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NATIONAL Poultry NEWSPAPER

Vol 2. No. 6 June 2019 National Poultry Newspaper PO Box 387 Cleveland 4163 Phone (07) 3286 1833 Fax (07) 3821 2637 Email ben@poultrynews.com.au



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 Northwest Regional Careers Expo in Tamworth.

PHA at Northwest Regional Careers Expo

THE change of season is in full swing at the Poultry Hub Australia office.

The leaves on the trees have changed colour and almost all made it to the ground.

The nights have become crisp and there is a distinct excitement in the office in anticipation of receiving applications for our second call for research.

This year we are calling for research that is aligned with industry and will result in direct impact within industry.

Researchers are encouraged to work directly with industry partners to ensure the objectives and outcomes of the project are relevant and beneficial to industry.

For more details of research funded by Poultry Hub Australia, check out our website poultryhub.org

The PHA education team recently attended the Northwest Regional Careers Expo in Tamworth.

This event was attended by over 1700 students and brought together universities, colleges, training services, community organisations, local businesses and industries



by **TAMSYN CROWLEY**
Director



in one place to enable students to reach their career goal.

Our booth had both a taxidermised layer and broiler for students to see, compare and pat.

We also showed off our virtual chicken and egg grading app and of course our team was on hand to answer all those burning chicken questions.

May saw PHA complete our first Poultry Job Ready training in Armidale.

We had a great group of young people who enjoyed learning about chickens and our wonderful industry.

Our training allowed participants to learn the basics about the chicken meat, chicken egg and duck industries.

Participants learnt about health, safety and biosecurity and had a chance to put their learnings to the test with live birds.

Training covered the whole supply chain.

In addition, they learnt about the challenges currently facing industry and some of the new innovations in the industry.

All training was hands on and assessment done passively by the trainers.

The next phase of training is work experience on farm and/or in industry.

For more information about our training, please contact us at poultryhub@une.edu.au

Egg Farmers of Australia update

THE Board of Egg Farmers of Australia and industry representatives of the Standards and Guidelines group met in Melbourne on June 4 prior to the Australian Eggs Mini Forum.

Federal Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie was a special guest at the Board meeting.

The minister was keen to hear the views of industry in relation to impacts of re-

cent biosecurity issues and the progression of the Standards and Guidelines for the poultry industry.

EFA has restructured and relaunched as your industry association.

The core activities of EFA are to:

1. Advocate for the passing of the Standards and Guidelines – Option C at an upcoming meeting of the Ministers for Agriculture;

2. Focus on progressing processes and management of biosecurity issues impacting the industry; and

3. Provide updates to members in relation to the progress of the above issues through regular contact including but not limited to a monthly newsletter.

The responses received to date have been extremely encouraging and your support is greatly appreciated.

Karen Farrell commenced

as EFA administration officer on April 29 and incoming CEO Melinda Hashimoto commences the role on July 25, 2019.

The Chair, Board members, CEO and administration officer look forward to working for you.

For further information or inquiries, please feel free to contact EFA on 0484 248 054 or email info@eggfarmersaustralia.org



Left to right: Meg Parkinson (SAG representative), John Coward (director Queensland), Tony Nesci (director Victoria), Bede Burke (Chair NSW), Karen Farrell (administration officer), Franko Pirovic (Pirovic Farms), Dion Andary (director South Australia and Tasmania), Ian Wilson (director Western Australia), Peter Bell (SAG representative), David May (SAG representative), Bridget McKenzie (Federal Minister for Agriculture) and Petar Pirovic (SAG representative).

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Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

2019

JUN 12-13 – Australian Biosecurity Symposium, Gold Coast, QLD www.biosym.com.au

JUN 13 – Entries close – Royal Melbourne Poultry Show, The Grand Pavilion, Melbourne, VIC www.rasv.com.au/royal-melbourne-poultry-show

JUN 23-26 – European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat and XVIII European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products, Izmir, Turkey www.eggmeat2019.com

JUL 10-12 – International Course ANECA Posture, Aguascalientes, Mexico www.aneca.org.mx

SEP 4-6 – International Poultry Science Symposium, Polanczyk Poland www.wpsa.pl

SEP 16-20 – World Veterinary Poultry Association Congress, Bangkok, Thailand www.wvpac2019.com

SEP 20 – Judging – Royal Melbourne Poultry Show, The Grand Pavilion, Melbourne, VIC www.rasv.com.au/royal-melbourne-poultry-show

OCT 23 - 25 – European Symposium on Poultry Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic www.espg2019.org

NOV 5 - 7 – Poultry Tech Summit, Atlanta, US www.wattglobalmedia.com/poultrytechsummit

How to supply event details: Send all details to National Poultry Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, call 07 3286 1833 fax: 07 3821 2637, email: design@poultrynews.com.au

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PHA at Northwest Regional Careers Expo
The PHA was at the Northwest Regional Careers Expo in Perth, Western Australia, on 27th June. The expo was held at the Perth Convention Centre and was attended by over 1000 people. The PHA booth was a great success and we were able to meet with many potential employers and students. We were also able to provide information on the PHA and the various services we offer. The expo was a great opportunity for us to promote the PHA and the various services we offer. We were also able to provide information on the PHA and the various services we offer.

Egg Farmers of Australia update
The Egg Farmers of Australia (EFA) has announced that it will be launching a new initiative to support egg farmers in the region. The initiative will provide egg farmers with access to a range of services, including technical support, training, and marketing. The EFA is committed to supporting egg farmers and ensuring that they have the resources they need to succeed. The new initiative will be a great benefit for egg farmers in the region and will help to ensure that they are able to meet the demand for high-quality eggs.

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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.

However, the RSPCA is



by **TRAVISTOBIN**
CEO



sultation 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 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 more than one market, as separate guidelines must be followed and reported against.

For some businesses this is unnecessarily compli-

cated and costly and it is not sufficiently rewarded through the prices growers receive.

With that in mind and the need to tell a better story about how the industry produces ethical and safe food for consumers to counter the rise of unjustified animal activism, there is a compelling case for greater recognition of equivalence across the various standards.

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.

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.



Photos: ACMF



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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 ethi-

Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT



cal 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's 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 regula-

tions 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 kiev products.

The May 22 recall involves a product sold from deli counters at Woolworths stores in NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia, as well as Metro stores in Victoria.

The affected products would have been sold from May 19-21, 2019.

Similar products sold before or after those dates are not subject to recall, nor are the products bought from the chiller

case or freezer of those stores.

The Ingham's products are being recalled due to a potential foreign material contamination, as blue rubber had been detected in some products, which could cause a choking hazard.

This is the third recall to be issued by Ingham's inside three months.

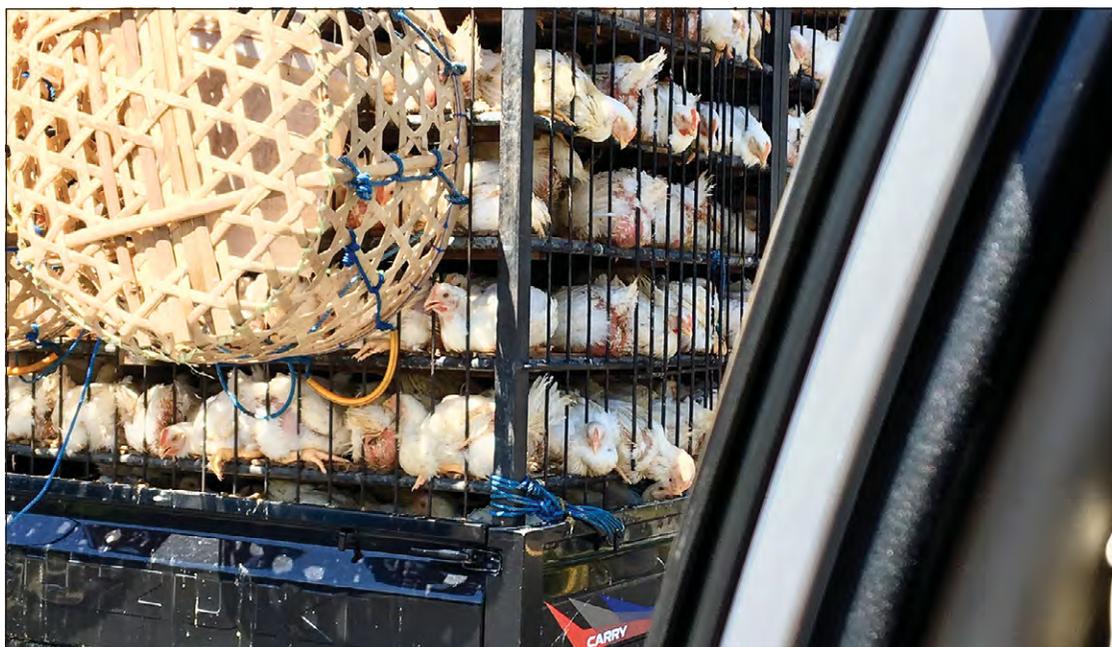
On May 1, the company recalled 1kg frozen turkey breast roast products because the products in question were incorrectly labelled.

The recall was due to incorrect packaging (Turkey Thigh Roast was packaged incorrectly in Turkey Breast Roast packaging), which resulted in the presence of an undeclared allergen - milk.

One month prior, Ingham's recalled products sold in Gluten-Free Chicken Schnitzel 440g chilled packaging, but the packages actually contained Southern Style Tenders that are not gluten-free and therefore the products contain an undeclared allergen 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 something like 345 facilities and farms across Australia and New Zealand.



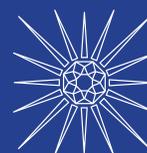
At the tail end of a recent peaceful four days in Ubud, Bali, while heading for home and driving at high-noon to Ngurah Rai International Airport on a typically hot, humid Indonesian day, the author was saddened to drive alongside these clearly heat stressed, overcrowded chickens on their way to the slaughter house. The author got to thinking that while overseas Australians often rave about how good the food, including chicken, tastes, but don't spare a thought for how it might have been raised or, in this case, transported. Back home in Oz, we tend to think about it and increasingly and refreshingly most of us do our best to support high-welfare livestock producers and processors.

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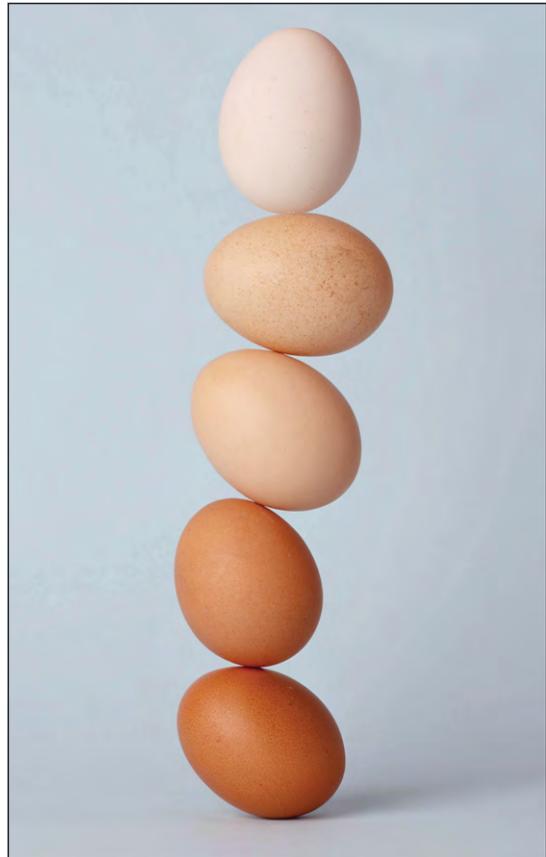
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Salmonella enteritidis – a serious issue!



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 an external dead bird pickup?

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.

Vet's View

by ROD JENNER



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.

This step should ideally be done at a location away from your sheds or packing rooms so the risk of contamination is contained to a 'dirty' area of your farm.

Check the sanitiser you are using is registered to kill salmonella (check the label or ask your supplier).

Are you using it at the right concentration?

Are you thoroughly wetting the surfaces?

Does it have a residual effect?

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 particularly 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 decontamination are the only solutions to an incursion of salmonella enteritidis on your farm.



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Stockyard Industries expands its team and welcomes Tin Phung

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.



Tin Phung

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Australian exports of all priority agricultural commodities by destination



Asia takes the lion's share of Australia's agricultural exports. Seven of the 10 top 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 \$US5 billion.

New 'no rules' trading environment unsettles Australian agricultural exports

NEW research shows uncertainty from ongoing bilateral trade wars between China and the US have 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 roadmap as to how a less-predictable trading environment may impact export markets.

AgriFutures Australia managing director John Harvey said the ITS Global analysis, Bilateral trade wars: Understanding the implications for Australian agriculture, gives the industry a firm footing for policy creation.

"This robust analysis gives Australian exporters the knowledge they need to take a leadership role in attempting to restore stability for agricultural commodities in the current global trading environment," Mr Harvey said.

"The findings show unilateral moves by the Trump administration to renegotiate existing trade agreements have threatened World Trade Organization principles of a rules-based trading system, creating uncertainty for Australian agriculture."

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 agreed that while some industries will prosper and others may feel the pressure from these trade wars, understanding the potential impact is fundamental to creating stability in an unsettled trade environment.

"Australia's dairy industry is one industry that could potentially benefit from trade opportunities with China on the back of additional tariffs imposed on US dairy products," Ms Medway said.

"On the flip side, a prospective US-Japan free trade agreement could negatively impact the dairy industry as US producers disadvantaged in the Chinese market could gain improved access to Japan.

"For the Australian wool industry, the bilateral trade wars may not have a noticeable impact, despite China implementing retaliatory tariffs on some US wool products.

"The relatively small size of the US wool export market to Asia will

buffer any significant uncertainty for Australian wool exporters as a result of the increased tariffs."

This is similar for Australian sheep and goat meat exports, primarily lamb, where the aftermath of the trade wars are expected to be minimal.

These products have not been the focus of additional tariff actions, however a US-UK FTA (following the UK's exit from the European Union) would have a negative impact on some Australian markets.

"The UK is a leading sheepmeat exporter and the US is Australia's most important market," 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 is in Australia's fresh, chilled and frozen beef exports due to risks identified in Australia's two biggest beef export markets – Japan and the 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.

"With 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.



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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, healthful 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 organisa-

tions rather than farmers and industry experts."

"The video conveys poultry's role in sustainably feeding the world's growing population in a very relatable 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 feed conversion, small carbon footprint and other traits that align with the United Nation's 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 Rangel 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 serve 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 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 \$A20 million.

The new 3500sq m 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 within 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 30 years, Aviagen currently supplies all major poultry producers with broiler breeding stock and is committed to their success.

This new operation will help these customers reap 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 chickens 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 greatest 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.

"The new innovative 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, Australia, New Zealand and the US, and joint ventures in Asia.

Aviagen employs more than 4600 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 grinder pumps offer cost savings over conventional effluent pumps because they reduce the size of the solids passed using a 'grinder' process.

Though this is not a radical new technology, the new Tsurumi grinders offer users significant advantages.

Aussie Pumps product manager Neil Bennett said, "Those features translate into real benefits for applications as diverse as livestock waste, food processing and even small packaged sewage stations."

Tsurumi, the world leader in submersible pumps, has developed its MG series of grinder pumps for efficient effluent handling.

The pumps grind effluent passing through into small pieces.

This ensures the wastewater passes through the pump, allowing the use of narrow discharge pipes.

Tsurumi's breakthrough grinder design enables effluent to be transferred through cost-effective 1.5" and 2" pipes, and at high pressures.

This means the pumps deliver higher heads for moving wastewater greater distances.

Grinding the solids smaller also means the waste breaks down faster and more efficiently.

Tsurumi opted to use high-chromium iron for

the grinder mechanism over stainless steel for its abrasion resistance.

Users report the new MG series pumps outlast other grinder pumps.

The three-phase, two-pole, cast iron pumps are available with 32mm and 50mm discharge ports.

The 50mm pump has a maximum head of 35m (50psi) and a capacity of up to 320l/pm.

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 MG series can be mounted on guide rails.

This makes it simple to remove the pumps for maintenance and service without draining the pit.

An adaptor plate is available to enable swap out of other brands without the need to replace the existing guide rails or duckfoot elbows.

Like all Tsurumi submersible pumps, the MG 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 3500.



Tsurumi's grinder pumps offer high-head performance with clog-free pumping.

10 women selected for Diversity in Ag Leadership Program

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 'woman 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 2.3 percent of CEO positions."

"This is out of step with other comparable industries and is a statistic the NFF and our committed program partners are determined to rectify.

"It's time that women are equally represented at the level where decisions are taken that shape the future of our industry and

rural and regional Australia more broadly," Ms Simson said.

The below 10 aspiring female leaders were selected from more than 140 applications:

- Jacqui Cannon, Brisbane, Queensland.

- Rachel Carson is the national sales manager for Agricultural Solutions in Melbourne, Victoria.

- Robbie Davis is the CEO of Potatoes South Australia in Narrung, South Australia.

- Allison Harker is a local government councillor in Yass, NSW.

- Linda Lee is the director of Agribusiness Development for the Northern Territory Government in Berrimah, NT.

- Cathy Oates is a viticulturist and vice president of Wines Australia in Wilyabrup, Western Australia.

- Leonie O'Driscoll is the managing director of Evofarm Pty in Marra, NSW.

- Kelly Pearce is the

director of Farmers Mutual Limited in Yealering, WA.

- Natalie Sommerville is the manager of her farming business Windjara Ag in Spalding, SA.

- Alison Southwell is a course director for agriculture courses at CSU in Mangoplah, NSW.

Each participant will undertake an almost five-month mentoring program with mentors who are already accomplished leaders.

To begin their leadership journey, the group came together at a two-day intensive retreat in Canberra over May 30-31.

The women will graduate as part of the NFF's 40th anniversary celebrations during October and go on to be a part of the growing Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program alumni.

Ms Simson said the highly successful inaugural Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program was the basis for

this year's opportunity. "Feedback from our 2018 cohort was the opportunity was transformational and life-changing and since graduation our 2018 aspiring leaders have gone on to continue to realise their leadership goals," she said.

Ms Simson said the importance of the program was demonstrated by the level of support from Australia's leading farm representative and agribusiness organisations.

"We are delighted and proud to this year have doubled the number of partners supporting the program, and importantly, who have committed to make meaningful change towards gender diversity within their organisations," she said.

The 2019 Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program Partners are: the National Farmers' Federation, AgForce, Australian Agricultural Company, AgriFutures, Australian Community

Media, Bayer, BASF, Coles, Consolidated Pastoral Company, Elders, Grains Research and Development Corporation, National Broadband Network, NSW Farmers, Landmark, Nufarm, Prime Super, Rabobank, Rimfire Resources, Rural Bank, Ruralco, Syngenta, WFI and Win Australia.

"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

NINE Democratic senators urged the Trump administration to ensure an aid package meant to compensate US farmers for losses stemming from the US-China trade war does not end up in the hands of foreign companies.

In a letter addressed to US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, the senators said a commodity purchasing program that was part of a \$12 billion aid package last year included contracts with Smithfield Foods, a subsidiary of China's WH Group, and JBS USA, owned by Brazil's JBS SA.

The US Department of Agriculture announced a new \$16 billion farm aid package recently, including \$1.4 billion in food purchases.

The letter, signed by 2020 presidential hopefuls Amy Klobuchar and Kirsten Gillibrand, underscores the political sensitivity of US President Donald Trump's trade war with China, a top buyer of US agricultural products like soybeans and pork.

The USDA terminated a \$240,000 purchase contract with Smithfield Foods at the company's request last year after the agreement was criticised as subsidising a competitor.

The senators said, however, the government had awarded to JBS USA nearly \$62.5 million in contracts to buy pork products.

"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 benefitting 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 companies 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 it was a US-based company that employs more than 63,000 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 producer partners," JBS USA said.

"It was not a bailout." Originally published at uk.reuters.com



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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 snorkel' 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 'forces' 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 them to the surface of the DAF tank.

A FOG blanket is formed and mechanically scraped away (as with conventional systems).

The major benefits of

changing to an EDUR system are the simplicity of a 'set and forget' arrangement and the ongoing maintenance cost savings.

No more compressor needed means lower maintenance on the compressor.

The removal of the pressure vessel means a reduc-

tion in maintenance costs and elimination of the need for yearly certification of the pressure vessel.

The removal of the pressure vessel also improves WHS around the system.

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



The bank of EDUR pumps producing the 'blanket'.



The FOG blanket formed by EDUR pumps at a process plant in Europe.

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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 commensal 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.

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 situations.

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 concerns 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 use minimisation.

Antimicrobial stewardship

The long history of conservative regulation and use of antimicrobial agents in the Australian poultry industry has re-

sulted 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 the use of fluoroquinolones, third-generation cephalosporins and colistin – all antimicrobial classes never approved for use in Australian poultry.

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

However, the aims of Australian AMS coincide with those of the British and there is great confluence with the statement of BPC Chairman John Reed 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 safeguard 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 Guardabassi and Prescott who define AMS as “the multifaceted and dynamic approaches required to sustain the clinical efficacy of antimicrobials by optimising drug use, 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 undertaking surveillance of 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 monitor-

ing to allow a potentially complex process to be both practical and effective.

The 5Rs include responsibility, review, refine, replace and reduce.

AMS is a continuous process with a goal of defining and applying best practice, AMR minimisation and optimal control of animal health.

Good stewardship practice describes the development, implementation and continuous improvement of the AMS plan.

The first Australian Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship AMS Conference was held in November 2018 and provided a comprehensive overview of the current situation and initiatives introduced by the various livestock industries as well as actions and plans in companion animal practice.

Antimicrobial resistance

Supported by funding from the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Australian Chicken Meat Federation recently published the results of a national study of surveillance for AMR in enteric commensals and pathogens in Australian meat chickens.

The study was comprehensive and followed international standards for design and analysis.

Importantly, it was observed that resistance to antimicrobials considered of critical importance to human health was very low in commensal bacteria from Australian meat chickens – highlighting the effectiveness of past and present AMS initiatives.

Two examples demonstrate the stark contrast in resistance levels in Australia with those elsewhere, for example comparing results from Australia with those from the EU and UK.

EFSA and ECDC published the EU summary report on AMR in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2016.

With respect to campylobacter, for the 3117 campylobacter jejuni isolates from broilers reported by 24 member states, the overall observed level of resistance to ciprofloxacin was 66.9 percent and to nalidixic acid 61.7 percent.

In the UK, ciprofloxacin resistance was reported in 40.6 percent of C. jejuni isolates from broilers.

These results contrast with those observed in the Australian study where only 14.8 percent of C. jejuni were found to carry ciprofloxacin resistance.

This low level of resistance was unexpected and the first report of such resistance in C. jejuni isolated from Australian poultry.

Fluoroquinolones (the class to which ciprofloxacin belongs) have never

been approved for use in Australian livestock including poultry.

The finding of 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 arisen in humans and subsequently transferred to poultry – highlighting the need for vigilance and the need for biosecurity to encompass poultry workers.

The second example of contrasts between resistances found in Australia and elsewhere relates to E. coli.

None of the E. coli isolates from Australian poultry demonstrated resistance to ceftiofur, colistin, florfenicol, chloramphenicol or gentamicin.

Two isolates (1 percent) demonstrated reduced susceptibility to ciprofloxacin but these isolates were not considered clinically resistant.

In the UK, resistance to the FQ ciprofloxacin was observed in 21.6 percent of E. coli isolates recovered from caecal contents of healthy broilers at slaughter.

In the European Union, EFSA and ECDC reported “for broilers, the highest overall resistance levels observed in the reporting MSs were to the quinolones, that is, nalidixic acid (59.8 percent) and ciprofloxacin (64 percent), and to ampicillin (58 percent), sulfamethoxazole (49.9 percent), tetracycline (47.1 percent) and trimethoprim (40.7 percent).”

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

A proof-of-concept AMR study of salmonella isolates obtained from Australian layer shed environments has also recently been completed.

The susceptibility of 307 isolates collected over the period 2015 to 2018 was assessed 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 phenotypic resistance to any tested antimicrobial, while eight, one and two isolates were respectively resistant to one, two or three antimicrobial agents.

The enviable status of Australian poultry meat with respect to AMR was supported by the recent publication of McLellan et al. (2018) who found no evidence of acquired multidrug resistance in gram-negative bacteria isolated from raw chicken drumsticks obtained from 30 retail outlets in Melbourne.

Conclusion

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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 maintaining the required temperature profile in the entire poultry house was a critical element of decontamination.

They also found heat treating 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 micro-organisms 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 for it to be effective.

Read the full summary at uspoultry.org

Australian leads global forum to improve animal health

AUSTRALIA'S Delegate at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Dr Mark Schipp is chairing the 87th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates of the OIE in Paris.

Dr Schipp, who is the elected president of the OIE World Assembly and also Australia's chief veterinary officer, is the first Australian to chair the session for 30 years.

"The assembly is an opportunity to discuss the current animal health situation worldwide and methods to mitigate risks and threats," Dr Schipp said.

"This includes adopting new intergovernmental standards for animal health and welfare.

"For example, we expect a new chapter on disease prevention and control and another on measures to assess animal welfare to be adopted.

"An updated standard for rabies virus is also expected to be adopted."

This year's program includes sessions on how external factors (such as climate change, conflicts, socio-economics and trading patterns) will impact veterinary services.

"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 mat-

ters 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



Dr Mark Schipp

Antimicrobial stewardship – the path to least resistance

from P14

many decades of infection prevention and control measures (including vaccination programs and biosecurity initiatives), combined with high standards of husbandry, nutrition and environmental controls, and buttressed by a conservative regulatory system that has not permitted the approval in poultry of many antimicrobial agents now considered of critical importance in human medicine (including colistin, fluoroquinolones and third and fourth-generation cephalosporins), is undoubtedly a significant contributor to the low levels of AMR now evident in isolates from meat chickens and from layer environments.

However, complacency is not an option.

Continued vigilance reinforced by AMS programs will help protect the rare environment of low AMR, allowing early iden-

tification of any changes in resistance status as alerts to investigate risk mitigation measures, or assurance of the effectiveness of production practices.

Acknowledgments: The authors have received funding from AgriFutures to develop an independent AMS verification system for ACMF.

S.W. Page and D.J. Trott
Extracted from the *Australian Poultry Science Symposium 2019 proceedings*.

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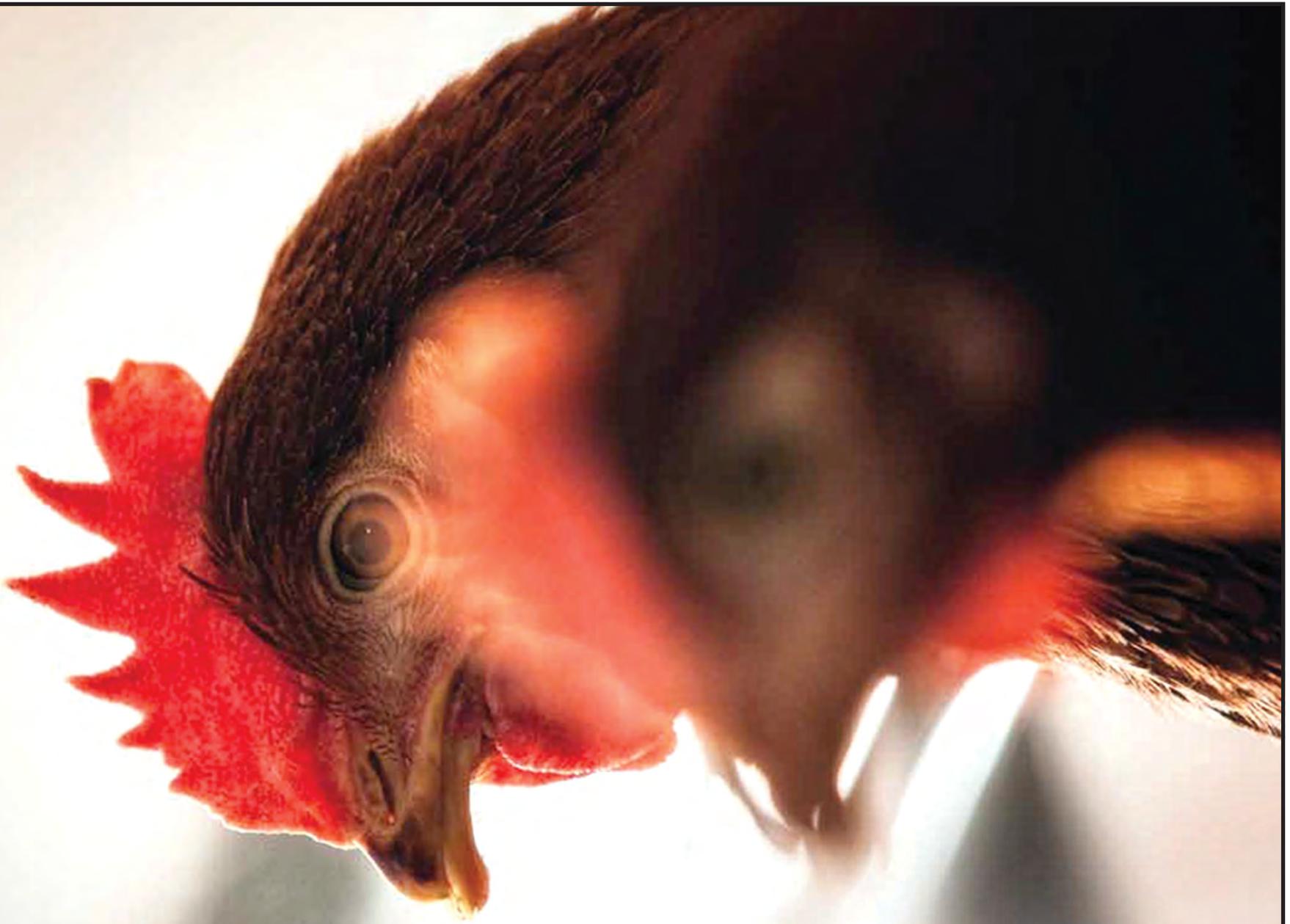
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