



# NATIONAL Poultry NEWSPAPER

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If you defrost chicken meat at room temperature and then refreeze it, you'll be storing any bacteria that may have multiplied during thawing and these can start growing again next time you defrost it.

## Confusion over refreezing chooks

FOOD Safety Week was the perfect time to answer the most common question that brings people to the Australian Chicken Meat Federation website – “Is it safe to refreeze chicken?”

ACMF executive director Dr Vivien Kite sets the record straight. “Yes, you can refreeze chicken,” Dr Kite said.

“Just make sure it was properly defrosted in the fridge in the first place, and that it hasn't been longer than 24 hours since you defrosted it.”

New research conducted by the Food Safety Information Council has revealed that 76 percent of Australians have got this fact wrong, incorrectly thinking that it's not safe to refreeze chicken that has been defrosted in the fridge.

The myth is more common among older Australians, with 88 percent of those over 65 thinking the practice is unsafe, compared with 58

percent of 18 to 24-year-olds.

“The myth that it is not safe to refreeze chicken meat that has been defrosted in the fridge is a mix between two issues – quality and safety,” Dr Kite said.

“While it is safe to put chicken that has been defrosted below 5C back into the freezer, the quality of the meat may deteriorate after thawing and refreezing.

“The reduction in quality can be caused by several things, such as the formation of ice crystals in the cells of the meat that can break it down so that it no longer looks as good as it did when it was bought.

“This affects the look of the chicken meat much more than the taste, and definitely does not affect the safety of the chicken, so the good news is that you don't have to waste it – it's still fine to cook for dinner.”

◀ continued P2



Cohort 28 of the Australian Rural Leadership Program in Canberra for the conclusion of session one.

## Poultry Hub Australia out and about

MERRY Christmas to you all.

The mad rush to the end of the year is upon us and I can definitely say that I am looking forward to a break, and I am also looking forward to 2022.

I have had the opportunity this month to travel to Canberra to take part in the first session of the Australian Rural Leadership Program.

It was great to get out and meet the other rural leaders that are part of cohort 28.

While we were only able to meet one third of the cohort face-to-face due to COVID border restrictions, it was great to be able to have in person conversations.

The program has so far delivered on challenging me to think about my leadership style and behaviours and I am confident that I will be able to apply



by TAMSYN CROWLEY  
Director



these learnings for the benefit of the industry.

A huge shout out to AgriFutures for sponsoring me to be part of this exciting experience.

The Poultry Hub Australia team has been busy working to ensure the new research projects are all signed off and ready to go in the new year.

The five successful projects will share in over \$500,000 and were selected after a rigorous process and review by our industry committee.

Each project is required to have a direct

industry collaboration and to demonstrate how the project will have an impact on the poultry industry in future.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the successful researchers and also to encourage others to apply for future funding.

It's also a great time of year while thinking of new research ideas, to apply for our Researcher in Industry Program.

This program enables researchers to test their ideas directly with industry by immersing themselves on farm or in a poultry business.

Check out our website [poultryhub.org](http://poultryhub.org) or contact us for more information.

I hope you are all safe and well and encourage you to reach out – we are always looking for ways to support industry and farmers and would welcome any suggestions of how we can be of assistance.

If you have an idea or would like to chat all things poultry, contact our office [poultryhub@une.edu.au](mailto:poultryhub@une.edu.au)

Project title	Researcher name	Institution
Ability of fermentable fibre, xylo-oligosaccharides and xylanase to enhance nutrient digestibility and performance in broilers and laying hens	Dr Natalie Morgan	University of New England
The effect of AM/PM diets on feed efficiency, egg quality and welfare parameters for free-range layer hens	Dr Amy Moss	University of New England
Nutritional strategies to mitigate coccidiosis	Dr Amy Moss	University of New England
Determining the order of limiting amino acids in practical Australian reduced protein diets for laying hens	Dr Amy Moss	University of New England
Rapid on-farm diagnostics for bacterial respiratory disease outbreaks in poultry	Associate Professor Seyed Ali Ghorashi	Charles Sturt University

The five successful projects sharing over \$500,000 were selected after a rigorous process and review by the industry committee.

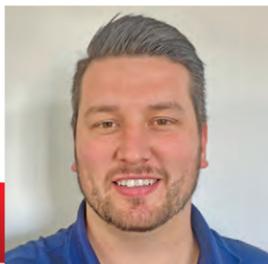


*Merry Christmas & a happy New Year*

to all our valued customers from the Stockyard Industries team



Steve Clohesy  
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Myles Henderson  
0437 859 421



Joe Oliveira  
0437 322 446



## Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

2022

**JAN 18-20** – VICTAM and Animal Health and Nutrition 2022, Thailand, [www.victamasias.com](http://www.victamasias.com)

**JAN 25-27** – International Production & Processing Expo, Atlanta US, [www.ippexpo.org](http://www.ippexpo.org)

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

**MAY 10-11** – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh UK, [pigandpoultry.org.uk](http://pigandpoultry.org.uk)

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

**MAY 31 - JUN 2** – VIV Europe 2022, Netherlands, [viveurope.nl](http://viveurope.nl)

**NOV 8-10** – European Symposium on Poultry Genetics, Hannover Germany, [www.espg2022.org](http://www.espg2022.org)

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

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## HAVE YOUR SAY!

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

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

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



Dr Jodi Courtice of McLean Farms in Queensland.



Franko Pirovic from Pirovic Family Farms in NSW.

# Egg industry awards announced

TWO Australians who have made significant contributions to egg production have been awarded the inaugural Egg Farmers of Australia industry recognition awards.

The winners were:

- Queensland poultry vet Dr Jodi Courtice was named the Egg Farmers of Australia Young Egg Industry Achiever of the Year.

- NSW egg farming stalwart Franko Pirovic received the Egg Farmers of Australia Industry Leader Excellence Award for service to the egg industry.

The two awards were announced at the Egg Farmers of Australia Annual General Meeting on November 9.



**Egg Farmers  
of Australia**

by **MELINDA HASHIMOTO**  
CEO



Aussie egg farmers and the people they employ – farm staff, hatchery crews and vets – all work very hard to maintain a consistent and clean supply of fresh eggs for Australian families.

The awards aim to recognise this work.

Commercial egg farmers produce 17.9 million eggs daily for domestic consumption in Australia.

Dr Jodi Courtice is an egg industry veterinarian employed by McLean Farms at Pittsworth in Queensland.

Her skills address health and production issues of more than a million hens across cage, barn and free range systems.

Dr Courtice has been a key contributor in pioneering the world's first successful spotty liver

vaccine, including overseeing the commercial application of trials that are currently in their final stages.

Franko Pirovic is the managing director of Pirovic Family Farms in NSW and has been involved in producing eggs for more than 56 years. Under his leadership, Pirovic has grown into a national business and Mr Pirovic designed and built the farms' state-of-the-art egg packing facilities.

Significantly, Mr Pirovic makes time to engage with other egg farmers across Australia on important agri-political issues.

In 2015, when uncertainty gripped the free-range egg industry and threatened to cripple family farms, he led a cam-

paign to fight for farmers through a nationally coordinated approach.

Many of his egg industry peers comment that a great debt of gratitude is owed to Mr Pirovic for his leadership on that issue.

They also mentioned that without him, Egg Farmers of Australia would not exist as a lobby group in its current form.

Ten finalists from Western Australia, South Australia, NSW, Queensland and Victoria were short listed for both awards – judged by Peter Bedwell of *Poultry Digest* and Rowan McMonnies from Australian Eggs.

We look forward to next year's awards and seeing the great work of our farmers and industry associates recognised.

## Australians confused about refreezing chooks

from P1

When defrosting chicken meat, it is very important that it is defrosted in the fridge below 5C, and it is best to store defrosting meat on the lowest shelf in the fridge.

"If you defrost your chicken meat on the kitchen bench and then refreeze it, you'll be storing any bacteria that may have multiplied during thawing at room temperature and these can start growing again next time you defrost it!" Dr Kite said.

"And the more bacteria that are present, the greater the risk that someone might get sick. "Thorough cooking will destroy the bacteria though, so it is important to always ensure that chicken meat is cooked through, and that raw meat doesn't come into

contact with anything already cooked or anything that will be eaten raw, such as your salad ingredients."

Concerningly, 67 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds think it is fine to refreeze chicken that has been defrosted on the bench.

The good news is that 83 percent of respondents to the FSIC survey correctly understood that chicken shouldn't be refrozen if it's been defrosted on the benchtop.

And 93 percent of respondents over 65 got this right.

For more chicken and food safety advice, visit the ACMF and Food Safety Information Council websites.

Visit [facts.chicken.org.au](http://facts.chicken.org.au) for more myth-busting about chicken meat production in Australia.

THE CHOOK FACTS SERIES

### CHICKEN AND FOOD SAFETY

**KEEP EVERYTHING CLEAN**

PARTICULARLY DURING THE FOOD PREPARATION PROCESS. THIS INCLUDES HANDS, BOARDS, KNIVES, FRIDGE & STORAGE CONTAINERS.

**CHILL**

MOST RAW AND COOKED CHICKEN CAN BE STORED IN THE FRIDGE AT 5°C OR LOWER FOR 2-3 DAYS, UNLESS STIPULATED OTHERWISE BY PACKAGING'S "USE BY DATE". STORE MINCED POULTRY FOR 1 DAY ONLY.

**REMEMBER**

**#FOODSAFETY**

**COOK THOROUGHLY**

ALWAYS COOK CHICKEN UNTIL THE CHICKEN MEAT IS NO LONGER PINK INSIDE AND THE MEAT JUICES RUN CLEAR. THE THICKEST PART OF THE MEAT SHOULD REACH 75°C ON A FOOD THERMOMETER.

**KEEP RAW CHICKEN MEAT SEPARATE**

SEPARATE CHICKEN AND OTHER FOODS IN THE FRIDGE AND DURING PREPARATION, SO RAW CHICKEN JUICES DO NOT COME IN CONTACT WITH OTHER FOODS. USE SEPARATE UTENSILS, ESP. BOARDS, FOR RAW MEAT AND UNCOOKED FOODS, LIKE FRUIT & SALAD VEGETABLES.

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For more information, visit [www.chicken.org.au](http://www.chicken.org.au)

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# Surely caged hens have had their day

WITH eggs from caged hens likely to be phased out in Australia by 2036, despite some industry and NSW state government opposition, that's at least good news for those hens that will be doing their thing then, but uncomfortable news for those hard at it right now.

The space each such hen endures can be less than the size of an A4 piece of paper... ouch!

On top of that, she can't really stretch, flap her wings or access a nesting area to lay her eggs – let alone experience the luxury of a nice natural dust bath. She can do none of these



Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT

things in what is nothing short of a boring barren battery cage.

The Federal Government was effectively forced to table proposed new standards for poultry welfare in parliament, with the draft standards written by an independent panel that recommended traditional battery cages be phased out between 2032 and 2036.

Unsurprisingly, animal welfare groups criticised the plan for being too slow, while the industry pushed for a longer phase-out until 2046.

Australia has been something of an outlier when it comes to hen welfare, with 30 of 36 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development nations having either phased out battery cages already or are in the process of getting rid of them.

In the UK, food industry giants including Nestlé, Nando's and Greggs have endorsed a bill to end cages for egg-laying hens in that country.

Their intervention marked the first time UK corporations have spoken out about the use of cages in egg production.

The bill, which passed its first reading in the House of Commons in September, is at the heart of a campaign headed by the Humane League and the Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation.

Switzerland, Luxem-

bourg and Austria have already banned the caging of hens, while bans are coming in Germany, Belgium, Czechia and Slovakia.

Seven states in the US have phased out cage-egg production and the European Union has resolved to end the use of cages by 2027.

According to the Humane League UK, as many as 16 million chickens are in cages across the region, despite 76 percent of consumers considering the banning of cages to be a priority issue.

All major UK food companies have committed to cage-free supply chains by 2025.

University of Melbourne animal law and policy expert Christine Parker has said the failure to get rid of battery cages was threatening Australia's trade deals with the UK and EU, which have higher animal welfare standards.

"Any products entering the EU have to meet the higher animal welfare standards that the EU has and in particular battery cages and the UK is doing the same thing," Professor Parker said.

"We need to have that as a minimum standard to support these trade deals, otherwise those opportunities could be lost."

According to Australian Eggs, a member owned not-for-profit providing marketing and research and development services for the benefit of Australian egg farmers, Australians consume more than 17 million eggs daily.

Here's what their website has to say on the subject of cage eggs:

*Consumer demand for free range eggs has risen over the past 10 years, however cage eggs remain an important and affordable option for many Australians.*

*Without them, there just won't be enough eggs to go around.*

*With more than \$0.5 billion invested over the past 10 years to improve cage egg standards, Australia's current cage egg farms are a healthier and happier place for hens.*

*Cage eggs make up 40 percent of supermarket egg purchases in Australia and are produced from hens that are housed in cages inside large climate-controlled sheds.*

*Cage egg farming began about 50 years ago in response to the fast-growing demand for eggs and the need to lower the unacceptably high disease and mortality rates in free range hens.*

*Moving hens indoors not only protected them from the elements and potential predators but also parasites and disease-causing pathogens such as avian influenza.*

*I'm thinking that 50 years on from the introduction of caged egg farming in Australia, it's time to move on.*

*And I believe most consumers have already done so, with the obvious upward trending popularity of free range, barn laid and now pasture raised eggs evidence of that.*

*For the egg production industry, it understandably always comes down to productivity and profit and loss.*

*In other words, there needs to be a sustainable and profitable differential between cost per egg produced and price per egg received.*

*However, today's savvy consumers are more than ever before aware of the welfare standards and lived experiences 'hidden' behind the animal products they buy.*

*They want disclosure and increasingly are prepared to pay a premium for higher declared welfare standards that are backed up by believable authoritative envoys and easily understood messages.*

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# PHA education and training plans

POULTRY Hub Australia plans to maximise the value of research, education and training for the Australian poultry industry.

A few ways we are planning to do this include:

- Developing education programs that foster engagement in the poultry industry
- Initiating programs that build capacity within the Australian poultry industry
- Building a suite of training resources for upskilling of people across all sectors of the poultry industry.

It has been difficult in 2021 to meet these objectives but with careful consideration and many adjustments we were able to undertake some activities.

The education component started well this year, with classroom visits and students coming to the University of New England for experience days.

We were able to engage students from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages.

During these visits, students were able to partici-

pate in hands-on activities.

Hopefully in the near future we will be able to continue this format of engagement.

PHA has been working with researchers to create a suite of short two to three-minute videos to show the latest research being undertaken.

Once all the videos are finished, everyone will be able to gain a quick snapshot into the research going on within the industry.

Poultry Hub Australia has also recently released an app for high school students.

With the Chicken Growth Simulator, students can see the effects of lighting, temperature and crude protein on a particular age of broiler.

They can change the variable and see what affect it will have on both live and carcass weight.

Students can also see the cost of producing that particular bird.

We are hoping this app will provide teachers with an additional tool that can be used to show the ef-

fect of variables and as a consequence the cost of a broiler.

And PHA is also working on a short course.

The short course is designed for allied poultry industries and includes a series of modules covering feed ingredients, feed evaluation, animal nutrient requirements, feed formulation and issues in conducting research used in the industry and how poultry feeds are formulated.

At the moment, we are working on how to deliver the content and are working towards it being available early next year.

PHA had grand plans to run various programs this year but, due to COVID-19, had to change these to suit the situation.

A 'meet the media' workshop was run for researchers to work with journalists to discuss what they do and what they are looking for in story content.

Forty-three researchers participated, commenting that it was extremely worthwhile.

Travel scholarships were

awarded but were delayed and will hopefully be able to be used in early 2022.

The Chook Chat Hack was originally conceived as a face-to-face event that would provide high level engagement between university students and the Australian poultry sector.

With the pandemic, it was turned into an online event.

There were 33 competition participants and the event generated eight video entries.

This event was well received and will be considered for the future.

Poultry Hub Australia is excited for the future and what it holds as Australia slowly starts to re-open.

We want to continue with the programs we had planned for this year, and the following are still in the pipeline:

- The researcher training program developed for researchers to undertake training that refines skills relevant to producing and extending research outcomes for the poultry industry in Australia
- Undergraduate placement scholarships are one to four weeks in duration and students participate in a work placement within the industry
- Undergraduate research scholarships where students undertake a role in a poultry industry research project that is being completed by an experienced poultry researcher.

PHA also wants to build on the learning materials we have – meeting the needs of educators and building a suite of interactive learning materials for all ages to promote the Australian poultry industry.

We are looking forward to 2022 and hoping it will be a more 'normal' year with many events planned.

Carissa Anderson PHA



A few demonstrators dressed as giant chickens to bring attention to the issue.

## Battery cages protest

A PROTEST was held outside NSW Parliament House on November 26 calling on Adam Marshall the NSW Agriculture Minister to support a proposed phase out of battery cages for hens.

This comes as recent documents revealed Adam Marshall was going against the advice of his own department and opposing new hen welfare standards before he had even seen them.

Over sixty supporters came together to hear from Abigail Boyd from the NSW Greens, Emma Hurst from the Animal Justice Party, alongside

animal welfare groups World Animal Protection, Animals Australia and Humane Society International Australia to support a proposed reform.

World Animal Protection campaign manager Rochelle Flood said, "It's safe to say MP Adam Marshall has been left with egg on his face after showing his complete lack of genuine consideration on this issue, opposing new hen welfare standards in March, before even seeing them."

"This is as more than nine million layer hens suffer in battery cages

every year, with less space than an A4 piece of paper.

"Right now, the Minister is blatantly ignoring expert advice and putting at risk a national process for hen welfare reform, blindly supporting the cage egg industry and a cruel and outdated industry practice.

"Our politicians need to realise that the public don't want to see layer hens in cages.

"NSW has the most layer hens of any Australian state, and its support is crucial to ensuring new welfare standards are adopted," Ms Flood said.

## New SBA sales and marketing manager

SPECIALISED Breeders Australia announced recently that Damien Kelly will join the company in the position of sales and marketing manager.

Damien will take overall responsibility for the sales and marketing function at SBA from mid-December 2021.

SBA chief executive officer Eugene Viljoen said, "As SBA embarks on a new journey after joining the EW Group – driving accelerated genetic gains to our

domestic and international customers – it was important that we secured a high calibre sales and marketing professional to fill this critical vacancy."

"We are delighted to welcome Damien to our business.

"His vast sales and marketing experience will be invaluable as SBA continues to evolve," Mr Viljoen said.

Damien obtained a Bachelor of Business Ag Commerce in 2000 and various other qualifications.

In 2005, he joined Lienert Australia – now known as Alltech Lienert Australia – where he held a variety of roles across Australia and New Zealand, culminating in managing southern Australian and New Zealand monogastric and aquaculture sales.

He has broad business ex-

perience and has been instrumental in working with his team and customer base to grow long lasting successful partnerships.

Regarding his new appointment Damien said, "I'm excited to be joining SBA – a company with access to the best layer genetics available globally."

"I look forward to contributing to the supply of high-quality livestock for egg farmers across Australia.

"I plan to focus on enhancing the customer experience and interaction with SBA.

"Having the best genetics and the best service offering in Australia will cement our place as market leaders."

Damien will be based in the head office of Specialised Breeders Australia located in central Victoria.



Poultry Hub Australia plan to develop education programs that foster engagement in the poultry industry.



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# GAA improves low crude protein diets

A NOVEL nutritional strategy to improve feed efficiency and decrease abdominal fat pad in meat chickens fed low crude protein diets was presented in Ideas Exchange 2021 conference by Dr Nishchal Sharma from the University of New England.

The presentation highlighted the role of guanidinoacetic acid and betaine in low crude protein diets fed to meat chickens.

Nishchal emphasised that only two thirds of the daily creatine requirements of birds is synthesised endogenously and the rest should be supplemented through feed.

Dietary creatine and its endogenous amino acid precursors arginine and glycine are naturally low in low crude protein meat

chicken diets, as less protein meals and more crystalline amino acids are used.

GAA is a direct precursor of creatine and can be used to replace Arg for creatine synthesis.

The hepatic synthesis of creatine from GAA uses methyl groups and thus supplemental betaine with GAA may be useful.

The project, funded by Poultry Hub Australia and led by Dr Nishchal Sharma at the University of New England, investigated the rate at which GAA can spare Arg with and without betaine in moderately low CP diets.

## Methodology

Day-old Ross 308 male broilers were assigned to nine dietary treatments with eight replicates of 10 birds each.

The treatments were:

- Normal CP diet (CP lowered by 215 g/kg in grower and 197 g/kg in finisher)

- A low CP (-15 g/kg) diet deficient in Arg (low CP - Arg)

- A low CP diet sufficient in arginine (low CP + Arg)

- A low CP diets with GAA, where 0.1 percent added l-arginine was spared by GAA at 50 percent, 100 percent and 150 percent with and without 0.1 percent betaine.

A common starter diet was fed for the first 10 days post-hatch.

The treatment diets were offered during the grower and finisher phases from days 10 to 24 and days 25 to 42, respectively.

## Results

The birds offered a low CP Arg deficient diet had

lower weight gain, higher FCR, lower breast meat yield, lower breast meat creatine concentration and higher abdominal fat pad compared to those offered a normal CP diet.

When Arg was added back to the Arg deficient diet, growth performance and breast meat loss were restored.

When GAA spared Arg at 100 percent, growth performance and meat quality parameters became comparable to Arg sufficient low CP and normal CP treatments.

When GAA spared Arg at 100 percent and 50 percent, FCR was better than the normal CP treatment.

Breast meat creatine concentration was positively correlated to feed efficiency and breast meat moisture and negatively correlated to rela-

tive weight of abdominal fat and breast meat pH.

There were no further benefits of adding betaine with GAA on the parameters measured but the results with GAA were consistent in the presence or absence of betaine.

The results highlighted the importance of sparing dietary Arg with GAA in low CP meat chicken diets.

Increased FCR and abdominal fat pad are major issues in meat chickens fed low CP diets but a partial replacement of dietary Arg with GAA may help to solve these issues.

Using GAA by the method described herein may be a nutritional strategy for the successful implementation of low CP feeding program for meat chickens.



A nutritional strategy to improve feed efficiency and decrease abdominal fat pad in meat chickens fed low crude protein diets was presented in Ideas Exchange 2021 conference.



Funded by Poultry Hub Australia, the project investigated the rate at which GAA can spare Arg with and without betaine in moderately low CP diets.

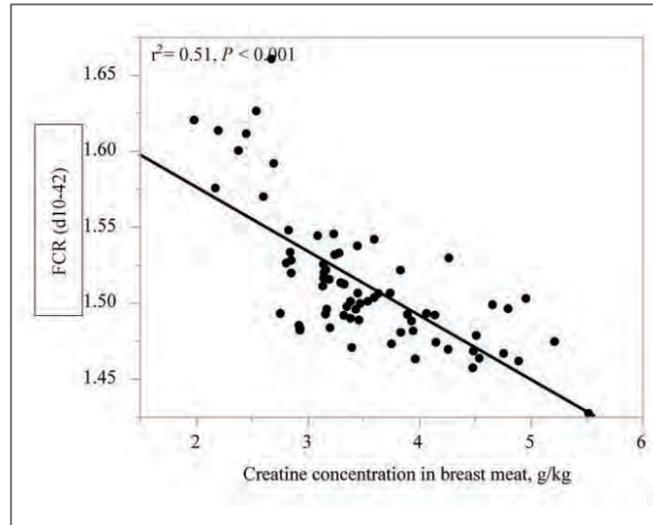


Figure 1. Linear relationship between breast meat creatine concentration and FCR (d10 to 42) of broilers offered low crude protein diets with guanidinoacetic acid and betaine.

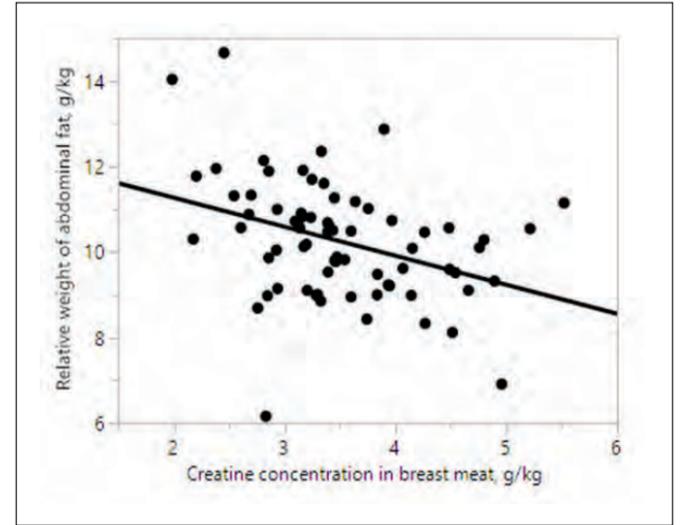


Figure 2. Linear relationship between breast meat creatine concentration and relative weight of abdominal fat at d 42 of broilers offered low crude protein diets with guanidinoacetic acid and betaine (P < 0.01).

[www.bigdutchman.asia](http://www.bigdutchman.asia)

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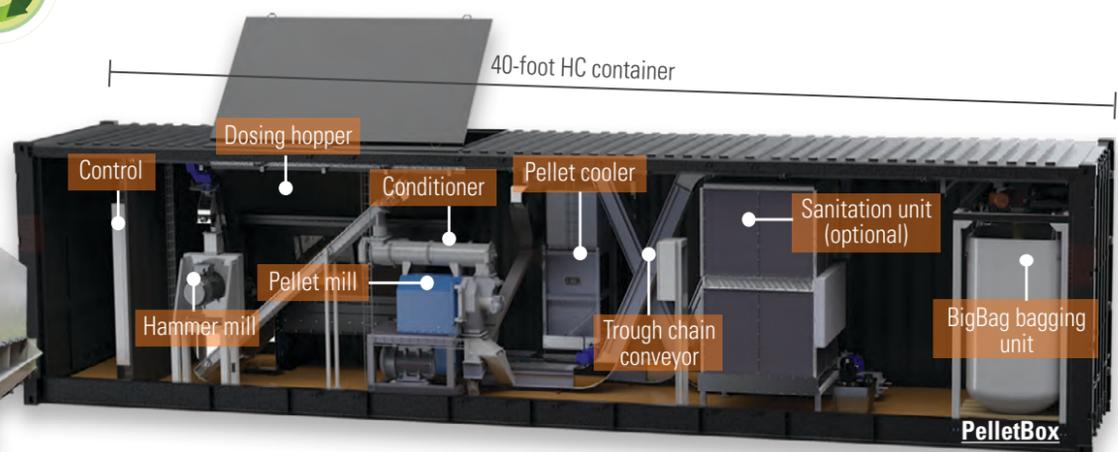
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The precision feeding robot donated by Feedworks.



The Feedlogic equipment helped to blend energy and protein concentrates and record intake on a daily basis.

## Evaluation of precision nutrition to enhance broiler growth efficiency

CHICKEN meat consumption is increasing on a global scale and our population is also exploding.

How do we meet this demand with less resources than ever before and ensure it is environmentally and economically sustainable?

Precision nutrition is the concept of ensuring nutrient supply equals nutrient demand for an animal on a daily basis. Meeting the daily nutrient requirement removes the under and overfeeding of nutrients, which occurs in standard feeding regimes of three to five diets.

As an example, the predicted and supplied nutrient requirement are demonstrated for digestible lysine and energy over a four-phase production cycle in Figures 1 and 2.

The over and under-supply of digestible lysine and energy is greatest within the first half of the production cycle, which is particularly important as it is a critical time for gut development and growth of the chick.

Furthermore, excess energy may be stored as fat and excess amino acids may be deaminated – an inefficient process – or may be used in the hindgut to synthesise microbial proteins.

Therefore, the aim of this project was to determine if precision nutrition – that is feeding a new diet every day to match the daily nutrient requirement – improves the efficiency of production.

Aside from production efficiency (FCR) we also looked at fat pads, variation of bird weights in the pen (coefficient of variation CV) and digestibility.

The treatments consisted of the following.

### Treatment 1

A control four-phase feeding program (start-

er, grower, finisher and withdrawal diets).

### Treatment 2

A precision nutrition program that meets the daily nutrient requirement by blending energy and protein dense concentrates on a daily basis.

### Treatment 3

A precision nutrition program as above, except the blends were adjusted based on the bird's actual rather than predicted weights.

### Treatment 4

A program where starter, grower, finisher and withdrawal diets were blended together on a daily basis to as closely as possible meet the daily nutrient requirement.

The study ran from 11-42 days post-hatch with 10 replicate pens – 12 birds per pen.

Birds were weighed individually on a weekly basis to measure the variation in weights within each pen.

There were no significant differences in weight gain or feed intake.

Over 11-42 days there was no significant difference in FCR, but there was a significant difference at 14-21 days where the precision nutrition program generated the best FCR – see Figure 3.

This was likely because of the sudden diet change in the control treatment from starter to

grower diets at 14 days.

This change between starter and grower diets represents the largest jump in nutrient levels between dietary phases and was happening at a crucial time when the gut was young and still developing.

Whereas birds offered the precision nutrition diets were having gradual changes daily and therefore were not experiencing the sudden change.

There was no significant difference in fat pad weights, but the adjusted precision feeding program of Treatment 4 tended to reduce the fat pad.

This was likely because this treatment's diet was adjusted based on the birds' actual weekly weights, so when they grew ahead of schedule they were moved forward on the feeding schedule.

Precision nutrition programs also generated a significantly greater body weight at 42 days, with the adjusted precision feeding program of Treatment 4 having the greatest live weights – see Figure 4.

Finally, precision feeding significantly reduced CV to fairly large extents at almost all time points over the study – CV at 42 days given in Figure 5.

In conclusion, precision nutrition improved feed efficiency of young

chicks – possibly due to minimising the shock of diet change on the gut.

Additionally, pen CV was improved and the birds had larger final weights.

Analysis is ongoing and we hope to have further digestibility results soon.

We will also be further exploring the concept of precision nutrition in another Poultry Hub trial in 2022, looking into the effect of 'AM/PM diets' or 'phase feeding' to improve FCR, skeletal health and welfare parameters of laying hens.

Finally, we would like to thank Feedworks for donating the Feedlogic equipment to this project and to the University of New England's Precision Poultry Facility.

This equipment helped us to blend energy and protein concentrates and record intake on a daily basis to achieve the precision nutrition diets.

We would also like to acknowledge Poultry Hub Australia for funding this project and thank them for their ongoing encouragement and support.

Click on the QR Code to watch the video on UNE's Precision Poultry Facility.

For more information, contact Dr Moss on [amos22@une.edu.au](mailto:amos22@une.edu.au)

**Dr Amy Moss**

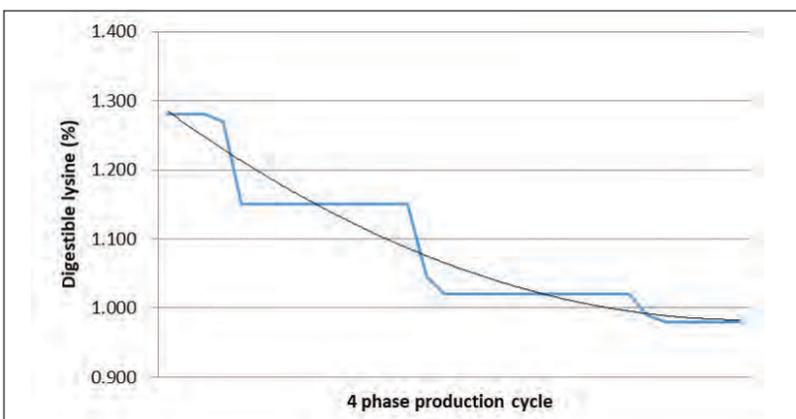


Figure 1: The over and under-supply of dietary nutrient between predicted nutrient requirement (thin black line) and supplied nutrient (thick blue line) as demonstrated for digestible lysine level (%) over a four-phase production cycle.

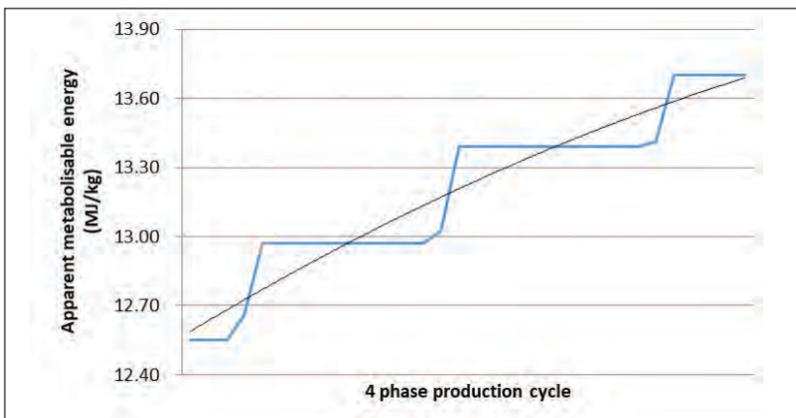


Figure 2: The over and under-supply of dietary nutrient between predicted nutrient requirement (thin black line) and supplied nutrient (thick blue line) as demonstrated for apparent metabolisable energy (MJ/kg) over a four-phase production cycle.

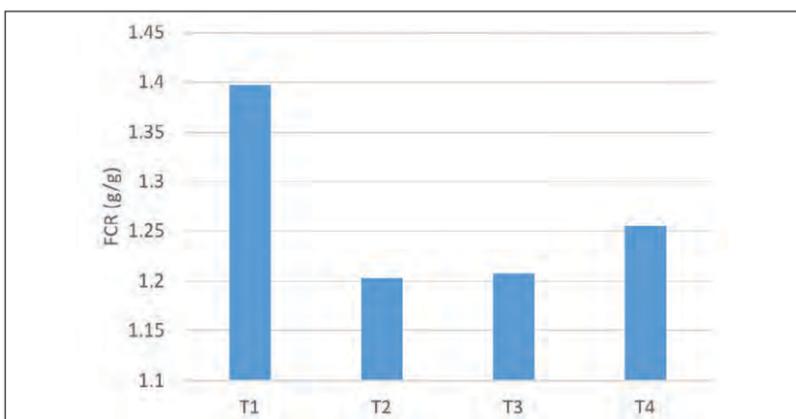


Figure 3: Feed conversion ratio (FCR; g/g) from 14-21 days, where; T1 is the control four-phase feeding program, T2 is the precision nutrition program, T3 is the precision nutrition program adjusted by weekly weights and T4 blends the control diets to as closely meet the daily nutrient requirements as possible.

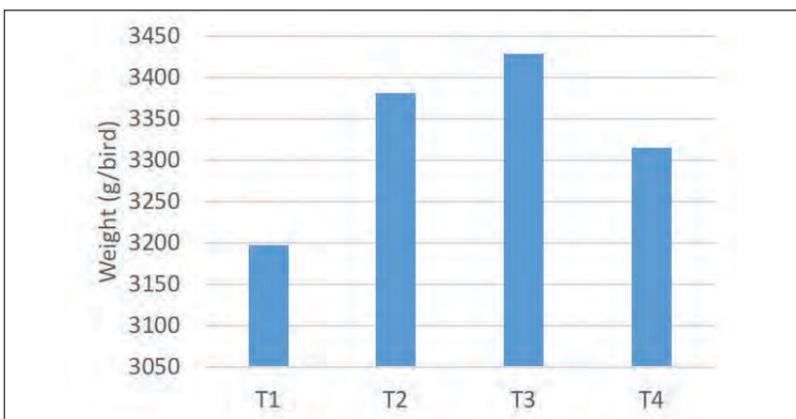


Figure 4: Body weight (g/bird) at 42 days, where; T1 is the control four-phase feeding program, T2 is the precision nutrition program, T3 is the precision nutrition program adjusted by weekly weights and T4 blends the control diets to as closely meet the daily nutrient requirements as possible.

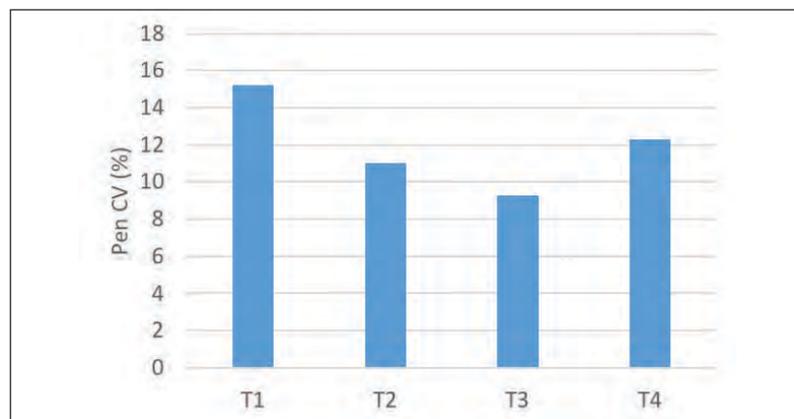


Figure 5: CV at 42 days, where; T1 is the control four-phase feeding program, T2 is the precision nutrition program, T3 is the precision nutrition program adjusted by weekly weights and T4 blends the control diets to as closely meet the daily nutrient requirements as possible.

# Rapid on farm diagnostics for poultry respiratory disease outbreaks

IN October 2021, Poultry Hub Australia facilitated a two-day video Ideas Exchange conference and research ideas on the development of rapid on-farm diagnostics was discussed by a group of researchers led by Associate Professor Ali Ghorashi from Charles Sturt University.

Respiratory diseases are a cause of concern for poultry producers because outbreaks are difficult to contain and can cause significant economic losses, making poultry farming less profitable.

While antibiotics and vaccinations are available to control these diseases, widespread use of antibiotics can induce bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics and vaccines, and if available, may fail to protect all birds on a farm.

Therefore, strict biosecurity rules are generally required to control respiratory disease outbreaks on poultry farms.

Routine surveillance is an essential component of effective biosecurity measures, as they provide information on the status of the flocks and allow producers to implement control measures as soon as outbreaks are detected, minimising economic losses.

It is difficult to simply look at chicken in a flock and say, "Those are the

birds that are diseased." Therefore, surveillance of respiratory pathogens in poultry farms relies on laboratory testing, which can be laborious, costly, complicated and time consuming.

Trained professionals are needed to obtain samples, which are then transported to highly specialised laboratories, where skilled professionals perform laboratory testing and analyses using costly machines and laboratory reagents.

This makes for a cumbersome testing process that impedes routine surveillance, thereby increasing the risks of disease outbreaks on Australian poultry farms.

But what if testing for respiratory pathogens could be done on farm without the need for sophisticated equipment or technical know-how?

Assoc Prof Ali Ghorashi said there was already an abundance of evidence in scientific literature suggesting that this is possible with the help of a technique known as loop-mediated isothermal amplification, or LAMP.

This technique can detect DNA from pathogens in a variety of samples efficiently and with high specificity.

Moreover, this technique is cost-effective, relying only on samples being added to a pre-formulated reaction mix in

a single tube at a constant temperature.

No sophisticated machine or equipment is necessary, which means that the test can be implemented on farm, negating the need for transportation, which ultimately affords rapid testing.

Moreover, the outcome of the test is determined by simple visual observation of changing reaction colour and does not require trained personnel, cutting down on the cost of the test.

In light of these obvious advantages, if LAMP-based tests can be developed for common poultry respiratory pathogens, then high frequency routine surveillance will become possible and that will significantly enhance biosecurity measures on farm.

The aim of this project is to develop on-farm diagnostics for *Pasteurella multocida*, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *Cryptosporidium parvum*.

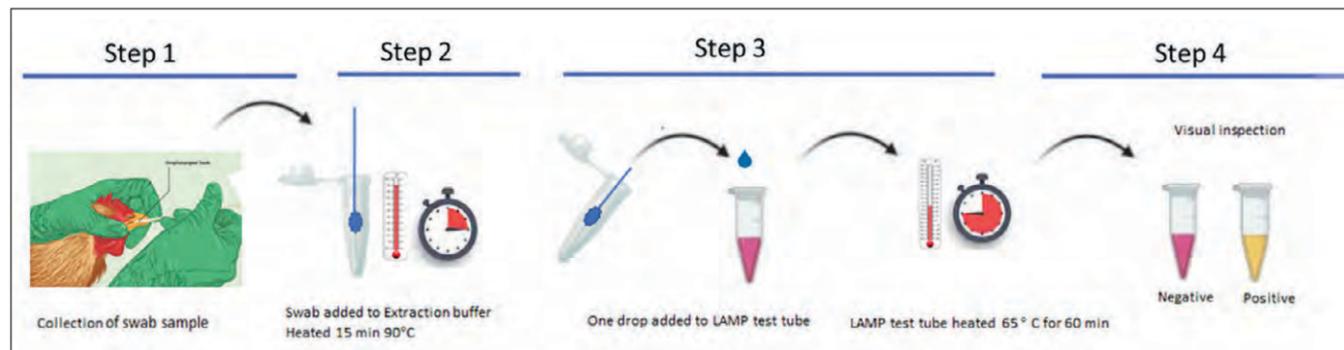
*Cryptosporidium parvum* in support of LAMP being a viable inexpensive, rapid, robust, highly specific and sensitive on-farm alternative to traditional laboratory-based diagnostics for bacterial respiratory disease – which also offers opportunities of broad disease surveillance and early intervention to reduce disease associated losses in the poultry industry.

Therefore, Assoc Prof Ali Ghorashi and his team of Dr Sam Pant from the Charles Sturt University and Prof Amir Noormohammadi from the University of Melbourne have teamed up with industry partner Dr Peter Scott of Scolexia to develop LAMP-based assays for respiratory pathogens commonly found in Australian poultry farms.

The research is being funded by Poultry Hub Australia and is expected to get off the ground early 2022.



Collecting swab from ocular secretion.



A typical LAMP protocol consists of four steps: 1 – Collecting specimens including nasal, ocular, tracheal (swabs), 2 – Preparation of sample and DNA extraction, 3 – Amplification of target DNA, 4 – Detection of results through colourimetric reaction.



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The new Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B Super T Series trash pump.

## Gorman-Rupp pump solves blockage issue

CENTRAL Agri Group is one of Australia's leading fully integrated beef farming, backgrounding, feed lotting and meat processing companies.

Established in 1991, it has loyal domestic customers, supplies to over 50 exports markets and has invested heavily in state-of-the-art meat processing facilities.

However, the Trafalgar plant had some issues with the wastewater pump.

Running copies of the Gorman-Rupp self-priming pump on green waste, the group were attending the pump daily to fix blockages.

On occasion, these issues would cause the well to overflow, requiring the need for outside contractors to be called in to help deal with the inflow into the well.

Another processor running genuine Gorman-Rupp pumps recommended they contact Hydro Innovations.

Hydro Innovations recommended the existing pump be replaced by a Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B Super T Series trash pump fitted with an 'Eradicator' solids management system, featuring hardened internal parts to deal with the grit and stringy materi-

als flowing into the well.

The well had a high loading of grass and so the pump was setup to deal with this too.

After almost two months since the installation, Central Agri Group plant maintenance supervisor Josh could not be happier.

"The Gorman-Rupp is a great pump – far better than what we had before," Josh said.

He has not had to attend the Gorman-Rupp pump at all, as opposed to the attendance the previous pump required once or twice each day.

The savings are quickly adding up and Josh has

now recouped the time to work on other projects at the plant that he couldn't get to before due to maintaining the old pump.

Gorman-Rupp self-priming trash pumps are available in sizes from 2" through to 10", with flows to 200L per second and pressures to 90m.

The Gordon-Rupp pumps are extremely popular, particularly in difficult wastewater pumping applications in animal processing plants across Australia.

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



## For Sale via Expressions of Interest

Included:

- Logos
- Intellectual Property
- Documents



Contact:

[alisdair@auscertifiedhumane.com](mailto:alisdair@auscertifiedhumane.com)



Alisdair Robertson is putting the intellectual property associated with Australian Certified Humane to the market, both domestically and overseas.

## Alisdair Robertson puts Australian Certified Humane on the market

AUSTRALIAN Certified Humane is a brand I have been developing over the past six years.

The foundation of this business has been to provide full traceability complemented by an independent third-party auditable welfare standard and grass fed standard for beef, sheep and goat production in Australia.

This standard has been developed in Australia for Australian conditions.

I have engaged extensive-

ly with industry and producers in the development of the standards.

I have engaged an independent auditor – Andrew Little of Livestock Integrity Solutions – who has been completing on-farm audits to date, and who is familiar with the standard.

I am now putting the intellectual property associated with this business to the market, both domestically and overseas.

The main reason for this is that I now see the brand at a crossroads.

I have had significant interest in the brand from both producers, processors and consumers alike, and see the potential for the brand to cut through all of the false and unverified claims that are cluttering the animal protein space.

There is ever growing interest in animal welfare claims, and grass fed protein claims from both the primary production industries, such as finance, investment, labour and government.

As a third-party standard that is completely transparent and sits above industry standard, Australian Certified Humane is in the box seat to trump any rival claims that are made in this space.

Australian Certified Humane is also now poised to have a sustainability carbon neutral measure bolted on to the existing standard.

As largely a 'one man show' that has driven this brand to its current point, I am now offering it to the market for parties who would see value in the existing IP that has been de-

veloped to date.

Included in the sale:

- Logos: Australian Certified Humane (domestic and international)

- Domain Name: [www.auscertifiedhumane.com](http://www.auscertifiedhumane.com)

- Google suite: email addresses and domain registration

- Trademarks: Australian Certified Humane (TM1611764), Australian Certified Humane Empathy Provenance Peace of Mind (TM2079489), Dawson Valley Grass Fed Beef (TM1701871), Endless Summer Queensland Grass Fed Beef (TM1898931)

- Audit documents: ACH Beef Cattle Rules and Standards, ACH Sheep Rules and Standards, ACH Goat Rules and Standards, ACH Beef Farm Management Plan Template, ACH Application Form, ACH Certified Producer - Certify Template, ACH Cattle Grid Purchasing Template

- Three business days (24 hours) consultation: On brand development, what has worked, what has not and the journey so far – provided by current director Alisdair Robertson

- Contact list: of parties currently engaged with the brand and brand development.

Links to some media that has appeared around the brand:

[beefcentral.com/uncategorized/australian-certified-humane-system-for-grassfed-beef-launched/](http://beefcentral.com/uncategorized/australian-certified-humane-system-for-grassfed-beef-launched/)  
[beefcentral.com/news/australian-certified-humane-appoints-independent-certifiers/](http://beefcentral.com/news/australian-certified-humane-appoints-independent-certifiers/)

I can be contacted directly on [alisdair@auscertifiedhumane.com](mailto:alisdair@auscertifiedhumane.com) or 0437 261 067.

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## Poultry packaging demand to grow

DEMAND for meat, poultry and seafood packaging is forecast to increase 3.1 percent per year according to a food packaging study by the Freedonia Group.

Continued expansion of the case-ready meat, poultry and seafood segment will drive demand for traditional packaging items such as film, trays, absorbent pads and bags.

The importance of a longer product shelf life will support demand for high-barrier film products.

Consumer preference for convenience-oriented products such as easy to open, resealable, portable, microwaveable and single-portion packs will support gains for products such as pouches, cook-in bags and vacuum skin packaging.

The fastest growing products in the meat, poultry, and seafood packaging market include plastic types such as:

- Brick packs – due to their leak resistance, transparency and transportation cost savings stemming from their efficient cube format

- Chub packaging – due to its low cost, good freezer protection, ability to extend shelf life and retain flavour, and significant shipping and material cost savings

- Pouches – due to their convenience, resealability, ability to hold smaller portions and good graphics capabilities

- Vacuum skin packaging – based on its ability to maximise shelf life, resist leaks, reduce material consumption and improve presentation.

This study examines the US market for food packaging, defined as primary and secondary packaging materials sold to food manufacturers, primarily for products targeted at retail or foodservice markets.



Photo: Sergey Ryzhov

## Another myth busted

THE Australian Chicken Meat Federation recently embarked on another myth-busting awareness campaign.

Education around food safety is one of industry's top priorities, so the ACMF developed a communications campaign to answer one of the top drivers of visitors to their website – the query 'Can you refreeze chicken?'

In a partnership with the Food Safety Information Council, the ACMF conducted research that asked consumers if they knew if it was safe to refreeze chicken that has been defrosted in a fridge, or on a benchtop.

Seventy-six percent of respondents indicated that they didn't think it was safe to refreeze chicken that had been correctly defrosted in the fridge.

This statistic formed the basis of a media relations campaign.

Stories were picked up in *Lifehacker*, SBS Food, 2GB, 2UE, various ABC radio stations, *The Project* online and more – reaching around 12 million consumers with food safety messaging, who hopefully now understand that they can refreeze their chicken and stop food unnecessarily going to waste.

*The Project* even came up with a little rhyme...

*Thawed in the fridge?*

*You're all good fella.*

*Thawed on the bench?*

*Why hello salmonella.*

ACMF executive director Dr Vivien Kite was pleased with the results.

"This has been one of those persistent myths – that it is unsafe to refreeze chicken that has been defrosted in the fridge."

"So much so that it's the top search term that brings people to the ACMF website."

"Minimising food waste is an important objective for our entire community, so it's important for us to clarify this fact, and Food Safety Week provided the perfect opportunity to do so," Dr Kite said.

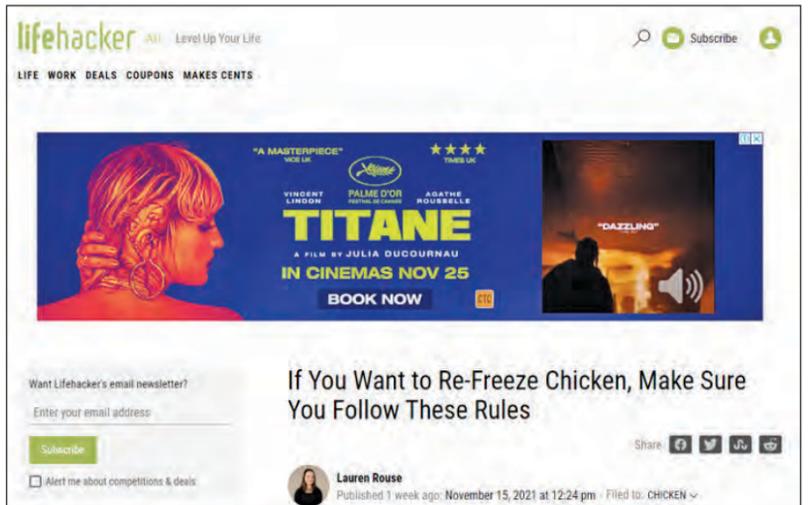
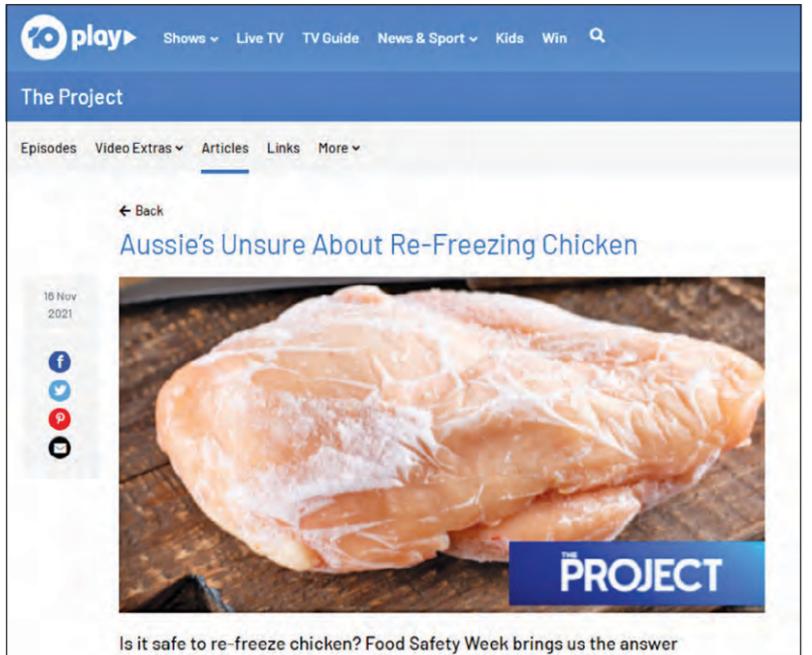
Other facts uncovered in the research included:

- 83 percent of Australians are aware that it is not safe to refreeze raw chicken that has been defrosted on the kitchen bench top

- 93 percent of those over 65 know that it's unsafe to refreeze chicken defrosted on the bench

- Worryingly, 67 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds thought it was fine to refreeze chicken that had been defrosted on the bench.

The success of this campaign means that a similar campaign will be run around Christmas, this time discovering just how many Australians wash their raw chicken before they cook it.



The media relations campaign story was picked up in *Lifehacker*, SBS Food, 2GB, 2UE, various ABC radio stations, *The Project* online and more – reaching around 12 million consumers with food safety messaging.

# Shed washdown made easy

INNOVATIVE Australian pressure cleaner manufacturer, Aussie Pumps had poultry farmers in mind when its chief engineer John Hales came up with a new concept on how to make shed cleaning both faster and safer for the operator.

The inspiration came during a conversation with a poultry farmer from southern Tasmania with a 100m shed.

He explained to Mr Hales that he had an Aussie Scud 400 4000psi pressure cleaner with electric start in Aussie Pumps unique stainless-steel frame.

He had it set up so the high-pressure hoses of 50m each were already laid out in each direction with the machine stationed in the centre, being a one person operator who produces quality birds in a super-efficient way.

"We realised that instead of having two hoses on the ground, we could achieve a neater and possibly safer workplace by mounting a heavy duty stainless-steel reel on the machine with 50m of high-pressure hose," Mr Hales said.

"We also suggested that using a lightweight sewer cleaning hose would make the job easier and might even allow more hose in a smaller diameter to be fitted on the reel.

"We thought even 80m would be possible."

The company has a huge respect for the industry and understands the challenges – not only in keeping sheds clean but in clearing effluent

promptly and efficiently.

The Aussie Scud 400 delivers 13L/min flow and the 4000psi makes it super-efficient at cleaning difficult to move materials.

### Enter the Muck Off

Designed by Aussie Pumps engineers, this big wash and flush kit is a mobile 75L/min cleaner that delivers 40-bar pressure.

The heart of the Muck Off is a big Udor heavy duty diaphragm pump that comes with its own integrated unloader, enabling the operator to set pressure and even moderate flow to get the best possible results for the job.

Prototypes were heavy duty galvanised-steel frames powered by either Honda 13hp petrol engines or 10hp Yanmar diesel.

The machines come with four big steel wheels with 13" tyres and are capable of being easily moved around, as the frame is part of the family of the unique Aussie Scud award winning design.

Aussie Pumps Muck Off comes as standard with 30m of high-pressure hose but can be fitted with up to 50m, depending on hose diameter.

"Customers tell us that using the Aussie turbo gun works well with this machine, delivering excellent cleaning power for even the toughest jobs," Mr Hales said.

"We designed this machine for chicken sheds – knowing the challenges faced by our poultry in-

dustry as Australia tries to expand production to meet not only domestic but export demands."

Further information on the Aussie poultry shed cleaning kit is available

from Aussie Pumps.

The kit includes turbo lances for increased pressure efficiencies and a flat surface cleaner to make light work of horizontal cleaning chores, reducing

times by up to 80 percent.

A telescopic wand gives the operator a reach of 5m.

For details, visit [aussie-pumps.com.au](http://aussie-pumps.com.au) or call your local Aussie Pumps distributor.



The Aussie Scud 400 4000psi pressure cleaner is super-efficient in tackling tough jobs.



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# Major retailers back RSPCA



CHICKEN is the most popular meat in Australia.

To meet the demand, more than 660 million birds were farmed in 2020 alone.

The good news is that year on year more farms participate in the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme, raising their birds to its higher welfare standard.

The significant uptake of the RSPCA Standard by the Australian meat chicken industry is undoubtedly the biggest achievement for animal welfare within the scheme.

In 2020, the scheme saw more than 579 million birds raised to the RSPCA detailed animal welfare standard.

The efforts and commitment by meat chicken farmers and the brands they supply to raise the bar for animal welfare within their industry is something to be proud of.

First released in 2010, the RSPCA Standard for meat chickens focusses on making sure birds are raised in an environment that meets both their physical and behavioural needs, such as being able to perch, scratch, peck and dust bathe.

While the majority of meat chicken farms participating in the scheme are certified against the indoor requirements of the RSPCA standard only, around 20 percent are certified to both the indoor and outdoor requirements.

Chicken from these farms can be labelled as free range and RSPCA Approved.

Certification for these birds has meant improvements to the quality and appeal of the range, such as better shade, shelter and easier access.

While the RSPCA standard goes above and beyond what is legally required in Australia, the aim is to set participating farms on a path of continuous improvement in animal welfare.

Farms and brands

participating in the scheme choose to do so because they are looking to raise animal welfare standards, and want independent third-party certification for this.

The driver for the uptake of the RSPCA Standard was the 2014 landmark move by Coles to become the first supermarket to source RSPCA Approved chicken for all its own branded fresh chicken.

This move was closely followed by Woolworths and launched a transformation within the industry resulting in continual improvements to bird welfare.

Over the years, both retailers have expanded their commitment to include RSPCA Approved chicken as an ingredient in other products.

This has meant that not only their range of frozen products now uses chicken from farms participating in the scheme but also chicken used in ready-made meals, sandwiches and soups.

The commitment by Coles, Woolworths and their suppliers to adopt the RSPCA Standard means chicken farmed to higher welfare standards is more accessible than ever to Australian consumers.

Currently Coles offers customers the broadest range with Coles Chicken, Coles Free Range Chicken, The Bare Bird as well as Coles Slow Hills, the first slow-growing chicken in the Australian market, all RSPCA Approved.

Woolworths offers customers RSPCA Approved through Woolworths Chicken, The Bare Bird and The Free Ranger – in select stores.

The efforts by Coles and Woolworths has also led to a steady rise in more well-known brands sourcing RSPCA Approved chicken, including David Jones and ALDI, as well as an increasing number of restaurants and food manufacturing companies.

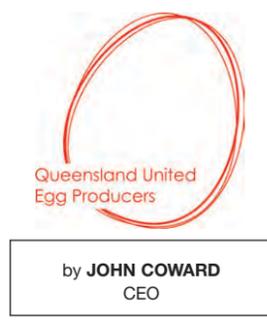
# The year gone and the year ahead

WELL, I am sure I'm not alone when I say that we don't need another year like 2021!

From the impacts of COVID-19 on market demands and related price influences, together with uncertainty around the introduction of the proposed standards and guidelines, and the lack of available labour across the agricultural sector, surely 2022 must be the turning point.

From a representative position, Queensland United Egg Producers has had its hands full in 2021 – assisting our industry engage with government regulators in trying to build support and processes to address the above issues.

With critical impacts mostly created by COVID came threats around



increased biosecurity risks aligned with the outbreaks of avian influenza and salmonella enteritidis, which affected Victoria and NSW.

Looking forward it appears that with domestic interstate and international travel becoming more the norm, we should see a big improvement in COVID-related impacts.

However, I see the ongoing need for height-



ened COVID interventions and a documented COVID Business Health Plan until 'full vaccinations' reach the 90 percent plus levels and community transfer is under control.

Any members looking for more details on response protocols – and the interventions to reduce the risk of their businesses being shut down due to positive

cases in their workforce – can contact me.

As for the long-awaited standards and guidelines, indications are that we should see the review and recommendations being addressed by each state hopefully by mid-2022, and to provide some certainty for our industry.

Our national advocacy body Egg Farmers of Australia will maintain engagement with the Federal Minister and advise industry as the process unfolds.

I am pleased with the support Queensland Farmers Federation has provided to our egg industry by appointing a policy officer – Dr Laurie Dowling – in October this year, to assist intensive animal industries address legislative impacts and to provide

a conduit for enhanced collaboration with regulators.

QUEP, along with executives from chicken meat and dairy plus pork, will provide input to the policy officer to ensure the support is focussed and equitable across the intensive group.

On behalf of the QUEP Board, our best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy Christmas with a prosperous 2022 ahead.

We are always available for Queensland egg farmers and associated industry businesses to assist wherever possible including QUEP membership details.

Contact QUEP chief executive officer John Coward on 0407 622 166 or john.coward1@gmail.com

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<sup>1</sup> Reece, D. Create a "low-fly" zone. Pig & Poultry Marketing, 2014; Spring:18-19.  
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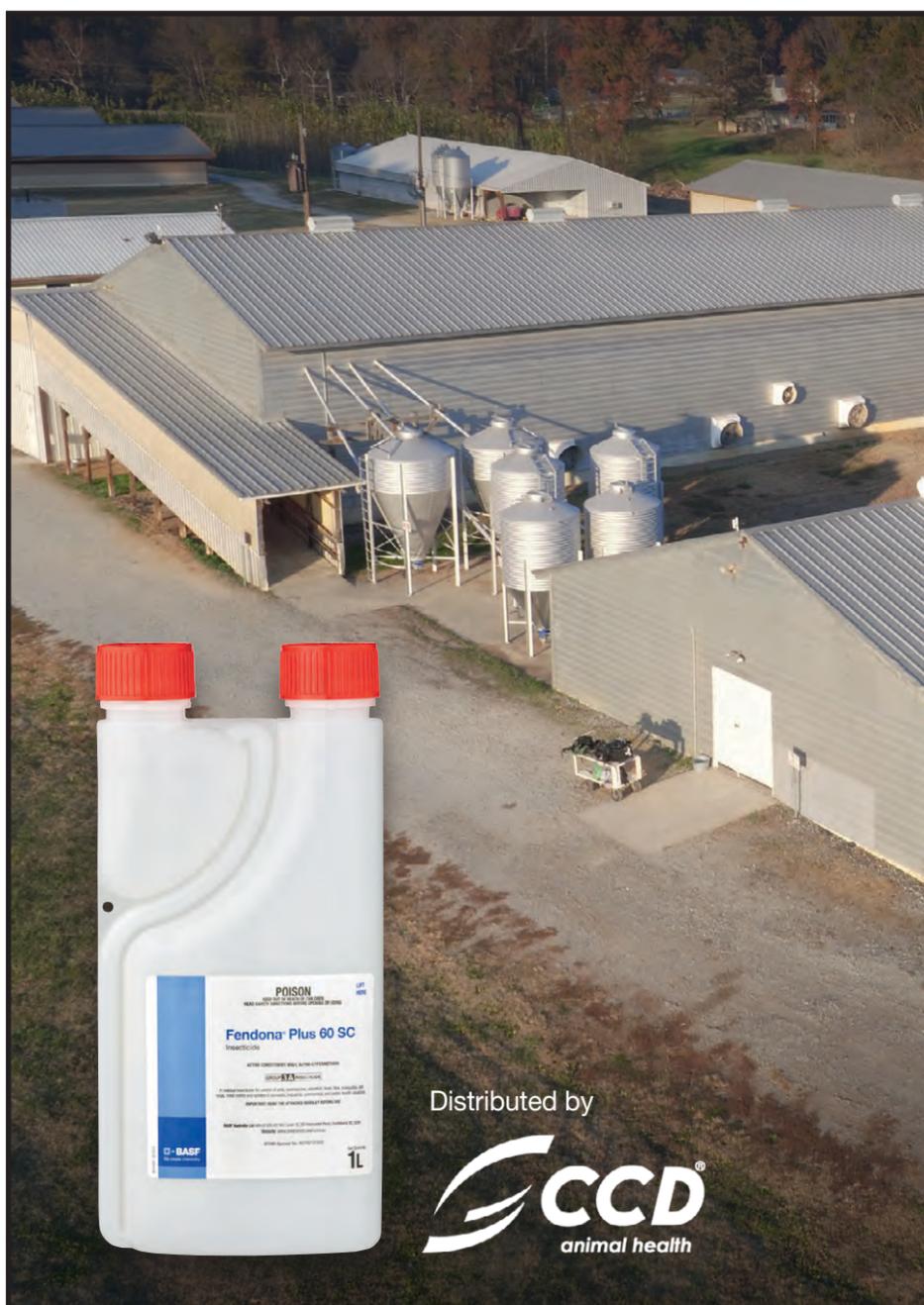
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