Dr Natalie Morgan got ready for lots of chicken chats with students at the recent Northwest Regional Careers Expo in Tamworth.

Dr Natalie Morgan discussed which came first, ‘the chicken or the egg’, with high school students at the recent Northwest Regional Careers Expo in Tamworth.
Need for standardising of chicken meat standards

LAST month the RSPCA released its 2019 Approved Farming Scheme Standards for meat chickens, which outlines production practices and animal welfare requirements that aim to meet the birds’ behavioural and physiological needs. This comprehensive framework is designed to assist the industry to continually improve and demonstrate good animal welfare outcomes.

The Standard includes new sections regarding the expansion of training and competency standards for staff and more detail around health monitoring and vaccinations. There are also new inclusions concerning the placement of chicks, feed and water, environment and housing and minor amendments to stocking density, animal husbandry and management and animal handling sections.

For many growers these changes won’t come as a surprise, following an extensive and inclusive consultation period with all stakeholders. RSPCA should be commended for its efforts to ensure effective communication with growers, processors and industry representative bodies and for acknowledging their concerns and the realities of farming within the updated Standard.

The Queensland poultry industry expects the transition to implement the changes should be reasonably smooth, which reflects the level of confidence it has in the process. However, the RSPCA is not alone in creating and implementing animal welfare standards for meat chickens.

Others include Animal Health Australia, Free Range Egg and Poultry Australia, McDonald’s Australia and KFC. While this creates market opportunities for growers, it also creates greater compliance and administration demands if they are supplying to separate standards and the associated costs remain a barrier to the increased productivity and capacity of the poultry and other intensive agricultural industries.

Greater standardisation would also send a simple and authoritative message to consumers that many elements of the various animal welfare programs are being met. Even more powerful would be a united acknowledgement from the owners of these programs that the poultry industry is operating in a responsible and ethical manner and continues to deliver animal welfare outcomes that go beyond regulatory requirements.

The duplication of standards and the associated costs remain a barrier to the increased productivity and capacity of the poultry and other intensive agricultural industries.

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Five steps to move your animals’ nutrition at the pace of genetics.

INTRODUCING THE NEW
Blueprint Chick Starter Pellet for Layers

Both genetics and management practices have been rapidly advancing in agriculture over the past 10 years.

The Blueprint® Nutrition Program is that next step in nutritional evolution.

Call your local Alltech Lienert representative to find out more!
Cracking the chicken and the egg dilemma

I UNDERSTAND CSIRO researchers have developed a new gene technology to differentiate between male and female chicks pre-hatch that could improve animal production, reduce costs and eliminate ethical dilemmas for the egg and poultry industries.

Recent advances in gene technology mean it is now possible to differentiate between male and female chicks pre-hatch. According to CSIRO, this discovery provides an opportunity to improve animal production, reduce costs and eliminate ethical dilemmas in egg-laying and related industries. Currently, culling male chicks post-hatch creates a major ethical dilemma for some countries. As a result, the poultry industry has invested in developing solutions to this issue.

In some European countries, the need for a solution is urgent, following the call by some governments to introduce legislation to ban culling practices. CSIRO is undertaking a proof-of-concept project that differentiates between male and female chicks pre-hatch by placing a biological marker on the chicken sex-determining chromosome. The process of marking the sex chromosome is precise, requiring intricate skills.

CSIRO claims the technology it uses for the sex selection process builds on its experience with chicken genome engineering and gene editing, and the skills to undertake this work were developed in collaboration with industry and university partners. Apparently, all CSIRO’s research involving gene technology is performed according to Australian legislation for gene technology, including regulations set out by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.

The option of pre-hatch sex determination could negate the need to cull chickens and contribute to future-proofing food security through a more sustainable industry. This new technology could be integrated into existing farming practices, potentially making it easy for industry to adopt.

An additional benefit of this technology is the potential to use male eggs to protect people from influenza viruses. For example, human influenza vaccines are generally grown by vaccine manufacturers in fertilised chicken eggs.

The pre-hatched male eggs no longer required by the layer industry could then be used to help produce seasonal flu vaccines. Meanwhile, on a less positive note, 100-year-old Australian poultry company Ingham’s is recalling its sweet chilli chicken Schnitzel 440g chilled packaging, but the packages actually contain Southern Style Chicken Schnitzel 440g chilled packaging, which resulted in the presence of undeclared allergens that could cause a reaction with certain consumers. Ingham’s is the second-largest poultry producer in Australia, annually slaughtering 176 million broilers, according to the Poultry International Top Poultry Companies Survey. Ingham’s is vertically integrated, operating facilities and farms across Australia and New Zealand.

Contact

Jason Graham 0428 149 704 jason.graham@manildra.com.au

Manildra Group’s rendering facility in South West NSW, offers transportation from farm and processing services for spent birds from New South Wales, Southern Queensland and Victoria.

POULTRY RENDERING

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spray one step ahead of E. coli

Help stop disease before it stops you. Poulvac E. coli is the only commercially available modified live vaccine that helps prevent disease caused by E. coli in chickens. Help your birds before they need it with Poulvac E. coli.

POULVAC®
E. coli
Effective protection. Demonstrated results.

For more information please contact your local Zoetis representative or Customer Service on 1800 022 442.
ARE you an egg farmer and buy in eggs? Do you buy second-hand packaging? Do you have an external feed supply? Do you have other poultry farms close by? Do you have rodents? If you answer yes to any of these questions, you need to sit up and take notice. Salmonella enteritidis is a risk reality to your business.

Just how serious is SE? It’s serious enough to quarantine and depopulate your farm. It’s serious enough to recall all your eggs and destroy them. SE is a major food safety risk, and outbreaks could seriously affect egg consumption.

A number of steps can be taken to reduce the risk of your property becoming contaminated with SE. Biosecurity is the key – high-level biosecurity! If you bring anything onto your property that may have been on another property, or from a grading floor or processor, you need to be fastidious about your biosecurity. It does not have to be eggs, it can be packaging, pallets, equipment, vehicles, people, in fact, anything that can carry dust can also carry SE.

Having a good approved supplier arrangement is the first step in ensuring you are only bringing clean materials onto your farm. Only essential visitors should be allowed near the production area of your farm. People are particularly good carriers of salmonella. A thorough cleaning and sanitising procedure for all incoming goods and materials must also be in place.

Are you using it at the right concentration? Is it neutralised by organic matter? You need to be very thorough with this step. Do you have an effective rodent control program? Checking the activity in and around your bait stations is an effective way of evaluating the amount of rodent activity on your farm. Vaccination and feed additives are particu- larly useful additions to any SE control program, but they are not infallible. They are a good backup if the organism happens to break your quarantine barriers and get into your flocks, but it is risky to rely solely on these. Again, check with your vaccine supplier and feed supplier that the products you are using are in fact registered against salmonella enteritidis.

Please consult your veterinarian to review your biosecurity and salmonella control strategies before it’s too late. Depopulation and de-contamination are the only solutions to an incursion of salmonella enteritidis on your farm.

Salmonella enteritidis – a serious issue!

Vet’s View
by ROD JENNER

TIN Phung will take on the role of territory sales representative for Stockyard. TIN has come from more than 20 years’ experience in the poultry industry. After graduating from an Agricultural Science degree at the University of Melbourne in 1998, Tin then worked with broiler breeders for eight years. In 2007 he switched to the layer industry, working for Hy-Line Australia. Tin joined Hy-Line International in 2013 as technical service manager for South-East Asia covering 12 countries. Tin will be based in Bendigo, Victoria but will travel extensively throughout Australia to service Stockyard Industries’ customer base.

TIN can be contacted on 0400 075 193 or tin@stockyardindustries.com

TIN has always enjoyed working in the poultry industry and is eager to start his next chapter in his career and meet our poultry and pig customers to discuss equipment and project needs.
At SBA, we know the perfect egg begins with a quality layer. That’s why we’ve spent over 50 years ensuring our customers benefit from a dependable supply of genetically superior Hy-Line and Lohmann day-old chicks and point-of-lay pullets.

As the largest specialist supplier to Australia’s egg farms, we continue to invest in the world’s most technically advanced breeding facilities – and offer on the ground husbandry and technical advice so you can continuously improve productivity, feed conversion and egg quality.

At SBA, quality is just part of our DNA.
NEW research shows uncertainty from ongoing bilateral trade wars between China and the US has set the global trading environment back decades and undermined Australian agricultural exports.

A comprehensive AgriFutures Australia-funded report released recently gives policy-makers, industry peak bodies and primary producers a road map as to how a less-predictable trading environment may impact export markets.

The report identified a wide range of risks and opportunities for Australia’s agricultural interests arising from the current trade wars, finding some Australian products are likely to fare better than others.

AgriFutures Australia senior manager Business Development Jen Medway said the findings show unilateral moves by the Trump administration to negotiate existing trade agreements have threatened World Trade Organization principles of a rules-based trading system, creating uncertainty for Australian agriculture.

“The findings show the need for a leadership role in attempting to restore stability for agricultural commodities in the current global trading environment,” Ms Medway said.

“Any improvement in access for UK product into the US would be damaging to Australia’s export interests.”

Another area we may see increased competition in is Australia’s fresh, chilled and frozen beef exports due to risks identified in Australia’s two biggest beef export markets – Japan and US.

“The US is increasingly eager to expand its export reach of beef products into Japan, with the US having very limited access to China and the EU due to a ban on hormone growth promotants,” Ms Medway said.

“The US and Japan edging closer to negotiating a bilateral FTA, Australian beef exports to Japan may suffer.”

Mr Harvey acknowledged the importance of the report findings, noting they are critical to putting rigor around our understanding of the top line impacts for agricultural products as a result of trade wars.

“It will inform Australian industry input on how best to ameliorate the detrimental side effects of current and possible future trade measures,” Mr Harvey said.

Mr Harvey added the take-away message from the research is trade wars breed uncertainty.

Uncertainty is bad for business and leaves agricultural producers, traders and buyers struggling to manage a shifting policy landscape.

“The longer this period of uncertainty lasts, the more commercial decisions will need to be made by Australia’s agricultural stakeholders facing the prospect of sudden and unpredictable policy changes at the global level,” Mr Harvey said.

As a medium-sized, open economy dependent on trade to underpin economic growth, Australia benefits significantly from the confidence and predictability inspired by the smooth operation of the international trade regime.

New ‘no rules’ trading environment unsettles Australian agricultural exports

Australia takes the lion’s share of Australia’s agricultural exports. Seven of the top 10 export destinations by value are Asian nations. China leads the way, and in 2017 purchased 20 percent of exports of Australian priority products identified for this study, valued at more than $US8 billion.

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Poultry had food security story to tell on World Poultry Day

FOOD security was a big issue on World Poultry Day as pork production continues to fall due to African swine fever in pigs in China, with poultry expected to fill the gap in world protein supplies.

As poultry becomes the world’s most-consumed meat protein in 2019, the International Poultry Council called on producers worldwide to use World Poultry Day to engage consumers and critics about poultry’s role in food security and sustainability.

World Poultry Day was on May 10, and the IPC invited producers in every country to join in the celebration in the year in which total worldwide poultry consumption will top that of all the meat proteins.

The celebration comes at a time when there is a heightened worldwide awareness of food insecurity.

Total worldwide poultry production will exceed that of pork in 2019 due to production losses from African swine fever in pigs in China and elsewhere.

With 2.2 billion more mouths to feed by 2050, experts estimate food production must grow by 70 percent.

Poultry has demonstrated the ability to meet demand efficiently and sustainably.

World Poultry Day was first celebrated in 2012 in the IPC member country of Hungary, where it continues as an annual event.

Member-country Colombia’s first-time celebration in 2019 included a nationwide media campaign that recruited producer donations of poultry to food banks for distribution to vulnerable families.

Brazil and India have plans to hold celebrations in future years.

IPC president Robin Horel said, “World Poultry Day dawned on May 10 with industry members working by the hundreds of thousands all over the world to produce and deliver to consumers the most nutritious, healthy and sustainable of all the meat proteins.”

“We invited poultry producers in every country to join IPC in celebrating World Poultry Day and challenged them to use the opportunity to proactively engage in the debate about food security and sustainability.”

In conjunction with World Poultry Day, IPC released a video titled ‘A world without hunger’.

The video drives home the message that poultry promotes food security and provides healthy nutrition while being sustainable.

IPC’s vice president Ricardo Santin said, “Consumers and influencers are hungry to learn more about where their food comes from but unfortunately they are frequently getting answers from activist organisations rather than farmers and industry experts.”

“The video conveys poultry’s role in sustainably feeding the world’s growing population in a very reliable way.”

The video is just one part of IPC’s efforts to engage consumers and influencers with messaging about poultry’s role in safely, affordably and sustainably feeding the world’s growing population.

IPC, for example, is developing messaging about poultry’s very efficient food conversion, small carbon footprint and other traits that align with the United Nations’ Sustainability Development Goals.

Beginning in 2020, the IPC plans to recognise the best World Poultry Day campaigns from around the world.

For information about joining the International Poultry Council in the celebration of World Poultry Day, contact secretary general Marilia Ran- gel at marilia@internationalpoultrycouncil.org

Country associations and companies involved in the poultry production and consumption chain are welcome to join the IPC.

The IPC was formed in 2005 by leading poultry-producing countries to determine areas of common interest and develop policies for the overall betterment of the global industry.

The organisation currently has 29 country members and 56 associate members representing more than 88 percent of the world’s poultry production and 95 percent of the poultry trade.

New research reveals eggs contain 82 percent of daily vitamin D intake

VITAMIN D deficiency is common in Australia, with almost a quarter of adults having a mild or moderate deficiency.

Latest research from Australian Eggs found an average of eggs (two 60g eggs) provides a substantial portion of the recommended dietary vitamin D intake, proving eggs are one of the highest natural sources of vitamin D.

As advancements in research continue to uncover the proven nutritional benefits of the humble egg, Australians are upping their daily consumption to an average of 17 million eggs per day – that’s about 245 eggs per person, per year.

Vitamin D deficiencies are more than double in winter.

The Australian Health Survey reveals deficiency rates range from 36 percent in winter to 14 percent in summer.

Many Australians will be quick to reach for supplements, with nearly half of all Aussies said to take vitamins and supplements.

With the high cost of supplements and speculation around their health benefits, experts advise sticking to natural food sources where possible.

With an average serve of eggs offering 82 percent of the recommended dietary intake, eggs are a preferable choice for Aussies who would consider supplements and for those looking to boost their vitamin D levels this winter.

Australian general practitioner Dr Ginni Mansberg said, “Australians are confidently reaching for a carton of eggs more than ever before.”

“In just one egg there are 11 different vitamins and nutrients packed into just 300 kilojoules.”

“In Australia, it’s actually very hard to get more than about 5 or 10 percent of our D requirement from most food because we don’t fortify by adding vitamin D to many things. This could be a massive game changer for those suffering from Vitamin D deficiencies.”

Vitamin D is essential for the body to absorb calcium effectively, which is important for bone health and muscle function.

Severe vitamin D deficiencies could have major health ramifications – linked to serious conditions such as osteoporosis, diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

“Eggs might be able to help keep vitamin D levels high to lower the risk of disease, maintain strong bones and teeth, as well as lower the risk of cardiovascular disease,” Dr Mansberg said.

“Eggs are a highly nutritious food and should be included daily as part of a healthy and balanced diet.”

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Aviagen invests $20 million in innovative Wagga Wagga quarantine facility.

In keeping with a commitment to rigorous biosecurity to ensure the health and welfare of its birds, Aviagen has built a leading-edge quarantine farm in NSW, Australia. The investment totaled $20 million.

The new 35000m² farm is known as the Wagga Wagga Import Quarantine Facility.

Animal health and import regulations in Australia and New Zealand are among the toughest in the world, and Wagga Wagga is the only poultry quarantine facility in Australia that fully complies with government requirements.

It will hold about 12,000 great grandparent birds, with a fresh import arriving every 20 weeks. The official grand opening took place on March 27, officiated by Greg Conkey, Wagga Wagga’s mayor and the State Member of Parliament Dr Joe McGirr.

Also present were Aviagen employees and customers, the building contractor, media representatives and members of the surrounding community who had observed the construction during the prior 18 months.

During the event, tours were led by operations manager Wayne Miller who managed this intense construction project and farm manager Roy Sutherland.

Wagga Wagga received its first import of eggs on May 17 and begins operation in June.

With a presence in Australia for 50 years, Aviagen currently supplies all major poultry producers with broiler breeding stock and is committed to their success.

This new operation will provide the advantages in performance, feed efficiency, health and welfare offered by Ross birds.

Promoting the highest health standards

The Wagga Wagga quarantine facility follows the strictest biosecurity, receiving quality imported eggs and then incubating them, hatching them and growing them to about 10 weeks of age.

The chicks are tested by the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to confirm they are healthy and disease free before they are transferred to Aviagen breeder farms.

The farm is then disinfected and prepared for the next quarantine cycle.

Wagga Wagga is constructed with state-of-the-art features to ensure the highest level of biosecurity available today.

It is a fully sealed, climate-controlled and high-efficiency particulate air-filtered structure cocooned in a protective outer building.

“Aviagen’s vision is to help feed the world’s communities with a high-quality source of protein,” Mr Miller said.

“Wagga Wagga’s quarantine facility will allow us to continue to import our high-generation breeding stock into Australia and thus pass on the high value of our birds to customers for years to come.”

About Aviagen

Aviagen is a global poultry breeding company that develops pedigree lines for the production of commercial broiler chickens under the Arbor Acres, Indian River and Ross brand names.

The Rowan Range and Specialty Males are specialty breeding stock from Aviagen that offer greater flexibility for customers to meet specific or niche market requirements.

The company is based in Huntsville, Alabama, US with a number of wholly owned operations across the United Kingdom, Europe, Turkey, Latin America, India, New Zealand, Australia, New Zealand and the US, and joint ventures in Asia.

Aviagen employs more than 4000 people and has a distribution network serving customers in more than 100 countries.

For further information, please visit aviagen.com

Grinder pumps make sense

Tsurumi’s M Series, the low cost saving over conventional effluent pumps because they reduce the size of the solids passed using a two-phase, two-pole, cast iron pumps are available with 32mm and 50mm discharge ports.

The 50mm pump has a maximum head of 30m (50psi) and a capacity of up to 320lpm.

Tsurumi developed special high-torque, two-pole motors for these pumps that can start up even when the pump chamber is filled with solids-laden liquid.

Aussie Pumps’ Bob Massiah said, “It’s that extra torque incorporated in the special motor windings that makes the difference.”

Tsurumi’s M Series can be mounted on guide rails.

This makes it simple to replace the pump for maintenance and service without draining the pit.

An adaptor plate is available to enable swap out of other brands with the need to replace the existing guide rails or duckfoot elbows.

Like all Tsurumi submersible pumps, the M Series include features that extend the life and enhance reliability of the pump.

Significant design details make a big difference.

They include an anti-wicking cable entry that prevents water from entering the motor if the power lead is damaged or the end of the cable is accidentally submerged.

A silicon-carbide seal is standard on all models.

All seal surfaces are submerged in an oil chamber, away from the pumped liquid.

This ensures lubrication and protects against ingress of foreign materials.

The oil bath features a patented Oil Lifter that increases mechanical seal longevity.

The lifter ensures both the upper and lower seals are lubricated and cooled, even if the oil level in the chamber is low.

“Tsurumi is the only company we know of that will offer a three year warranty on submersible sewage pumps,” Bennett said.

Further information on the complete range of Tsurumi submersible pumps is available on the Aussie Pumps website (aussiepumps.com.au) or by contacting Tsurumi product manager Neil Bennett on 02 8865 5000.

Tsurumi’s grinder pumps offer high-head performance with clog-free pump impellers.
Ten outstanding women from across Australia and with diverse backgrounds and skill sets have been selected to take part in the 2019 Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program.

In its second year, the Program, an initiative of the National Farmers’ Federation aims to fix agriculture’s ‘women problem’ by developing and empowering aspiring female leaders to reach their potential.

NFF president Fiona Simson said, “Currently, women comprise 41 percent of the agricultural workforce but make up only 18 percent of management roles and is a statistic that the NFF determined to rectify.


‘These organisations have stepped up and signed up to support our mission to even the ledger when it comes to female representation in agriculture,’ Ms Simson said.

“They are doing far more than talking about advancing women in our sector; they are leading by example and they should be recognised for that.’

The NFF has identified increasing the representation of women as key to achieving agriculture’s goal to be a $100 billion industry by 2030 and has set a target to double, by 2030, the number of women in agricultural management roles.

US farm aid should not benefit foreign companies

“By 2030, the number of women in agricultural management roles.”

The department awarded numerous contracts to JBS and has not established sufficient procedures to ensure taxpayer-funded trade assistance for American farmers is not ultimately benefiting foreign companies,” the letter said.

The senators said “subsidising our competitors through trade assistance” was “unacceptable.”

Perdue said payments to JBS were not a concern in a recent interview and that only US-produced agricultural products would be purchased.

“These are legal compa- nies operating in the US,” Perdue said in a statement provided by USDA.

JBS SA has bounced back from corruption scandals in Brazil involving its former chairman and chief executive, who admitted to bribing scores of Brazilian politicians.

The company saw its first-quarter profit soar 116 percent from a year earlier.

JBS USA said in a statement that it was a US-based company that employs more than 72,000 US workers.

US farmers are the true beneficiaries of the program, the company said.

“Our sole intent for participating was to support US producer prices and help our American pro- ducers, JBS USA said.

“It was not a bailout.”

Gentle handling system for fertile eggs

Designed with your farm in mind, the SANOV Gentle Packer is simple, robust, reliable and flexible.

Maximum up-time – 99.8% point down packing - ease of maintenance, all day, every day, is the key to optimising your business and profit!

Compatible with the several setter trays available in the market.

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US farm aid should not benefit foreign companies

“By 2030, the number of women in agricultural management roles.”

The department awarded numerous contracts to JBS and has not established sufficient procedures to ensure taxpayer-funded trade assistance for American farmers is not ultimately benefiting foreign companies,” the letter said.

The senators said “subsidising our competitors through trade assistance” was “unacceptable.”

Perdue said payments to JBS were not a concern in a recent interview and that only US-produced agricultural products would be purchased.

“These are legal compa- nies operating in the US,” Perdue said in a statement provided by USDA.

JBS SA has bounced back from corruption scandals in Brazil involving its former chairman and chief executive, who admitted to bribing scores of Brazilian politicians.

The company saw its first-quarter profit soar 116 percent from a year earlier.

JBS USA said in a statement that it was a US-based company that employs more than 72,000 US workers.

US farmers are the true beneficiaries of the program, the company said.

“Our sole intent for participating was to support US producer prices and help our American pro- ducers, JBS USA said.

“It was not a bailout.”

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National Poultry Newspaper, June 2019
Improve the reliability of your DAF system

FOOD processing companies can improve the reliability of their DAF system and reduce maintenance costs by throwing out their compressor and air saturation (pressure) vessel and replacing their existing pump with an EDUR multi-phase pump, according to Australian distributor Hydro Innovations.

The EDUR multi-phase pump is unique in that it is capable of pumping an air/water mixture, so installing this pump enables DAF system owners to disconnect their compressor (to free it up to use elsewhere or work it less and save on maintenance costs).

They also don’t need the ongoing maintenance and recertification for the air saturation pressure vessel. With the pressure vessel, they can remove or bypass it, or incorporate it into the new system. If they choose to incorporate it, it just becomes part of the pipe system and will not be a pressure vessel requiring certification.

The heart of the new system is the EDUR multi-phase pump. The setup is simple. It is set up with a throttle valve and ‘air stor’-k on the suction side of the pump, and a solution line (or reuse the existing air saturation vessel) and throttle valve on the discharge.

The pump draws water from the ‘clean’ side of the DAF tank, and with the negative pressure created by partially closing the suction throttle valve, also draws atmospheric air into the pump. The pump shears and mixes the air with the water and discharges it (under pressure created by the discharge throttle valve) through the discharge solution line.

The pressure created and the time spent in the solution line ‘foams’ the air into solution.

When the air/water solution reaches the lower pressure in the DAF tank, the air comes out of solution to form tiny micro bubbles (30-70 micron).

The micro bubbles attach to fat, oil and grease (FOG) particles and float to the ‘clean’ side of the DAF tank, and with the time spent in the DAF tank, and with the negative pressure vessel required means lower maintenance on the compressor, it just becomes part of the pipe system and will not be a pressure vessel requiring certification.

No more compressor needed means lower savings.

More information on the EDUR pump/system may be obtained from Hydro Innovations at hydroinventions.com.au.

The micro bubbles also draw atmospheric air into the pump.

With the pressure vessel, the time spent in the solution line ‘foams’ the air into solution.

The FOG blanket formed by EDUR pumps at a process plant in Europe.
Antimicrobial stewardship – the path to least resistance

Antimicrobial resistance is now accepted as a global public health priority and an important emerging animal health issue. Antimicrobial use contributes to the selection of antimicrobial resistance and consequently only necessary high-quality use of antimicrobial agents is considered appropriate.

The Australian meat chicken and egg industries are historically low users of antimicrobial agents and recent surveys of antimicrobial resistance in bacterial commercial poultry species isolated from meat chickens and the environment of laying sheds have revealed very low levels of antimicrobial resistance.

Despite this very favourable position, the implementation of formal and systematic antimicrobial stewardship plans will support the continued low frequency of antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance.

Introduction
Antimicrobial resistance is considered one of the biggest threats to human and animal health today and all users of antimicrobial agents have a responsibility to ensure these agents are only used when necessary.

The Australian poultry industry takes the issue of AMR very seriously and has a long history of developing and introducing initiatives to enhance infection prevention and control and to encourage restriction of antimicrobial use to essential uses.

The codes of practice and guidelines introduced progressively since the 1980s have evolved into the antimicrobial stewardship plans of the 2000s.

AMS and good stewardship practice concern much more than just judicious or prudent use of antimicrobial agents. Indeed, the current focus is on continuous improvement and ways to refine, reduce and replace antimicrobial use while maintaining the highest standards of bird health, allowing close alignment with the Australian and global strategies for AMR and antimicrobial resistance minimisation.

Antimicrobial stewardship
The long history of conservative regulation and use of antimicrobial agents in the Australian poultry industry has resulted in the unique situation where many of the critically important antimicrobial classes used widely in poultry production outside Australia have never been available.

For example, the focus of the British Poultry Council AMS program has been the reduction or elimination of antibiotic use in fluoroquinolones, third-generation cephalosporins and colistin – all antimicrobial classes never approved for use in Australian poultry.

Thus, Australian AMS programs can focus more on advanced aspects of stewardship.

However, the aims of Australian AMS coincide with those of the British and there is great comfort in the statement of BPC Chairman John Feeld who concluded after reviewing the 2017 AMS program that “Our farmers and veterinarians need antibiotics in their toolbox to treat sick birds – zero use is not an option – and we will protect the health and welfare of our birds. We will sustain and improve the efficacy of antibiotics as part of sustainable food production, and we will continue to feed the nation.”

But what is AMS?
One of the clearest descriptions is that provided by Guarisdahussie and Prescott who define AMS as “the multifaceted and dynamic approaches required to sustain the clinical efficacy of antimicrobials by optimising the use of drug, choice, dosing, duration and route of administration, while minimising the emergence of resistance and other adverse effects.”

That AMS is multifaceted means it is complex and involves many elements and requires clear thinking.

The dynamic approach reflects the fact that, just like AMR, AMS is not a stationary practice; it is forever changing and the direction of change, especially that of continuous improvement, is guided by the multifaceted AMS team.

Optimising drug use, choice, dosing, duration and route of administration is very challenging as it is inevitably not a fixed and predictable equation. It does not mean ‘one dose suits all’; each circumstance may require a different approach, which may also include no antimicrobial use.

Minimising the emergence of AMR is a necessary and demanding goal but one for which there is insufficient guidance.

Only by monitoring responses to treatment or non-treatment and interpreting surveillance data can AMR can any insight into resistance minimisation be gleaned.

The 5R framework for AMS was developed to provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to AMS planning, implementation and review.

AMS is a continuous process with a goal of defining the role of antimicrobial practice, AMR minimisation and optimal control and of establishing vigilance and the need for biosecurity to encompass poultry operations.

The second example of antimicrobial resistance found in Australia and elsewhere relates to clostridiosis. None of the E. coli isolates from Australian poultry demonstrated resistance to ciprofloxacin or any tested clinically resistant.

In the UK, resistance to the second-generation fluoroquinolone ciprofloxacin was observed in 21.6 percent of E. coli isolates recovered from the large retail slaughterhouses of healthy broilers at slaughter.

In the EU, EEFSA and ECDC reported “for broilers, the highest overall resistance levels observed in the reporting MSs were to the quinolones nalidixic acid (59.8 percent) and ciprofloxacin (64 percent), and to the polymyxins colistin (83 percent) and trimethoprim (40.7 percent).”

Levels of resistance to the third-generation cephalosporins, cefotaxime and ceftriaxone, were similar at 4 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.”

A recent report from the EU AMR study of salmonellae isolates obtained from Australian layer flocks and environments has also recently been completed. These results show 307 isolates collected over the period 2015 to 2018 was tested for AMR against a panel of 16 antimicrobial agents.

Overall, a very low frequency of resistance was observed.

Remarkably, 295 isolates (96.1 percent) displayed no evidence of acquired multidrug resistance in any tested antimicrobial, while eight, one and two isolates were, respectively, resistant to one, two or three antimicrobial agents.

The envious status of Australian poultry meat with respect to AMR and supported by the recent publication of McLellian et al. (2018) who found no evidence of acquired multidrug resistance in Salmonella isolates from raw chicken and other isolates from raw chicken and drumsticks obtained from 30 retail outlets in Melbourne.

Conclusion
The final FQ resistance is highly unlikely to be the result of FQ use in poultry – rather the appearance of this resistance may ultimately be found to have come from humans and subsequently transferred to poultry – highlighting the need for vigilance and the need for biosecurity to encompass poultry operations.

www.poultrynews.com.au
New research shows heating can replace disinfection chemicals in poultry

Researchers at the University of Delaware tested the efficacy of heat to disinfect poultry houses. The researchers were specifically examining whether heat treatment was comparable to chemical disinfection protocols, and the feasibility of heat treatment as an intervention against poultry diseases such as Newcastle disease, avian influenza and salmonella.

The study’s objective was to determine the appropriate temperature, time and humidity necessary to decontaminate poultry houses. Researchers involved also wanted clarity on how much organic matter (in terms of depth) could be treated with heat alone. The study team wanted to see if this method was suitable for field conditions. Results from the study demonstrated that the required temperature profile in the entire poultry house was a critical element of decontamination. They also found that heat treatment during colder months was not as effective, since the soil did not reach a high enough temperature to neutralise the bacteria and viruses.

The researchers were able to show that heat treatment was effective in thin layers of soil and organic matter (about 2.5cm or less). Therefore, it is an effective means of disinfection after litter and carcass removal, since only a thin layer of organic material would remain in the poultry house.

However, the researchers noted that if heat treatment occurred before carcass and litter disposal, the litter should be viewed as contaminated waste since the heat treatment may not have been completely effective. Based on these results, the researchers concluded heat treatment could reduce the number of microorganisms in poultry litter.

However, the method may not be effective in colder weather or if there is a deep layer of substrate. Their conclusion also stated producers should ensure almost all organic material be removed from the facility prior to heat treatment. To be effective, read the full summary at uspoultry.org.

Antimicrobial stewardship – the path to least resistance

Dr Mark Schipp

"Participants will also discuss the global situation relating to African swine fever and antimicrobial resistance, and the importance of biosecurity for aquatic animals’ health systems for a sustainable aquaculture," Dr Schipp said. "It is a tremendous honour to chair the World Assembly of National Delegates of the OIE and contribute to the important animal health and trade matters that directly affect Australia. It is an opportunity to enhance Australia’s reputation as a leader in animal health and biosecurity."

The assembly brings together around 1000 participants from all OIE member countries and international and regional partners. For more information, visit oiegeneralsession.com/en/press.

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