

## **Welfare Research Priorities**

**AWSC Farm Animal Research Planning Seminar.**

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**DPI Victoria**

**Attwood**

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# Research priorities

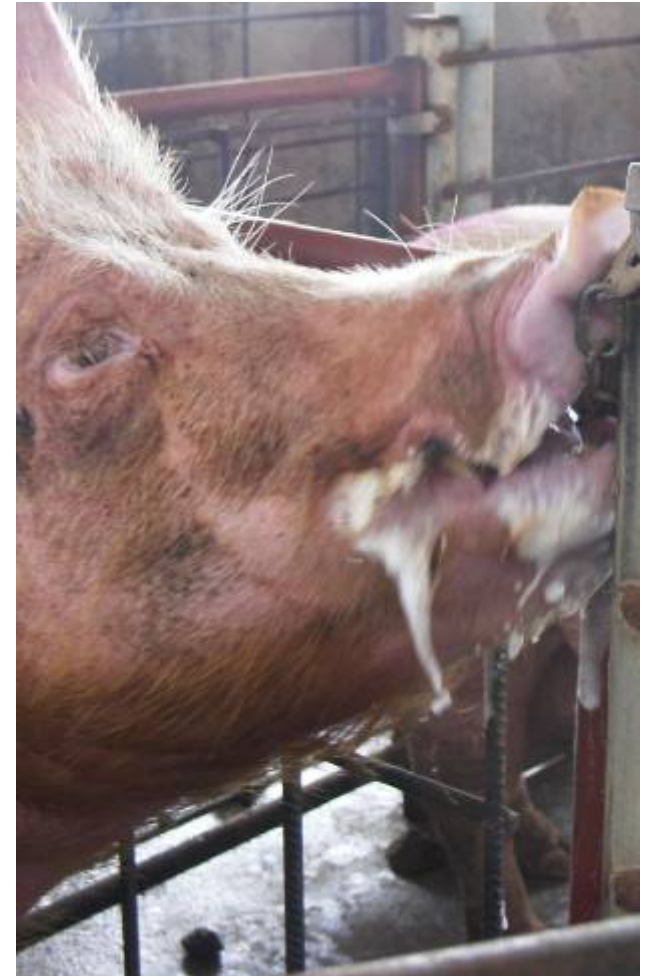


- APL has established specialist R&D groups
  - comprise people with relevant expertise including producers and various industry and research providers
  - recommend research priorities in areas relating to APL's strategic objectives
- Strategy 6-Managing risks for sustainability
  - Key program 1-Improving animal welfare practices and community relations
  - Key program 4-Improving communication, education and advocacy
- Specialist group 5 – Environment & Welfare
- Specialist groups report to Research and Development Advisory Committee

# APL's Welfare Research Priorities



- Assist the pork industry to develop and implement production systems that meet existing or anticipated welfare requirements
- Reduce the threat to the pork industry posed by community concern around animal welfare issues:
  - informing and balancing the animal welfare debate with science;
  - providing data on the animal care performance of Australia's pork industry.
- Provide data for decision makers on community attitudes and consumer response to welfare issues.



# APL's Welfare Research Priorities (contd)



To identify and develop

- Better understanding of pig behavior & welfare
- Improved systems of production management
- Real understanding of current production parameters
- New technologies to improve welfare and production
- Understanding with Community
- Effective communication to producers



# Key Outcomes -Current



- Validation of welfare research methodology
  - Covered in “Relationships b/w biological function and animal preferences”
- Assessment of alternatives for gestating sows
  - Covered in “The effects of group housing during gestation on sow welfare & reproduction”
- Effect of group housing during gestation on sow welfare and reproduction
  - Better understanding of critical parameters to optimise post-mating mixing of sows
  - Increased understanding of sow mobility and lameness in different production systems
  - Information to assist producers implement welfare code compliant gestating sow housing

# Key Outcomes -Current(contd.)



- Assessment on community attitude & consumer responses to animal welfare
  - Builds on previous work
  - Future focus welfare research
- Transport mortality & practices survey
  - Utilise Fit-to-Load program developed in WA



# Key Outcomes -Future

- Sow mortality and longevity
  - Important to understand what is happening in our Industry
- Technology feasibility for remote surveillance
  - Production implications beyond welfare
- Management of husbandry procedures
- Quantify effect of stockpeople on pigs
- Review alternatives to farrowing crates



# Summary



- APL maintains strong consultative relationship with consumers
  - Focus groups
  - Determining usage and attitudes
  - Keeping track of perceptions
- APL is committed to assisting the pork industry
  - To meet existing or anticipated welfare requirements
  - To balance the animal welfare debate with science







The End