

# A newsletter for pork producers



## PigBytes

Issue 52, December 2022

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### Practical mosquito management

*Leah Starick – Agriculture Victoria*

With so much water lying around and the recent flooding events in various parts of the country, preparing for this mosquito season is on the forefront of pig producer minds.



**Recent flooding across the country is creating perfect mosquito breeding grounds. Image: Agriculture Victoria.**

On October 25 at 6pm, Agriculture Victoria hosted a Japanese encephalitis (JE) update webinar for the Victorian pig industry. With over 55 participants, the webinar attracted producers of all sizes, pig keepers and owners, veterinarians, and

consultants and service providers to the pig industry.

Participants heard from the following speakers about their key topics:

- Principal Veterinary Officer – Pigs, Dr Regina Fogarty - Brief disease lifecycle description, clinical signs, where farms were affected in 2021/22
- Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Graeme Cooke - Victorian Government policy and response for this season
- SUNPORK Veterinary and Technical Manager Geoff Pollock - Mosquito vector control strategies - chemical and non-chemical, using the Mosquito Management Plan Template
- Victorian Deputy Chief Health Officer, Associate Professor Deborah Friedman - Human health

You can view the webinar recording here: [Victorian JEV Webinar – October 25 2022](#)

Although this is a Victorian based webinar, the Mosquito Management presentation by Geoff Pollock contains practical information relevant in every jurisdiction. Note: The practical mosquito management talk starts at 15:32 and question time starts at 40:44.

Geoff's main takeaways for practical mosquito control:

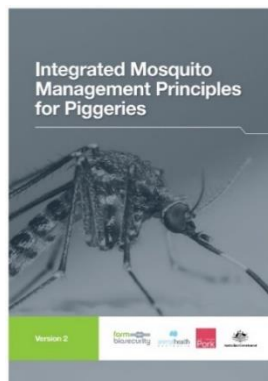
- The first line of defence is reducing vegetation and removing suitable breeding grounds for mosquitoes
- Larvicides can be used to effectively break mosquito generations
- Larvicide pellets have been useful as it is fairly easy to treat a large area quickly and they can be used in places where lying water cannot easily be eradicated (i.e., storage heaps, equipment, pig shed blinds, etc.)
- Larvicide pellets can be applied to areas that are known to hold water but are currently dry.
- Effluent ponds can also be treated with larvicides when required as identified through active larvae monitoring

- When using some larvicides, do not expect to see dead wigglers, rather larvicides work as an insect growth regulator and will not allow the formation of adult mosquitoes.
- When using insecticides for mosquitoes apply to external shed surfaces and surrounds concentrating on shaded areas, under eaves around the structure and entry points of the shed – mosquitoes will more commonly stay out of the heat.
- On properties which don't have vegetation barriers for insecticide application, a 'hessian barrier' may be used instead – keeping in mind mosquitoes like to linger on vegetation (ie. grass, trees, shrubbery)
- When using residual chemicals, it is important to remember:
  - Spray or drift must not come into contact with pigs EVER
  - Do not apply to surfaces where pigs may come into contact
  - Do not apply inside any shed or walkway
  - Do not apply to curtains or near cool cells
  - ALWAYS read the label and use accordingly

Backline products containing permethrin are available, however reducing the mosquito population is the best first line defence

Remember to refer to the [Farm Biosecurity](#) resources for:

- [Integrated Mosquito Management Principles for Piggeries](#) for best practice advice,
- [Mosquito management planning](#) guidance,
- [Mosquito monitoring](#) record keeping and
- [Videos](#) on how to monitor for mosquitoes on your property.



For Japanese Encephalitis information relevant to your jurisdiction, visit your state government agency via the links below:

- [Queensland](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

## Talking Grain – Price, availability, and quality issues this season

*Leah Starick – VIC Pig Health Project Officer*



Image: Rebekah Starick.

With the recent weather events delaying the start of the 2022/23 harvest in south-eastern Australia, it is time to consider grain price, availability, and quality issues this season.

### Price and availability

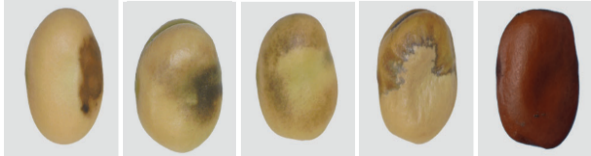
Rebekah Starick, South Australian Grain Marketer for Pinion Advisory, states 'the wet finish will likely see an increased supply of feed quality cereals (wheat and barley) into the market and lower prices associated with these feed grades.' Although buying these lower grades sounds like a great opportunity to save money, protein and digestible energy levels can be compromised. This may mean you have to spend money on expensive ingredients like meat meal or soyabean meal, to meet the dietary requirements of your pigs – a move which could end up costing you more in the long term.

According to Ms Rebekah Starick, 'ASW wheat is looking like a favourable cereal to include in pig diets this year. Although it is a low protein grade, it cannot be weather damaged and contain sprouted grains, so the digestible energy remains high compared to the lower, cheaper grades.'

In referring to pulses, Ms Rebekah Starick states 'wet weather will increase the marking potential on pulses, an undesirable characteristic for human consumption. This will cause more pulses to flow into the feed market.' This is a favourable shift as soybean meal may be supplemented with pulses to decrease feed costs but maintain diet specifications. Marking potential on Faba Beans causing down grades.

It is important to remember many pulses have limits to inclusion within pig feed mixes due to anti-nutritional factors and these differ between

production classes of pigs. For example, lupins, which are often utilised as a valuable protein and lysine source in pig diets, must have inclusion limits of no greater than 20 per cent for sows, gilts, and young growers, and 25-30 per cent for finishers.



Images property of Grain Trade Australia. Used with permission. The full Visual Recognition Standards Guide can be accessed [here](#).

### Run the numbers

Now is the perfect time to be working with your livestock nutritionist in determining optimal cost diets without compromising on feed quality. Ms Starick reminds all livestock producers that 'running the numbers with varying grain price, availability and quality scenarios will ensure you have a contingency plan in place, no matter the seasons outcome.'

### Develop a contract for quality confidence

Buying straight from the grower is a great way to establish grain sources within your region, however ensuring it meets your quality expectations is an important element of pig feed production. The best way to guarantee this is to develop a written contract with the grain grower. A helpful template is available on the [Grain Trade Australia \(GTA\) website](#) (Contract No.3).



Images property of Grain Trade Australia. Used with permission. The full Visual Recognition Standards Guide can be accessed [here](#).

### Watch for weed contaminants

Wet weather coming into harvest promotes the germination and growth of weeds contaminating the grain, some of which are toxic to pigs. Toxic weeds, such as Potato weed (Heliotrope), Salvation jane, and Bathurst burr, can interfere with digestion or severely lower nutrient intake, reducing growth, or lead to severe illness and potentially death.

To mitigate the risks of toxic weeds in your pig feed ensure you declare your tolerances for weed seeds on your contract with grain growers, inspect the grain as it arrives on farm to ensure it meets expectations, and where possible, clean the grain

before milling and mixing to remove potential contaminants. It is worth mentioning that under the GTA quality parameters, most grades of wheat and barley have a tolerance for common weeds. Inspect grain on arrival to your farm to ensure it meets expectations.



Image courtesy of Agriculture Victoria.

### Remember on-farm biosecurity

When bringing any grain, straw, or feedstuff onto your farm, remember biosecurity is key for the health of your pigs and the protection of your property. For more information see [PigBytes October 2021 Issue 49 – Purchased feed – is it safe for your pigs?](#)

### Truck rollovers and pigs

Jeremy Rogers – PIRSA

Vehicle accidents involving pigs do occur from time to time and are tragic for all concerned. The scale and complexity vary according to load size and location of the event, but the questions of "who is responsible", "who can help" are always the same from the responding emergency services. The first priority is human safety and health, followed by animal welfare concerns for trapped and injured animals, and finally disposal of dead animals and clearing of the scene.

In most cases truck rollovers occur on public roads and therefore the Incident is the responsibility of state police services, assisted by emergency services such as SES and Fire Services. These groups are usually looking for assistance with the animals for assessment and humane euthanasia where needed. Ideally this can be provided by stock owners, trained veterinarians or other specialists, such as RSPCA or State Government Department of Agriculture staff on occasions. In SA, the primary responsibility for animal welfare is provided by RSPCA, with Primary Industries and Regions, SA (PIRSA), assisting where needed and by request, but arrangements for responses vary between States.



Humane euthanasia of injured pigs can be difficult and responders to these incidents need appropriate equipment and some training. In addition, portable sheep yards are often needed to restrain uninjured pigs that are roaming from the accident site. Assessments of salvaged pigs, and collection and disposal of bodies in a timely manner also needs to be organised. This can often be achieved in cooperation with local emergency services who have local contacts.

## A pathway for emerging leaders

*Sara Willis – Queensland DAF*

The Australian Pork Emerging Leaders (APEL) Northern group came together for their last meeting of the year on 10 November at the Wellcamp Airport near Toowoomba. The day was packed with excellent presentations, an inspiring professional development session and a tour of the Regional Trade Distribution Centre. The group also had the opportunity to see the Gen3 Chevrolet Camaro and Ford Mustang on the tarmac, testing aerodynamic parity!

The APEL group includes a diverse mix of industry stakeholders including producers, farm staff, sales representatives, veterinarians, transporters, wholesalers and distributors. The range of interests provides an opportunity to share knowledge, provide each other with unique perspectives on industry issues and to build industry and supply chain connections. As usual, APEL members contributed to the agenda to build their confidence as presenters and also share their background, role, experiences, and aspirations with the group.



The professional development focus “Investing in my future” was presented by Ben Reeve, a Human Resources Consultant with Meridian Agriculture. Ben set the scene by discussing how training and development fit within the HR system and introduced the concept of conscious and unconscious learning. He guided the group through a personal development plan focusing on a skills audit, SWOT analysis and goal setting. The day finished with a discussion on a mentoring program for the group.

A highlight of the day was the tour of the Trade Distribution Centre which facilitates the export of chilled beef, pork, organic chicken, live fish (coral trout), dairy products, eggs, avocados, mangos, and other agricultural commodities. These products are air freighted into markets in Hong Kong, Korea, Tokyo, Jakarta and east Coast USA. The facility is regional Queensland’s largest fresh food exporting hub with a gross floor area of 4,000m<sup>2</sup>, including 1,500m<sup>2</sup> of state-of-the-art refrigerated storage, freezer rooms and covered external storage areas.



Overall, it was an excellent and highly informative day. It was a terrific opportunity for the group to get together to network and enjoy each other’s company. The group looks forward to seeing what next year holds for the pork industry’s emerging leaders.

To register interest in the Northern group, please [contact Sara Willis](#). To register interest in the Southern group, please [contact Rachael Bryant](#).

## Is that feral pig damage? In Victoria?

*Sam Armstrong – Victorian Feral Pig Coordinator*

In recent years Agriculture Victoria has received reports from farmers of feral pig damage and sightings in never-before-seen areas of Victoria. Long considered to be scarce in Victoria, many landholders are unaware of the extent of the spread of this pest and are not familiar with the environmental damage they do. Work by Victorian Feral Pig Coordinator, Sam Armstrong indicates that populations are now well established across the state.



### A feral pig tucking into HOGGONE in Victoria

Relying on sighting actual pigs is not an exact tool, so knowing what damage they produce in the environment is important.



### Recent feral pig damage in Victoria

Agriculture Victoria's Feral Pig Coordinator works with land managers and community groups to support coordinated, community-led action. This includes providing information and advice to assist affected landholders or community groups to manage feral pigs. The program has delivered community workshops across the state promoting cross-tenure management programs and helping

to improve feral pig management using the latest technology and tools available.

The Co-ordinator is also working with land managers to facilitate feral pig sample collection to link operational control with existing research. This program works closely with the National Feral Pig Coordinator to ensure that Victoria's management activities align with national frameworks.



Sam Armstrong, Victorian Feral Pig Coordinator collecting samples.

## Assistance for flood impacted producers

*Peta Easey, NSW DPI*

With widespread flooding across the east coast of Australia throughout 2022, producers may be interested in support available to them.

Each state and region will have a varied range of grants or assistance available for farmers. Flood support for primary producers is provided in different forms including:

- Financial support for primary producers in the immediate aftermath of a flood
- Health support including mental health and telehealth services
- Future resilience against floods for primary producers

Support packages can change regularly so it is important for producers to keep up to date with what is available to them. Below is a list (although not exhaustive) of Australian Government websites that may help producers locate support programs:

- [Business: Assistance for businesses affected by floods](#) website can guide producers to the available support packages in their state or territory.
- [Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry: Assistance measures](#) website provides an overview of the ongoing

assistance measures available to producers.

- [Recovery Connect](#) website allows farmers to search through available services, view details and contact information.

Some individual state websites have been outlined below to provide producers with direct access to information and support in their state.

Grant/Program Link	Amount
<b>VIC</b>	
<a href="#">Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grants</a>	≤\$75,000
<a href="#">Rural Landholder Grants</a>	≤\$25,000
<a href="#">Primary Producer Flood Recovery Transport Support</a>	≤\$15,000
<a href="#">Primary Producer Flood Recovery Concessional Loan</a>	≤\$250,000
<a href="#">Other Victorian flood support programs</a>	
<b>NSW</b>	
<a href="#">Special Disaster grants</a>	≤\$75,000
<a href="#">Critical Producer Grants</a>	≤\$50,000
<a href="#">Rural Landholder Grants</a>	≤\$25,000
<a href="#">Natural Disaster Transport Subsidy</a>	≤\$15,000
<a href="#">Disaster relief loans - Primary producers</a>	≤\$130,000
<a href="#">DPI Rural Recovery Support</a>	n/a
<a href="#">Other NSW flood support programs</a>	
<b>QLD</b>	
<a href="#">Rural Landholder Recovery Grant Scheme</a>	≤\$10,000
<a href="#">Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants</a>	≤\$50,000
<a href="#">Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants (x2)</a>	≤\$75,000
<a href="#">Sustainability Loans for primary producers</a>	≤\$1.3m
<a href="#">Other Qld flood support programs</a>	
<b>SA: South Australian support programs</b>	
<b>TAS: Tasmanian 2022 Flood Recovery Grants for Primary Producers</b>	
<b>WA: Western Australia's rural support services</b>	

## Plum and Ginger Glazed Christmas Ham

*Impress your guests this Christmas with a delicious, glazed ham - the perfect combination of sweet and smoky will have them going back for more!*

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 3 hours

Serves 10 people



### Ingredients

- 1 x 5-6 kg smoked ham on the bone
- 1 jar plum jam
- ½ cup lime juice
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
- Salt to season

### Method

1. Using a sharp knife, score the skin around the knuckle. Starting at the opposite end, lift the skin with your fingers and gently separate between the skin and the fat layer. Trim and score the ham fat in a diamond pattern.
2. Line a large baking tray with baking paper and place a wire rack on the tray to elevate the ham.
3. In a saucepan, mix together the plum jam, lime juice, mustard and ginger, gently heat to combine. Season to taste.
4. Generously brush ham with glaze, place uncovered ham into a pre-heated oven (140°C).
5. Baste the ham with glaze at 15 minutes intervals. Total cooking time – allow 30 minutes per kilo.
6. Allow the ham to rest for 10 -15 minutes before slicing.
7. Garnish the knuckle with herbs and a festive ribbon.

Sourced from Australian Pork Limited. For more easy and delicious pork recipes visit:

[www.pork.com.au](http://www.pork.com.au)

## Ag Labour Survey (NSW)

It is widely recognised primary industries are suffering from a chronic labour shortage leading to loss of production.

The NSW Agricultural Ministerial Advisory Group (AgMAG) is inviting all NSW farmers, including pig producers, to complete a survey to help establish labour needs across NSW agriculture.

This survey will provide some baseline data in relation to workforce needs including skills and accommodation gaps. It aims to help industry and government implement actions to address workforce needs across the primary industry sector.



The survey is anonymous and will take 5 -10 minutes to complete. Survey closes 23 December 2023 and results will be organised by postcode to map demand.

## Key Contacts

### NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI)

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### Agriculture Victoria

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### Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)

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