyard to commercial flocks can put food security for the broader community at risk.

"It's understandable that people think backyard farming is clean and natural, but these setups can pose significant problems because of

how accessible they are to wild animals.

"Australian Eggs spends a lot of time communicating these dangers to egg farmers but there is clearly a role in getting information out to backyard owners as well."

Australian Eggs has issued a list of 10 things backyard poultry owners should practice to reduce biosecurity risks:

- Always wash hands after handling chickens or eggs
- Keep chickens away from ponds and rivers as water birds are known carriers of avian influenza

• Ensure wild birds cannot access the chickens' feed or water, as diseases can be easily transmitted to poultry by contamination of feed or water

• Keep other animals such as domestic geese or turkeys and even cats and dogs well away as they can bring disease to chickens

• Use safe water sources such as town water, good quality bore water or sanitised surface water for chickens to drink

• Provide a secure rodent-proof enclosure for poultry, as rats and mice are known carriers of disease

• Any kitchen scraps fed to chickens must be meat and animal free, as when spoiled, these may carry dangerous bacteria

• Check hens regularly for anything unusual such as coughing, diarrhoea or swollen eyes

• If a chicken is showing signs of sickness, isolate the sick animal from others and seek veterinary advice in a timely manner

• Call Animal Health Australia's 24-hour emergency animal disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888 if there are unusual symptoms or signs of serious disease.

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Ingham's Murarrie facility received platinum certification, the highest honour in water stewardship.

Ingham's awarded platinum certification

INGHAM'S Murarrie facility received the highest honour in water stewardship through the International Water Stewardship Standard.

The Alliance for Water Stewardship awarded platinum certification to Ingham's primary processing plant in Murarrie in Queensland.

The AWS standard certification drives, recognises and rewards good water stewardship performance of sites that demonstrate responsible and sustainable water management.

Worldwide, there are currently 128 AWS-certified sites and 21 have achieved platinum certification.

Of those, Ingham's has four sites certified to the AWS standard, with two achieving platinum certification.

Ingham's primary processing site in Somerville, Victoria was the

first in the world to achieve platinum certification in 2018.

The Murarrie team, led by operations manager David Gent, achieved platinum certification by identifying its water impacts, challenges and sphere of influence in the catchment where it operates.

By doing this, the site engages with key stakeholders and understands the water-related risks and opportunities that are available.

Several projects have been completed over the past 12 months as part of the site's water stewardship plan, with great benefits for nourishing the planet.

Murarrie's health, safety and environment manager Brett Porter shared these initiatives with local community groups and said, "We've rejuvenated six of the site's ponds that hold 60

million litres of water and provide a fantastic habitat for the local wildlife."

"The volume of the on-site wastewater treatment plant's sludge has reduced and the site's water consumption has reduced by one-third over the past three years.

"In addition, the site has reduced its trade waste to almost zero and has more projects planned to further reduce its water impact.

"I'm proud of the good we are doing for the planet."

AWS' Asia-Pacific chief executive officer Megan McLeod congratulated the Murarrie team's platinum achievement.

"On behalf of AWS Asia-Pacific, I would like to congratulate the Ingham's team on achieving platinum status, the highest level of

AWS standard certification, for their plant at Bulimba Creek Murarrie in Queensland, Australia," Ms McLeod said.

"Ingham's continues to clearly demonstrate the highest level of commitment to water stewardship with the Murarrie site being part of the group of Ingham's AWS standard certified sites at Somerville in Victoria, Bolivar in South Australia, and Te Aroha in New Zealand.

"Ingham's is recognised as the sector leader in sustainability and water stewardship, and is a key member of the Alliance for Water Stewardship."

We are proud of this remarkable achievement by the Murarrie team and thank David Gent and Brett Porter for leading the water stewardship program that is truly world-class.

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Poultry farmer and university lecturer Ruud Zanders said, "It makes no sense for us to be competing with animals for food."

Dutch farm producing carbon-neutral eggs

A MASSIVE 70 percent of the carbon footprint in eggs comes from growing corn to feed chickens.

In recent years, free range and organic eggs have become increasingly popular among people eager to support more ethical farming methods.

Dutch stores are stocking a food produced with the environment and animal welfare in mind – carbon-neutral eggs.

Meaning that no emissions are associated with their production.

Kipster eggs are the product of a new farm that diverges from techniques commonly used to yield

organic and free range eggs, which see chickens fed with human-grade corn.

Poultry farmer and university lecturer Ruud Zanders said, "It makes no sense for us to be competing with animals for food."

"And 70 percent of the carbon footprint in eggs is accounted for by the feed for the chickens," Mr Zanders said.

The farm collects waste items such as broken biscuits and rice cakes from local bakeries, as well as edible items set to be thrown away, and turns it into feed for the chickens.

This has a dual effect

– it prevents the 'competition' between humans and animals for the same food sources, and has a positive effect on the farm's carbon footprint.

However, the choice of chicken feed isn't the only effort the farm has made to limit its carbon emissions.

Over 1000 solar panels were installed and provide more than enough energy for the farm itself, with any overage being sold back to the grid.

With the way the chickens are fed and the solar panels, a study by the Wageningen University found that the farm's eggs could be considered

carbon neutral.

Mr Zanders said that if the status changes in future, he will install more solar panels to reduce CO2 emissions even further.

Given carbon emissions are one of the biggest problems of our time, this is positive news.

Recently, a report commissioned by the United Nations stated current levels haven't been seen in 3 million years.

With those emissions generating rapid climate change and ocean acidification, there are pressing concerns a massive ecological disaster could be triggered in the next century.

Experts have suggested the only way humanity will survive is to become carbon-neutral or even carbon-negative.

Fortunately, things are beginning to change.

China is shutting down factories, gas and diesel-powered cars are seemingly on their way out and there are ongoing efforts to establish ways of converting CO2 into a usable fuel source.

It's going to take a unilateral shift across various different industries to ensure we address carbon emissions.

Kipster eggs have certainly contributed to a greater undertaking.

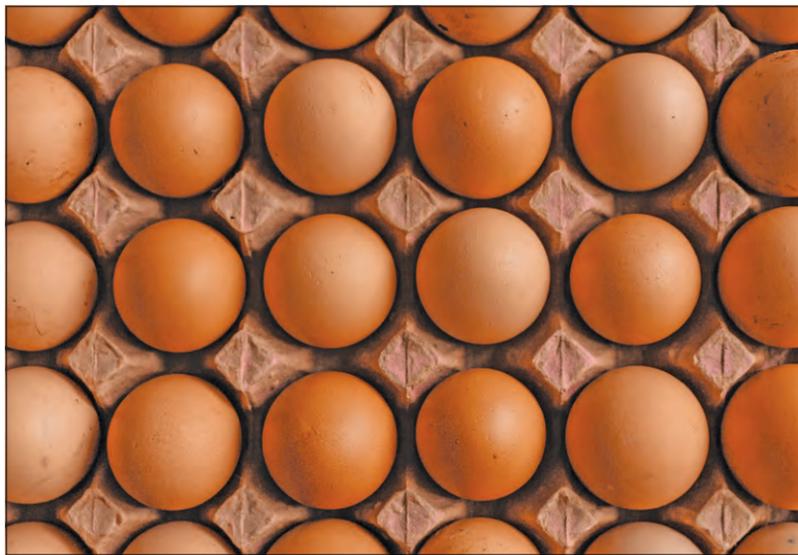


Photo: Erol Ahmed

Solutions for poultry wastewater

CHOOSING the best pump for pumping wastewater from poultry farms or processing plants means taking the time and trouble to analyse performance and the types of pumps required.

The choices are submersibles, long-column sump pumps and more recently, the introduction of Aussie's GMP big, robust self-priming centrifugal pumps.

Aussie Pumps believes that the big self-priming pump concept works better, not only because of its ease of maintenance but also for its ability to withstand the issues that pumps in applications such as these experience.

Corrosion is one consistent problem, particularly for cast iron submersible pumps, where a two-year life cycle is often normal.

The pumps also need to be robust enough to handle the job and have that indispensable 'self-priming' feature.

Self-priming means that the pump is mounted outside the pit or tank and draws its water through a suction line connected into the front of the pump.

In a normal installation, the discharge is through an elbow mounted on the top of the pump, but the key feature is the design of the pump body itself.

For a self-priming pump, the body will include the capacity for it to hold enough water to prime the pump.

The priming process is simple and virtually foolproof.

Aussie Pumps' chief engineer John Hales said, "To prime, there are three simple steps." "Step one, fill the pump bowl with water through the priming plug mounted in the top of the pump body.

"Step two, make sure the suction hose or fittings going into the pump body are completely airtight, so there's no danger of air leaks in the suction line.

"Step three is to start the motor or engine, depending on the drive system involved.

"What happens next is basic physics."

The water in the pump body is expelled to the discharge.

That in turn creates a vacuum inside the pump that allows the check valve mounted in the pump suction port to open, allowing water to be sucked into the pump body through the suction hose or pipe assembly.

"It's easy and provides real advantages of convenience," Mr Hales said.

Aussie's 2" through to 6" pumps are all designed around a trash or semi-trash configuration concept.

The smaller pumps of 2-4" are regarded as semi trash, though they have big open non-clog style impellers and feature silicon carbide seals and a stainless-steel wear plate.

For extreme applications, 316 stainless-steel cast impellers can be provided as an option.

Best of all, semi-trash and trash pumps from the Aussie GMP product range all include a front opening port that enables the pump to be cleared out in the event of blockages.

"Imagine, being able to clean out the pump without having to disconnect pipework, as you do in the case of an end suction pump," Mr Hales said.

"Bones, feathers and particles of meat or flesh will pass straight through the pump without effort."

Aussie's semi-trash pump range now includes a 3" pump that not only has the capacity to move over 1000L per minute but can also deliver heads up to 70m.

"That's a breakthrough product for us," Mr Hales said.

"It means that the liquid can be pumped further, or higher, depending on the application."

Experience has shown Aussie Pump engineers that using submersibles in applications such as this, and long-column sump pumps, can create real difficulty.

"We hear about the inconvenience of lifting pumps out of the pit for service, where with a self-priming pump mounted outside the tank or pond, service can be carried out with a minimum of mess and inconvenience," Mr Hales said.

"It's the new way and every day we find more customers moving to our self-priming centrifugal pumps for these wastewater applications."

Further information, including a new catalogue on Aussie GMP pumps, is readily available from Australian Pump Industries or distributors around Australia.



Aussie GMP self-priming pumps are quick to set up and simple to maintain.



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