NATIONAL Poultry NEWSPAPER

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ProTen CEO James Wentworth presenting the award to Hazeldenes.

Hazeldenes honoured with 2025 Safety Smart Broiler Chicken Farming Award

THE Australian Chicken Meat Federation was pleased to join ProTen at Hazeldenes' Melbourne office for the official presentation of the Safety Smart Broiler Chicken Farming Award 2025.

This award recognises outstanding commitment to workplace safety and leadership within the poultry industry, and Hazeldenes was a deserving recipient.

ProTen chief executive officer James Wentworth presented the trophy and a $5000 prize to Hazeldenes Chicken in recognition of its safety leadership workshops, which have delivered measurable improvements in on-farm safety and strengthened safety culture across the business.

These workshops were developed to move beyond compliance and create a proactive approach to risk management.

They focus on leadership accountability, hazard identification and practical strategies to reduce incidents, engaging both managers and frontline staff in meaningful dialogue about safety responsibilities.

This has included the introduction of a new key performance indicator known as the 'hazard reporting frequency rate' and 'safety walk and talks', translating workshop learnings into everyday practice and strengthening team-wide commitment to safety.

The results have been significant – Hazeldenes reported a marked reduction in lost-time injuries and

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EFA 2026 update and milestones

Egg Farmers of Australia

by MELINDA HASHIMOTO
CEO

WITH the commencement of 2026, it is timely to provide an update on Egg Farmers of Australia directors, alternative directors and the major activities planned for the year ahead.

As the national peak body representing the nation's egg farmers, EFA remains committed to strengthening collaboration across jurisdictions, amplifying our industry's voice and celebrating the achievements of our members.

In 2026, Egg Farmers of Australia will continue a program of visits to member states, working jointly with Australian Eggs and each state farming organisation's egg group, committee or council for our state dinners.

These visits have become an increasingly valued tradition that supports stronger relationships between state and national bodies.

These gatherings allow producers, leaders and stakeholders to exchange insights, discuss challenges and collectively shape the future direction of the industry.

In an era of increased regulatory expectations and ongoing biosecurity pressures, this unity of purpose is more important than ever.

This year also holds special significance, as Egg Farmers of Australia members and our founding members have been invited to join together to celebrate the organisation's 10-year anniversary.

This milestone is more than a marker of time, it symbolises a decade of collective resilience, advocacy and progress.

The formation of EFA brought together farmers from across the country with a shared commitment to ensuring their perspectives were represented at the national level.

Over the past decade, EFA has championed egg farming on key policy issues, strengthened government relations, improved transparency and ensured the industry's economic and social contributions were recognised.

Celebrating this anniversary acknowledges the determination of those who shaped EFA from its inception, while honouring the current generation of leaders and Gen Egg who continue to advance the sector.

It is an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come and to reaffirm our dedication to a strong and sustainable future.

In addition to these highlights, EFA plans to again hold an event for national World Egg Day celebrations in the final quarter of the year.

World Egg Day provides a powerful platform to illuminate the professionalism of our nation's egg farmers and the role our industry plays in delivering affordable high-quality protein to households across the nation.

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EFA organisation coordinator Kylie Jackson, CEO Melinda Hashimoto, Darren Letton, Brett Langfield, Kate Mason, Andy Crocker and Brian Ahmed.

Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

2026

JAN 27-29 – IPPE 2026, Atlanta, Georgia. https://www.ippexpo.org

FEB 9-11 – APSS 2026, Sydney, Australia. https://www.apss2026.com.au

APR 22-24 – International Conference on Poultry Intestinal Health, Istanbul, Türkiye. https://icpih.com

MAY 12-14 – Food with Purpose - PIX, AMC and APL event, Gold Coast, Australia. https://www.pix.au/conf26

JUL 10-13 – Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. https://www.poultryscience.org/opportunities/conferences

JUL 14-17 – World's Poultry Congress, Toronto, Canada. https://www.wpc2026toronto.com

JUL 28-30 – American Association of Aivan Pathologists Annual Meeting, Orlando, USA. https://www.aaap.info/future-annual-meetings

How to supply event details:
Send all details to National Poultry Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum Qld 4178, call 0450 672 553 or email design@collins.media

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ProTen, ACMF and the Hazeldenes team at the safety prize presentation.

Hazeldenes honoured with 2025 Safety Smart Broiler Chicken Farming Award

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an increase in hazard reporting, ensuring issues are addressed before they escalate.

These improvements not only protect workers but also enhance operational efficiency, demonstrating that safety leadership is integral to sustainable business practices.

During the presentation, ACMF and Hazeldenes discussed the broader implications of these initiatives for the poultry sector.

With complex operations involving machinery, biosecurity protocols and animal welfare considerations, the risk profile in broiler chicken farming is high.

Programs such as Hazeldenes' workshops show that embedding safety culture at every level of an organisation can deliver tangible benefits for both people and productivity.

The conversation also explored strategies to share best practice across the industry and build consistent safety benchmarks.

ACMF extends its thanks to the Hazeldenes executive team for hosting the event and for their commitment to safety excellence.

Safety is a shared responsibility and leadership and collaboration remain the cornerstones of a safer poultry industry.

Hazeldenes' achievement sets a powerful example for others in the sector, proving that when safety is prioritised, the benefits extend well beyond compliance.

ACMF

EFA 2026 update and milestones

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EFA is pleased to confirm the representatives serving in director and alternative director roles for 2026.

These individuals provide leadership, strategic insight and state-based perspectives essential to EFA's work and we thank them for their commitment and service to EFA and our members.

NSW/ACT
- Brett Langfield – Chair
- Peter Matuszny – Alternative Director

Queensland
- Andy Crocker – Director
- Candice Stower – Alternative Director

South Australia and Tasmania
- Darren Letton – Director
- Jonathan Attard – Alternative Director

Victoria
- Brian Ahmed – Director
- Tony Nesci – Alternative Director

Western Australia
- Kate Mason – Director
- Brianna Wilson – Alternative Director.

As EFA moves into 2026 with a renewed sense of purpose, we look forward to engaging with our members across Australia, celebrating our shared achievements and continuing to advocate proudly for the nation's egg farmers.

EFA CEO Melinda Hashimoto speaking at the Gen Egg breakfast.

Standing guard against a clear and present risk

Queensland United Egg Producers

by **CANDICE STOWER**
Executive Officer

IN November, we celebrated National Agriculture Day – recognising and celebrating the farmers and regional communities that sustain our economy and nourish our nation.

The theme was 'Stand with the land'.

As we embark into 2026, I think it's a great time to build this theme into yearly plans.

What does it mean?

To me, it means preserving your ability to produce food and fibre without unnecessary regulatory burden and cost, where wrap-around support, such as biosecurity, enables you.

It also means recognising that we each have a part to play in ensuring our industry remains robust.

This is especially resonant in 2026 as global animal health threats – including highly pathogenic avian influenza, commonly called bird flu – continue to evolve and threaten poultry industries around the world.

Across the US, avian influenza is not a distant headline but a current and active risk to the viability of poultry and egg sectors.

In December, a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza was detected in multiple locations across Texas, as migratory birds congregated for winter, prompting state wildlife officials to alert producers that the virus "poses a major threat" to poultry and egg production, and could affect the economic backbone of the sector if it spreads further.

This is more than an animal health issue – the consequences ripple into jobs, household budgets and consumer confidence.

In Texas, authorities have noted the threat to an industry that supports more than 3000 jobs and contributes over $1.1 billion to the state's economy.

Ongoing outbreaks in the US have previously driven egg prices to historic highs, as infected flocks were lost and supply tightened.

While the ecological and regulatory context in Australia is different, the lesson is unmistakable – HPAI remains a persistent and dynamic threat, driven by migratory pathways and wild bird reservoirs, and capable of inflicting significant harm if it gains a foothold in commercial flocks.

We cannot be complacent.

Queensland's producers already live with this reality.

Strong on-farm biosecurity is part of daily practice – from controlled access and hygiene protocols to surveillance and reporting systems.

These measures are not only industry best practice, they are fundamental to Australia's capacity to keep HPAI out of its commercial flocks and protect the livelihoods of producers and the food supply of consumers.

In Queensland, the Crisafulli Government's actions to build up this state's biosecurity capacity – including boosting field officer numbers and coordinating cross-government responses – align with what it takes to defend against incursions such as those unfolding in the US and elsewhere.

Strong biosecurity is preventative, not reactive.

It is the economic equivalent of infrastructure – invisible when it works and painfully obvious when gaps appear.

Standing with the land means respecting that prevention is far more effective than response after the fact.

It means resourcing biosecurity properly, backing producers with practical support and ensuring that policies reflect the evolving nature of global disease threats.

The experience in Texas in December underscores this reality.

As migratory birds carry highly pathogenic strains into new regions, the edge between keeping disease out and managing an outbreak can be narrow.

Producers who lose flocks to HPAI face not only animal welfare loss but also economic hardship that reverberates through regional communities.

Queensland's strong biosecurity posture is its best insurance against a similar scenario here.

As we start our journey into 2026, I would like to honour those who feed and sustain us.

Your resilience and determination have a tangible impact on consumers, the communities in which you operate and the economy overall.

I would also like to thank you for your vigilance in ensuring our industry remains HPAI-free.

If you are yet to register for the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries *Poultry Post* newsletter, take a look – it is a great resource tool for information.

Scan for the DAFF Poultry Post newsletter.

Across the US, avian influenza is a current and active risk to the viability of poultry and egg sectors. Photo: Mark Stebnicki

While the ecological and regulatory context in Australia is different, the lesson is unmistakable – HPAI remains a persistent and dynamic threat. Photo: Nate Biddle

Grantham State School students and PE teacher Gavin Smith.

Grantham State School students with Sarah Brischetto from Sunny Queen Australia and Lynda Inglis from Foodbank Queensland.

Foodbank Queensland and Sunny Queen Australia support regional communities

LAST November marked the fourth year of the Foodbank Queensland and Sunny Queen Australia regional roadshow – a much-loved initiative that brings breakfast, fun and vital support to regional schools and families.

The 2025 roadshow visited Grantham, Pittsworth and Millmerran, reinforcing the strong ties between Sunny Queen's farms and the communities that surround them.

For Sunny Queen Australia – Queensland's most well-known egg producers – the roadshow is more than a goodwill gesture, it's a celebration of connection, nourishment and resilience.

At Grantham State School and Pittsworth State School, more than 300 students were treated to a hearty breakfast of egg and bacon sandwiches, served fresh by the Sunny Queen and Foodbank teams.

The schools also received donations of stationery and craft supplies, collected through a community drive led by Sunny Queen's head office staff, ensuring classrooms start the new year with an extra boost.

Sunny Queen Australia's general manager marketing, innovation and sustainability Isabelle Dench said the roadshow reflects the company's deep local roots.

"We're thrilled to be back on the road with Foodbank Queensland for the fourth year running," Ms Dench said.

"It's a rewarding opportunity to connect with families and schools in the heart of our farming communities, and to give back in a way that reflects our deep local roots."

The event wasn't only about food, it was also about fun and engagement.

Students joined in egg-and-spoon races, adding plenty of laughter to the mornings.

Families joined the school breakfasts too, helping build genuine community connections.

As part of the visit, the Sunny Queen and Foodbank teams distributed 200 'food for kids' hampers to local families.

Each hamper, valued at over $50, contained pantry staples such as pasta, rice, tuna, pasta sauce, UHT milk, muesli bars and cereal.

These essentials provide much-needed relief during the school holidays, when regular

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Pittsworth State School students and teachers with Sarah Brischetto and Isabelle Dench from Sunny Queen Australia, principal Lars de Gier and Lynda Inglis from Foodbank Queensland.

Stationery and craft supplies and a donation to Grantham State School, with students, Tara Day-Williams from Foodbank Queensland, school principal Rebecca Cavanagh and Sarah Brischetto from Sunny Queen Australia.

Grantham State School Chappy Matt, Sarah Brischetto from Sunny Queen Australia, Tara Day-Williams and Ben Brogan from Foodbank Queensland.

Foodbank Queensland and Sunny Queen Australia support regional communities

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school breakfast programs are paused.

Foodbank Queensland chief executive officer Jess Watkinson emphasised the importance of the hampers.

"These hampers can make a real difference for families who are facing food insecurity," Ms Watkinson said.

"We're proud to partner with Sunny Queen Australia to deliver food relief and community support where it's needed most."

The need for such support is growing.

The Foodbank Hunger Report 2025 revealed that food insecurity in regional Queensland is worsening, with 24 percent of households experiencing severe food insecurity in the past year, up from 20 percent the previous year.

For many families, initiatives such as the roadshow provide not only immediate relief but also reassurance that their communities are supported.

Sunny Queen Australia's commitment to fighting hunger is long-standing.

For nearly 25 years, the company has donated eggs and egg protein products to Foodbank Queensland.

Since 2019, Sunny Queen has been an impact partner, formalising its dedication to addressing food insecurity across the state.

This partnership reflects a shared purpose – ensuring nutritious food reaches those who need it most, particularly in regional, rural and remote communities.

The roadshow also highlighted the unique role poultry producers play in community wellbeing.

Eggs – one of the most versatile and affordable sources of protein – remain a cornerstone of the Australian diet, packed with essential vitamins and minerals.

For growing children, the benefits of eggs are particularly significant.

Eggs provide the sustained energy needed to focus in the classroom and thrive throughout the day.

For the students, families and teachers who joined in, the roadshow was a reminder of the power of community partnerships.

For Sunny Queen Australia and Foodbank Queensland, it was another step in a journey of service, one that continues to grow in importance as food insecurity challenges deepen.

The roadshow has left a lasting impression – hundreds of children started their day with a nutritious breakfast, families received hampers to ease the weeks ahead and communities enjoyed a dose of joy and connection.

Foodbank Queensland and Sunny Queen Australia

Free range can be a tough term.

Deciding how much to shell out and what to buy can be confusing for consumers.

Farmers' markets are often a good source of eggs if looking for free range or pasture raised.

Don't chicken out for welfare's sake

Cant Comment

by **BRENDON CANT**

THOUGH this January column was written and submitted in December to meet publishing deadlines, I had already developed a wish list for 2026 that I'll share with you now.

I implore consumers to seek out higher welfare eggs and meat chickens whenever and wherever possible.

While I acknowledge such choices often come with higher costs, it is a worthy investment – not only in animal welfare but in support for those farmers who so courageously choose to produce food that way.

To shop discerningly, consumers must first be aware of the extent of confusion they must take a deep dive into before they even buy.

The most abused and confused industry term for poultry – and pigs for that matter – is 'free range'.

While it cleverly conjures up attractive and alluring images of chickens roaming freely on open ground, it may well be far from the truth.

Such branded eggs and chickens may have seen the light of day for a short time but they were unlikely to have been free to range at will.

For shoppers, deciding which label to trust – such as 'RSPCA Approved' versus only 'free range' or 'organic' – can be confusing, as standards differ significantly, even if all promise outdoor access.

Worth noting is that with 'RSPCA Approved Free Range' for example, all birds must be able to access the range during the day for a minimum of eight hours.

Further, 30 percent of the length of the shed on each side must open or 50 percent on one side.

There are also minimum requirements for design, number and positioning of openings.

The outdoor area must be designed and managed to encourage birds to go outside, including providing palatable vegetation and 12sq m of overhead shade per 1000 birds.

Personally, I'm a fan of pasture-raised chickens and eggs and Allington Farm at Tenterden in Western Australia's Great Southern region is simply a great representation of how this increasingly adopted farming practice works.

Below the very committed hard-working Allington farmers Travis and Zoe take up the story – edited for this publication.

Our pasture-raised chickens get to live the majority of their lives outside, free to forage on pastures, bugs and seeds and roam freely outside all year round.

We provide mobile as well as natural shelter for them to be able to seek shade or protection from the elements when they need.

We move their shelters daily, so they do not impact the ground too heavily and to ensure they are given fresh pasture to enjoy and benefit from.

We believe there is a great need for chickens to be raised outside on pasture rather than the alternative conventional option, where chickens are housed in large sheds of up to 50,000 birds per shed.

In these settings, chickens have limited to no access to the outside.

This system is highly stressful on the animals, does not give them much room to move around and then they are usually processed at five weeks of age.

We also have a nose to tail ethos, with minimum wastage on all parts of our animals.

As well as the traditional cuts of chicken and whole chickens we have on offer, we also have feet, livers, hearts, necks and frames available.

Our chickens are harvested by hand, cold-chilled in an ice bath and are never treated with bleach or chlorine.

Our chickens are raised in small batches of up to 700 chickens and only spend the first 3-4 weeks of their lives inside the brooder until they are big, strong and fully feathered.

After this, we move them to their new home outside to a fresh paddock.

Our chickens are then moved on a regular basis, so they constantly have access to fresh pasture and can positively impact soil and pasture health.

Raising animals in this way is not only better for animal welfare, we are also regenerating the soil and improving pasture quality and health by adding natural fertiliser from the chickens' manure.

Similar to our pasture-raised meat chickens, our pasture-raised hens get to enjoy their best lives living outside on pasture.

With unrestricted access to our mobile chicken caravans that we regularly move around the farm, providing shelter for them and a place for them to roost at night, these also feature as their nesting space.

Our hens add a brilliant element to the farm as during their time scratching and foraging in the pasture, they turn the soil over naturally and add their wonderful manure as fertiliser.

They live on spray-free pasture and the eggs they produce feature the most incredible orange yolks that are full of the best proteins.

They are also part of our stock rotation and often follow our grazing animals to improve the pastures.

According to research, pasture-raised eggs have double the amount of Vitamin E and long-chain omega fats than eggs from conventionally raised hens.

So not only are the eggs coming from hens that live a better life and are doing wonderful things for the soil, they are so much better for you too.

The hens at Allington Family Farm live on pasture with less than 100 hens per hectare and all of our eggs are hand collected and packaged by us.

We do not use any commercial sorting or packing facilities, this is all done by hand – so you may notice that our eggs are sold as 'mixed size' due to this.

All this means is you'll have a range of different sized eggs.

You may find a huge double yolker or slightly smaller egg in your dozen but we believe this is simply representative of how eggs are naturally.

Surely natural production is best, especially when coupled with high welfare considerations?

Japan confirms AI outbreak in Kyoto

IN late December, Japan's agriculture ministry said that genetic testing had confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza at a farm in Kyoto Prefecture, marking the ninth bird flu outbreak in the country this season.

According to a statement released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the outbreak occurred at a poultry farm in Kameoka City, Kyoto Prefecture, which raises approximately 280,000 egg-laying chickens.

Local authorities received a report on the Tuesday and conducted a rapid avian influenza test on the farm's chickens the same day, with the results coming back positive.

Genetic testing carried out on the Wednesday confirmed infection with the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus.

In accordance with relevant guidelines, all chickens at the farm were culled, incinerated and buried.

Additionally, farms within a 3km radius were banned from moving chickens and eggs, while others located within a radius of 3-10km cannot transport poultry products outside the area.

Disinfection efforts around the farm have been strengthened to prevent further spread of the virus and an epidemiological investigation team has been dispatched, with experts from the ministry to be sent if necessary.

Japan's avian influenza season typically runs from autumn until the following spring.

The previous eight outbreaks this season have already led to the culling of nearly 2.4 million chickens.

The country's first case was confirmed in the northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido on October 22.

Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, is a type of zoonotic (or animal) influenza that affects wild birds and poultry and is caused by virus sub-types A(H5N1), A(H9N2).

Avian influenza has occasionally infected humans, however it does not easily transmit between humans.

The majority of human cases of avian influenza have been associated with direct or indirect contact with infected live or dead poultry.

Outbreak of avian influenza at poultry farm in Kyoto Japan, with 280,000 egg-laying chickens. Photo: Caio Pezzo

Clean sheds fast with Aussie Muck Off series

AUSSIE Pumps is a major support to livestock of all types, including poultry.

This innovative Australian company continues through a serious program of product development based on perceived market requirements.

Aussie Pump chief engineer John Hales said, "That's certainly the way we see the poultry industry."

"The requirement for shed cleaning is for reliable high-volume flow machines with high-pressure capabilities as well."

The latest offering from Aussie Pumps is the relaunch of the Aussie Muck Off series of high-flow pressure cleaning equipment.

Powered by Honda electric start petrol or Yanmar diesel engines, the machines offer a range of high flows from 75LPM to a whopping 125LPM flow.

"That combination of high flow and 40 bar (568 PSI) delivers just what you need for cleaning out sheds with what we call the 'wash and flush' concept," Mr Hales said.

Aussie Pumps is Australia's leading manufacturer of high-pressure water-blasting equipment and is used to building machines of up to 500 bar.

"Our major business is building world-class pressure cleaners, not just for Australia and the South Pacific, but for export around the world," Mr Hales said.

"Those machines are up to 500 bar (700 PSI) but with maximum flows of around 125LPM."

The 125LPM Aussie Muck Off is a completely new idea – the machine is built into an elegant stainless-steel trolley frame with four big steel wheels and flat-free tyres.

"The heart of the machine is a Udor 40 bar diaphragm pump that delivers both substantial flow and pressure combination," Mr Hales said.

"That's perfect for livestock waste clean-up applications."

We are also getting a lot of interest in the addition of a hose reel with 30m of 3/4 single-wire braid hose.

We match that with a turbine 'Tommy gun' kit that makes the operator control the job by manipulation of the adjustable jet through an integrated valve.

The pork industry is also showing interest, and more recently from farmers and operators of stock crates.

"You can imagine the clean-up of a B-double after it's carted 500 or 600 sheep for an extended trip," Mr Hales said.

For further information on the Aussie Muck Off, contact Aussie Pumps dealers throughout Australia or visit our website, aussiepumps.com.au

For Aussie's free high pressure safety program, scan the QR code below.

Aussie Pumps

Aussie Pumps relaunched the Aussie Muck Off.

APSS 2026 Invited Speakers

February 9-11, 2026
University of Sydney Business School

Introducing the invited speakers for the 37th Australian Poultry Science Symposium

THE Australian Poultry Science Symposium is the premier avian science conference in Australasia and attracts delegates from across the country and around the world.
The symposium is renowned for is vast array of industry relevant science and for the excellent opportunities it affords the next generation of poultry scientists.
The central theme of APSS 2026 will be 'Poultry production through a futuristic lens'.
As always, the symposium will showcase an exceptional line-up of local and international speakers – as outlined below – carefully selected by the organising committee to share their expert insights on the most pressing and forward-thinking topics in the poultry industry.
Held from February 9-11, the program is available at apss.sydney.edu.au/program
For more information or to register, visit www.apss2026.com.au

Professor Richard Ducatelle – Ghent University, Belgium

Graduating as a veterinarian from Ghent University in Belgium in 1978, Emeritus Professor Richard Ducatelle went on to complete a PhD in veterinary pathology in 1983. From 1984 to 1989 he served as a scientific advisor to the Belgian Government, before being appointed professor of veterinary pathology at Ghent University in 1989, a position he held until 2020. He was also a member of the university's board of directors between 2008 and 2020.
He is a diplomat of both the European College of Veterinary Pathologists and the European College of Poultry Veterinary Science, president of the Belgian branch of the World Veterinary Poultry Association (since 1991) and past-president of the European Society of Veterinary Pathology. Over his career, he authored or co-authored more than 700 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 400 conference abstracts and delivered over 200 invited presentations at national and international congresses.
His research has focused primarily on gut health and the interactions between microbial pathogens and animal hosts. In poultry, his work addressed necrotic enteritis, dysbacteriosis and salmonella, while in swine he investigated gastric ulcers and helicobacter infections. Beyond his own research, he has mentored more than 30 PhD students, leaving a lasting impact on veterinary pathology and animal health science.

Professor Tina Widowski – University of Guelph, Canada

Professor Tina Widowski is a professor of animal biosciences at the University of Guelph in Canada. With over 35 years experience, she has focused her research on how housing and management practices influence the behaviour, health and welfare of farm animals, particularly pigs and poultry. Her work spans a wide range of topics – from fundamental research on nesting motivation and dustbathing to applied studies aimed at improving the transportation of pigs to slaughter and finding the best methods for euthanising compromised animals on farms.
In 2011, she was appointed the Egg Farmers of Canada research chair in poultry welfare. Since then, her research team has concentrated primarily on the housing and management of growing pullets and laying hens. Her partnership with the Canadian egg industry has allowed her and her students to conduct research on commercial farms and present their findings directly to farmers, facilitating the practical application of their results.
Over her career, she has supervised over 60 masters and 12 PhD students. She has published more than 200 scientific papers and book chapters. She has served on various scientific advisory committees, including the National Farm Animal Care Council (Canada) and scientific committees for pigs, turkeys, broilers, breeders and laying hens. She is also a member of the United Egg Producers Scientists Committee on Animal Welfare in the US.

Professor Mike Persia – Virginia Tech, USA

Professor Mike Persia is currently the John W Hancock professor in the School of Animal Sciences at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia in the US, where he focuses on applied poultry nutrition research, extension and teaching. He earned his BS degree from Penn State University, a MS degree from Ohio State University and his PhD from University of Illinois. After graduation, he started a professional career with Syngenta Biotechnology Inc and in 2009 joined the Faculty at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa as an Assistant Professor (research/teaching). In 2013, he moved to Virginia Tech and assumed a three-way appointment adding extension to his responsibilities.
He has been active within the scientific community, including serving on the executive board for the Southern Poultry Science Society, director for the Poultry Science Association, program chair for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and as a co-editor for the nutrition section of the *Applied Journal of Poultry Research*. He has also held leadership roles including on the board of the National Egg Quality School, co-chairing the Virginia Poultry Health and Management Seminar and the Virginia Egg Council, Virginia Poultry Federation and the Virginia Poultry Disease Task Force. He is currently serving on the National Research Council committee to generate the tenth edition of the *Nutrient Requirements for Poultry*.

Professor Aaron Cowieson – dsm-firmenich, Scotland

Professor Aaron Cowieson hails originally from Scotland, having read for his PhD at the University of Aberdeen, completing in 2001.
From 2001-2010, he worked for two major biotechnology businesses where his research focus was feed enzymes, ingredient quality and amino acid and mineral nutrition of poultry.
From 2010-2013, he was Associate Professor of Poultry Nutrition and director of the Poultry Research Foundation within the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, Australia.
Currently, he is Senior Science Fellow at dsm-firmenich.
He has published more than 350 scientific articles, including more than 200 in peer-reviewed journals.
He was the 2016 recipient of the Poultry Nutrition Research Award from the American Feed Industry Association and the 2019 recipient of the Life Mentor Award by the Poultry Science Association.
In addition to his role with dsm-firmenich, he is retained as Adjunct Professor of Animal Science at Purdue University in the US and Honorary Governor of the Poultry Research Foundation at the University of Sydney.

APSS 2026 Invited Speakers

February 9-11, 2026
University of Sydney Business School

Dr Neamat ElTazi – PoultrySync, Egypt

Dr Neamat ElTazi is co-founder and chief operating officer of PoultrySync, an agri-tech software platform transforming poultry production worldwide through artificial intelligence and machine learning.

With over 20 years experience in digital transformation across various industries – the past eight dedicated specifically to the poultry sector – she brings a rare combination of deep technical expertise and operational insight to the agriculture technology space.

She leads strategy, operations and product execution at PoultrySync, ensuring data-driven decision-making is accessible, actionable and impactful for poultry producers globally. Her work helps bridge the gap between traditional farming practices and real-time predictive management tools that improve productivity, welfare and sustainability.

Additionally, she serves as an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Cairo University. Her academic research spans AI, data mining and advanced decision support systems. A sought-after speaker at global forums, including the World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit and Animal AgTech Summit in Amsterdam, she shares applied insights on AI adoption in livestock production. She was named a 'Woman in Ag' by EuroTier in 2024 and has worked with leading organisations, including the World Bank.

Dr Peta Taylor – University of Melbourne, Australia

Dr Peta Taylor is a lecturer in animal science at the University of Melbourne, and an animal welfare scientist with the Animal Welfare Science Centre. Her research focuses on the behaviour, cognition and welfare of commercial poultry, with particular interest in how individual birds interact with their environments.

Peta holds a PhD in animal science from the University of Melbourne and a master of science in neuroscience from the University of New England. Her work has informed welfare improvements in meat chickens, laying hens and breeders, particularly in the areas of environmental enrichment, transport and handling and positive welfare assessment.

She is a member of the Victorian Minister for Agriculture's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, serves as the University of Melbourne representative on the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare link network and represents Australia on the international LIFT Positive Animal Welfare Network. She is also the senior editor for the International Society for Applied Ethology, supporting the global community of researchers in animal behaviour and welfare.

She works closely with industry, government and advocacy bodies to ensure her research delivers practical science-based improvements in animal welfare. Her contributions span both fundamental research and applied outcomes, with a strong focus on enhancing the lives of animals in commercial systems.

Professor Kirsty Short – University of Queensland, Australia

Professor Kirsty Short completed her PhD in 2013 at the University of Melbourne investigating influenza virus-bacterial co-infections. In 2013, she was awarded a prestigious NHMRC CJ Martin Early Career Fellowship to study severe influenza infections. The overseas portion of this work was performed in the Netherlands at the world-renowned Erasmus Medical Centre. At the end of 2015, she relocated to the University of Queensland to complete the remaining portion of the fellowship on influenza virus pathogenesis. In 2017/2018 Kirsty was awarded an ARC DECRA to start her own independent research groups at the University of Queensland's School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences. Her research on influenza and COVID-19 falls into the broader body of research investigating the role of host susceptibility factors on viral disease, pandemic preparedness and anti-viral immunity. Kirsty's work also plays an important role in shaping public policy. She participated as a member of the Group of Eight panel advising the Australian Government on their response to COVID-19. She also co-wrote the Rapid Research Information Forum 'What are the determinants of morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19 and are there differences between sexes?' for the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Government. The impact of her work in pandemic preparedness is further reflected by her research being cited over 550 times in 2020 alone.

Professor Mike Kidd – University of Arkansas, USA

Professor Michael Kidd has bachelor and masters degrees from the University of Arkansas.

His doctorate is from North Carolina State University.

Post PhD, he worked for Nutri-Quest/BioKyowa for five years as a global research manager and director.

Next, he served as faculty at Mississippi State University for 10 years and as department head his last three years at Mississippi State University.

He then moved to the University of Arkansas and directed the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science for 10 years.

He is now in his fifth year of returning to faculty and holds the Adisseo Endowed Professorship in Global Sustainable Poultry Nutrition.

He is a Fellow and past president of the Poultry Science Association.

He also serves as Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Dr Mehdi Toghyani – University of Sydney, Australia

Dr Mehdi Toghyani is a senior research fellow at the University of Sydney.

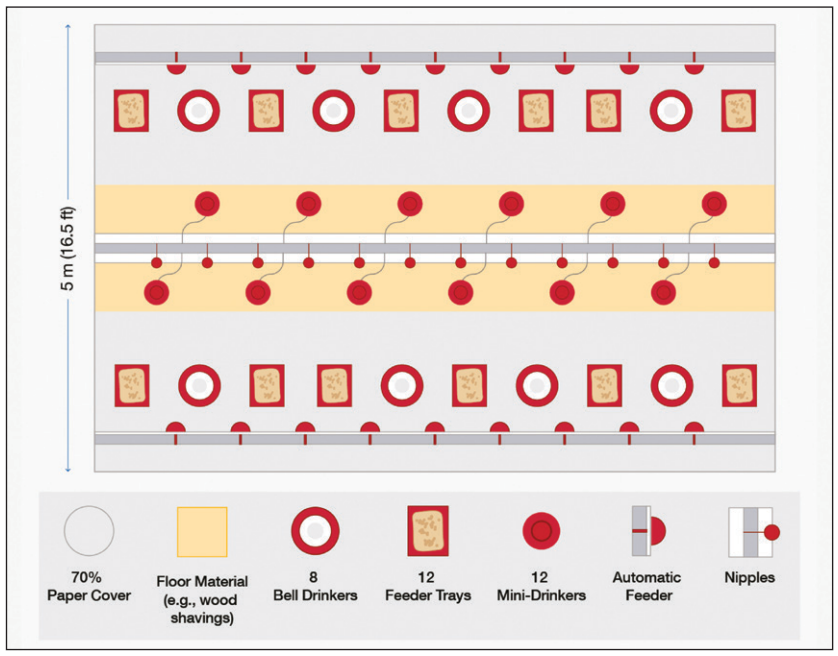
He is a highly skilled and methodical animal nutritionist with proven competence in both academic and commercial settings, with over 13 years experience in poultry nutrition research and practical feed formulation for layers and meat-chickens.

He has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific communications.

His main areas of research and interests are amino acid and energy requirements, alternative feed ingredients, trace minerals nutrition and developing nutritional strategies to improve the efficiency and sustainability of poultry production.

Australian Poultry Science Symposium - www.apss2026.com.au

Good house cleaning practices. Power washing the house (most effective with hot water; left), testing the house for bacterial contamination (top right) and disinfecting the exterior with lime (bottom right).



Typical layout of a whole-house brooding system (1000 chicks).

Area	Action	Yes/No?
Internal Bird Areas	Has a visual assessment been carried out to identify any missed areas?	
	Has cleaning, disinfection, and final fumigation of internal bird areas and equipment been completed?	
	Have the results on the efficacy of the process been received (total viable count [TVC]/*Salmonella*)?	
	Have waste materials from the cleaning and disinfection process been disposed of appropriately?	
External Farm Area	Have external building surfaces been cleaned and disinfected?	
	Have external concrete walkways been washed with a pressure washer using hot water?	
	Has the grass/vegetation within the perimeter of the farm area been cut back to prevent rodent nesting?	
Farm Office/ Amenity Buildings	Have farm office/amenity buildings been washed, cleaned, and disinfected? Is any waste appropriately disposed of?	
Rodent Control Program	Has a check been completed for rodent activity?	
	Have rodent control stations been re-baited?	
Equipment	Has farm equipment been cleaned and disinfected?	
	Has the feed system been cleaned and disinfected?	
	Has the water system been cleaned, disinfected, and flushed?	
	Has spare farm equipment been placed in suitable on-site storage or removed?	
Protective Clothing	Has all clothing worn in the bird areas been laundered?	
	Have rubber boots been washed and disinfected?	
Farm Hygiene	Are there boot changes or boot covers available?	
	Have foot baths been refreshed using an appropriate chemical and dilution rate?	
	Is access to the farm restricted?	
	Are appropriate visitor protocols in place (e.g., visitors log book)?	

A checklist of cleaning and disinfection procedures before chick placement.

A guide for farm preparation, chick quality, placement, behaviour, brooding setup and chick start assessment

THE following is an edited and abbreviated version of Aviagen's *Broiler Management Handbook 2025*, Section 2: Chick Management.

Introduction and principles

To ensure optimal growth, uniformity, welfare and meat quality in broiler chickens, early chick management must focus on the early adoption of feeding and drinking behaviours.

It is important to minimise the time between hatching and placement, providing immediate access to feed and water, and maintaining ideal brooding conditions.

Though newly hatched chicks rely initially on their yolk sac for nutrients and immunity, swift transition to external feeding is critical.

A well-managed early environment that covers temperature, humidity, air quality and litter supports healthy physiological development.

Successful early management should produce a seven-day body weight that is at least four and a half times the chick's hatch weight, a benchmark consistently linked to improved flock performance and reduced early mortality.

Chick quality and broiler performance

Optimal broiler performance and profitability depend on delivering high-quality chicks and managing them effectively from hatch to placement.

Chick quality is influenced by parent stock health, nutrition and incubation practices, together with sufficient planning to ensure appropriate delivery and readiness of the brooding environment.

Ideally, chicks from parent flocks of similar age should be placed together to minimise performance variation, chicks from younger flocks may require higher brooding temperatures and additional support.

Transport of chicks and quality check

The transport system must maintain appropriate temperature, humidity, ventilation and carbon dioxide levels to prevent stress and maintain chick quality.

A good-quality chick is active, well-formed and has a healed navel and retracted yolk sac.

Proper early nutrition and brooding management enable chicks to reach target weights uniformly.

Any deviation in chick quality should prompt immediate feedback to the hatchery, as issues during holding, transport or placement can exacerbate underlying problems.

Farm preparation and biosecurity

Farm and house preparation is critical for broiler health, welfare and performance.

An 'all-in/all-out' system where birds are single age allows for more effective cleaning, vaccination and disease control.

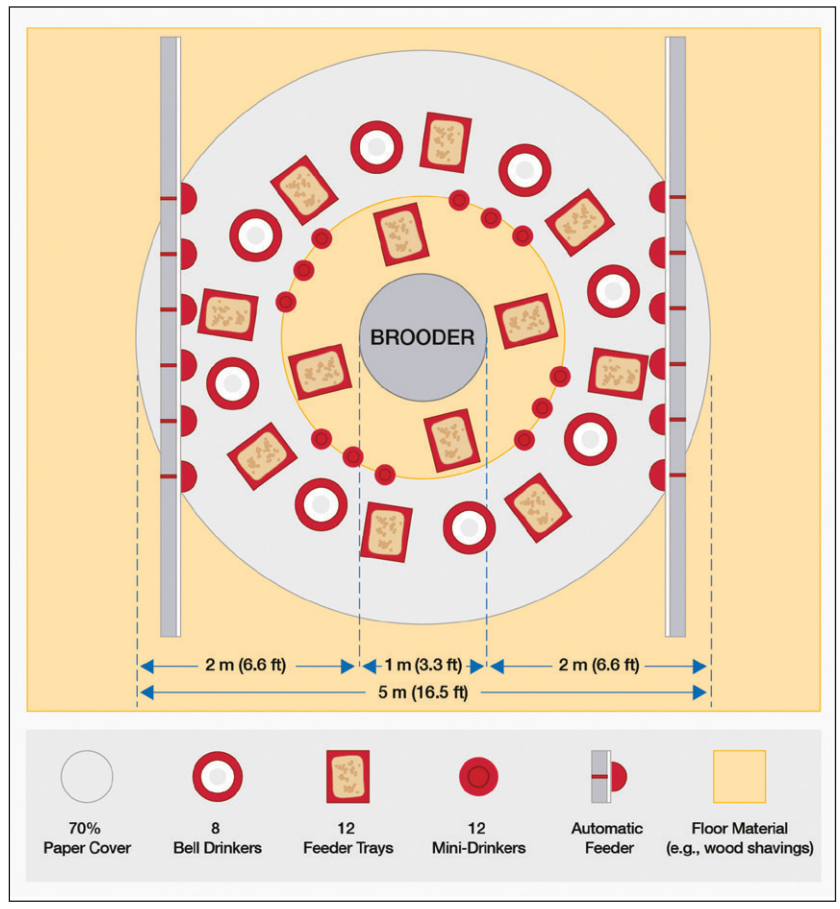
Thorough cleaning and disinfection of housing, equipment and surrounding areas must be completed and verified at least 24 hours before chick arrival.

Entry protocols, such as vehicle and visitor disinfection, are essential to prevent pathogen introduction.

House preparation and layout

Chicks are unable to regulate body temperature in the first

☛ continued P11



Example of a typical spot brooding layout (1000 chicks).

A guide for farm preparation, chick quality, placement, behaviour, brooding setup and chick start assessment

☛ from P10

days and therefore require preheated stable environments with recommended floor (28-30C), air (30-32C) and litter (28-32C) temperatures and 60-70 percent relative humidity.

Litter should be evenly spread (2-4cm depth) to ensure easy access to feed and water.

Clean and appropriately warmed water (18-21C) must be available from well-maintained drinkers, with flushing to maintain flow and hygiene.

Feed should be offered in crumble form on trays or paper covering 70 percent of the brooding area to encourage intake, and chicks should not have to travel more than 2m to reach it.

Lighting should be maintained for 23 hours after placement with 30-40 lux intensity, gradually transitioning to 4-6 hours of darkness by day seven.

Brooding rings should be expanded gradually and removed based on conditions and housing type.

Where partial brooding is used, automated systems in unoccupied areas must be ready before expanding chick access to ensure seamless transition and feed freshness.

Brooding setup

Broiler chick brooding commonly employs two temperature control systems – whole-house and spot brooding.

In whole-house brooding, a large centralised heat source warms the entire house uniformly, limiting chicks' ability to choose their preferred temperature zone.

Though only part of the house may be used initially, full-house heating is necessary to encourage chick movement before full release around day seven.

Energy-efficient heat exchangers are increasingly used in this setup.

Spot brooding uses localised heat sources – for example, radiant or canopy heaters – allowing chicks to move toward or away from heat, enabling self-regulation of body temperature.

Brooding rings may be used early on to manage movement.

Typical density is 40 chicks/sq m, with equipment scaled to match chick numbers and heating capacity.

Spot brooding creates temperature gradients, requiring careful placement of brooders per manufacturer specifications.

Other methods include underfloor heating, hatch-brooding and hot water systems, all of which must be managed per manufacturer instructions and chick behaviour.

Regardless of system, consistent temperature and humidity, and early stimulation of feeding and activity are all vital for optimal broiler development.

Chick placement and environmental control

Before chicks arrive, ensure feed and water are properly distributed.

Upon delivery, chicks must be placed promptly and gently onto paper to avoid stress, dehydration and impaired growth.

Allow 1-2 hours for acclimation, followed by checks for feed and water access, and appropriate environmental conditions.

Adjustments should be guided by chick behaviour, crop fill and vent temperature.

Optimal relative humidity – ideally 60-70 percent – for the first three days reduces dehydration risk.

Spot brooding systems naturally support higher RH, while whole-house brooding may require active humidity control.

Low RH (<50 percent) can lead to dehydration and respiratory issues – it can be increased with foggers or manual misting.

From day seven, RH should decrease to prevent wet litter.

Temperature and RH interact to influence chicks' perceived (apparent) temperature.

High RH raises apparent temperature, while low RH lowers it.

Therefore, environmental adjustments must consider both RH and dry bulb temperature, always ensuring proper minimum ventilation to maintain air quality and moisture balance.

Ventilation is essential during brooding to manage temperature, RH and air quality.

It must avoid drafts, especially for young chicks with high surface area-to-volume ratios, which are more vulnerable to heat loss.

Air speeds at chick level should not exceed 0.15m/s.

Monitoring is critical – temperature and RH should be recorded at least twice daily during the first five days.

Sensors must be placed at chick level, evenly distributed and positioned away from heat sources and airflow inlets.

Their accuracy should be regularly cross-checked with conventional thermometers and recalibrated each flock.

Proper environmental control supports welfare, uniformity,

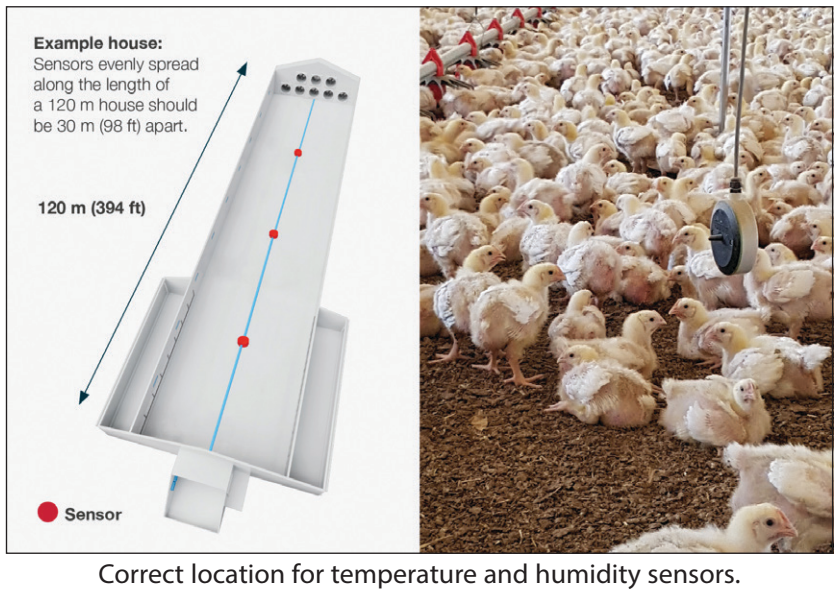
☛ continued P12

Body Weight g (lb)	House Environment Temperature °C (°F)	Spot Brooding Temperature °C (°F)	
		Brooder Edge (A)	2 m (6.6 ft) from Brooder Edge (B)
44 (0.10)	30 (86.0)	32 (89.6)	29 (84.2)
100 (0.22)	28 (82.4)	30 (86.0)	27 (80.6)
180 (0.40)	27 (80.6)	28 (82.4)	25 (77.0)
290 (0.64)	26 (78.8)	27 (80.6)	25 (77.0)
425 (0.94)	25 (77.0)	26 (78.8)	25 (77.0)
590 (1.30)	24 (75.2)	25 (77.0)	
790 (1.74)	23 (73.4)	24 (75.2)	
1015 (2.24)	22 (71.6)	23 (73.4)	
1260 (2.78)	21 (69.8)	21 (69.8)	
>1530 (3.37)	20 (68.0)	20 (68.0)	

Broiler house temperatures. After 27 days of age, the temperature should remain at 20C (68F) or be altered based on bird behaviour. The temperatures indicated are based on a RH of 60-70 percent up to three days of age and an RH of 50 percent after that.

Body Weight g (lb)	Dry Bulb Temperature °C (°F)			
	40 RH%	50 RH%	60 RH%	70 RH%
44 (0.10)	36.0 (96.8)	33.2 (91.8)	30.8 (87.4)	29.2 (84.6)
100 (0.22)	33.7 (92.7)	31.2 (88.2)	28.9 (84.0)	27.3 (81.1)
180 (0.40)	32.5 (90.5)	29.9 (85.8)	27.7 (81.9)	26.0 (78.8)
290 (0.64)	31.3 (88.3)	28.6 (83.5)	26.7 (80.1)	25.0 (77.0)
425 (0.94)	30.2 (86.4)	27.8 (82.0)	25.7 (78.3)	24.0 (75.2)
590 (1.30)	29.0 (84.2)	26.8 (80.2)	24.8 (76.6)	23.0 (73.4)
790 (1.74)	27.7 (81.9)	25.5 (77.9)	23.6 (74.5)	21.9 (71.4)
1015 (2.24)	26.9 (80.4)	24.7 (76.5)	22.7 (72.9)	21.3 (70.3)
1260 (2.78)	25.7 (78.3)	23.5 (74.3)	21.7 (71.1)	20.2 (68.4)
>1530 (3.37)	24.8 (76.6)	22.7 (72.9)	20.7 (69.3)	19.3 (66.7)

Principles of how optimum dry bulb temperatures for broilers may change at varying RH. Dry bulb temperatures at the ideal RH at a weight less than 200g (0.44lb)+ are coloured green. Temperature calculations based on a formula from Dr Malcolm Mitchell (Scotland's Rural College). This table provides general guidance, however individual climatic conditions should be considered. +Recent research suggests that RH is less critical for body weights between 200g (0.44lb) and 2500g (5.51lb). Further studies are underway to assess RH effects at both lower and higher body weights.



Correct location for temperature and humidity sensors.

A guide for farm preparation, chick quality, placement, behaviour, brooding setup and chick start assessment

☛ from P11

and performance.

Monitoring chick behaviour

While temperature and humidity should be monitored daily, chick behaviour remains the most reliable indicator of proper brooding conditions.

In spot brooding, evenly distributed chicks indicate an appropriate temperature.

Clustering or avoidance signals discomfort due to cold, heat, drafts or poor air quality.

In whole-house brooding, behavioural cues are subtler, as heat sources are not localised.

Vocalisations and social patterns such as small active groups of 20-30 chicks moving between feeding and drinking indicate well-being.

Air quality also influences behaviour – elevated levels of carbon dioxide (>3000ppm) or carbon monoxide (>10ppm) can cause lethargy and reduced feeding.

Regular air quality checks and observation of chick behaviour are essential for timely environmental adjustments.

Chick start assessment

Effective chick start assessment relies on early monitoring of crop fill, vent temperature and body weight.

Crop fill evaluations during the first 24-48 hours post-placement are critical to confirm that chicks have accessed both feed and water.

A full soft rounded crop indicates proper intake – an empty crop suggests insufficient water.

Assessments should be made at 2, 4, 8, 12 and 24 hours using samples from various locations in the house.

Vent temperature – ideally 39.4-40.5C – is a reliable indicator of whether environmental conditions support optimal chick thermoregulation.

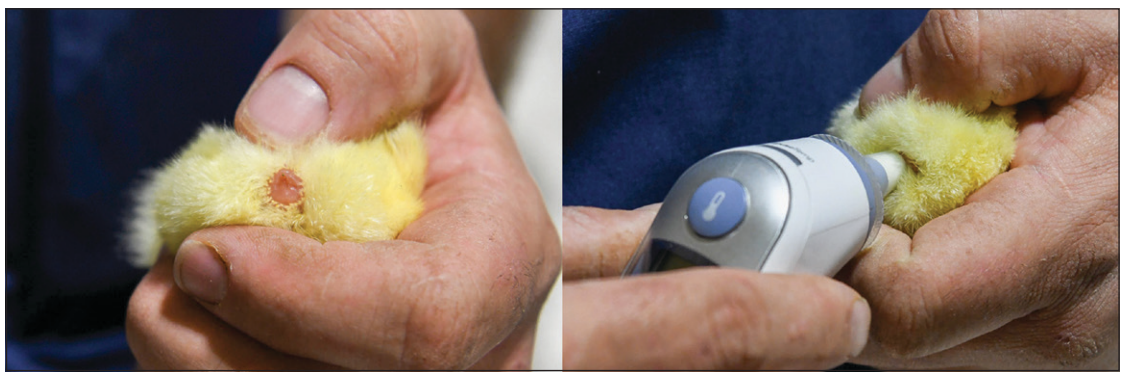
Measurements should be made using a calibrated thermometer, in conjunction with behavioural observations, and may also reveal transportation issues.

Body weight and uniformity should be recorded at placement and again at seven days to assess early growth and the effectiveness of brooding practices.

Declines in CV% over this period reflect improved uniformity and successful early management.

Download the 2025 Broiler Management Handbooks in full by scanning the QR code below.

Crop fill after 24 hours. The chick on the left has a full rounded crop, while the chick on the right has an empty crop.



Taking chick vent temperature.

The roadmap sets a clear and collaborative pathway for future growth, resilience and sustainability across the sector.

New roadmap to help guide sustainable growth of Queensland's intensive animal industries

QUEENSLAND'S intensive animal industries have released a 10-year roadmap that sets a clear and collaborative pathway for future growth, resilience and sustainability across the sector, while supporting food security for Queenslanders and Australia.

The Intensive Animal Industries Queensland Roadmap 2025-2035 outlines a strategic industry-led plan for managing the challenges and opportunities facing Queensland's pork, poultry (eggs and chicken meat), dairy and feedlot sectors.

Together, these industries collectively contribute close to $1.75 billion annually to the state economy and provide more than 50 percent of Queenslanders' daily protein intake.

The roadmap was developed through extensive consultation between industry leaders, government, researchers and peak bodies, including Queensland Farmers' Federation, and with funding support from the Queensland Government.

The roadmap identifies four key focus areas for the decade ahead:

- Land use planning and management
- Animal health, welfare and biosecurity
- Market demand and supply
- Value-based food production.

QFF chief executive officer Jo Sheppard said the roadmap reflected the importance of planning now to secure future food production and food security in Queensland and nationally.

"The intensive animal industries are incredibly important for food security and the supply of protein to Queensland, Australian and global consumers," Ms Sheppard said.

"This roadmap is an example of Queensland's intensive animal industries working together collectively to find solutions to the shared challenges facing their sector and proactively identifying a unified pathway forward.

"With the global population expected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, the pressure to produce more protein sustainably is growing.

"These industries are among the most innovative and agile in the world but face complex issues ranging from land use and emissions reduction to biosecurity and market demand.

"This document is both a strategic foundation and a living plan that will evolve as the sector navigates change, builds resilience and strives for value-based, sustainable and profitable growth."

Department of Primary Industries deputy director-general Ash Bacon said the roadmap supported 'Primary Industries Prosper 2050', the Queensland Government's 25-year blueprint co-designed with industry to shape a thriving future for Queensland and its primary industries.

"Queensland's intensive animal industries are essential to our state's food security and economic success, particularly in regional areas," Mr Bacon said.

"This roadmap ensures government and industry remain aligned in navigating challenges such as climate adaptation, land and water use competition and sustainable production.

"We're proud to have supported this initiative and look forward to ongoing collaboration."

The roadmap process brought together industry leaders who recognised shared challenges and the need for coordinated action.

A series of workshops helped shape the roadmap's key pillars, ensuring broad representation from across industry, academia and government.

The roadmap is also a timely contribution to the broader discussion around the role of agriculture in securing Australia's food future, particularly as environmental targets, shifting consumer expectations and global supply chain pressures reshape the operating landscape.

"Planning for the future of food requires a long-term vision," Ms Sheppard said.

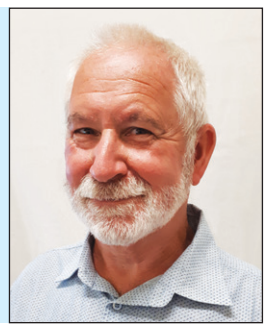
"This roadmap gives us that and puts industry at the heart of the solution."

Scan to download the roadmap.

Andalusian fowls

Rare Breeds

by **GRANT ANDREWS**



A GROUP of breeds characterised by upright and sprightly carriage combined with the ability of the hens to produce large quantities of white-shelled eggs are known collectively as the Mediterranean breeds.

This group includes a breed well known to many commercial poultry keepers, that being the Leghorn – the white variety of which formed the mainstay of commercial egg production in Australia prior to the importation of the 'brown' hybrids that now dominate that sector of the industry.

A less well-known breed that comes under the Mediterranean umbrella is the Andalusian, named after the region of Spain from which it is reported to have originated.

Early writers had somewhat conflicting views on the exact origin of the Andalusian, with some stating it was imported into the United Kingdom directly from Andalusia as early as 1851 as a distinct blue plumaged breed.

It is mentioned in Wingfield and Johnson's *The Poultry Book*, published in 1853, and referenced in Moubray's *Treatise on Domestic and Ornamental Poultry*, published in 1854.

However, at that early stage its plumage was not of a set colour, though both forenamed authors make mention of it being grey in varying shades.

Lewis Wright – who was probably the greatest authority on poultry of his day – stated that its distinct blue colour originated as a "cross-bred sport born of black and white mixed."

Wright's comments on the origins of the breed's colour were not without dissenters but, whatever the exact truth of the matter, English breeders set about perfecting its distinct slatey-blue colour with each feather laced with a darker shade of blue.

In common with many of the other Mediterranean breeds, the cock has an upright single comb, while the comb of the hen falls to one side of her face with a single fold.

Though early writings – Broomhead's *Poultry Breeding and Management* – proclaim Andalusians as egg producers that "were quite equal to, if not above, the average of their Mediterranean sisters," the focus on producing their distinct colour saw their utility qualities take second place to exhibition excellence.

> The Andalusian was imported into Australia in the latter half of the nineteenth century, there being reference to prize money being offered for Andalusians in Sydney in 1879 and records of birds being imported in the 1880s.

'Blue' presents poultry breeders with several challenges, the main one being that blue does not breed true.

When two blue fowls are mated together, their offspring will have one of three distinct plumage colours.

Twenty-five percent of the chicks from such a mating will be black, 25 percent will be what is termed 'splashed' (basically white intermixed with some black or grey feathers) and 50 percent will be blue.

This is because the genetic basis for blue is what is commonly referred to as an incomplete dominant.

Couple this with the fact that for exhibition the shade of blue must be what is required by the standard and then each feather must be laced with a darker shade of blue, and it's not hard to see that very few of the resulting chicks end up being of an exhibition standard.

However, the breeder has a few other options open to them.

The abovementioned blacks mated to the splashed birds will produce 100 percent blue chicks, while black mated to blue will produce 50 percent black and 50 percent blue chicks, and splashed mated to blue will produce 50 percent splashed and 50 percent blue chicks.

While most breeders of exhibition fowls expect they will have to cull fairly heavily to achieve anything approaching the standard of perfection, the breeders of Andalusians generally have to cull even more heavily.

This has been a deterrent to the breed attracting new fanciers, with many potential breeders being put off by the high wastage rate due to only blue birds being suitable for showing.

Other breeds that have a blue variety, such as the Leghorn and the Orpington, also tend to have a black variety standardised, which doesn't limit the breeder's options to the same extent as the Andalusian.

The Andalusian was imported into Australia in the latter half of the nineteenth century, there being reference to prize money being offered for Andalusians in Sydney in 1879 and records of birds being imported in the 1880s.

The breed has been maintained by a small but very dedicated band of breeders until the present time and is bred in both large fowl and bantam varieties.

Based on the number of Andalusians shown at each of the Royal shows in 2025, it is not particularly well-represented in any of the states and though not listed as critical in the 2024 Rare Breeds Trust of Australia poultry census, it is listed as 'of concern' in both large fowl and bantams.

Andalusians as egg producers were quite equal to if not above the average of their Mediterranean sisters, however the focus on producing their distinct colour saw their utility qualities take second place to exhibition excellence.

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Hamburgh Club of NSW photo shows

THE Hamburgh Club of NSW's photo shows began in 2020 due to COVID restrictions and has continued annually since.

The first show was a huge success, with 243 entries including some from Great Britain and New Zealand.

As the club has members from all over Australia with many unable to travel the distances to attend the club's annual show in Mudgee, it was decided to continue the concept, allowing all members the ability to participate in the photo show.

It allows Hamburgh enthusiasts across the country to show or view photos online to compare their birds.

Within the show are two sections.

Hamburgh classes for the seven standard colours and developmental classes in both standards and bantams.

Additionally, we have a photography section with scene photos, including Hamburghs in any surroundings and Hamburghs with people

In 2023, Great Britain poultry fanciers suffered a COVID-like shutdown from a bird flu outbreak, which halted all poultry exhibitions once again.

The Great Britain Hamburgh Club also decided to conduct a virtual (photo) show.

While this show was being planned, both the NSW and Great Britain Hamburgh clubs decided to hold a competition called 'the Great Britian versus Australia Challenge'… the Hamburgh 'Ashes'.

The challenge would have the same classes but only the first, second and third place getters from each country in each class would be eligible to participate.

As the Australian poultry standard Hamburgh section was based on the British standard and is identical – excepting the British standard allows a darker eye, where the Australian requires a red eye – making judging a relatively easy process.

This show has enabled the Hamburgh members to see how the Great Britain birds and the Australian birds compare.

The challenge was again conducted in 2024, but not in 2025, as Great Britain had some of the bird flu restrictions lifted.

Notably, in 2024 some American Hamburgh photos representing the Great Britain Club were in the competition, meaning Hamburghs from Australia, Great Britain and the US competed for the prizes.

Our club's annual show attracts about 25 Hamburgh exhibitors presenting approximately 250 Hamburghs in all seven colours each year, followed shortly after by our photo show.

The 2025 Photo Show was another great success, with 186 entries.

All the photos from the club's physical and photo shows have become a great resource available to members to view online, along with all the results and newsletters.

As well as being available for members to use as information and source for comparison, it is also a record of the history of the club.

For more information about the Hamburgh Club of NSW or this majestic breed of poultry, email your enquiry to hamburghclubnsw@gmail.com

Ian Birchall
President
Hamburgh Club of NSW

Silver Spangled female. Champion Silver Spangled 2021.

Black Hamburgh male. Grand Champion Bird of the 2022 Photo Show.

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