



Australians are invited to take part in a large-scale research study to inform a national conversation about the egg industry.

## Australians called on to help shape the future of egg industry

AUSTRALIANS are being invited to take part in a large-scale research study to inform a national conversation about the egg industry.

The research is being conducted by engagement science company Voconiq – spun out of Australia’s national science agency CSIRO in 2019 – and will explore community attitudes towards the egg industry across a broad range of topics including food security, biosecurity, traceability, animal welfare and environmental impacts.

Voconiq chief executive officer Dr Kieren Moffat said this fourth year of research would build on the previous CSIRO findings from 2018 to 2020 to understand the community’s changing views.

“More than 27,000 Australians have contributed to the research program over the past three years, providing a deeper understanding on what the community values in and from the egg industry,” Dr Moffat said.

“We know that hen wel-

fare arouses strong feelings among many people and that has been a focus of the research to date, but we’ve also found that the community is very interested in how Australia’s eggs are produced and how safe they are, especially since the pandemic.”

“We encourage Australians who want to have a voice on issues related to the egg industry to take part in the public open survey, as the data collected will be shared with Australian Eggs to action a response.”

Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies said that the community’s insights are instrumental as they help shape industry plans.

“Australians consume 17 million eggs every day, so it’s important for the industry to understand and respond to community concerns to continue to maintain trust,” Mr McMonnies said.

“Previous research has shown that concerns around the egg industry’s environmental footprint, food safety standards and

hen welfare have become more prominent, so the industry has addressed this by developing new tools and research projects.

“Just recently, we launched a sustainability dashboard to help farmers assess their farm and business practices, and we are currently undertaking a comprehensive carbon footprint assessment to develop a framework to move the industry towards carbon neutrality.

“Further to this, a bio security virtual reality tool was created to improve on-farm biosecurity practices, and the industry is looking into new technologies to improve the traceability of eggs for maintaining food safety standards and to expand the capacity of egg farms to monitor hen welfare.”

The research is the fourth annual cycle of community engagement to inform the Australian Eggs sustainability framework.

To participate in the research, go to voconiq.com/eggs

The survey closes on Sunday June 27, 2021.

## Research projects a key for industry

RESEARCH is one of the highlights of Poultry Hub Australia and I was excited to receive the final full research proposals from our recent open call this month.

To date PHA has funded 24 research projects covering a large range of topic areas.

From vaccine trials, welfare investigations for layers and ducks to precision feeding in broilers.

With every project requiring direct industry collaboration it’s not hard to understand the impact of the research.

A great example of this is the project “Epidemiological investigation of Spotty Liver Disease in chickens to inform disease control” lead by Dr Hao Van and Prof Rob Moore researchers from RMIT University.

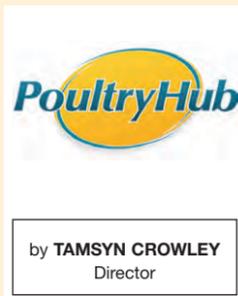
Their study has shown that birds can be infected with *C. hepaticus* during rear and prior to the onset of lay, without any clinical SLD.

SLD outbreaks occurred mainly at peak lay but could also occur earlier or later in the production cycle.

Their study highlights, it is of epidemiological significance to collect samples from birds from several weeks of age until the peak lay period to investigate when the birds become infected with *C. hepaticus*.

As environmental sources are a likely transmission source of *C. hepaticus*, biosecurity methods need to be strictly followed to prevent the spread of this bacteria, such as avoiding standing water on the range.

The control of rodents and birds should also be



highlight our honours scholarships.

These scholarships are worth \$5000 and are aimed at students completing their honours degrees in 2021 at an Australian University.

At PHA we are proud to support all poultry researchers across different stages of their career, as we recognise that they are one of the keys to ensuring we continue to have a productive and efficient poultry industry.

emphasised as an important biosecurity measure to help reduce the spread of SLD.

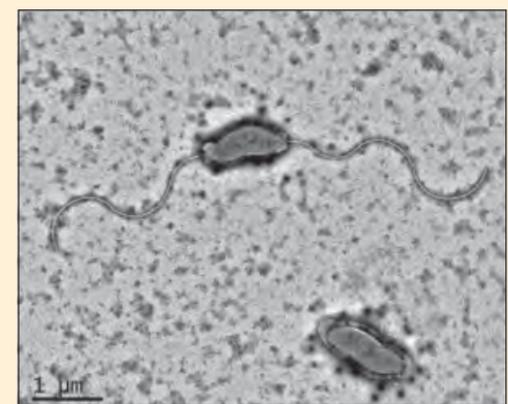
Following the results of this study Drs Van and Moore are now in the next stage of investigating SLD and last year were awarded PHA funding to develop immunological assays to assist the control of Spotty Liver Disease in chickens.

This current research project is progressing well, and we look forward to receiving the final report and research outcomes later this year.

If you would like to check out more of the research projects that

PHA funds please head to our website poultry-hub.org

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to



Transmission electron micrograph of *Campylobacter hepaticus*. Note the typical S-shaped cell and bipolar flagella.



Liver lesions seen in a typical field case of Spotty Liver Disease.

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## Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

### 2021

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

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

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

**NOV 21-22** – AVAMS21, Gold Coast [www.avams2020.com.au](http://www.avams2020.com.au)

### 2022

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

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

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

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## HAVE YOUR SAY!

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

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

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

# How the box market plays a role selling eggs in Australia

WE have all been to the shops, opened the fridge and reached for a carton of eggs.

For general consumers, eggs come packaged as a dozen with the label identifying the farming method in which they were produced – caged, barn laid or free range.

Several cartons even advise if the eggs are organic omega-enriched and outline details relating to animal welfare or the stocking density.

Whatever the individual marketing strategy chosen by each egg company, a single carton is the main way to sell eggs to Australian consumers.

However, behind the scenes there is another marketing method used by egg farmers – it is known as the ‘box market’.

The box market is where eggs are sold in bulk for industries such as bakeries, restaurants and food factories that use hun-



by MELINDA HASHIMOTO  
CEO

dreds if not thousands of eggs each week.

Because professionally farmed eggs in Australia are of the same high quality and nutritional value – these customers are often not so fussy about whether the bulk purchases contain caged, free range or barn laid product.

The eggs will be used in bulk food preparations and as such are sold in large boxes containing dozens of cartons – or the eggs are simply shrink-wrapped and transported on pallets.

### Why the box market is complex

Buying and selling eggs in bulk sounds like a simple process.

But the box market is complex and often, particularly for egg farmers new to the process, it is not easily understood.

Because they are sold as an ingredient to make other goods such as cakes, mayonnaise or pharmaceuticals, the sale of box eggs relies on the forward sale of these products. Therefore, it can be difficult occasionally to pre-

dict the outcome of how prices may rise or fall in the box market.

### The operators of the box market

Stakeholders connected to the box market sector include egg farmers, larger wholesale egg companies, those grading eggs, distributors, food services and retailers.

For several egg farmers, the box market makes up their entire egg sales.

Many family farms are successful because they establish strong business relationships and a reputation for reliable and sustainable supplies of bulk eggs.

Box egg farmers may also be approached by other egg farmers who have contracts to supply supermarkets.

Because mother nature doesn't always comply with laying a certain number of eggs each day, these contractors seek to top up their own egg sup-

plies by supplementing shortages from the box market.

This means they can be certain to supply the exact number of eggs required regularly to meet their contracts.

Interestingly, NSW is the largest player in the box market and most eggs in the box market come from caged farms.

### The box market is vulnerable to over-supply

Unfortunately, for farmers who rely solely on the box market, their revenue can be impacted by egg sales elsewhere.

If eggs destined for the supermarket are not needed, they often find their way onto the box market to be sold as bulk eggs.

This can result in an oversupply of product in the box market and a sudden fall in overall egg prices.

Eggs being perishable goods and unable to be kept for long periods means that farmers must juggle the ups and downs of the market during oversupply and undersupply.

### The upside of the box market

However, selling through the box market allows an egg producer to have more flexibility over their product.

The farmer can determine the price and timing of when they sell their eggs, rather than being locked into a long-term supermarket supply agreement.

These types of agreements can lead to fewer opportunities to seek a higher seasonal price for their product.

Of course, many farmers sell to both retailers and the box market to ensure they don't have all their eggs in the one basket! 🐔



The box market plays a large role in the Australian market, with eggs sold in bulk to industries such as bakeries, restaurants and food factories that use hundreds if not thousands of eggs each week.

## Eating chicken brains the secret to long life

AUSTRALIA's oldest man has said eating chicken brains is one of his secrets to living a long life.

Dexter Kruger attributes eating chicken brains to living more than 111 years.

Retired cattle farmer Mr Kruger recently marked 124 days since he turned 111, a day older than our previous record holder, World War I veteran Jack Lockett, was when he died in 2002.

In an interview at his nursing home in Roma Queensland, days before the milestone, Mr Kruger said that contributing to his longevity was a weekly dose of chicken brains.

“Chicken brains,” Mr Kruger said.

“They are delicious little things.

“There's only one bite.” However, Mr Kruger's 74-year-old son Greg credits his father's simple lifestyle to his long life.

Nursing home manager Melanie Calvert said Mr Kruger, who is writing his autobiography, was “probably one of the sharpest residents here.”

“His memory is amazing for a 111-year-old,” Ms Calvert said.

A founder of the *Australian Book of Records* John Taylor confirmed Dexter Kruger had become the oldest-ever Australian man.

The oldest-ever verified Australian was Christina Cook, who died in 2002 aged 114 years and 148 days. 🐔



Australia's oldest-ever man, Dexter Kruger said eating chicken brains is one of his secrets to living more than 111 years.

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Free range hens deliver a free range of egg sizes.

## Sizing up eggs needs another look

SIZE has always mattered to me.

That is, the bigger the better... at least when it comes to eggs.

My preferred eggs have long been the consistently good jumbo free range from nearby Fremantle Egg Company.

Their one dozen cartons are a minimum net weight of 800g.

Back in the day, they also did a mega jumbo dozen, with a minimum weight of 840g.

Having had bantams as a boy and point of lay pullets back in the day, I'm familiar with and not averse to small or mixed sized eggs – even enjoying pigeon, quail, pheasant and guinea fowl eggs along the way.

But as only a shopper these days, my logical mind moves towards big is best every time.

Maybe I also feel it's the most economical, as it is for most fresh food purchases – albeit not typically the case with eggs as the big ones command a premium price, at least for the one dozen carton.

Having said that, I've never bothered to do the sums on relative cost per egg or egg weight.



### Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

However, I was recently awakened to a new way of considering egg sizes and how changing shopping habits can help our beloved hens out.

After all, they go about their business every day,

laying and serving us with a little – or big – nutritious flavour bomb.

Alas, a recent story on the *Poultry Site* titled 'Size isn't the only concern when buying eggs', caught my eye.

Laying the groundwork for people such as me to reconsider their egg purchases, the British Hen Welfare Trust and the British Free Range Egg Producers Association made the point that buying and eating a range of egg sizes benefits hen welfare.

In other words, changing shopping habits and also recipe habits can help.

Apparently more than 13 billion eggs are eaten in Britain every day, with shoppers preferentially buying large or very large eggs, rather than medium or mixed weight boxes,

despite the fact that hens lay a range of egg sizes.

According to BHWT founder Jane Howorth, buying and eating a range of egg sizes is one way consumers can support the best possible welfare for Britain's 40 million laying hens.

My understanding is egg size variation can be due to a hen's age, its size, its diet, its breed and probably even weather conditions.

BFREPA chief executive officer Robert Gooch said British shoppers had become obsessed with buying the biggest eggs available and this trend was exacerbated by recipes specifying large eggs.

He has been campaigning to change this dynamic for two years and believes that consumers do change their egg buying habits when they understand how their decisions impact hen welfare.

Of course, medium eggs are just as nutritious and tasty as large or very large eggs, but declining demand in Britain has seen them used primarily in processed foods such as sandwich fillings, sauces and cakes.

Almost half the eggs laid by free range hens are medium or small.

Something I am only now aware of is that the main difference between a medium and a large egg is the amount of white, with yolk size pretty much the same.

My attraction has always been to the rich yellow yummy yolk, so maybe I should reconsider my purchasing decisions and perhaps even save a little hard earned along the way.

The average egg weight in Australia of my preferred jumbo sized is 68g and an edible portion of 59g.

With medium 500g cartons, eggs average 43g with an edible portion of 37g.

I must say the British mixed dozen holds appeal, but I'm not sure this option is readily available Down Under – aside perhaps from small boutique free range egg farmers.

I like the option and would happily shell out a premium for a premium mixed dozen, if it improved the lives of free range hens.

What do you think?

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The author's go to eggs, the consistently good 800g jumbo free range from the Wilson family's nearby Fremantle Egg Company.



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- Has strong influencing skills and ability to work in an informal no-nonsense organization;
- Is strong proponent of animal friendly and sustainability;
- Has comfortable and competent executive communication skills, clear and concise communicator;
- Has 5 - 10 years of experience in sales activities, conducting negotiations and concluding contracts;
- Is living in Australia or New Zealand.

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The newly constructed BEC Feed Solutions head office and manufacturing facility was part of a major redevelopment of the business's 50 Antimony St, Carole Park site and has taken two years to complete.



More photos in July edition

This new facility can produce up to 10 tonnes per hour of premix feed with each individual bag labelled with tracking information and stacked automatically on a pallet ready to be wrapped and shipped.

## New head office and manufacturing facility for BEC Feed Solutions

BEC Feed Solutions recently celebrated the grand opening of its newly constructed head office and manufacturing facility in Brisbane Queensland.

The facility was part of a major redevelopment of the business's 50 Antimony St, Carole Park site and has taken two years to complete.

BEC Group managing director Brett Antonio said the fruition of the project was an exciting milestone for the business, and the BEC team was excited to celebrate and showcase

the facility at the grand opening.

"The redevelopment of the Carole Park site was a long-held plan for us, and our new facilities will cement BEC as the leading provider of animal nutrition solutions to our customers in the ANZ-Pacific region," Mr Antonio said.

"This will be a launching pad for our future growth into new markets and countries."

BEC Feed Solutions general manager premix and feed additives Mark Fitzgerald said the plant offers a unique approach

to collecting and weighing a large proportion of the key ingredients used in the business's premixes.

"We are extensively using the latest in 'loadcell' technology which will provide significant weighing accuracy and processing time benefits – it's quite unique for this part of the world," Mr Fitzgerald said.

"Our new plant has been designed with a target throughput of 10 metric tonnes per hour, based on standard type vitamin and mineral premix, and at only one shift per day, five

days a week.

"That provides a lot of opportunity and flexibility to grow our business, and the total output of this new plant."

BEC Feed Solutions is currently completing the last stages of commissioning for both the manufacturing plant and automated packing equipment, followed by final process validation and accreditation.

Production in the new facility is expected to commence in June, followed by accreditation with FAMI-QS in July.



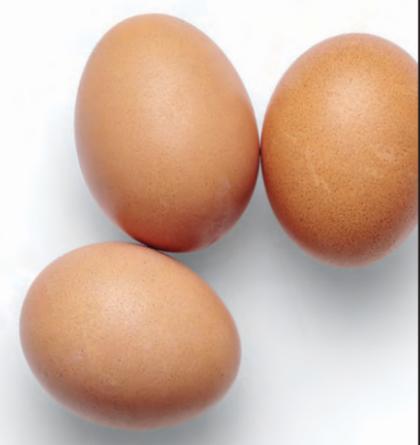
A lot of hard work and input from a range of BEC employees ensured the opening of the new facility in Brisbane was a success.



### So, which came first?

At BEC Feed Solutions, we provide an unparalleled range of animal nutrition solutions. Our expert team designs, sources and creates solutions to support our customers' needs and overcome their challenges.

We believe quality ingredients and quality nutrition always come first.





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# AgriFutures chicken meat program litter management webinar

GOOD litter management is important to optimise performance and the welfare of the flock, to reduce risks to meat chicken and human health, to comply with biosecurity requirements and third-party accreditation schemes, and to reduce the potential for environmental impacts.

Subject of AgriFutures recent webinar, litter is one of the most significant management practices influencing the performance of meat chicken farms.

Litter quality can affect meat chicken performance and welfare and is also a major component of the environment within production sheds.

Litter moisture contributes to chicken health and poor litter quality due to excess moisture can result in:

- Increased ammonia production leading to respiratory conditions and increased infection, eye conditions and blindness, human health and environmental concerns
- Proliferation of pathogens
- Increased odour production

- Breast blisters
- Skin burns, including hock and footpad
- Scabby areas
- Bruising
- Condemnations and downgrades.

Overly dry litter can also affect chicken health.

Dry litter results in increased dust generation, which impacts meat chicken respiratory health, human health and the environment.

As litter moisture is a major factor impacting chicken health, managing moisture in sheds is crucial for farm operators.

Other factors may also affect chicken health.

As an example, proliferation of pathogens in litter increases in environments with high temperature, humidity and pH.

Litter viral, bacterial pathogens and diseases of concern include:

- Avian influenza
- Infectious laryngotracheitis
- Gangrenous dermatitis
- Gumboro
- Reovirus
- Bronchitis
- Pathogenic fungi – mycosis and mycotoxins
- Parasites – coccidia,

tapeworm and roundworm

- Campylobacter jejuni
- Clostridium botulinum
- Salmonella spp
- Cryptosporidium spp
- Listeria spp.

Litter conditions can also impact the health of farm workers via the effects of ammonia and dust.

The presence of pathogenic microorganisms such as mould, fungi and bacteria also pose a risk to the health of workers.

Impacts to human health are typically less of a concern than impacts to meat chickens due to the reduced contact time of workers and lower susceptibility to pathogens at concentrations present in sheds.

Heating the floor and bedding in the brooding area before placement of the litter is as important as heating the air to the correct temperature for the health and comfort of young chicks.

This will also avoid condensation in the litter.

If the temperature of the floor is below the dew point, condensation will form in the litter.

This will leave the litter compromised from day one of the growth cycle, and increase the risk of compaction, which then leads to the formation of cake and slower drying rates.

The temperature of the bedding at chick placement should be around 30C, ±2C depending on processor requirements and strain of meat chicken.

The Cobb Broiler Management Guide specifies litter temperatures should

be 30-32C, while the Ross Broiler Management Handbook recommends a temperature range in the litter of 28-30C.

The temperature of the floor also needs to be within about 3-4C of this to avoid condensation within the litter.

It is important that the minimum ventilation system is started prior to chick placement, particularly if litter reuse is practised.

This will remove any excess moisture gases from sheds.

It is recommended heating and ventilating sheds 24-48 hours prior to chick placement.

This will help to achieve the correct conditions at placement.

Destratification fans, circulation fans or radiant tube heaters will assist heating the floor and litter to the optimum temperature.

At chick placement, the bedding moisture content should be below 15 percent wet basis.

If the litter moisture content is too high at chick placement, it can be difficult to rectify once chicks are placed.

A hand squeeze test is the simplest method to assess the moisture content.

When the litter is dry, it should not form into a stable ball when squeezed and should not feel moist to touch.

Conversely, the litter should not be overly dry and dusty.

Becoming experienced at making this assessment takes practise.

Alternative methods include oven drying and moisture probes.

Moisture probes can, however, be inaccurate due to the inconsistent particle size of bedding materials compared with grain products, where moisture probes are commonly used.

Conversely, the Poultry 411 app can assist with a starting point as to how much fresh air is needed to control house air quality and litter moisture.

University of Georgia poultry housing engineer at the Department of Poultry Science Mike Czarick said, "In summertime, ventilation is fairly straightforward."

"A producer knows that if they have older birds and it is hot, they are going to operate all of their tunnel fans."

"There really is no question about it."

"The more air they can

move through the house, the better off their birds will be.

"In winter, there is so much more at stake."

"Ventilate too much and you will have excessive energy costs and stressed birds."

"Ventilate too little you will have poor air quality and wet litter, which can lead to poor performance and health."

"You really have to be much more thoughtful about how much you operate your fans."

The app, available through Apple's App Store, allows farmers to enter variables such as the outside temperature, the amount of water the chickens consume, the temperature inside the house and the size of the poultry house's fans.

It then calculates how long farmers need to run their fans in order to remove excess moisture

from the house and keep the chickens at a comfortable temperature.

The programming in the background of the app is based on years of research into poultry housing and on a series of spreadsheets that Czarick and fellow UGA Cooperative Extension poultry faculty members Brian Fairchild and John Worley have developed to help farmers with these calculations.

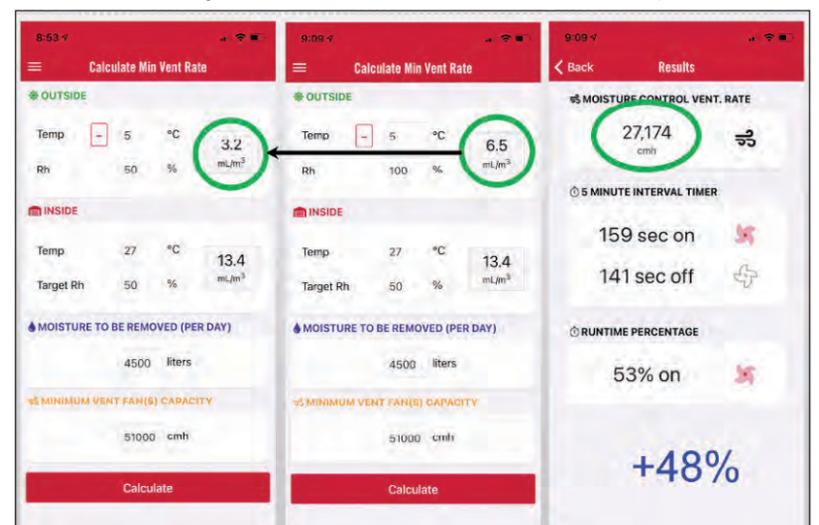
"The app gives people a starting point as to how much fresh air they need to bring in to control house air quality and litter moisture," Mr Czarick said.

"It's not intended to provide a precise minimum ventilation rate."

"It's going to take adjusting, but this at least gives a scientifically based place to start."



Litter management is one of the most significant practices influencing the performance of meat chicken farms.



The Poultry 411 app vent rate calculations based on temperature and humidity.

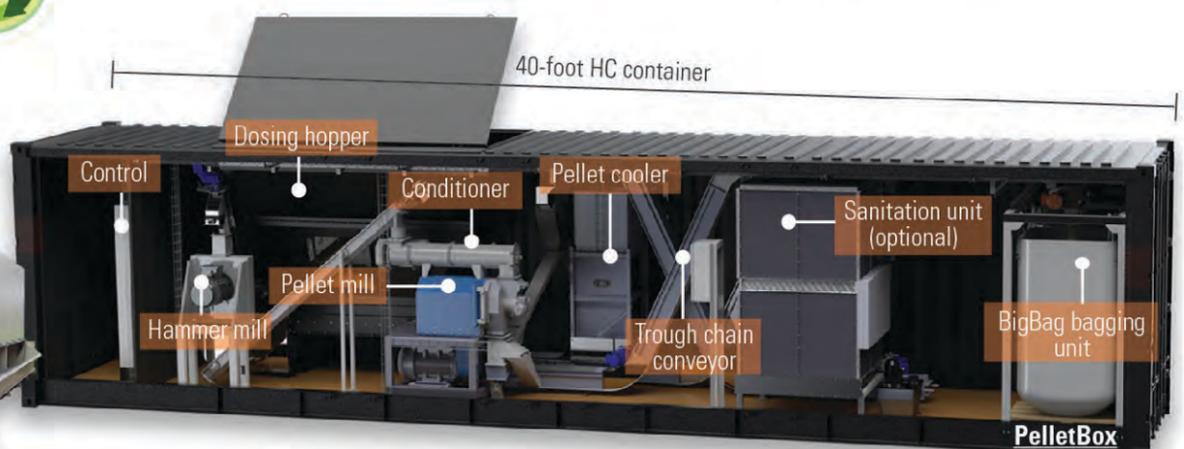
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Henderson Farm – Winners of the top EPEF award for Australia 2020. Farm manager Joubert DeLange, assistant farm manager 1 Callum Munro, Blake Munro, Reikie Slabber, assistant farm manager 2 Ian Bryson and Matthew Johnstone.

## Aviagen Australia star performers

AVIAGEN Australia customers keep outdoing their best.

To recognise these top performers, the company recently launched the Ross 450 Club, and has now welcomed Darwalla Group and ProTen as the first members.

Joubert de Lange and his team at ProTen's Henderson Farm was the top performer in 2020, reaching an impressive European performance efficiency factor score of 475.17.

In fact, the team

earned 450 Club entry for every growing cycle in 2020, achieving an EPEF greater than 450 for all six cycles on a single farm.

### Honouring the best of the best

Exclusive Ross 450 Club membership is reserved for poultry producers who through teamwork, skillful stockmanship and dedication score an EPEF of 450 or higher across the farm for one full growing cycle.

Aviagen Australia

New Zealand managing director Michael Leahy said, "Through their hard work and management excellence, the teams at Darwalla Group and ProTen are an example to others of the world-class performance that is possible with Ross birds in the Australian environment."

"Congratulations on a job well done!"

Aviagen ANZ technical services manager Debbie Fisher said, "We welcome these first Ross 450 Club inductees and congratulate them for their fantastic achievements."

"They have all demonstrated a good understanding of stockmanship, environment and nutrition, which is vital to maximising the genetic potential of the Ross birds."

"They have proven that Ross is the right bird to get the highest performance, health and wel-

fare in the Australian market."

According to Mr Leahy and Ms Fisher, through the Ross 450 Club they will continue to recognise and reward the winning performance of producers throughout the country.

"We look forward to seeing what our customers accomplish in 2021," Mr Leahy said.

### Breed of choice

Ross 308 is the breed of choice in the Australian market, benefiting producers with outstanding liveability, good feed efficiency, environmental hardiness, high meat yield and a healthy growth rate.

The Aviagen ANZ team is committed to these growers, supplying them with healthy, robust birds, and continuing to champion their success with ongoing service, support and management advice that helps them get the best from their birds.



Ford Farm manager Monarch Ian Gulliver and Darwalla Group broiler serviceperson Will de Vries.

## Multienzyme in broiler diets

OPTIMISING the gut microbial community and morphometrical traits has become an increasingly prominent area of research due to recent evidence that suggests gut health and functionality affects the production performance of broilers.

Creating a diverse microbial population can increase the nutrient digestibility of feed, as the microbes can break down a large portion of macromolecules and convert them into bioavailable substrates to be utilised by the host.

A diverse microbiome can be promoted by a variety of additives, including feed enzymes.

This study investigated the impact of the application of super-dosing multienzymes on gut morphology, microbial profile, nutrient digestibility, and bone mineralisation in broiler chickens.

Results found that super-dosing multienzymes improved nutrient digestibility, maintained a diverse microbial population, and tended to increase the overall villi morphology.

Bone mineralisation was not affected by increasing multienzyme doses.

Additionally, the present study found three bacteria that were unique to multienzyme inclusion at a super-dose level.

Optimising gut health has a large impact on nutrient digestibility and bioavailability, and super-dosing feed enzymes may be one solution to achieve this.

A 42-day grow-out trial was conducted using 192 Ross 308 broilers to determine if super-dosing Natuzyme at 0g/t, 350g/t, 700g/t, and 1000g/t dose rates could improve the gut morphology, alter the cecal microbial profile, enhance bone mineralisation and improve nutrient digestibility of a wheat-corn-soybean diet – six replicates per treatment, eight birds per pen.

One bird per pen was slaughtered at day 42 and gut morphology, cecal microbial profile and nutrient digestibility were studied.

The addition of enzymes tended to increase the villus height in the duodenum, villus height, width and crypt depth in the jejunum, and villus width and the number of goblet cells in the ileum.

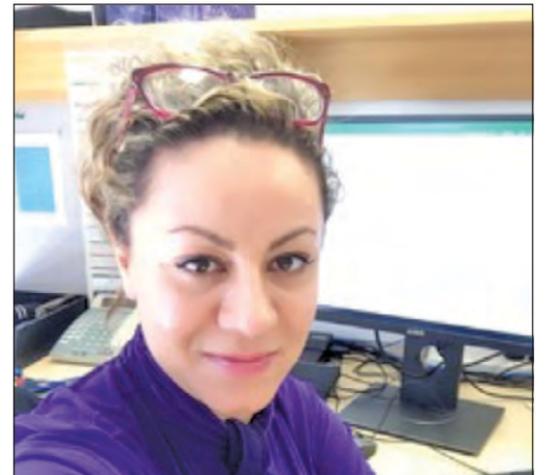
Microbial profiling revealed diverse communities, however they did not significantly differ between treatment groups.

Yet, 700g/t Natuzyme promoted microbes belonging to the genus *romboutsia* and *ruminococcus gauvreauii*, while 1000g/t Natuzyme promoted *barnesiella* species.

The nutrient digestibility demonstrated a significant improvement in all enzyme doses compared to the control.

In conclusion, based on the outcomes of this study, a dose rate of 700g/t Natuzyme is recommended to improve gut morphology and nutrient digestibility, and promote unique microbes which aid in feed efficiency.

This summary and abstract are from the article by Jacoba Madigan-Stretton, Dierdre Mikkelsen and Elham Assadi Soumeh, 'Multienzyme super-dosing in broiler chicken diets: the implications for gut morphology, microbial profile, nutrient digestibility and bone mineralisation'.



Dr Elham Assadi Soumeh, lecturer in animal science and production at the University of Queensland.



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# Australia's biosecurity investment

AUSTRALIA'S Federal Government has heeded calls led by the National Farmers Federation to increase funding for biosecurity and innovation.

The Australian Government announced a \$371 million investment in biosecurity at Rockhampton on May 4.

The package is slightly shy of the NFF's ask for \$400 million over four years to expand and modernise Australia's ailing biosecurity system which has struggled to keep pace with a sharp increase in threats and incursions.

National Farmers Federation chief executive officer Tony Mahar said, "Australian agriculture, farmers, regional communities, the environment

and our economy are at the mercy of the potential for pests and diseases to break the containment lines of our island nation."

"Most recently farmers have grappled with the everyday threat of the arrival of African swine fever and the khapra beetle and continue to do the lion's share of the work in managing introduced pests such as feral pigs, foxes and red fire ants.

"COVID-19 has shown the absolute devastation at a human health level when biosecurity is breached."

Impenetrable border safeguards were vital to protecting the productivity, trade and market access of the world-class food and fibre Australian farmers produce and to protect the natural environment that not only farmers, but all Australians enjoy.

"Stemming biodiversity decline from already introduced pests is difficult enough as a nation, we need to take every step to ensure further feral species aren't added to the mix," Mr Mahar said.

"Strong biosecurity is at the heart of the NFF-led goal for agriculture to achieve \$100 billion in farmgate output by 2030, up from about \$65 billion this year."

The new investment will be directed towards a variety of biosecurity and export service projects, with a focus on modernising ICT systems, technology and data analytics.

"This is a good start," Mr Mahar said. "Applying cutting-edge science and technology is crucial to ensuring our biosecurity system is future-ready."

"We also welcome funding to enable better communication between government, industry and citizens.

"As the peak body for Australian agriculture with a national footprint, the NFF is well placed to play a key role in these communications."

The best biosecurity results can only be achieved when government and industry work hand in glove.

"Protecting agriculture, our environment, our people and our economy from the harmful effects of unwanted pests and diseases is an absolute shared responsibility," Mr Mahar said.

"It is crucial that funding is underpinned by a transparent strategy, where all stakeholders from paddock to port, packing shed to airport terminal, understand their responsibilities and their role in the event of an incursion."

Mr Mahar added that farmers were disappointed when the much-anticipated biosecurity imports levy fell at the final hurdle and would continue to make the case for reform including a long-term, renewable biosecurity funding stream.

"The NFF and our members look forward to learning more about the announced funding and corresponding projects and will continue to work closely with government towards a world-class biosecurity regime," Mr Mahar said.

In addition, consumers and other customers along the supply chain are increasingly demanding action on greenhouse gas reduction and want to see that farms are adhering to sustainable sourcing policies.

That has the potential to result in eco labelling on products to give consumers choice.

Meanwhile, the ability to measure the carbon footprint of poultry production offers a real insight into identifying inefficiencies and carbon hotspots in the business.

"A more efficient farm is a more profitable farm with a lower carbon footprint," Ms Gallagher said.

"From a strategic point of view, ensuring your production system is as sustainable as possible is a win-win and will only enhance the bottom line."

She said that within the poultry production system, the best way to minimise environmental impact is to ensure a targeted diet based on precision nutrition, which has been regularly reviewed and updated using appropriate measurement techniques.

Emissions can also be reduced by using the most environmentally friendly combination of raw materials and nutritional aids correctly to extract maximum nutrients from raw materials.

In addition, growers should minimise anti-nutritional factors which could inhibit digestion and utilisation of nutrients.

Finally, it pays dividends to ensure the bird is as healthy as possible so it can fully utilise nutrients.

Nutrition does not stand alone in the drive to reduce carbon emissions but sits alongside good management and a constant focus on the health of the bird.

"Close attention to these details will not only reduce the carbon footprint but will also improve feed conversion and boost profits," Ms Gallagher said.

"Ultimately, reducing carbon pays."

Devenish focuses on sustainable poultry production to boost profits

DEVENISH sustainable agriculture manager Gill Gallagher said sustainable poultry production is a challenge which needs to be addressed immediately to meet changing market demands and to boost farm profitability.

Speaking virtually at the World's Poultry Science Association Forum in conjunction with Poultry Information Exchange in Australia, she said there was little time to waste in the race to provide the world's growing population with healthy diets from sustainable food systems.

That urgency has arisen as a result of increasing policy pressures by governments that have put in place ambitious carbon reduction policies in the race to net zero.

In addition, consumers and other customers along the supply chain are increasingly demanding action on greenhouse gas reduction and want to see that farms are adhering to sustainable sourcing policies.

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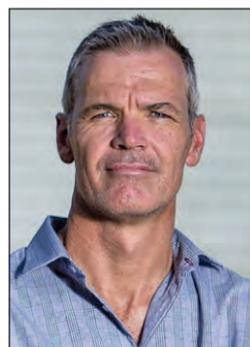
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Australian agriculture, farmers, regional communities and our economy and environment are at the mercy of potential pests and diseases. Photo: Jayden Staines



National Farmers Federation chief executive officer Tony Mahar said applying cutting edge science and technology is crucial to ensuring Australia's biosecurity system is future-ready.



Devenish sustainable agriculture manager Gill Gallagher.



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# New Sizzler Hot Wash machine

AUSTRALIA poultry producers are amongst the most efficient and hygienic in the world.

Their need to clean is constant and of paramount importance to the quality of products produced.

Australian Pump has worked with producers around the country to develop a product range suitable for livestock applications and are proud of their new Sizzler Hot Wash machine.

Aussie Pumps' chief engineer John Hales said, "We're conscious of the need for constant reliable cleaning equipment."

"We ensure that hygiene rules are not only adhered

to but, in the easiest, safest and most cost-efficient way."

The result of constant evolution to the product range is Aussie's new Sizzler Hot Wash.

Designed in Australia, the Sizzler is a high-pressure hot wash machine, delivering 1800psi of pressure, with a flow of 10L per minute.

With a maximum temperature of 80 degrees celsius the machine can eradicate bacteria.

The Sizzler is compact in design and easy to move with four flat free tyred wheels.

Though it weighs 100kg it is manoeuvrable with an integrated handle and

full stainless-steel cover.

Underneath that shiny stainless-steel exterior, there is a heavy duty four pole (slow speed) 1450 rpm single phase 240V motor.

That motor drives a top-quality Italian triplex pump with ceramic pistons.

"Everything on the machine is built for quality," Mr Hales said.

"We built it based on the feedback we were getting from the users around Australia."

The machine is loaded with safety controls, designed to protect the machine and operator.

It has delayed total stop, which stops the machine 30 seconds after the gun trigger is closed.

This saves fuel and can prevent accidents.

Micro-leak protection stops the machine in the case of leaks in the hydraulic circuit when the gun is shut down.

The Clogged Nozzle Control stops the machine if the nozzle in the end of the lance is blocked which prevents the possibility of a build-up of pressure in the system.

Dry Running Protection and Intelligent Auto Switch Off are also part of the system.

Ignition boiler delay ensures low fume emissions when the boiler starts up.

Turbo-lances are available to give extra whack if there is any hard cleaning to be done and a flat

surface cleaner can also operate off the machine.

The company believes that using its engineering innovations can help producers save money, operate more efficiently, but also in the most hygienic manner.

A stainless-steel roll frame is also available as well as foaming devices for applying sanitiser for cleaning products through the machine.

Bigger machines are available in a pressure range of 3000 and 4000psi, making them suitable for even high producing processing plant.

The company also has a range of heavy-duty cold wash machines with flows to 28L per minute and pressures as high as 5000psi.

These machines are available in single and three phase configuration and are compact, slow speed, long life, and minimum maintenance.

Poultry producers can qualify for the regular specials that come out on this equipment and, could receive the 100 percent depreciation allowance if they purchase before the June 30.

For more information and the details of your closest Aussie authorised distributor or, for a direct technical information or support, contact Australian Pump Industries on (02) 8865 3500 or aussie pumps.com.au



Aussie's Sizzler Hot Wash Machine is an ideal germ killer in processing plants.

# Reducing foodborne illness

ABOUT half of fresh shop-bought chicken tested positive for food poisoning bug campylobacter in a year-long study.

Dr Ihab Habib from Murdoch University worked with the Department of Health of Western Australia to test bacteria levels in raw chicken sold in supermarkets around Perth.

Dr Habib said this was the first survey of its kind in Australia for almost 10 years. "We were testing for the bacteria campylobacter, which is considered to be one of the most frequent causes of gastro disease in humans, causing around 96 million cases worldwide each year."

Australia has one of the highest rates of campylobacter infection in humans in the developed world, being around 10 times higher than the US and twice levels recorded in the European Union.

The researchers tested a range of 315 raw chicken products purchased from supermarkets around metropolitan Perth over a year.

Products from three of Western Australia's major poultry suppliers available in the chilled delicatessen or self-service packs in supermarkets were tested, including a selection of free range produce.

The researchers examined a range of products,

including whole chickens, wings, breast, thigh fillets and maryland leg quarters.

"We found campylobacter in around half of the chicken tested and this level was consistent from chicken sourced from different suppliers," Dr Habib said.

"Bacterial load was found in significantly higher levels in chicken with skin-on – maryland and wings – compared to fillet from chicken breast and thigh.

"The results showed that the numbers of campylobacter was particularly high on chicken wings."

Results from this study add to the knowledge on the assessment of microbial safety of the WA poultry chain and can be used as an input for future quantitative risk assessment of campylobacter.

## Kitchen hygiene is paramount

Dr Habib said that chicken meat is a very

important component of our diet and provides a valuable source of protein, among many other healthy nutrients.

However, consumers are reminded to follow good hygiene and cooking practices including:

- Cover raw chicken and store at the bottom of the fridge

- Don't wash raw chicken as this may spread germs through water splashing

- Thoroughly wash and clean all utensils, chopping boards and surfaces used to prepare raw chicken

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after handling raw chicken

- Make sure chicken is cooked thoroughly and steaming hot all the way through before serving, cut into the thickest part of the meat and check that it is steaming hot with no pink meat and that the juices run clear.



Consumers are reminded to follow good hygiene and cooking practices. Photo: Eiliv-Sonas Aeron.



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### Latest News

### NOW PARTNERING

We are very pleased to announce Santrev and Farmmark have joined forces. Santrev Director, Luke Trevanion said "The whole team is extremely excited about the merge and the increased opportunities the merge makes for our loyal and valued clients."



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Luigi DiClemente and Luke Trevanion finalising the merge of FarmMark and Santrev



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# Law to stop vegan food protein labelled as meat

FALSE labelling and marketing by plant-based protein producers have Australian farmers concerned.

The use of words such as beef, pork, chicken and meat used prominently on vegan food product labels, along with the designations of mince and milk have come into question.

The Texas Meat and Imitation Food Act in the US is set to become law and could be followed by Australia introducing similar labelling legislation.

The legislation would also apply to lab-grown or cellular meat when it hits the market and could even encompass terms such as 'burger' and 'sausage'.

The key issues are truth in labelling and food safety standards, and that processes are in place to reach similar outcomes in Australia.

Australian consumers deserve full disclosure as to the contents of a product and its production process.

Though currently holding less than a 1 percent share in the market, the labelling of alternative proteins needs to be fair and clear.

There is an obvious requirement for plant-based alternative proteins and while it is only a small sector, it is a growing sector.

Stakeholders in the Australian food industry are keen to hear if the Texas Meat and Imitation Food Act will be passed.

Recently, Australian Dairy Farmers urged the federal government to prohibit the use of the word milk by plant-based products such as cashew, almond, rice and soy milk and the Cattle Council of Australia wants the word beef kept to products that contain real beef.

Cattle Council chief executive officer Travis Tobin said: "It's illegal to make use of someone else's trademark and the same should go for highly processed products that try to mimic beef."

The council has asked Food Standards Australia New Zealand to investigate the food labelling issue.

A letter sent to the federal government by several peak red meat industry bodies called for the ban of any plant-based product labelling referring to animal flesh and the use of livestock images in packaging or marketing material.

The Red Meat Advisory Council is adamant changes are needed to differentiate between real meat and manufactured meatless products.

Red Meat Advisory Council chair John McKillop said, "It is clear the sector has continued a deliberate strategy to unfairly trade on the reputation of Australia's meat and livestock industries."

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Manager David Littleproud hosted a roundtable between government and industry stakeholders in September 2020 to discuss the labelling of plant-based products.

One objective of the meeting was to ensure the packaging of plant-based protein alternatives was "clear, truthful and accurate for Australian consumers."

The priority then was "to ensure that the food-labelling system has integrity so that our food producing, and manufacturing sectors thrive into the future."

Though the process was criticised as being biased

for traditional food producers, Minister Littleproud said, "I want all of our agricultural industries to grow and succeed, and for this to happen we need a fair playing field on food labelling."

"I am sympathetic to concerns from producers of genuine meat and dairy products who are forced to contend with highly creative, and sometimes misleading, advertising and labelling of plant-based foods and drinks."

Minister Littleproud was clear that the labelling debate was not attacking 'fake' meat and milk.

"On the contrary, I am confident that the massive demand for protein presents huge opportunities for all food producers, and I remain committed to giving our growers greater opportunities to be part of the globally thriving plant-based industry," Minister Littleproud said.

The minister added that while there was room for both in the food industry sector, neither could unfairly trade on the reputation of the other.

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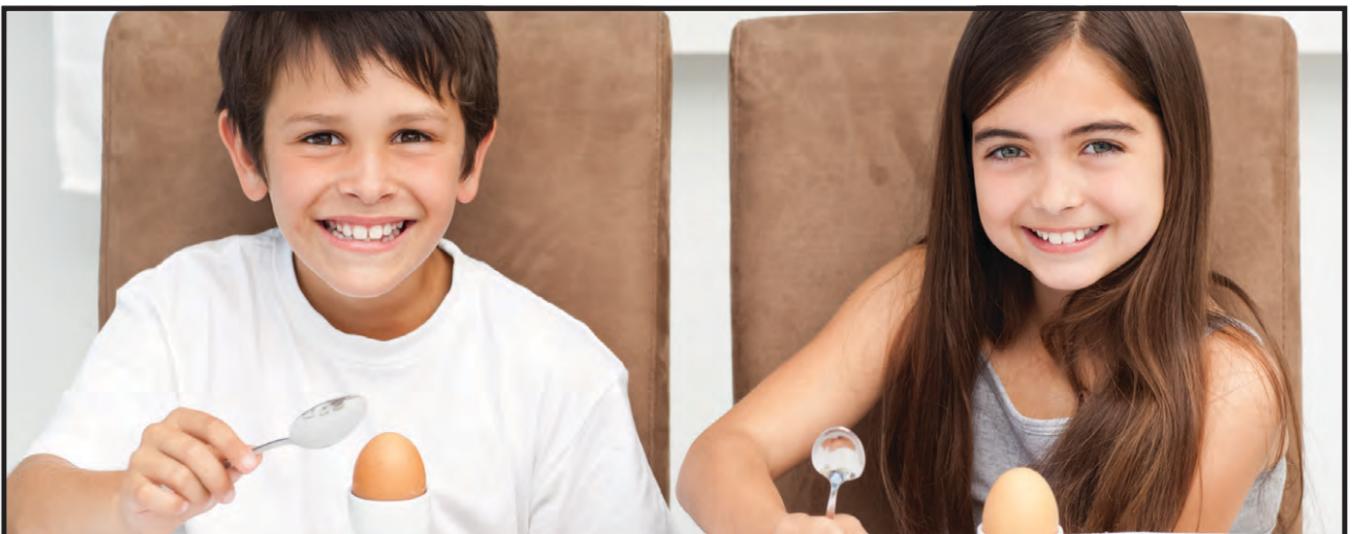
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US politicians are debating laws to stop alternative proteins being called *meat*.



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CID LINES

# Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program cohort announced

A GROUP of 12 skilled, talented and ambitious women – professionals in areas as diverse as station management, animal science and international trade – make up this year's National Farmers Federation Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program.

Selected from 100 applicants, the women will soon embark on an intensive one-on-one mentoring program, to assist them in determining their leadership goals and the role they aspire to play in the future of Australian agriculture.

National Farmers Federation president Fiona Simson said, "I'm inspired that the program – now in its fourth year – continues to resonate with women across Australia."

"The success of Australian agriculture to date has hinged on men and women working together on farm."

"However, providing a pathway for women to transcend to leadership positions has not materialised as fast as it should have."

Ms Simson said in 2021, the program was making

a difference, creating the pathways and networks needed to ensure gender parity in roles that would shape the agriculture of tomorrow.

Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program graduates have gone on to hold industry board positions and to be change-makers within their sectors and communities.

Ms Simson said the program was underpinned by a group of more than 20 committed partners, including government agencies, multi-national corporations and farm advocacy bodies.

"Our partners publicly pledge to make meaningful change towards gender diversity and to report on the steps taken towards this goal."

"The targets, plans and innovations our partners continue to put in place to ensure female and male voices are heard equally are making a difference – from introducing designated breast-feeding rooms and more flexible work arrangements to doing more to encourage and incentivise men to take parental leave," she said.

Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program committed partners include AgForce, AACo, AgriFutures Australia, BASF, Bayer, Canegrowers, Coles, Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia, Cotton Australia,

CPC, Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, FMC, Grains Research and Development Corporation, nbn, NSW Farmers, Nufarm, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Prime Super, Rabobank, Rimfire Resources, Rural Bank, Syngenta, WFI and Wine Australia.

The 2021 Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program cohort will go to Canberra for an introductory retreat, where they will meet each other, their mentors and hear from inspiring speakers.

The group will complete their mentoring and graduate at the NFF's National Conference in September.

"As in previous years, the program attracted a high volume of calibre applicants and I am left in no doubt that the future of our sector's leadership is bright if, as an industry, we continue to foster the development of our people," Ms Simson said.

"I congratulate this year's group and I look forward to getting to know these 12 outstanding women and supporting them on their leadership journey."

The Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program is a flagship initiative of the NFF and its goal to double the number of women in agriculture's leadership by 2030, based on a 2018 benchmark.

# PIX AMC will return to the Gold Coast in 2022



PIX AMC will now be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on May 15-17, 2022.

Due to continued movement restrictions, we are unable to hold the international conference PIX/AMC has grown to be.

The international movement restrictions combined with the continuing company-based restrictions imposed on staff aided the organising committee in making the tough decision to further postpone PIX/AMC until May 2022.

The ongoing safety of our partners, exhibitors, attendees and organisers are paramount to us. As such this delay will allow for control mechanisms such as the vaccine to be rolled out domestically and internationally.

In discussing our options with many stakeholders, exhibitors and attendees, the organ-

ising committee feels it has made the correct decision to deliver a conference that will meet the needs and expectations of all involved.

The conference team is extremely appreciative of the support that your company continues to commit to PIX/AMC and looks forward to your ongoing support as we go through these extraordinary events.

We are pleased to say the event will be retained at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre and all payments made to date will be carried forward to the 2022 event.

We are busy working on delivering an updated program featuring industry experts and speakers, with presentation on the latest trends and topics in a COVID world.

Registrations and accommodation bookings will reopen later in the year.

More announcements will be emailed in the coming months.

There are countless benefits to attending the PIX AMC 2022 event, including:

- Hear and learn from industry experts
- Meet with new vendors and suppliers
- Network
- Combine work and leisure on the Gold Coast.

The conference is expected to feature over 200 exhibition booths showcasing the latest technologies and innovations.

Discounts are available for booths booked with a platinum, gold, silver or bronze partnership package.

Packages are limited, so book early to ensure you don't miss out.

More details will be released in due course as the planning for PIX/AMC 2022 gets underway.

For more information, visit [pixamc.com.au](http://pixamc.com.au)



Pictured from left, 2021 Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program cohort: Anna Harrison – Mungindi NSW, Anna Hooper – Mitcham South Australia, Brie Montgomery – Winmalee NSW, Gillian Fennell – Marla, South Australia, Janice Liu – Gosford NSW, Latarnie McDonald – Taradale Victoria, Lucy Staughton – Gunnedah NSW, Mary Vaughan – Mount Isa Queensland, Miffy Gilbert – Glen Iris Victoria, Prudence Cook – Dimboola Victoria, Sally Murfet – Sorell Tasmania, Tracy Sullivan – Broome Western Australia.



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# DAF pump for wastewater management from EDUR

CEDAR Meats is a state-of-the-art meat exporter in Victoria, with a continual improvement philosophy.

The business needed to upgrade its dissolved air flotation system, but did not want the 'standard' unit.

Cedar Meats wanted a more energy-efficient system and one that could deliver on low running costs for the life of the DAF system.

The conventional DAF system consists of a centrifugal pump that pulls clean effluent from the DAF tank and feeds it into a pressurised air saturation vessel.

A compressor also feeds compressed air into the same vessel and the air saturates into the effluent water under pressure.

The water is then fed back into the bottom of the DAF tank where the air comes out of the solution due to the lower pressure to form tiny microbubbles, which attach to fats and grease in the system and float to the top of the tank and is scraped away.

The system requires a control system to combine air and water needs and it requires regular certification of the pressure vessel.

#### The options

There is also maintenance of the DAF pump,

compressor and pressure vessel to consider, along with energy consumption of both pump and compressor.

Capital costs and running costs are not cheap for this standard system.

Cedar Meats chief engineer Yogesh Mistry searched for a solution that did not involve intricate and delicate control systems and did not need ongoing Worksafe certification for pressure vessels.

He contacted Hydro Innovations for information on the EDUR DAF pump he had read about.

#### The solution

EDUR, a German Pump manufacturer since 1927, has developed a multi-stage multiphase pump capable of handling a gas water mixture, making it ideal as a DAF pump.

The pump draws clean effluent from the DAF tank and at the same time draws in atmospheric air on the suction side of the pump.

The pump sheers and mixes the air with the water and, under pressure from the multi-stage pump, air saturates into the effluent water.

The water is then pumped into the bottom of the tank where the air comes out of solution, as in conventional systems.

No compressor or air

saturation pressure vessel is needed.

Mr Mistry was impressed with the simplicity of the system and promptly arranged the purchase of an EDUR DAF pump.

He has been pleased with the positive results, which include a higher rate of solids removed, less power used for the job – reducing power costs, less complicated controls and he has a low maintenance future ahead for the system.

#### The pump

EDUR has developed these efficient and smart solutions through precision engineering and machining, resulting in a pump range that is currently revolutionising new fields and in applications unheard of only a decade ago.

The EDUR multiphase range of pumps is available with flow rates from 0.5L/s through to 15L/s to enable them to handle a wide range of DAF plant in-flows.

Pumps are constructed of either cast iron/bronze/stainless steel, nodular

cast iron, all bronze, all stainless steel or all superduplex stainless-steel construction, and so may be used to handle a variety of liquids.

Air, oxygen, carbon dioxide and ozone gases can be introduced into the suction line and transported and used to mix or disperse the gases.

#### Advantages

Advantages of the EDUR DAF pump over conventional systems can be summarised as:

- A reduction in system components
- Much smaller footprint
- Reduced energy consumption
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Reduced noise levels
- Improved WHS
- Simplified system operation
- Optimum microbubble size for perfect rising speed

For more information about EDUR DAF pumping systems, email sales@hydroinnovations.com.au or call 02 9898 1800.



The EDUR multiphase range of pumps is available with flow rates from 0.5L/s through to 15L/s to enable them to handle a wide range of DAF plant in-flows.



Cedar Meats was impressed with the simplicity of the system and purchased an EDUR DAF pump.

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Mobile: 0424 413 484  
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Web: www.tsa.tech



**Garry Grant**  
General Manager

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M - 0410 529 852  
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**Michael Bigeni**  
Director

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P: 02 4732 5520  
M: 0410 663 005  
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**NATHAN DWYER**  
Key Account Manager

AusPac Ingredients Pty.Ltd.  
Unit 1, 84-92 Barnes Street  
Tamworth NSW 2340  
Mobile +61 (0) 429 127 599  
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Email nathan@auspacingredients.com.au



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