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# NATIONAL Poultry NEWSPAPER

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Commercial Egg Producers Association WA president Ian Wilson speaking, while seated were Egg Farmers of Australia CEO Melinda Hashimoto, Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies and WA Minister Alannah MacTiernan.

## CEPA sundowner event in Perth

ON July 31, following on from the Flock Health and Egg Quality forum held by Australian Eggs, the Commercial Egg Producers Association of Western Australia held its annual Sundowner event at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Perth.

The event was well attended by producers and supporters of the egg industry.

An address was given by the Honourable Alannah MacTiernan MLC, WA Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food, Ports and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade.

Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies also gave an address, as did Egg Farmers of Australia CEO Melinda Hashimoto.

Rowan spoke about the sustainability framework and how work being undertaken has provided information around trust consumers have in the industry. Melinda spoke on the Standards and Guidelines and position of Egg Farmers of Australia and the issues raised with her during her visit pertaining to egg prices and future investment in the industry.

A question and answer session was held before further networking continued throughout the evening.

During the Q&A, egg farmers expressed to the Minister concerns that retailers have not responded to the plight of egg producers during the severe drought and that retailers have not passed on price increases.

Additionally, they felt their concerns need to be taken up

by the WA and other state governments and price support be recognised as to the impact it is now having on lack of egg supply on the shelves in WA and across the country.

Explanations were provided to the Minister on how market dynamics is the key issue with the concept of changes to production systems, and governments need to recognise farmers' willingness to provide consumers with what they want, however it needs to be realistic and affordable to farmers.

Supermarket interference in the production process has created egg shortages.

In the Minister's speech, she stated she wrote to the ACCC to highlight the concerns of WA egg producers, particularly around allegations of egg mislabelling, inadequate penalties and the imbalance of bargaining power between individual egg producers and large retailers.

The WA Government is also strengthening its egg stamping and traceability requirements to provide assurances to consumers.

In terms of the power imbalance with large retailers, the Minister stated industry needs to analyse the various reports produced on this matter and decide on a strategy forward.

As a first step, the Minister has offered the Government's support to the industry in determining its cost of production.

• More photos Page 15



WA Farmers corporate operations manager Melanie Tolich and Egg Farmers of Australia CEO Melinda Hashimoto.

## PoultryGrad 2019 an inspirational experience

OVER 20 poultry science students attended PoultryGrad 2019 for two days during July in Toowoomba, Queensland.

PoultryGrad provides students with the opportunity to meet people from industry and students from other universities.

The event enables them to think about and discuss their future careers, build peer networks and discuss how their research can benefit the poultry industry.

On the first day, which was hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, six speakers from a variety of different backgrounds including research, government and industry talked to the students about their current job role, career



by **TAMSYN CROWLEY**  
Director

path and experiences.

The students had the opportunity to discuss their research and get career advice from all our speakers.

They said they found this day "inspirational" and "very useful to develop connections and explore career opportunities".

Following this, each stu-

dent participated in a variety of activities designed to get them thinking about their own pathway and to build relationships with their peers.

On the second day, half the group visited a chicken hatchery and half visited a

• continued P2



PoultryGrad attendees at a hatchery.

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## Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

### 2019

**SEP 4-6** – International Poultry Science Symposium, Polanczyk Poland [www.wpsa.pl](http://www.wpsa.pl)

**SEP 10-11** – Ideas Exchange 2019, Sydney NSW [www.poultryhub.org/ideas-exchange-conference-2019](http://www.poultryhub.org/ideas-exchange-conference-2019)

**SEP 16-20** – World Veterinary Poultry Association Congress, Bangkok, Thailand [www.wvpac2019.com](http://www.wvpac2019.com)

**SEP 17** – Poultry Meat Conference Northamptonshire, UK [www.poultryconference.com/PMC/Default.aspx](http://www.poultryconference.com/PMC/Default.aspx)

**SEP 20** – Judging – Royal Melbourne Poultry Show, The Grand Pavilion, Melbourne, VIC [www.rasv.com.au/royal-melbourne-poultry-show](http://www.rasv.com.au/royal-melbourne-poultry-show)

**OCT 23-25** – European Symposium on Poultry Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic [www.espg2019.org](http://www.espg2019.org)

**NOV 3-4** – Egg and Poultry Industry Conference, Celtic Manor, Usk, Wales [www.epiconference.co.uk](http://www.epiconference.co.uk)

**NOV 5-7** – Poultry Tech Summit, Atlanta, US [www.wattglobalmedia.com/poultrytechsummit](http://www.wattglobalmedia.com/poultrytechsummit)

### 2020

**May 17-19** – PIX/AMC, Gold Coast [www.pixamc.com.au](http://www.pixamc.com.au)

**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](mailto:design@poultrynews.com.au)**

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# Punishment and prevention needed for animal activists

IN response to an increase in co-ordinated activist attacks on intensive animal farmers across Australia, the Federal and Queensland governments are considering separate bills that seek to better protect businesses and individuals from trespass.

The Federal Government's Criminal Code Amendment (Agricultural Protection) Bill 2019 criminalises the action of publishing material, via a carriage service, with the intention to incite trespass, property damage and theft on to agricultural land.

While at the state level, the Criminal Code (Trespass Offences) Amendment Bill 2019 introduces three new criminal trespass offences – aggravated trespass, serious criminal trespass and organised trespass – which come with potential imprisonment and fines significantly greater than the current penalties for trespass under Queensland law.

Other jurisdictions across Australia are also considering new laws to protect farmers from animal activists.

The Victorian, South Australian and Western



by **TRAVISTOBIN**  
CEO

Australian governments have vowed to review their legal protections for farmers against trespassing protesters; the NSW government recently followed Queensland's lead by amending its bio-security legislation to enable on-the-spot fines but also enabled fines of up to \$440,000 and potential time in prison to be enforced; while Tasmania already has laws in place to protect farms from invasion by protesters.

Clearly, other jurisdictions have seen a need for greater intervention to combat rising trespass activity and so the question now is, do the Queensland and Australian parliaments?

The actions we have seen from activists invade farmers' privacy, threaten the welfare of their animals, pose unacceptable

risks to their businesses and have implications for food security.

The view that 'one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws' is one many animal rights activists use to justify trespassing on farmers' properties and wilfully disrupting and creating unacceptable risks to their businesses.

Considering the complex animal welfare framework in place and government law setting and enforcement, Queensland Farmers' Federation challenges this view.

Under these circumstances, it is perfectly justifiable to counter this view with 'one has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey what are just laws'.

There are several issues with the enforcement of

the current trespass law in Queensland. Offenders are only being charged with the offence of unlawfully entering farming land, which interestingly is only half that which can be imposed for general trespass (at \$1334.50 or six months' imprisonment) when they are arrested by Queensland Police, who in some cases see no need to take that step.

For example, during a co-ordinated animal activist incident at a Darling Downs feedlot in March 2019, over 100 protesters entered onto the business's land despite the property owner's objections, and police made no arrests.

Repeat offenders, who the Queensland Police Union have labelled 'professional protesters' and accused them of wasting valuable police time and resources, are not receiving fines significant enough to curb this law-breaking behaviour, and they continue to escape conviction.

Further, crowd funding is often being used to pay for their fines and legal fees, so effectively there is no punishment at all.

It is clear the current trespass laws on farm-

ing land in Queensland do not provide adequate protection for legal and legitimate farming businesses.

QFF recognises and respects the right of individuals and groups to meet and engage in peaceful protest to pursue common goals.

However, this right does not extend to entering onto another's property without their permission to interfere with their legitimate farm business activities.

The behaviour we are currently seeing does not meet the expectations of farmers and the community.

A law is the product of the social conditions at the time it is made – it is not static and should change to respond to the current social and political values of a community.

It is incumbent upon the Queensland and Australian parliaments to ensure they deliver adequate protections and suitable deterrents for would-be and repeat offenders so farmers and society can operate without threat of disruptive, costly and damaging law-breaking behaviour.

## PoultryGrad 2019 an inspirational experience

from P1

chicken breeder farm.

Each group became completely immersed in what it is like to work and manage these farms.

The students were very engaged, asking the farm managers lots of questions.

Many of the students who attend PoultryGrad have never been on a farm and have had little or no direct contact with the poultry industry.

Hence, many of the students were amazed by how much technology is involved in the poultry industry and how passionate the farmers are.

The students stated the experience was "phenomenal" and "a wonderful event for young poultry researchers".

Poultry Hub Australia is excited to watch and aid these students in establishing successful careers in the poultry industry.

We would like to thank all those involved in making PoultryGrad 2019 a huge success.

### Ideas Exchange 2019

It's that time of year again when researchers and industry get together for a great time of networking, reconnecting, learning and developing ideas.

In the past, Ideas Exchange has been a great avenue for industry per-

sonnel and researchers to come together and develop relationships and collaborations that benefit the poultry industry.

This year's meeting will focus on building capacity in our industry as well as highlighting some of the fantastic research funded by PHA.

We will also include demonstrations of some of our recent innovations such as Vicky the virtual chicken.

Ideas Exchange 2019 will be held on September 10 and 11 in Sydney at the Mercure Sydney Hotel.

The meeting includes talks, discussions and

invaluable networking opportunities over two days and a conference dinner.

The conference is free for members of

Poultry Hub Australia.

A limited number of scholarships are available for farmers and researchers who are part of the Australian poul-

try industry to attend the conference.

For any more information, visit [poultryhub.org/ideas-exchange-conference-2019](http://poultryhub.org/ideas-exchange-conference-2019)



The hatchery visit was well received by PoultryGrad attendees.



PoultryGrad attendees enjoyed a group dinner.



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When it comes to hot days, happy shedded hens, like these at Fremantle Egg Company, must have shade, water and comfortable ambient temperature. Once these girls have enjoyed a good night's sleep, a hearty breakfast and laid their eggs for the day, they are free to roam outside on green pastures.

## POULTRY SHED WASH-DOWN

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## Be prepared for hot chooks with fire-resistant feathers

THOUGH Down Under we're a few months away from the sorts of hot temperatures that can debilitate layer hens and, importantly, diminish their productivity and lower their welfare, it's timely to scout ideas from those in the northern hemisphere who are right amongst it now.

As the Boy Scouts motto declares: 'Be prepared'.

On that note, I was interested to pick up and now pass on some tips proposed by Jean Sander, DVM, Senior Technical Services Veterinarian with Zoetis in North Carolina, US.

Writing in Poultry Health Today, she referenced a review article from Purdue University and USDA's Agricultural Research Service that said heat stress was associated with a 31.6 percent reduction in feed conversion, 36.4 percent reduction in egg production and 3.41 percent reduc-



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

tion in egg weight.

According to Sander, a layer's normal body temperature is about 40C.

While hens are comfortable with an ambient temperature of 18-24C, when that temperature climbs above 32C, the more serious consequences of heat stress occur.

Importantly, from a consumer perspective, the review authors also pointed out heat stress might affect food safety, with recent studies demonstrating bacteria such as salmonella and campylobacter could exploit the neuroendocrine alterations due to the stress response in the host to promote growth and pathogenicity.

Other consequences of heat stress include increased water intake that could lead to wet manure and soiled eggs and reduced immune function, which could impair vaccine efficacy.

So, what does Sander suggest those in the business of producing quality, safe eggs from happy, healthy hens do?

Here's a sample of her handy hints:

- If birds are at risk of heat stress or already overheating, avoid disturbing them, especially during the hottest part of the day so they don't get hotter moving around.

- Don't overstock cages. Birds need to be able to spread their wings to increase airflow around their bodies. If layers must be moved on a hot day, place fewer in each transport crate and intersperse those crates with empty crates for better air circulation. Postpone beak trimming to a cooler day or trim early morning before it's too hot.

- Routinely check foggers or misters and run for two minutes out of every 10 if humidity is low.

- Maintain the water system for cleanliness and function to prevent heat stress in layers. Drinkers must be systematically checked to ensure they're all working.

- Cool drinking water by flushing lines in the afternoon. Cool water helps bring down the birds' core temperature. If water is below 25C, birds will drink more.

- Adding vitamins and electrolytes to drinking water helps replace lost sodium, chloride, potassium and bicarbonate, but they are best administered before onset of extreme heat.

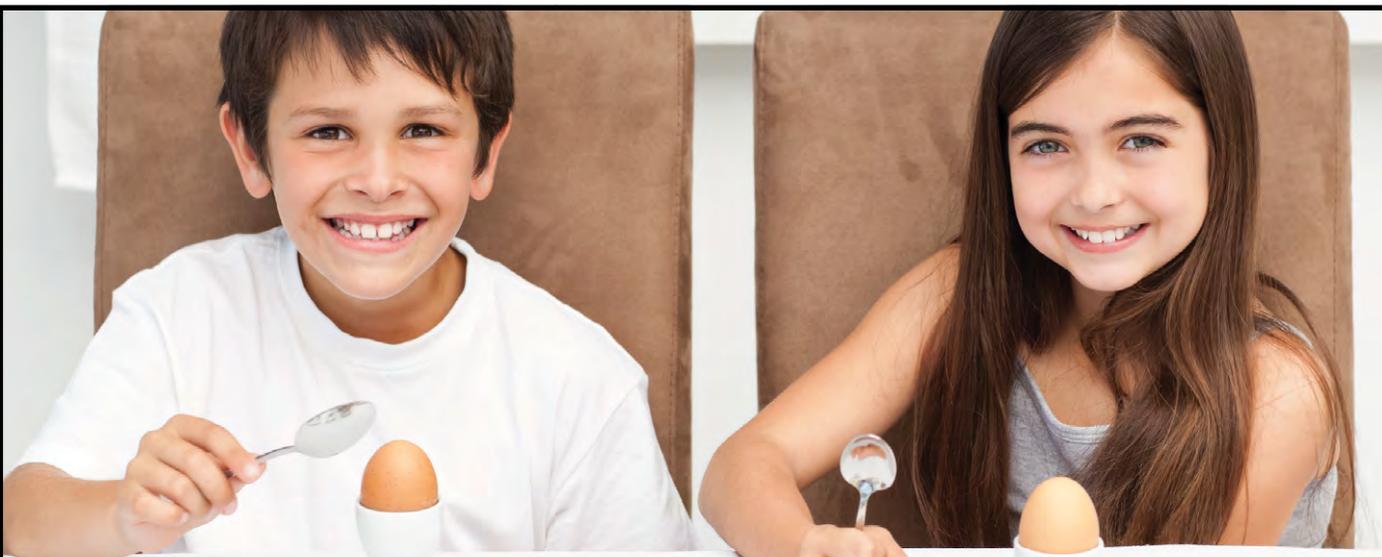
Meanwhile on the subject of hot chickens, researchers at University of Auckland, New Zealand have apparently developed a way to turn chicken feathers into a high-performing fire retardant.

With billions of chicken feathers produced by the poultry industry, most of which end up in the incinerator or landfill, they are an obvious international waste problem.

Distinguished Prof Debes Bhattacharyya of the University of Auckland's Faculty of Engineering has found a way to use chicken feathers as a base for a fire retardant, one that is safer than many retardants, cheaper to produce and solves an international waste problem.

While I know chicken feathers are made of a keratinous material also

continued P6



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## Australian Government delivers to protect farmers

THE Australian Government has delivered on its election commitment to protect the privacy of Australian farmers and primary producers by introducing legislation to protect them from the unlawful actions of animal activists.

The Criminal Code Amendment (Agricultural Protection) Bill 2019 introduces new offences for the incitement of trespass, property damage or theft on agricultural land.

Attorney-General Christian Porter said incidents of trespass by animal activists, such as those we saw earlier this year, have impacted on Australian farmers and their businesses, prompting this stronger action to deter those who incite this behaviour.

“There must be consequences for this unacceptable behaviour,” the Attorney-General said.

“Farmers should not be subjected to the illegal invasion of their property and privacy.

“The Bill introduces serious criminal penalties to ensure farmers and their families are protected, with offenders facing up to five years’ imprisonment.

“The Bill includes exemptions for journalists and whistle-blowers who expose instances of animal cruelty.”

The Bill also covers other private agricultural businesses such as fishers and foresters.

Minister for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie said the Bill sends a clear message to animal activists that if you use the personal information of our family farmers to incite trespass then you will be risking jail, once the Bill passes.

The government has also called on the state and territory governments to increase penalties to deter animal rights activists from trespass.

“These laws are necessary to protect farmers and their businesses – most of them small family businesses – from potential trespass, property damage, theft and biosecurity breaches, and the substantial loss of income that could follow,” the Minister said.

“These new laws build on other actions taken by the Morrison Government to protect farmers and their families, including prescribing Aussie Farms under the Privacy Act, meaning the organisation could face fines of up to \$2.1 million for breaches of the Act.

“The Federal Government is committed to supporting Australian farmers, their families and their businesses and this Bill delivers on that commitment to this critically important part of our economy – our \$60 billion agriculture industry.”

## Be prepared for hot chooks with fire-resistant feathers

from P4

found in the hair, wool, horns and hooves of mammals, I now understand they are also naturally occurring flame inhibitors.

Dr Bhattacharyya and his team have previously shown chemically modified wool fibres can also be used as an effective retardant.

This could provide a revenue stream for low-grade wool in an era when the price of and demand for wool have declined.

They more recently turned to chicken feathers as an alternative source of keratinous fibres, which are even cheaper and in many countries, more of a waste problem.

His team has developed a rapid and simple way to chemically modify the keratinous fibres of both wool and chicken feathers and convert them into a flame-retardant powder that can be added to polymeric materials.

The powder enhances the fire-retardancy of

the polymer by accelerating char formation, the solid material produced in the initial stages of combustion and which inhibits combustion.

“So it’s a perfect fire retardant material, passes most fire retardant standards and can be used with polymeric materials,” Prof Bhattacharyya said.

He acknowledges the method has so far been proven in the lab and moving it to market will require getting companies on board to develop ways to produce the keratinous fibre-based product at a large scale and to ensure it is compatible with existing manufacturing processes.

With initial results promising, it has reportedly attracted the attention of multinationals.

“Our invention, whose intellectual property rights are protected, has been tested to show that it could be a direct replacement for APP, the predominant existing product,” he said.

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## Better connecting farmers with consumers

LEADING Australian voices have come together to better connect farmers with consumers through the Telling Our Story Initiative.

In leading the project, National Farmers' Federation president Fiona Simson is joined by businesspeople Richard Goyder, Alison Watkins and Robbie Sefton.

The NFF has also welcomed Meat & Livestock Australia as a founding partner.

Ms Simson said Australians continued to support farmers through tough times such as drought and floods and increasingly wanted to learn more about modern agriculture.

"The community is interested in the story behind their chicken, eggs, beef, lamb, pork, milk, wool, cotton and more," she said.

"And, farmers take very seriously their responsibility to grow food and fibre in a sustainable, ethical and safe manner that meets contemporary community expectations.

"As the peak body leading Australian agriculture, it is the NFF's role to better explain why and how farmers grow what we do in our pursuit to assist to sustain Australia and the world."

With the support of partners such as MLA, NFF is committed to doing just this by sharing modern Australian agriculture's story.

MLA managing director Jason Strong agreed.

"Australian farmers are among the most progressive in the world, and it's vital we continue to share our story with consumers in Australia and globally," he said.

"The Australian red meat industry has a goal to be carbon neutral by 2030 and this is part of a broader body of work designed to ensure Australia continues to lead the world in sustainable red meat production and be recognised for doing so."

Businesses and others with a passion for agriculture's future are invited to join with NFF, MLA and the high-profile advisory committee members on this important initiative.

"We need a team approach to better connecting farmers and what they do with their fellow Australians," Ms Simson said.

Organisations and individuals wanting to learn more about Telling Our Story can contact Laureta Wallace via [lwallace@nff.org.au](mailto:lwallace@nff.org.au) or 0408 448 250.

# Field day season – water is the issue

THE Aussie Pumps team is ready for this season of field days across the country, with a clear recognition that water security is the biggest single issue.

The company launched its Drought Buster program late last year, designed to introduce farmers to more efficient ways of moving water at all levels.

The self-priming centrifugal pump range was fast tracked into a program to offer farmers reduced prices for diesel-drive pumps with extended payment terms.

High-pressure self-priming centrifugal pumps also provide huge fuel savings.

Aussie Pumps' formula was simple.

The company introduced big 3" and 4" portable Kubota diesel engine powered pumps marketed under the Drought Buster program.

The pumps come in heavy-duty galvanised steel frames.

Most have electric start as standard and can move water at rates of up to 2600l/pm.

The big Drought Buster pumps are even offered on 90-day payment terms through qualified Aussie Pump dealers called 'Buy Now Pay Later'.

It's just another way Aussie Pumps recognises the plight of farmers and at the same time acknowledges the huge debt the country has to the agriculture sector.

Farmers have helped the company develop what is the most advanced range of self-priming centrifugal portable pumps in the world.

The big pumps will be on display at field days around the country as part of this year's program.

### Water security the key

With people like Alan Jones, Barnaby Joyce, Twiggy Forrest and many more supporting the cause, the drought affecting a huge percentage of Australia's farming community cannot be ignored.

Aussie Pumps' Brad Farrugia said, "We can do our bit by allowing farmers to move water the most efficient way possible and at the lowest cost."

"We can also continue to promote the idea that farmers should demand an infrastructure program to build dams that will harvest the water from where it is and move it to where it should be."

### New pressure cleaners released

Aussie Pumps listens to farmers and acknowledges the huge feedback it gets from attending field days both directly and through its distributor network.

"Our distributors are a terrific pipeline of feedback about applications and requirements," Farrugia said.

"For example, we didn't realise poultry producers face real problems with clearing blocked drains and are doing it the hard way.

"Using a 4000 or 5000psi Aussie Cobra drain cleaner, drains can be cleared promptly, reducing the risk of disease within the poultry operation."

The machine can also be used as a very effective and time saving pressure cleaner for routine maintenance wash-down at the poultry farm.

The same principle applies to feedlots, piggeries and even for machinery wash-down applications.

### New Scuds hit the market

The new Scud pressure cleaners from Aussie Pumps will be displayed at field days around the country.

The machines feature the OH&S-friendly Scud design with the frames now made from stainless steel, a major upgrade from the old hot-dipped galvanised versions of the past.

These stainless steel frames are not only aesthetically pleasing but eliminate rust issues.

The machines are built to last and should be sized for the job to make sure the customer gets the right product the first time around.

"We'll be giving instruction sheets out on pressure cleaner application to make sure farmers get the best advice and are not saddled with buying a

machine that is too small for the job," Farrugia said.

Aussie Pumps was founded only 25 years ago.

It has grown from strength to strength and exports its products all around the world.

Watch out for Aussie Pumps products at field days around the country and get a taste of the huge advantages provided by this innovative and customer-focused Australian company.

For more information on Aussie Pumps' range of products, visit [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au) or contact Aussie Pumps distributors throughout Australia.



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# India bans the use of a human-critical antibiotic in poultry farms

THE Indian government has banned the use of a 'last hope' antibiotic on farms.

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism reported the Indian government has banned the use of a last hope antibiotic on farms to try to halt the spread of some of the world's most deadly superbugs, after a Bureau investigation revealed it was being widely used to fatten livestock.

Colistin is one of the most important antibiotics in human medicine because it is used as a last resort to treat people with infections resistant to almost all other drugs.

Despite this, for years it has been indiscriminately added to animal feed on Indian farms, breeding deadly bugs.

The use of antibiotics to fatten animals – known as growth promotion – is a major cause of the world's growing antibiotic resistance crisis.

The World Health Organisation says the practice should be banned.

This new ban in India reaches further than just growth promotion.

The Indian Ministry of Health recently issued a notification prohibiting the "manufacture, sale and distribution of the drug colistin and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements" because such use is "likely to involve risk to human beings".

That means the drug also cannot be used as a veterinary medicine for farm animals.

Colistin can still be prescribed on British farms to treat infections, though official records indicate it is rarely used.

The ban follows recommendations earlier this year by India's top drug advisory body, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, and the National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan committee.

Dr Abdul Ghafur, an infectious diseases doctor who advises the committee, said the wording of the ban was very strong and was "the best gazette notification you can ever get".

He said the ban indicates "the Indian government is convinced colistin is a last resort antibiotic, colistin resistance is increasing in

clinical practice and colistin is extensively used in poultry and aqua farming as a growth-promoting agent" and such practice should stop.

An investigation by the Bureau last year showed how colistin was widely used as a growth promoter in India.

Hundreds of tonnes of colistin were shipped to India in 2016, the Bureau found, and the drug was sold by international and domestic pharmaceutical companies without requiring a prescription.

The story showed how one of India's largest poultry companies Venky's was marketing colistin as a growth promoter to farmers.

In India, Venky's supplies supermarkets and fast food outlets like KFC, McDonald's and Pizza Hut.

The fast food brands said no growth-promoting antibiotics were used in chickens supplied to them.

The discovery of a colistin-resistant gene that can pass between bacteria, conferring resistance to bugs never exposed to the drug, sent shockwaves through the medical world in 2015.

It will likely accelerate the spread of resistance to colistin, further boosted by the rampant use of the antibiotic on farms in many countries.

Scientists believe the gene originated in bacteria in Chinese livestock, but it has since been found across five continents.

Tim Walsh, a professor at Cardiff University whose research team discovered the mobile colistin-resistant gene, said the Indian ban was a welcome step but monitoring and enforcing it was crucial.

Walsh has been instrumental in working with governments to slow the spread of resistance.

"The ban shows an element of commitment by the central Indian government, but whether this has any traction at state level or local level remains to be seen," he said.

"But even if its impact is not what we might hope for, at least it's adding to a message that we need to once and for all separate those drugs that we use in animals from those that we use in humans."



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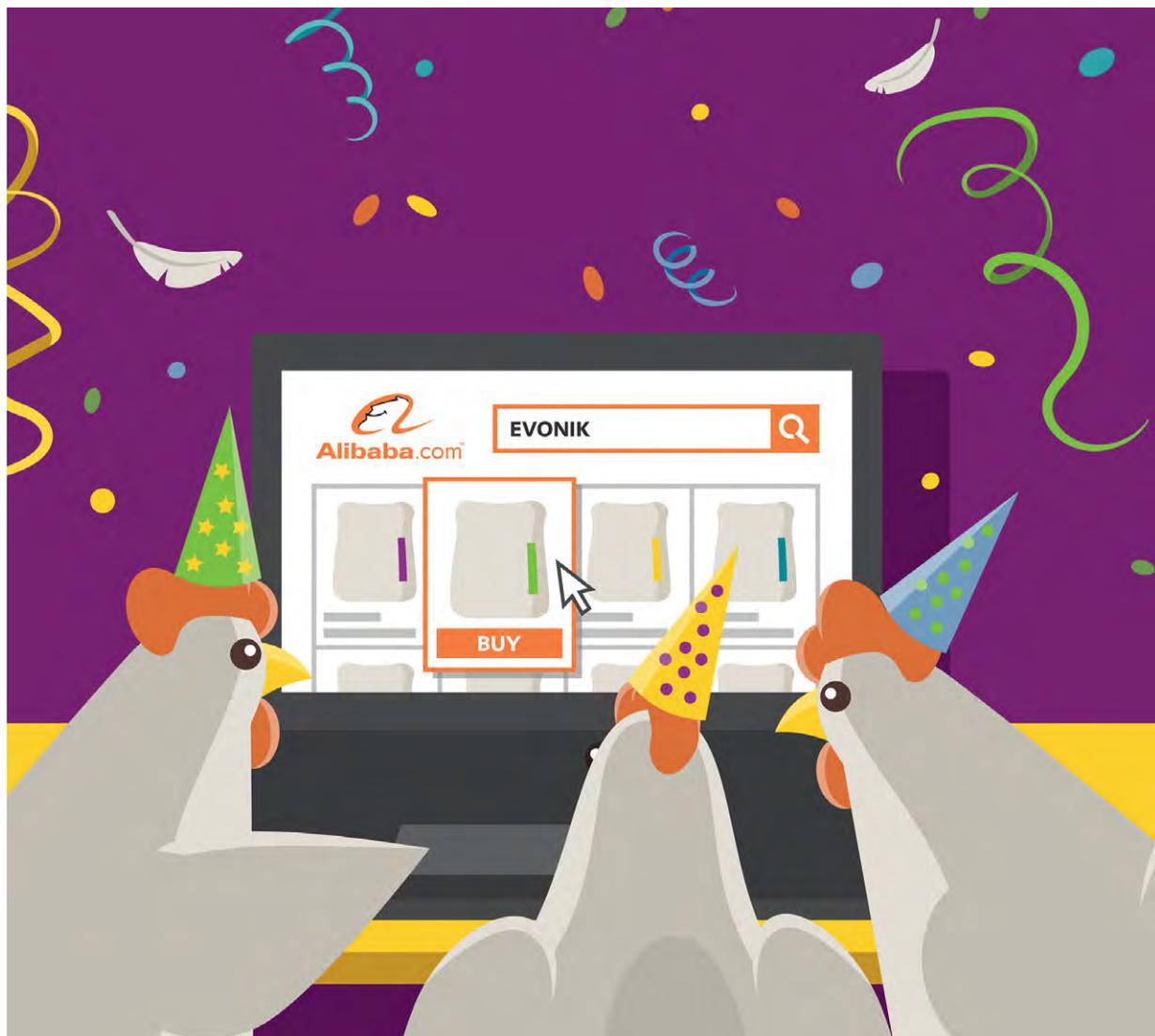
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# Global Food Partners brings science-based welfare expertise to Asia

THE cage-free egg movement has gone global, with hundreds of food and hospitality businesses pledging to source only cage-free eggs.

This movement has spread to Asia in recent years, with industry giants such as Accor, Marriott International, Hyatt, Sodexo, Carrefour (Taiwan) and Compass Group announcing cage-free egg procurement policies for the region.

With deadlines in place to complete the transition to 100 percent cage-free egg supply chains (typically by 2025 or earlier), major egg buyers are now focused on policy implementation, and forward-thinking egg farmers in the region are retrofitting and/or upgrading their production systems to meet this growing demand.

Global Food Partners, a science-based non-profit consultancy company, was founded this year to assist companies in doing just this – to partner with food businesses to imple-

ment meaningful animal welfare procurement policies and best practices, with a focus on cage-free egg sourcing and production in Asia.

The company's team of experts, with over 10 years of on-the-ground, hands-on experience working in Asia and globally on cage-free egg policy implementation, understands the challenges the food sector faces in this area, particularly in Asia.

Through its collaborative approach with the food sector, farmers and other key stakeholders, the organisation develops innovative solutions to overcome the unique and local challenges specific to Asia, a continent responsible for the majority of global egg production.

Global Food Partners CEO Elissa Lane said, "Our team at Global Food Partners has been working with food industry leaders for years, including egg farmers, food retailers, manufacturers and processors, restaurant groups, hotels and

food service companies, to guide and offer expertise in the transition to higher welfare cage-free egg production systems."

"We believe the key to success is collaboration and innovation among all stakeholders.

"By working together, we can achieve our common mission, which is to offer higher-quality products aligned with consumer expectations and concerns about animal welfare, and in doing so increase long-term business profitability."

GFP works with companies, both buyers and egg suppliers, to assess their individual needs and develop an implementation plan.

The team has experience working with companies throughout the adoption and implementation process and can help businesses from start to finish, including through:

- Development of policy language;
- Guidance with internal and external communication strategy, to help

strengthen business's brand reputation among media and peers;

- Development of strategic plan and timeline that suit the particular needs of the company, helping set achievable goals that reflect the business's corporate values;

- Implementation training packages for businesses and their egg suppliers;

- Leading technical workshops with companies and their current egg suppliers;

- Organising farm visits for companies to high welfare cage-free production facilities;

- Technical guidance and resources;

- Providing most up-to-date technical and scientific information; and

- Hosting joint events, conferences, and roundtables that bring together forward-thinking companies and area experts.

GFP is based in Singapore and the US and is initially focused on South East Asia and China. 🐔

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# Zoetis establishes immunotherapies for livestock research lab at Colorado State University in US

ZOETIS has signed an agreement with Colorado State University, US to establish a research lab at CSU that will explore the livestock immune system and target new immunotherapies – paving the way for new alternatives to antibiotics in food-producing animals.

The new 280sq m Zoetis Incubator Research Lab will operate at the Research Innovation Center on CSU's Foothills Campus starting in early 2020.

In this landmark R&D collaboration, Zoetis scientists will be co-located with CSU's highly skilled scientists, core laboratories, research programs and services to seed innovations for livestock animal health.

While the Zoetis Incubator Research Lab will reside within CSU's Research Innovation Center, it will be part of the company's global R&D organisation.

As a result, Zoetis may access a greater understanding of the livestock immune system, generating new candidates for further research and development.

The initial focus of the Incubator Research Lab will be biotherapeutics for cattle, which could yield broader implications for pigs and poultry.

Infectious Disease Research Center executive director Ray Goodrich said, "Our agreement with Zoetis represents the beginning of an era of collaboration, co-operation and innovation between public and private research leaders, all in the interest of improving animal health."

With few alternatives today for treating life-threatening bacterial infections in animals, Zoetis supports the responsible use of antibiotic medicines in animals and in people, while ensuring veterinarians and livestock producers have new and enhanced solutions to better predict, prevent, detect and treat disease in the animals under their care.

These include new classes of antibiotics for veterinary use only and novel, non-antibiotic anti-infective treatments like those being pursued through the Zoetis Incubator Research Lab.

## Going where the science is

As part of the new lab, Zoetis expects to hire up to 20 livestock research scientists, immunologists and cell biologists in Fort Collins.

Zoetis Global Therapeutics Research senior director Chad Ray said, "Zoetis is committed to continuous innovation and going where the science is."

"CSU is at the forefront of infectious disease innovation and animal health

research in a vibrant biotech community, making it the ideal environment for our Incubator Research Lab."

For CSU, Goodrich said the strategic new lab will provide multiple benefits for the campus community and the city of Fort Collins.

It also bolsters CSU's land-grant mission, which includes setting the standard for public research universities in teaching, research, service and extension for the benefit of the citizens of Colorado, the US and the world.

"The success of our efforts will have the potential to translate into products and services that may greatly improve the health and wellbeing of farm an-

imals and our agricultural communities," he said.

## About the CSU Research Innovation Center

The Research Innovation Center at CSU is a life-science company accelerator and is home to several startup companies with roots at the university, including SiVEC Biotechnologies LLC, which is developing antiviral applications for the rapid treatment and prevention of avian influenza.

The centre was originally designed to foster collaborations between private industry and CSU's academic community.

Learn more about the Research Innovation Center at [research.colostate.edu/idrc/research-innovation-center](http://research.colostate.edu/idrc/research-innovation-center)



The Research Innovation Center at Colorado State University.



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# Improving poultry welfare may not be as expensive as initially thought

A NEW World Animal Protection report has found producing higher-welfare chickens is far cheaper than previously believed.

The findings mean billions of chickens around the world could be taken out of cruel intensive systems every year as cost can no longer be used as an excuse by restaurants, retailers and producers.

The report was carried out for World Animal Protection by Wageningen University in the Netherlands, world leaders in agricultural research.

It finds shifting from 'conventional' intensive to higher-welfare indoor systems increases production costs by only 6-9 Euro cents per kilogram of live bird across the five markets studied.

This means a cost increase of only 6.4-13.4

percent above conventional production costs, which is much lower than increases of up to 49 percent previously projected by a US industry-funded study.

The solutions proposed in the report to give intensively farmed chickens better lives are simple, effective and backed by robust scientific evidence.

Critically, the welfare improvements can be easily introduced to most existing systems.

Improvements include:

- Lower stocking densities of maximum 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, which allow chickens room to move and spread their wings.

- Provision of 'enrichment' – perches or platforms as well as grain, hay bales or other materials to peck. Floor-based litter is essential for dustbathing, comfort and feather and

feet health – all of which

are proven to help chickens fulfil their natural behaviours.

- Six hours of continuous darkness per day – allowing the birds better development and natural resting time as opposed to shorter, disturbed resting periods – and better illumination during daytime hours.

- The use of slower-growing birds with proven higher welfare outcomes to avoid the health problems caused by unnatural fast growth.

Most of the world's 60 billion chickens farmed for their meat are still confined to cramped, intensive conditions in factory farms.

Genetically selected to grow fast and develop large, heavy breast muscles – too big for their legs to support – in some cases they can experience pain

and suffering.

The combination of fast growth and intensive stocking causes serious welfare issues including respiratory failure and sudden death, leg problems, broken bones and skin problems from constant contact with wet and dirty litter.

Consumer demand for higher-welfare chicken is increasing worldwide at a rate producers and retailers cannot ignore.

Significantly, consumer willingness to bear all or a large proportion of the costs of higher welfare meat is on the rise.

This is further demonstrated by consumer behaviour in the Netherlands, with a national case study of higher welfare retail chicken after actual industry transition.

World Animal Protection CEO Steve McIvor

said, "There is a real opportunity here to improve the lives of billions of chickens globally."

"The higher-welfare indoor system is realistic and scientifically proven.

"It opens the doors to business opportunities worldwide.

"It gives discerning consumers what they want and allows producers and retailers higher cost efficiencies than some other higher-welfare systems.

"Almost all existing lower-welfare systems in all markets researched for this report, except for cages, can be easily adapted to comply with the higher-welfare indoor system.

"This can be achieved with lower production costs than previously believed.

"Most importantly, it can deliver a vital change for chickens."



Photo: backyardchickencoops.com.au



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## Impossible Foods signs major US meat supplier to make its plant-based burgers

REUTERS has reported Californian plant-based burger maker Impossible Foods announced a partnership with major US meat supplier OSI Group, a long-time producer of patties for fast-food chains, as it ramps up to meet demand from consumers and restaurants including Burger King.

Burger King started offering the Impossible Whopper in April in 59 stores in and around St.

Louis, and is expected to launch nationally, which would put the plant-based Whopper on the menu in about 7000 Burger Kings.

The partnership between the vegan burger maker and one of the biggest meat suppliers comes as young, environmentally conscious consumers are feasting on plant-based patties and sausages.

Impossible Foods senior vice president of

product and operations Sheetal Shah said, "We got ourselves into a supply-demand imbalance in which we frankly just did not anticipate the level of demand that came from consumers."

Shares of rival vegan burger company Beyond Meat Inc are up over 700 percent since it went public in May.

Beyond Meat recently forecast its revenue would rise over 170 percent in 2019.

Privately held OSI, based in Aurora, Illinois, has been supplying McDonald's for about six decades and has 65 facilities in 17 countries.

Shah said Impossible Foods and OSI will both be investing in OSI fa-

cilities to produce the plant-based burger patties and that multiple facilities in the Chicago area will start supplying Burger King and eventually other customers as well.

The investment details were not disclosed.

When asked if Impossible would be serving McDonald's too, Shah declined to comment on customers, but said: "I see no reason why we shouldn't be able to go anywhere and everywhere."

OSI North America senior executive vice president Kevin Scott told Reuters when it comes to plant-based meat substitutes, its time and place is right now.

"The work that's been done in the sector on our behalf and other manufacturers and companies like Impossible Foods is really narrowing that gap to a point of overall consumer acceptance," he said.

Just three months after its IPO, Beyond Meat said it was raising more funds in a stock offering to expand its manufacturing facilities, which are also stretched by booming demand.

Smelling the sizzling opportunity, major meat packers such as chicken producer Perdue Foods and Canadian packaged meat producer Maple Leaf Foods Inc have also launched vegan meat substitute products.

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## Improving pump safety can add to the bottom line

IMPROVING the safety around wastewater pumping can have a significant effect on morale, but also the bottom line, according to engineered pump supplier Hydro Innovations.

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ily used by animal process plants around the country and by businesses that value investing in safety, reliability and quality.

More information about these pumps can be obtained from Hydro Innovations at [info@hydroinnovations.com.au](mailto:info@hydroinnovations.com.au)



# CEPA sundowner event in Perth – continued from Page 1



WA Farmers CEO Trevor Whittington and Malcolm Ward from AAA Egg Company.



CEPA executive officer Rachel Wilson flanked by egg industry supporters Rob and Alex.



Nick and Gemma from Australian Eggs with Egg Farmers of Australia SA/Tasmania director Dion Andary.



Brendan Bell from Golden Eggs, Greg Kendall from AAA Egg Company, Rachel Wilson, John Evans from AAA Egg Company and Joe Sacca from Forrestdale Farm Fresh Eggs.



Joe Sacca, Danny Jones from Australian Eggs, WA Member for the Agricultural Region Colin de Grussa, Cale Hill from the WA Nationals and Peter Bell from AAA Egg Company.

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