

Australian Pork Limited

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Australian Pork Limited Congratulates Award Winning Researchers

Australian Pork Limited (APL) would like to congratulate Professor Frank Dunshea, who has been awarded the Animal Growth and Development Award sponsored by DSM Nutritional Products Inc at the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) awards in Montréal, Canada. This significant honour recognises his contribution to animal science.

Following training at La Trobe and Cornell Universities, Prof. Dunshea worked with the Victorian government for 17 years before being appointed Head of Department of Agriculture and Food Systems with the University of Melbourne's School of Land and Environment. Prof. Dunshea has been instrumental in research and international adoption of a number of metabolic modifiers responsible for significant efficiencies in the pork industry such as porcine somatotropin and ractopamine, as well being involved in the development of the first commercially available vaccine to control boar taint. APL's General Manager Research & Innovation, Dr Darryl D'Souza, said Prof. Dunshea's research represents a significant contribution to our understanding of the mechanisms involved in improving growth efficiency of the pig and enhancing the eating quality of pork.

APL is also pleased to congratulate Michael Bertoldo, who received the APL award at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Science and Innovation Awards last week at a presentation dinner at Parliament House, Canberra.

Mr Bertoldo, a Pork CRC sponsored PhD student at the University of Sydney, conducts research which addresses the problem of infertility that affects approximately 5-10 per cent of sows mated during late summer and early autumn that lose their pregnancies.

"Seasonal infertility has a big economic impact on producers who are unable to maintain their usual production volumes," Mr Bertoldo said.

Mr Bertoldo was also awarded the Meat and Livestock Australia Award for his presentation on oocyte quality, 'Reduced oocyte developmental competence during the period of seasonal infertility in pigs', at the 2009 Society for Reproductive Biology Annual Conference in Adelaide.

Dr D'Souza said that Mr Bertoldo's research is yet another indication of the innovative work being conducted in Australia.

"Michael is an example of how first-class researchers are making discoveries which can affect the pork industry in a real, positive manner. Boosting birth rates in pigs is an obviously positive outcome for the industry, and we hope that by assisting Michael in his research such an outcome will be possible."

A total of 85 applications were received for the 2009 awards. Since 2001, the awards have helped 145 young Australians to make their ideas a reality and showcase their talent to the world.

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Pictured (above): Frank Dunshea receiving his award from Dr Donnie Campbell of DSM USA

Pictured (below, from left): APL CEO Andrew Spencer, Michael Bertoldo and APL General Manager Research & Innovation Dr Darryl D'Souza at Parliament House, Canberra.



For hi-res versions of these images, contact Glen Martin at APL (details below).

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