



InnovatE

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In this issue...

National Pork RD&E Strategy

Plans for consolidation of industry research and development

APL Specialist Groups

Setting APL research priorities

Pork CRC Programs

Research areas and R&D processes at the CRC

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National Pork Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Strategy

Emalyn Loudon, Australian Pork Limited

The reduction in herd size over the past five years has had a two-fold impact on R&D investment where-by the volume of slaughter pigs and associated levies have declined, and as a consequence, matching funds from the federal government have diminished. While R&D programs adjust accordingly the underlying impacts of such reductions include less R&D expertise concentrated on pork, a lack of mentoring of young scientists, fewer internationally recognised Australian pig scientists, loss of R&D facilities, and a proportionately lower allocation of funds to individual groups/projects.

The Pork CRC has bought much needed additional funding and a sense of reinvigoration, however the question is how do we move forward and maintain the RD&E capacity and capability in an environment of declining RD&E funding?

The Federal Government has instigated an initiative with State Governments to consolidate RD&E resources and rationalise RD&E operations. All Rural R&D Corporations (RDC's) are required to develop a National RD&E Strategic Plan.

APL and the Pork CRC in conjunction with stakeholders (State Departments, universities and industry representatives) are well into the development of the new plan which will seek to enhance collaboration, maintain and maximise use of key R&D facilities, reduce the number of small projects, and speed up delivery of R&D outcomes to industry. The RD&E plan will build on the R&D process developed by APL (Specialist Groups and R&D Advisory Committee) and the Pork CRC (Program Leaders and R&D Committee).

The national RD&E strategy process began early in 2008 and will be ready for implementation for the 2009-10 financial year.

APL Specialist Groups & R&D Advisory Committee

Emalyn Loudon, Australian Pork Limited

In recent years there have been some significant changes to APL's R&D process with the introduction of six industry Specialist Groups to oversee the establishment of research priorities and an accompanying process of planning research activities. Through these groups, you as a producer or industry stakeholder can be assured that research priorities and activities are determined by a representative group with a solid grounding in their area of expertise.

Each Specialist Group is chaired by an industry representative (*) and an APL Manager supports the groups' processes (**).

SG1 Marketing, supply chain & product development	SG2 Genetics, genetic modification & genetic transfer	SG3 Production & product quality
Kay Carey* Ron Penn Ted Campbell Frank Dunshea Peter Hardy David Barnes Mark McKenzie Peter Haydon Heather Channon**	Brian Luxford* Susanne Hermesch Hans Graser Brenden McClelland Paul O'Leary Rolf Sokolinski Bruce Trout Ranald Cameron Jeff Braun Darryl D'Souza**	Roger Campbell* Neil Gannon John Black Rob Smits Tony Edwards John Pluske Darryl D'Souza**
SG4 Industry capability & technology transfer	SG5 Environment & welfare	SG6 Quality assurance, biosecurity & food safety
Chris Brennan* John Black Ross Cutler Ross Brown Bruce Mullan Nigel McGuckian David Henman Emalyn Loudon**	Rob Wilson* Ian Kruger Amber Rod Paul Hemsworth John Riley Angus Davidson Kathleen Plowman TBA**	Andrew Pointon* Ross Cutler Trish Holyoake David Hamilton Duncan Rowland Chris Richards Bill Salter Kathleen Plowman Pat Mitchell**

Specialist Groups meet at the beginning of each calendar year to determine priorities for the forthcoming financial year. Business Plans outlining priorities and indicative programs are developed and submitted to the R&D Advisory Committee for review and recommendation to the Board. Once the Board has approved final budgets, calls for research projects are made.

An important factor in this process is the inclusion of ex ante and ex poste analyses of research projects to enhance the capacity for return on investment.

Pork CRC Program Leaders & R&D Committee *Emalyn Loudon, Australian Pork Limited*

The Pork CRC also incorporates industry consultation into their processes through a structure involving four key Programs with a number of Sub Programs under each. Each has a Program and Sub Program Leader who liaises with researchers undertaking projects in their field. All Program Leaders, CEO Dr Roger Campbell, and a number of CRC Board Members and other key industry stakeholders form the R&D Committee which oversees research priorities and planning. The Program structure is listed over the page.

Program 1: Securing more reliable and consistent supplies of protein and energy for pig diets	Dr Ray King Industry Consultant
Subprogram 1A: Innovative grain production for the pig industry	Dr Ray King Industry Consultant
Subprogram 1B: Quality assessment of feed ingredients	Dr John Black Industry Consultant
Subprogram 1C: Identification and characterisation of a wider range of available feed ingredients for the pig industry	Dr Ray King Industry Consultant
Program 2: Improving Whole Herd Feed Efficiency	Prof Frank Dunshea University of Melbourne
Subprogram 2A: Measuring feed intake and pig weights in commercial situations	Dr Bruce Mullan Dept of Agriculture & Food WA
Subprogram 2B: Improving the feed intake and performance of pigs immediately after weaning	Prof John Pluske Murdoch University
Subprogram 2C: Improving animal health and reducing antibiotic use	Dr Ross Cutler Ross Cutler & Associates
Subprogram 2D: Improving sow reproduction and longevity	Rob Smits QAF Meat Industries
Subprogram 2E: Advanced reproductive technologies	Assoc Prof Mark Nottle University of Adelaide
Subprogram 2F: Physiology and manipulation of growth	Prof Frank Dunshea University of Melbourne
Subprogram 2G: Nutritional strategies for sows and grower/finisher pigs	Dave Henman QAF Meat Industries
Program 3: Enhancing capacity to deliver nutrients promoting health and well-being through pork	Heather Channon Australian Pork Limited
Program 4: Education and communications	Prof Wayne Pitchford University of Adelaide

The CRC also has an Adoption and Commercialisation Committee which makes recommendations on the most appropriate pathways to commercialise outcomes.

Each financial year, the R&D Committee and Sub Program Leaders undertake a review of all Programs and projects. Based on key outcomes and changes to projects, the R&D program for the following year is set in place. The Pork CRC also relies on its core partners, SARDI, APL, Australian Pork Farms Group, New Zealand Pork Board, The University of Adelaide, Murdoch University and the CHM Alliance, as well as other supporting participants, to direct their R&D program. To prevent any overlap between Pork CRC and APL research activities Dr D'Souza is a member of the Pork CRC R&D Committee and Dr Campbell chairs APL Specialist Group 3.

All proposals to the Pork CRC are given a Maximum Potential Benefit (MPB) based on the potential impact of the proposal on the cost of production or producer margin, the chance of success, the likelihood of adoption of the research outcome and the speed with which an outcome can be adopted by the industry. Funding decisions are based on MPB values. Auspig is used to provide the original impact of proposals and projects on cost of production and producer margins. All project MPB values are adjusted quarterly based on research outcomes. Auspig and a return on investment model developed by the Pork CRC are used to evaluate the financial outcomes and ROI of all projects.

In summary, the overall aim of the national pork industry RD&E strategy and accompanying APL and CRC processes is to encourage a coordinated collaborative approach to RD&E and facilitate open consultation with industry on research priorities.

Disclaimer

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