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# NATIONAL Poultry NEWSPAPER

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## World Egg Day – October 12

WORLD Egg Day is celebrated on October 12 each year and in the lead-up to this year's event, Australian Eggs has kicked off the inaugural Eggsellence Awards.

It is a national campaign to uncover Australia's best egg dish and egg lovers have been nominating their favourite restaurants and cafes by taking a photo of their meal and writing a short message about why they think it is a winner.

Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies said, "With almost 17 million eggs being eaten every day in Australia, we are thrilled to embark on this journey to find Australia's best egg dish."

"The rise of café culture and food fashion has changed perceptions of

how and when eggs can be eaten, so it was a pleasing to see a stream of nominations from across Australia.

"Eggs are a big part of our culture, from eating egg soldiers as children to making the grandchildren's birthday cake, we consume them almost every day.

"The Eggsellence Awards give Australians the opportunity to declare their love for egg dishes, from the simple eggs on toast to the most unusual assembly of egg-paired flavours."

Australian Eggs received over 100 nominations from egg lovers around Australia.

The top five nominations will be announced in the lead-up to World Egg Day with the chefs from each restaurant to be given the chance to

compete in a live cook-off in Sydney on October 12.

The World Egg Day cook-off will take place in front of a panel of acclaimed judges, led by My Kitchen Rules co-host and self-proclaimed egg lover Manu Feildel.

The other judges are food writer and restaurant critic Elizabeth Meryment and food columnist Anthony Huckstep.

World Egg Day is celebrated around the world each year and the day provides a great opportunity to remind people about the nutritious, delicious, affordable staple that is the humble egg.

Australian Eggs is committed to drawing attention to the event and maximising positive coverage of eggs and the farmers who produce them.

www.australianeggs.org.au



The building capacity session highlighted the success of PHA's Researcher in Industry program.

## Ideas Exchange conference successful and well attended

POULTRY Hub Australia's Ideas Exchange conference was held at the end of September in Brisbane.

The conference was well attended, with close to 90 participants from across the industry and research sectors.

The main themes of the conference were building capacity, brains trust and research highlights.

The building capacity session included presentations from up-and-coming poultry research scientists who have participated in PHA's Researcher in Industry Program.

It was great to hear about their experiences and what they had learnt from their direct interaction with industry.

This session also featured an undergraduate student who was a recipient of a PHA scholarship and had learnt to train chickens using clickers, under the direction of



by TAMSYN CROWLEY  
Director

ing participants had definitely gained a greater respect and understanding of chickens.

One participant stated: "Prior to the training I was scared of chickens and would not touch them, but now after training them I want to take my chicken home!"

The youth, energy and passion displayed in this session definitely lifted the excitement in the room, ready for the brains trust session.

continued P2

Dr Peta Taylor.

Her project explored ways to train chickens but also measured the

level of engagement of other participants and clearly demonstrated that following the train-



Tamsyn Crowley and Lloyd Thomson eagerly reviewed the results of the online poll in the brains trust session.



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## Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

### 2018

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

**NOV 11 - 13** – Australian Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference, Sunshine Coast, QLD [www.avams2018.w.yrd.currinda.com](http://www.avams2018.w.yrd.currinda.com)

### 2019

**FEB 12 - 14** – International Poultry Expo, Atlanta, US [www.ippexpo.com](http://www.ippexpo.com)

**FEB 18 - 20** – Australian Poultry Science Symposium, Sydney NSW <http://sydney.edu.au/vetscience/apss>

**JUN 10 - 13** – European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition, AmberExpo in Gdansk, Poland [www.espn2019.com](http://www.espn2019.com)

**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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## Applications open: AgriFutures Emerging Industries Advisory Panel

DO you have what it takes to help identify and grow Australian agriculture's emerging industries?

Applications for the AgriFutures Emerging Industries Advisory Panel are now open.

Entrepreneurs, economists and those with a research and development background are encouraged to apply.

AgriFutures Australia is seeking applications from suitably qualified individuals to be members of the AgriFutures Emerging Industries Advisory Panel.

The Advisory Panel will be a creative, open-



minded team who will support the emergence of new agricultural industries, such as sheep milk and Manuka honey, as well as help shortlist research applications that will drive the future prosperity of these new industries.

Entrepreneurial, venture capitalist or investment banking talent on the Advisory Panel will

be important to identify commercial opportunities that have a chance to succeed.

Equally important will be individuals with government and policy skills to keep the Advisory Panel focused on industry development.

AgriFutures Australia managing director John Harvey said the AgriFutures Emerging Indus-

tries Advisory Panel will play a vital role in helping achieve key organisational goals.

"We've set an ambitious goal of identifying and supporting the emergence of agricultural industries that can reach or exceed a \$10m per annum threshold in the next five years," Mr Harvey said.

"These emerging ani-

mal and plant industries play an important part in the Australian agricultural landscape, they contribute to the national economy, and they will be key to meeting global food demands."

AgriFutures Australia program manager Research & Innovation Duncan Farquhar said this is an exciting opportunity to make a real impact on the future of agriculture.

"We have already identified a number of niche industries with real potential," Mr Farquhar said.

"Now it's time to get a leading team together to identify how we are going to encourage people developing these industries to ensure their future sustainability and profitability."

Advisory Panel members are entitled to sitting fees and travel expenses for meetings.

The Advisory Panel will meet, on average, three times per year either in person or via teleconference.

Visit [agrifutures.com.au/emerging-industries-advisory-panel](http://agrifutures.com.au/emerging-industries-advisory-panel) for more information about the application process and selection criteria.

Applications close 5pm (AEST) Wednesday, October 31, 2018.

## Ideas Exchange conference successful and well attended

from P1

The brains trust session was designed to get maximum audience participation and required all to answer questions through an anonymous online platform.

Questions were submitted by attendees and ranged from who would win the footy grand final to questions focused on industry issues and needs.

Answers were displayed on the screen in real time, allowing

everyone to see the responses as they were populated.

It was a great way to get people interacting and talking leading into dinner.

Day two saw a great snapshot of the research PHA is funding.

We heard about pest control, welfare, free range rearing systems, insects for waste management and nutrition, feed efficiency and spotty liver epidemiology.

Projects in PHA's lat-

est funding round were also announced.

The last part of this session included a panel session led by me that explored what it is like to run a trial on a commercial farm.

This session highlighted the benefits of running research trials on a commercial scale and it was great to hear different perspectives on the procedure and outcomes.

PHA would like to thank all who were involved in making this

year's conference a success.

We look forward to next year's conference that will be held in Sydney, with details to be announced early in 2019.

We have noted the feedback received and are hoping to engage more farmers and focus on key production issues facing the industry.

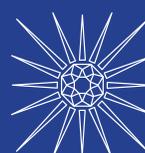
If you have any questions about our conference, how to join PHA or interesting topics to cover, contact us at [poultryhub@une.edu.au](mailto:poultryhub@une.edu.au)

# POULTRY RENDERING

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# Collective bargaining class exemption for agriculture

OVER the past 30 years there has been an enormous degree of change to the environment farmers and the broader agribusiness sector operate in, which has made running a farming enterprise much more complex.

In some agricultural industries, the trend of greater consolidation in pre- and post-farmgate markets has negated some of the benefits expected from the competition reforms that have occurred over this period.

The result is that while it has delivered lower prices for consumers, it has also challenged the profitability and competitiveness for some farm businesses.

In some industries, power imbalances mean getting a 'fair price' for agricultural products at the farmgate is becoming increasingly challenging.

This is evidenced by increased calls for industry codes of conduct to overcome unfair contract terms and unconscionable conduct.

As such, policies that improve competition in concentrated markets are needed.

Australian consumer laws have an important role to play to ensure market power and manipulation does not add to the profitability and competitiveness challenges some farm businesses currently face.

The ACCC appears to have acknowledged this imbalance within the agriculture sector and is considering making a 'class exemption' that would provide eligible small businesses, agribusinesses and franchisees legal protection to collectively bargain with customers or suppliers, without having to apply to the ACCC.

This ruling would provide businesses an exemption from consumer law for conduct that would otherwise risk breaching it, effectively providing them a 'safe harbour'.

This new power would



be in addition to the ACCC's existing 'authorisation' and 'notification' processes.

Several QFF members have collective bargaining authorisations in place, including the Queensland Chicken Growers' Association.

In the short term, there is likely to be limited benefit from the introduction of a class exemption for them.

However, over the longer term, they may benefit from a streamlined application process in the future.

If effective, a class exemption may also reduce the need for small member-based organisations to pursue a collective bargaining authorisation.

Potential impacts to existing authorisation arrangements should also be explored.

For example, while QC-GA holds an authorisation to collectively bargain on behalf of Queensland chicken growers with the state's three processors, the processors are not required to solely negotiate with QC-GA.

In the past, processors have exploited their market power in these circumstances by negotiating separate agreements with individual farm businesses when contract negotiations become difficult.

This undermines the strength of a united negotiation position and reduces the effectiveness of the collective bargaining authorisation.

Besides looking at ways to rectify this situation, which should include the addition of an effective and cost-efficient media-

tion process, the ACCC should ensure a class exemption does not embolden this approach.

Effectively structured, a class exemption could

help farmers negotiate better terms with infrastructure and service providers (such as electricity pricing and the ability to export surplus on-farm energy generation), input suppliers (feed, energy), machinery suppliers and product purchasers (processors, mills, retailers).

A full exploration of the settings, boundaries and transparency is first required to ensure there aren't any unintended consequences or perverse outcomes from the further development of this class of conduct. 🐔



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# Good guys coming out of their shells



Consumers need and want choices in the provenance of the eggs they buy.

WITH sustainability and free range the food buzzwords of the decade, certainly when it comes to primary production, I recently became aware that some big national egg purchasers are starting to loudly and publicly claim 'good guy status' for now only sourcing cage free eggs.

I have long held the view that consumers deserve and, indeed, want a choice when purchasing, based on the provenance of the fresh food they buy, and in the case of eggs they should retain the options of caged, barn laid and free range.

Anyway, Sodexo Australia, which claims to be a world leader in 'Quality of Life Services' (whatever that means), also claims to be leading the Australian corporate sector in sustainable development

## Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT



by using cage free fresh eggs, a commitment that comes seven years ahead of the company's corporate responsibility target.

In Australia, Sodexo's workforce of 5000 people delivers more than 100 integrated services lines, including catering, facilities management, concierge services, security, asset maintenance and hospitality services in the corporate, healthcare and seniors, education, justice

and energy and resources sectors, both on and off shore.

Sodexo claims it will now source nine million fresh eggs for its Australian operations annually from cage free egg supplier, Farm Pride Foods Ltd.

Sodexo Australia country president and chief financial officer Mark Chalmers said Sodexo was proud to be going cage free for its fresh eggs as part of its Better Tomorrow 2025 corporate responsibility commitments.

"As a global company, it's our responsibility to lead by example, which is why we are dedicated to achieving our corporate responsibility targets and encourage other companies, both large and small, to follow suit," Mr Chalmers said.

Farm Pride Foods Ltd chief operations officer Bruce De Lacy said Farm Pride had been supplying eggs to Australia's corporate sector for more than 80 years and was excited to see Sodexo lead the facilities management industry in committing to cage free fresh eggs.

"We believe more can

be achieved through unity and are proud to be a part of the next step in Sodexo's Better Tomorrow 2025 commitments by supplying them with cage free fresh eggs Australia-wide," Mr De Lacy said.

To assure the welfare of its hens, all Farm Pride farms are third-party audited to the industry Egg Standards Australia accreditation.

Its cage free fresh eggs are produced in climate-controlled sheds where the hens have access to food, water, nest boxes and perches and are free to move within the shed.

"This allows the hens more space, and they are protected from environmental threats and diseases," Mr De Lacy said.

"We are dedicated to providing our customers with high-quality eggs produced in ethical conditions.

"It is our alignment with Sodexo's corporate responsibility standards that makes us proud to supply to them."

Sodexo's Better Tomorrow 2025 strategy is the company's roadmap for the next stage of its corporate responsibility journey, covering issues ranging from animal welfare and waste reduction to improving gender diversity and stopping hunger.

For more information on Better Tomorrow 2025, visit [sodexo.com/home/corporate-responsibility.html](http://sodexo.com/home/corporate-responsibility.html)

For more information on Farm Pride Foods Ltd, visit [farmpride.com.au](http://farmpride.com.au)



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## Low-interest loans for farmers in drought doubled

AUSTRALIAN farmers can now access up to \$2 million in low-interest loans, double the previous limit of \$1 million.

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said the Coalition Government had also doubled the total funding available for low-interest loans in any given year to \$500 million.

"These loans will help those in hardship, including drought," Minister Littleproud said.

"When farmers transfer their commercial loans to our low-interest loans, good savings can be made.

"The first five years of these loans will remain interest-only.

"Farmers with existing government loans will also be able to switch to these Regional Investment Corporation loans to access the interest-only period.

"We made this commitment to farmers on August 19 and now we have delivered.

"We can't make it rain but we can help our farmers survive the

drought, which is affecting so many farming families."

The Government has announced additional support for farmers facing drought totalling more than \$1.8 billion, including \$75 million for the drought communities program and immediate deductions for fodder storage assets.

### Fast facts

- Since FHA was launched in July 2014, the government has invested more than \$230 million to help more than 8000 people.

- FHA provides a fortnightly payment to help farming families in tough times. Each member of a couple can receive around \$12,800 a year, and single people can receive up to \$15,350.

- In addition to the fortnightly payment, recipients can access up to \$1500 for an independent financial assessment of their business, and up to \$4000 in activity supplements to assist with improving their circumstances and financial self-reliance.

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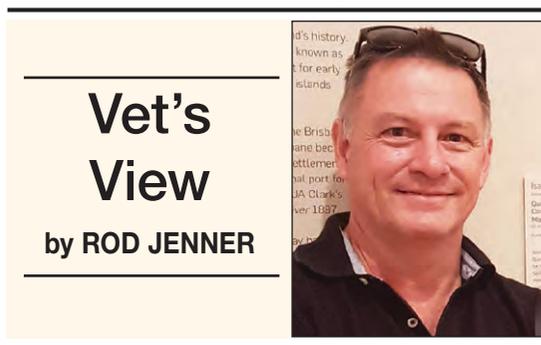
# Farm biosecurity – it's in your hands

THIS is the first in a series of articles which highlight the key points that are critical to maintaining a disease-free environment for your livestock.

Farm biosecurity is the key to healthy and productive flocks.

There are three barriers to the entry of disease pathogens over which you have influence.

The first is to keep diseases off your property (farmgate biosecurity); the second is the barrier to the production area of your farm; and the third is to minimise spread between your animals should one or more become infected



## Vet's View

by ROD JENNER

with a disease or food safety pathogen.

All these barriers work in combination to ensure your flock remains disease-free.

Let's look at farmgate

biosecurity first.

The further we can keep pathogens from our birds, the less likely infection can occur.

Unfortunately, you have no control over what hap-

pens outside your farmgate, but you have absolute control over what happens on your property.

Good farmgate biosecurity includes such things as biosecurity signs and physical barriers including fences, gates and locks.

Inside your property boundary should be a defined biosecure production area.

Outside this area is where your home and non-poultry farming operations remain.

If you have farmgate sales of your eggs, this should be outside the production area so customers aren't putting your livestock at risk of disease.

The production area encloses the production sheds, range areas, egg room, grading and processing floor, on-site feed production or storage areas and staff amenities.

It is important to maintain a physical boundary around the production area so strict entry protocols can be put in place.

Every person or thing that comes inside the production area must be free of disease-causing agents or be able to be cleaned and sanitised at the boundary.

Vehicle sprays for trucks and other equipment, showers for staff, footbaths at shed entrances and hand sanitisers all complement good physical boundaries.

Care must be taken to choose the correct sanitiser and ensure it is fit for purpose.

Sanitiser selection is quite an important component of good biosecurity.

There are many chemicals that are claimed to be sanitisers, but not all are suitable as farm sanitisers.

Issues such as spectrum of activity, biodegradability, corrosiveness, effectiveness in organic matter, residual activity and health and safety for operators and poultry must all be considered when choosing the correct sanitiser.

An ideal sanitiser is one that is broad spectrum (kills a wide range of bacteria, viruses and spores), works in any environment and is non-toxic, non-irritating and non-corrosive.

Unfortunately, there is no single ideal disinfectant for all on-farm uses.

The third or tertiary biosecurity measures you can undertake include things like vaccination, preventative medication, water sanitation, litter treatments and so on, which are designed to minimise the susceptibility of your birds or the viability of pathogens if they make it into the production shed or range area.

Many pathogens are quite widespread and cannot be excluded from your farm.

Vaccination against these pathogens, such as infectious bronchitis, is therefore the key management tool against these challenges.

In the next article we will compare and contrast the range of sanitising chemicals that are available and discuss the most appropriate sanitisers for specific roles in farm biosecurity.



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## Global egg industry adopts position on AMR

THE International Egg Commission and its members support, and will promote, the responsible use of all antimicrobials to allow for the long-term safe production of eggs, safeguarding the availability of eggs and egg products for the world's consumers.

Biosecurity and good farming practice remain the prime tools for disease prevention and the IEC will continue to support knowledge sharing of biosecurity and good farming practice.

The IEC:

- Accepts antimicrobial resistance, whether in humans or in animals, is an issue of global concern.

- Acknowledges the egg layer industry is a limited user of antimicrobials but that this limited use does not obviate the need for co-ordinated action with other animal product and human medical representative bodies, through the One Health approach of the WHO, OIE and FAO.

- Will encourage the egg layer industry to reduce the use of antimicrobials, especially those for which resistance could pose the greatest animal and human health global risk.

- Believes the health and welfare of the birds in the care of producers must remain paramount and that care may include the responsible use of the right antimicrobials.

### IEC approach

The IEC will actively support the One Health approach (of the WHO, OIE and FAO) to dealing with AMR, working with intergovernmental organisations, governments and other stakeholders to achieve the best outcome for humanity.

All producers should be made aware of the current knowledge on AMR and be able to access new knowledge as it is made available.

The IEC will endeavour to make knowledge on the subject as widely available as possible and stimulate governments and organisations to keep records on the use of antimicrobials.

Antimicrobials should only be used under veterinary supervision and in conformance with national authority approvals.

The IEC does not support the use of the Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials in animal agriculture.

The IEC will promote and take due note of recommendations made by the OIE, WHO and FAO.

The IEC believes there is a need for scientific research regarding development, transfer and control of antimicrobial resistance in the production chain and on the potential impact for animal health and welfare, food safety, public health and human medicine.

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# Queensland United Egg Producers AGM and industry update

QUEENSLAND United Egg Producers Pty Ltd operates as the leading representative organisation for Queensland producers across all production systems.

It provides a voice for producers, engaging with state and federal politicians and the range of regulators who control the production of eggs in Queensland.

The organisation elects a board to provide direction to the CEO relative to the representative role, which extends to the Queensland director position on the national representative body, Egg Farmers of Australia.



by JOHN COWARD  
CEO

availability of grain.

The organisation plays an important role as a representative on the EFA Board, which is currently focused on the government's development of the Standards and Guidelines for Poultry.

If you are an egg farmer in Queensland and would like to join the organisation, please contact me for details.

Currently QUEP represents about 90 percent of production across all systems and is interested in representing more of the smaller and niche egg producers to add to the spread of representation.

Members of QUEP are reminded of the upcoming AGM to be held in Brisbane on October 25, 2018.

Details of the meeting have been forwarded to members who can attend in person or phone in on a conference call.

While the meeting will cover the normal and formal aspects of our AGM, it will also have a presentation on Australian Eggs' new Sustainability Framework by CEO Rowan McMonnies and an update on the Standards and Guidelines by EFA CEO John Dunn.

QUEP holds membership with Queensland Farmers' Federation to provide a collective voice with other farming groups, especially the aligned intensives like Queensland chicken meat producers, pig producers and dairy.

QUEP has been focused on representing Queensland producers in the current drought and is working with other representative bodies on addressing the lack of government support for intensives, especially around the price and



Queensland egg farmer Anthony Sylvester. Photo: ABC Capricornia, Megan Hendry

# Specialised Breeders Australia appoints Dr Nilhan Fernando as company veterinarian

SPECIALISED Breeders Australia recently announced Dr Nilhan Fernando has joined the organisation in the position of Company Veterinarian.

Dr Fernando will be responsible for continuing the high health status of SBA's Grand Parent and Parent breeding stock, farm biosecurity and managing SBA's imports of new genetic stock from Lohmann Tierzucht and Hy-Line International.

SBA CEO Richard Rayner said, "We are thrilled to have such a highly respected poultry veterinarian join our business."

"Nilhan's experience in breeding and commercial layer stock will be an asset for our internal operations and for our customers."

Dr Fernando graduated with honours from the Melbourne University Veterinary School in 2010.

Dr Fernando worked as an Intensive Animal Veterinarian with the Animal Health and Avian consultancy firm Scolexia Pty Ltd for eight years.

Dr Fernando first qualified in 2001 as a veterinarian in his native Sri Lanka where he then worked as the senior veterinarian for Maris Brothers Breeder Farm, supplier of commercial layers

to Sri Lankan commercial egg farmers.

About Specialised Breeders Australia

SBA is the largest supplier of day-old chicks and point of lay pullets to the Australian egg industry.

Based close to the Vic-

torian city of Bendigo and employing about 140 staff, SBA supplies the world's leading layer breeds, Hy-Line Brown and Lohmann Brown to Australian egg producers.

For more information on SBA, please visit [specialisedbreeders.com.au](http://specialisedbreeders.com.au)



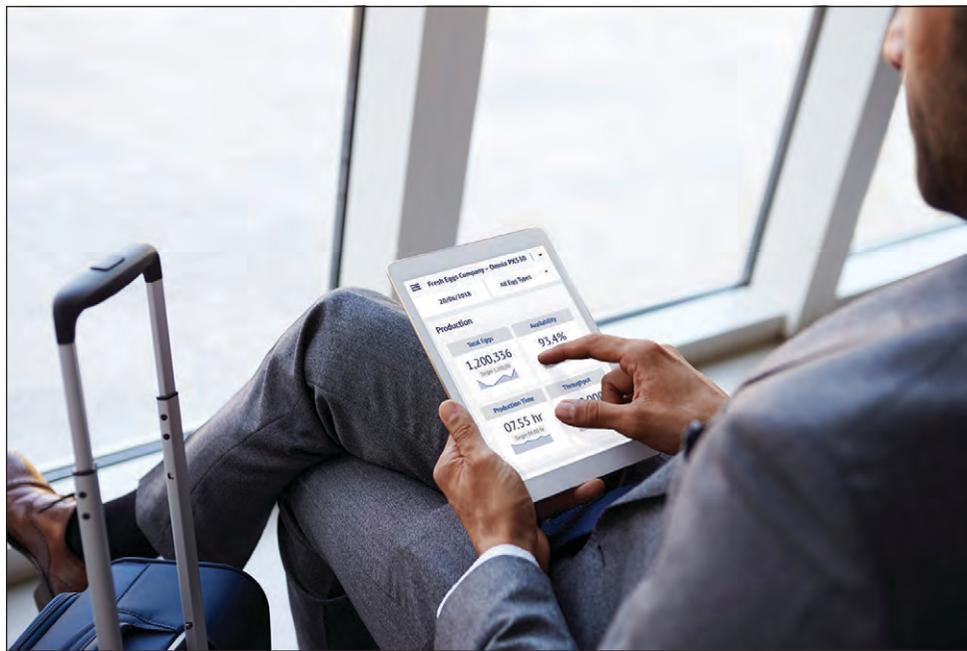
Dr Nilhan Fernando



## POULTRY EQUIPMENT & PARTS SUPPLY



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## The next level of data processing

YOUR egg grader produces a lot of data.

Various reports have traditionally shown the number of eggs per grade in conjunction with limited performance statistics.

These printouts ended up in a binder and were consulted when needed.

But collecting and updating this data requires both people and processes.

We are all familiar with office employees manually collecting grader printouts, punching the numbers into excel sheets, and with the help of sophisticated pivot tables, producing insightful graphs.

A lot of time and energy were put into this process. Now there is a better way!

iMoba is taking grading information to the next level of data processing.

The app provides services that crunch your grading data into the management information and production overviews you have always wanted – fully automatically!

An important feature of iMoba is it is cloud-based.

This means the user can access the iMoba app wherever there is an internet connection.

iMoba can be used on any device: the app is available for smartphone, tablet or browser.

So whenever you have a spare moment, you are able to check how your operations are running.

### Choose your module

You can subscribe to different iMoba modules.

Each module will serve a specific purpose and provide you with the information you have always wanted.

For example, the Performance Pro module gives detailed management information with insight in performance and quality of the grading process.

### Realtime Dashboard

Moba recently introduced the next step in data processing with a new module: the Realtime Dashboard.

This module provides you the actual status of your Omnia grader.

As with all iMoba modules, the functionality is delivered via the cloud, so this dashboard gives you live status updates right at your fingertips on any device, wherever you are.

At Moba, we believe that in the current world, with its overload of information, it is essential to be selective.

That is why we made the Realtime Dashboard configurable.

Since the dashboard is accessible through any smartphone, tablet or browser, you can

think of numerous applications for the dashboard.

In general, there are two distinct ways:

1. Each user can select a set of KPIs that are the most relevant for his/her task; or

2. Create a general account and use that to create a team dashboard that can be displayed on a large screen in a strategic place. This will give the whole team the same view on the actual status to ease production floor communications.

### Compare for improvement

With iMoba it is also possible to benchmark your grader performance against anonymous statistics.

By comparing your performance with anonymous service statistics, you are able to immediately identify aspects for improvement.

### Journey to the future

iMoba is not a ready-product, but a journey to the future.

With the help of our customers' feedback, we plan to continuously develop new functions for iMoba. Take the next step in data processing and with the help of the iMoba app you will maximise the performance of your operation.

For any more information, visit [moba.net](http://moba.net)

## Instant asset write-off a resilience booster for farmers during drought

THE National Farmers' Federation has welcomed the passing of legislation to extend the \$20,000 instant asset write-off for another year.

NFF president Fiona Simson said the instant asset write-off is an effective way to assist farm businesses to build resilience by incentivising investment in farm equipment and machinery valued at \$20,000 or less.

"At a time when farm business resilience is stretched to

the limit managing drought, the measure is a sensible taxation reprieve for farmers."

The \$20,000 write-off complements new accelerated depreciation measures announced as part of the Federal Government's drought support package.

Under the measures, farmers can claim costs expended on fodder storage, such as silos and hay sheds, after one year as opposed to three.

Ms Simson said the NFF

would continue to call for taxation incentives to support farm businesses that manage greater environmental variability than most other businesses.

"We recommend the Government permanently allow the first \$5000 of all investments by small businesses to be immediately depreciated, with the remainder of asset values to be depreciated according to existing rules," she said.

"We're also calling for the retention of the specific primary producer depreciation and capital write-off provisions that apply to Landcare expenses, water improvements, fencing and fodder storage assets.

"These provisions recognise the environmental benefits farmers deliver on behalf of the broader community, have been identified by our farmers as the best drought preparation measure and should be retained in perpetuity."



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# Australian meat chickens are not genetically modified

MODERN breeds of chicken are no more genetically modified than your poodle or labrador.

Given consumers' uncertainty around whether chickens raised for meat are genetically modified – 37 percent of Australians say yes, 44 percent say they don't know and only 19 percent say no – then there is a need for the Australian Chicken Meat Federation to explain...

Genetic modification is not needed for modern commercial breeds of meat chicken to grow the way they do.

The larger, 'meatier' chickens of today are that way due to selective breeding and improved nutrition, which is covered at [chicken.org.au/selective-breeding-why-is-it-important-and-what-does-it-mean](http://chicken.org.au/selective-breeding-why-is-it-important-and-what-does-it-mean) where it

is outlined that modern meat chickens have been selectively bred to grow well and put on a lot of muscle (meat) without the need for GM or other treatments, including hormones (hormones have not been given to meat chickens in Australia for more than 50 years).

## Selective breeding – not genetic modification

Genetic modification is the direct manipulation of a plant or animal's genome (set of genes) using biotechnology.

Selective breeding, on the other hand, leads to gradual but cumulative changes in a population of animals over time using natural processes.

Selective breeding is achieved through the simple mating of animals with the most desirable characteristics with each

other to produce the next generation.

Selective breeding therefore does not make an animal, or in this case a chicken, a genetically modified organism.

These days, many different technologies can be used to determine which chickens would make the best parents to produce the next generation.

For example, chicken breeding companies have used an X-ray unit called a lixoscope to identify leg bone abnormalities in meat chicken breeding stock, allowing them to actively select against the presence of any abnormalities in breeding stock, thereby improving overall leg health in meat chicken breeds.

There are positives and negatives to any approach, including selection of ide-

al animal characteristics, and while genetic modification isn't currently used to alter the genome of chickens, it could potentially be used some time in the future to create chickens that are resistant to diseases like avian influenza, which can have severe impacts on bird and even human health.

So, while on first thought almost half (46 percent) of Australians surveyed couldn't think of any reason why it would be acceptable to genetically modify chickens, when provided specific examples one in three (32 percent) said it would be OK to use genetic modification to improve overall health and welfare of chickens and to help build resistance to avian flu strains (27 percent).

One in four (23 percent)

Australians said it would be OK to use genetic modification to build resistance to food safety risks.

## Do we use GM feed?

With regards to GM feed ingredients, it is important to note that soya bean meal, which provides an important source of protein and amino acids in the chicken diet, is not usually available in sufficient quantities in Australia and has to be imported.

Much of the world's soya bean production is from genetically modified varieties and in the countries that produce most of the world's soya beans, traditional soya bean meal becomes mixed with genetically modified meal during processing, storage and distribution.

Guaranteed non-GM

soya bean meal can no longer be sourced in sufficient quantities to meet the poultry industry's needs, and thus chicken feed will often contain GM soya bean meal.

Another important source of protein and amino acids in chicken diets comes from locally grown canola seed.

About a quarter of all canola grown in Australia is GM.

Feed that contains GM ingredients has no impact on the chicken meat

in any way.

The chicken's digestive processes break all ingredients down into their chemical components, which are the same as for non-GM ingredients.

Consequently, there is no difference in the meat.

The two main ingredients in Australian chicken feed – wheat and sorghum – are not GM.

To learn more about chicken feed, you can visit [chicken.org.au/chicken-feed-whats-in-it](http://chicken.org.au/chicken-feed-whats-in-it)

[www.chicken.org.au](http://www.chicken.org.au)



## Monash University houses the first transgenic quail facility in Australia

THE chicken embryo has been a popular animal model in basic research, particularly developmental biology research.

Completed in 2017, the Monash Transgenic Quail Facility is unique and groundbreaking as it breeds transgenic Japanese quail lines, which play an important role in a plethora of scientific research fields.

The research world has been slow to adopt the quail as a transgenic animal model, due to the outdated method of genetic manipulation available.

In collaboration with scientists from the CSIRO, researchers have been able to establish more effective ways to modify the gene expression in the quail model.

Using a transposon genome integration system (Tol2), since 2016 researchers have produced seven transgenic lines for the scientific community.

The researchers are now experimenting with using the revolutionary CRISPR/Cas9 system for genome editing.

There are many advantages to the Japanese quail model.

Their genome has been sequenced and is publicly available.

They are an efficient model, taking six to seven weeks to become sexually mature, allowing six generations per year for fast-track genetic studies.

Like chickens, they lay about one egg per day, which can be stored at 15C for a week.

Their smaller size

than chickens allows you to house more birds in limited space.

The MTQF is an approved Physical Containment level 2 and QAP5.1 quarantine-certified facility.

These researchers are in the process of some pioneering work, optimising breeding, genetic modification and embryo imaging techniques.

Notably, they have transformed the process of genotyping, with a green fluorescent protein-tagged construct that is expressed in the lens of the eye only when the process of transgene integration has been successful.

Quails are a powerful animal model for use in academic research, sharing 95 percent of their genome with chickens.

The poultry industry can benefit from using quails.

Genetically modified quail could be beneficial to the poultry industry by performing large gene modification screens to improve disease resistance or wellbeing in quails before selecting specific target genes to be tested in other poultry animals.

At MTQF, the researchers can produce genetically modified quails for both academic research and industry.

Eggs can be shipped nationally and globally.

For more information, contact Dr Olivier Serralbo ([olivier.serralbo@monash.edu](mailto:olivier.serralbo@monash.edu)) or visit [monash.edu/research/infrastructure/platforms-pages/transgenic-quail](http://monash.edu/research/infrastructure/platforms-pages/transgenic-quail)



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# Applications open for evokeAG Future Young Leaders

ARE you a young person with a passion for agriculture?

Are you a forward thinker, ready to be heard?

Could you be the voice of the future?

Applications for the evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program are now open.

As part of a commitment to celebrating the diversity of thought, the evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program will identify 10 emerging thought leaders within the agriculture and food industries in Australia and New Zealand to attend the inaugural international agrifood technology event, evokeAG on February 19-20, 2019 in Melbourne.

Proudly supported by the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations, the evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program will identify Australia's next

crop of leaders and give successful applicants the chance to present their ideas and passions, relating to one of the event themes, food, farm or future to an international audience.

Applicants are required to create a short video on: 'Why should you be selected as a voice of the future at evokeAG?'

Eight finalists will be chosen by the Future Young Leaders Selection Panel.

The remaining two finalists will be decided via the general public who will vote on a shortlist of five videos shared across the evokeAG social media channels, with the two most popular earning the People's Choice Award.

AgriFutures Australia managing director John Harvey said the emphasis will be on recognising and supporting outstanding talent within the agricul-

ture and food industries.

"The future of food and farming is agile, entrepreneurial and commercially savvy and the evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program is about harnessing those qualities and elevating our thought leaders to the next level," Mr Harvey said.

"The Future Young Leaders Program will provide a valuable platform to showcase their ideas and passions to producers, investors, private enterprise, corporates, government and entrepreneurs on a global stage.

"We hope the themes of food, farm and future will encourage a wide range of applicants and concepts."

Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations executive officer Tim Lester said this is a wonderful opportunity for the entire industry to support young forward-thinkers and

assist them with the skills, research and know-how to keep Australia's rural industries thriving.

"We know diversity is the future and we want to hear what the next generation of leaders are passionate about," Mr Lester said.

"The evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program is for any young person in food, fibre or foliage with bold thinking, passion and bright ideas about our exciting future."

Winners will receive a five-minute presentation opportunity at the event, as well as return economy airfares, accommodation, airport transfers and a delegate pass to evokeAG.

All applicants must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents and aged between 18 and 30 years.

Applications are now open and will close at 11pm AEDT on Friday, October 12, 2018.

The 10 Future Young Leaders will be publicly announced on Monday, November 19, 2018.

For full eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and to apply, please visit [evokeag.com](http://evokeag.com)

Early bird tickets offering a 25 percent discount (available until October 30, 2018) are on sale through the website, plus international and national speakers, agenda discussion topics and partner information.

Follow EvokeAG on Facebook and Twitter @evokeAG and Instagram @evoke\_ag #evokeAG



## A safer aeration alternative

MOST of the safety issues/risks associated with surface aerators can be eliminated by using 'bank-mounted' Venturi Aerators without performance reduction, according to Australian distributor Hydro Innovations.

With surface-mounted aerators, operators need to access them via floating walkways or some kind of vessel, requiring working over water.

Alternatively, the aeration devices may need to be lifted out by the use of cranes or other lifting apparatus.

Venturi Aerators are powered by Gorman-Rupp self-priming centrifugal pumps, so they can be mounted on the banks of the lagoons.

This means operators can perform all required servicing and maintenance without having to work over water, work at heights or work with heavy swinging weights.

When attempting to minimise risks associated with the aeration of ponds and lagoons, designers can eliminate most of them by simply choosing Venturi Aerators over other technologies.

This does not mean that efficiency has to suffer.

Venturi Aerators have been tested to produce as much as 1.86kg/kW of oxygen transferred per kW, per hour.

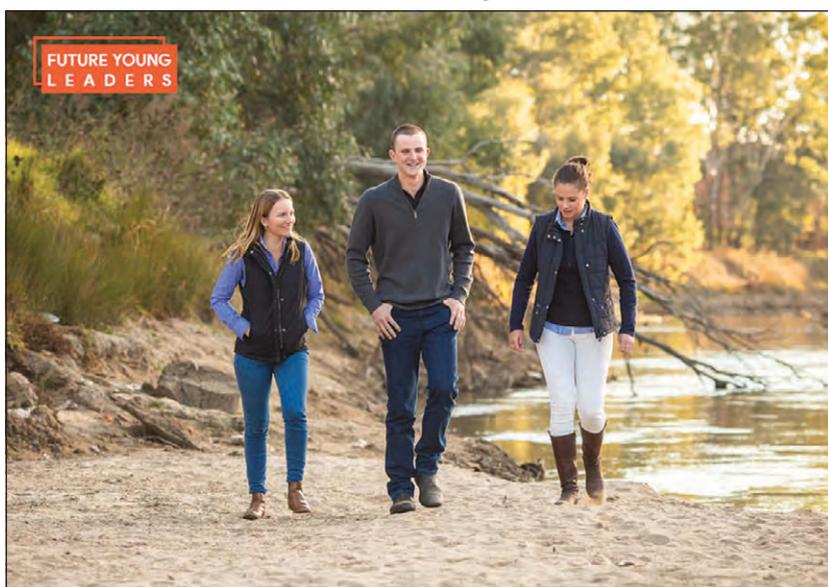
Maintenance of these units is relatively simple as well.

With no moving parts in the aerator, only the Gorman-Rupp pump will require any level of maintenance, and these pumps have a long track record of reliability and dependability.

One operator can safely adjust clearances in minutes and check and adjust seal and bearing oil levels quickly and easily.

And because monitoring is so much easier and more convenient, any minor issue can be addressed before it becomes a problem – all in a relatively risk-free manner.

More information on this technology can be obtained from Hydro Innovations [info@hydroinnovations.com.au](mailto:info@hydroinnovations.com.au)



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## LEVUCCELL SB as a tool to reduce the risk of foodborne pathogen contaminations on carcasses of broilers



**Campylobacter** and **Salmonella** spp. are the two most commonly reported causes of foodborne disease. Poultry flocks are considered as the main reservoirs. To limit the prevalence of contamination, measures should be applied in the broiler meat supply chain but also on farm.

### LEVUCCELL SB is the specific probiotic yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae boulardii* CNCM I-1079:

- **ON FARM:** In the digestive tract of poultry, LEVUCCELL SB limits the growth of undesirable bacteria and supports the development of beneficial ones. It plays in favour of improved birds' resistance to bacterial challenging situations.
- **AT PROCESSING:** LEVUCCELL SB helps reduce the risk of foodborne pathogen contaminations on carcasses of broilers.



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# More broilers, more feed: global demand for poultry feed on the rise

THE shift towards high-protein diets and increasing preference for poultry meat continues to influence the growth of the poultry feed market worldwide.

Rising exports of poultry, particularly from the European Union and the US, have remained instrumental in driving the need for enhanced poultry production, in turn fuelling sales of poultry feed.

Global market intelligence company Fact.MR envisages that the demand for poultry feed is projected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 7.1 percent in terms of volume during the period of forecast (2018-2027).

The research also reveals the sales volume of poultry feed is likely to cross 890,000,000 tons by the end of the assessment year.

Poultry feed producers have been focusing on carrying out developments in their products and processing methods in a bid to cater to the growing needs of consumers as well as abide by laws laid by regulatory authorities regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

This has also triggered the use of clean labels as a measure to assure the safety of poultry products by communicating ingredient information to the consumer.

In addition, being large-

ly driven by industry-specific aspects, manufacturers can expect momentous growth in forthcoming years, according to the report.

Government regulations regarding use of antibiotics in raising poultry are likely to impact the poultry feed market.

For instance, the European Union has banned the use of antibiotics in poultry feed, owing to health risks associated with these formulations.

The US Food and Drug Administration has passed various legislations, such as Guidance #213 that have banned the use of antibiotics.

This factor has opened

new avenues for the use of other additives in the US including enzymes and premixes to poultry feed to enhance productivity.

Moreover, the FDA has also allowed the use of insect proteins, such as use of black soldier fly larvae, in poultry feed that can act as a sustained protein source.

Growing broiler production is likely to trigger sales of poultry feed across the globe.

The United States Department of Agriculture estimates broiler production is anticipated to increase by 2 percent by 2018-end to touch 84 million tonnes.

This aspect is expected

to fuel use of poultry feed in broiler production during the 2018-2027 period.

Corn as a source for poultry feed has gained significant traction in the past couple of years.

Poultry feed derived from corn provides high nutrition and palatability along with high protein and low fat content.

Corn poultry feed can replace other sources such as soybean by offering cost superior reductions during production.

Sales of poultry feed from corn source are estimated to cross US\$123 billion by the end of 2027, making it a lucrative investment area for stakeholders in the poultry feed market.

Sales of poultry feed in the form of briquettes are likely to account for a major share in the entire poultry feed market.

However, the demand for poultry feed pellets is projected to witness higher growth with respect to adoption owing to the enhanced feed conversion ratio, feed intake and weight gain.

Demand for poultry feed continues to remain concentrated in the emerging economies of Asia Pacific.

Countries such as China and India have been showcasing increasing preference for broiler meat in the past few years.

This has resulted in an increasing dependence on

quality poultry feed to cater to the growing poultry production.

On the other hand, sales of poultry feed in the US are likely to account for a lion's share in the poultry feed market, making North America an attractive region for stakeholders from an investment standpoint.

Overall, stakeholders in the poultry feed market can expect an opportunistic scenario driven by a combination of industry-specific and macroeconomic factors during the assessment period.

The insights presented here are from a research study on the poultry feed market by Fact.MR ([www.factmr.com](http://www.factmr.com)).

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# 'Toxic' grain sourced in drought blamed for death of heritage birds on NSW poultry farm

AN inability to source high-quality food during drought is seen as a key reason for the loss of a large number of award-winning heritage birds on a NSW mid-north coast poultry operation.

Like many primary producers, the drought forced open range farmers Hayden and Beth McMillan to reassess their feed requirements on their Burrawong Gaian farm in the Macleay Valley.

"Of the heritage chickens, 1200 did not make it to the processing stage after being given the different feed," Mr McMillan said.

"More than 3000 of the 6000 regular meat birds, which would normally be culled at around eight weeks, died.

"The nature of the problem was it stunted the birds.

"It was toxic and held them back.

"It affected what we can turn out."

The McMillans had changed their feed suppli-

ers, partly because of logistics, and had 'shopped around' due to the increased feed costs caused by the dry.

North West Local Land Services officer Sally Balmain said she would usually recommend farmers have the Department of Primary Industries test feed before they bought it, but right now that was a difficult ask.

"Unfortunately, at the moment, given that demand for feed is so high, they do not have that luxury," she said.

Ms Balmain said it was worth the \$70 to \$100 cost to the farmers to test the newly bought feed, if they could.

The McMillans tried a feed range that had been sold to them as 'fitting the purpose'.

"I wouldn't have tried it, in hindsight, knowing there was no other live trial," Mr McMillan said.

"Feed companies are entitled to 'back themselves in' and do what they can to make use of grains they

can get their hands on, but it should be backed up by some on-ground trial."

The birds are sought after by some of Sydney's better-known eateries, but the calamity has led to some looking elsewhere.

"Not having the stock has closed off some parts of the country that we had previ-

ously been able to supply," Mr McMillan said.

"Many have been patient, but given those places need to be able to put food on the shelves and on the plate, if we haven't got it they are going to find it elsewhere."

Originally published at abc.net.au



A packaged chicken ready to cook. Photo: Michael Cavanagh

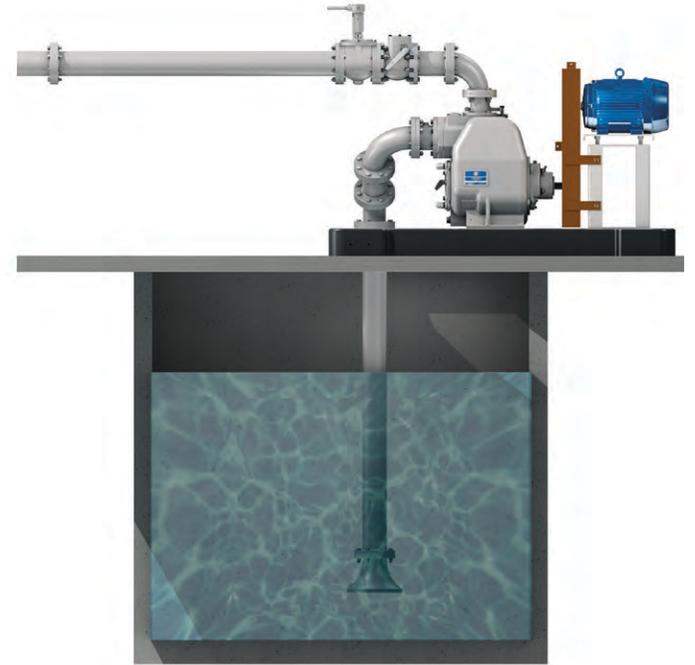


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# Customised 'multiple hurdle' feed hygiene

FEED for egg-laying hens aims to be 'fit for purpose', which includes consistently achieving bird production targets as well as meeting required quality determinants, such as:

- Nutrient content: ensure analyses match specifications; and
- Physical quality: uniform mash texture, density and appearance as well as acceptable and consistent pellet/crumble durability.

Failure to meet quality criteria may compromise bird performance, which could make the feed 'unfit for purpose'.

However, 'fit for purpose' should also include 'safety'.

Feed safety encompasses the use of ingredients considered to be safe

along with the manufacture, storage and distribution of the feed to ensure safety for the animals consuming the feed, and of course safety for people consuming food products derived from the birds.

This requires identification of hazards that may cause adverse effects to animals or people, and analysis of the risks in terms of likelihood of occurrence and severity of effects.

Hazards are typically classified as physical, chemical and biological.

Controlling feed safety risks may entail hazard prevention, elimination or reduction.

Control measures need to be practical and achievable, with effective preventative actions involving 'multiple hurdles'



being preferable to correcting non-conformances after their occurrence.

## Salmonella

Biological hazards include microbiological contaminants such as mould and salmonella.

Salmonella is a notorious biological hazard due to its potential to contaminate food products.

There are over 2500 different strains of salmonella, that is, serovars such as S. typhimurium.

They can be further classified by phage typing,

that is, their susceptibility to bacteriophages, such as S. typhimurium PT9.

Specific serovars adapted to avian species cause serious infections and disease in poultry, that is, pullorum disease (S. pullorum) and fowl typhoid (S. gallinarum).

While non-host adapted serotypes (S. typhimurium) may also cause disease, birds carrying these paratyphoid salmonella generally display no symptoms but can cause illness in people consum-

ing contaminated chicken meat or eggs.

Salmonella can be ingested by the bird, multiply in the gut and then spread and persist in the environment, thus becoming a source for other birds.

Intestinal colonisation by salmonella can lead to persistent, intermittent, yet prolonged shedding in the faeces.

A range of hatchery and farm biosecurity and hygiene measures are needed to control salmonella infections, with feed and feed mill hygiene aimed at keeping the feed free of the bacteria.

## Feed and feed mills

Potential salmonella entry points include feed, litter, drinking water, purchased day-old chicks or pullets, trucks, the environment, pests (rodents

and beetles), wild birds, other livestock and domestic animals, equipment and people.

Feed mill surveys have been published showing the percentage of samples detected with salmonella from various points along the feed production process.

## Program

Good feed manufacturing practices including operational procedures are aimed at producing feed that is safe and of consistent quality.

A key element of feed 'safety' is to produce feed that is microbiologically safe, and so the basic premise of a feed mill salmonella control program is to produce feed that is free of all salmonellae.

Three essential elements of a salmonella control program are considered to be:

1. Prevent contamination entering the mill environment;

2. Reduce multiplication within the mill environment; and

3. Have procedures in place to kill the bacteria.

Examples of some items that require consideration in a feed mill's salmonella control program include (see Kemin's 'Feedmill Salmonella Control Programme' booklet for detailed preventative measures and preventative actions, monitoring actions, corrective actions and records):

- Feed ingredient suppliers:

- Establish and maintain an approved supplier system;

- Approved suppliers should ideally have an audited quality management system that includes monitoring and controlling salmonella; and

- Ensure a delivery truck hygiene program is in place (the use of dedicated vehicles is an advantage)

- Feed ingredient receipt:

- Establish a sampling and total enterobacteriaceae count/salmonella testing schedule;

- Salmonella inhibitor powder (Sal CURB) flush treatments for ingredient intake pits and augers; and
- Powder fog ingredient storage bins and flat storage areas with powder inhibitor.

- Treat high-risk feed ingredients with a liquid salmonella inhibitor product (Sal CURB):

- When used in critical diets;

- Routine treatment or as required based on testing and/or prior contamination history;

- Treat at the supplier's premises or at the feed mill; and

- May require designated storage bins.

- Mixer and pellet press:

- Mixer cleaning regime - removal of accumulated material and inhibitor product treatment;

- Ensure press is operating at required designated conditions;

- Use of press diverter (or inhibitor product treatment of initial batches if no diverter available; and

- Press and diverter cleaning schedule including dust control around the pellet press.

- Post-pellet press hygiene:

- Identify any equipment that allows build-up of feed and penetration of moisture;

- Mixer application of a powder inhibitor flush of the production line;

- Cooler cleaning schedule including powder inhibitor product fogging;

- Bucket elevator boot clean-out schedule and powder inhibitor product addition into boots; and

- Cleaning schedules for out-loading bins, bag packing bins, and bagged feed warehouse areas including powder inhibitor product fogging.

- Inhibitor product treatment of critical feeds:

- Breeder feed, starter feed, pullet rearing feed, mash feed; and

- Finished feed testing schedule for salmonella and total Enterobacteriaceae.

- Feed delivery transport:

- Routine truck cleaning including inhibitor product powder fogging treatment; and

- Use of dedicated vehicles.

- Feed mill pest control program:

- Grounds around mill to be well drained;

- No long grass in or around the mill site;

- Immediately remove spilt feed and feed ingredients from all locations in and around the feed mill;

- Cover intake pits when not in use;

- Extensive, controlled and managed use of bait stations for rodents;

- Have systems in place to prevent wild bird entry, such as in the intake pit area and out-loading area entry and exit doors (mesh bird netting use where practical); and

- Exclude domestic and wild animals.

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## Kemin's Feedmill Salmonella Control Programme

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# What's all that gunk on my cool cell pads?

ALLOWING mineral deposits and algae to accumulate on evaporative pads will eventually clog the pad openings, causing a restriction of airflow into a building or shed.

When water evaporates, pure water is released, leaving behind mineral deposits on the cool cell pads.

The single best way to prevent the accumulation of mineral deposits is proper water distribution.

Steady water flow over the pad surface flushes away minerals left by evaporation.

In a system that is operating correctly, you should see a steady trickle of water down the outside of the pads with no visible dry streaks.

1. Start with clean pads. Remove dirt and other debris from the pads using a soft brush and low-pressure hose end sprayer. To remove heavy deposits of mineral and scale, use a chemical cleaner. Avoid using high-pressure sprayers and harsh chemicals containing bleach that can damage the pad media.

2. Clean the spray bar. At the beginning of every season, open the ball valve on the pipe end, turn the pump on and flush water out the end. It is a good idea to mechanically scrub the inside of the pipe with a bottlebrush attached to a long PVC pipe. An inexpensive clean-out brush is also available with a slip coupling that glues directly to a 3/4" PVC pipe. Run the brush through the pipe and turn the pump on to flush the system a second time.

3. Clean the sump. Flush the trough and sump as dirt and sand quickly

cause filters to plug. Remove several sections of pad and check the trough covers. Some trough covers have only minimum drainage holes, which allow dirt and sand to accumulate.

4. Flush the filters. Install a ball valve on the filter clean-out, making it easy to remove trapped sediment. The screen element should be cleaned often and replaced every six to 12 months.

5. Flush don't bleed. While 'bleeding-off' is better than nothing, a much better practice is to dump all the water from the trough and replenish it with fresh water. The complete dumping helps to flush the contaminants out of the cool cell pads. How often the trough needs to be drained depends on the hardness of the water and how often the evaporative system operates. Monitoring the pH level is a useful method to determine when to change the water, with readings above 8.5 indicating an excessive mineral build-up.

6. Check the pump size. Often evaporative systems are extended without changing to a higher litre-per-minute pump. Dry areas showing up at the end opposite the pump usually means an undersized pump.

Cool cell pads are the perfect environment for algae growth, providing light, moisture, and nutrients.

Algae growth can be limited by following a few important management practices.

1. Limit sunlight. Algae growth requires only a few hours of sunlight

per day. Cover sumps and filter housings to prevent algae growth. Consider installing an awning or roof to shade the system.

2. Dry the pads. Allow the pads to dry completely once every 24 hours, as algae cannot live on a dry surface. If the system is not shutting down during the evening, it may be necessary to install a

24-hour timer.

3. Limit nutrient content. Water from deep wells or municipal systems is preferred over surface water. Water from ponds or shallow wells is typically higher in nutrients.

Only use chemical treatments approved for use with evaporative cooling systems.

Bleach and many pool

chemicals may damage the media and metal components.

Don't rely on chemicals to maintain an evaporative pad system.

While the periodical use of descalers and algicides may be helpful, there is no substitute for proper water flow and regular flushing of the system.



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