

NATIONAL

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The policy recommendations are set to provide the government with ample guidance in securing the needs of our poultry industry.

ACMF plays critical role in new Job and Skills Australia food supply chain workforce report

JOB and Skills Australia's newly released report 'An Essential Ingredient: The Food Supply Chain Workforce' is an ambitious and topical examination of the current and future workforce needs within Australia's food production, manufacturing, transport and distribution industries.

The study, commissioned by the Federal Government, provides critical evidence, insights and recommendations to support the workforce capacity of vital industries within Australia's food supply chain.

The report also pro-

force profiles for the poultry farming and poultry meat processing sectors, directly showcasing our industry as a cornerstone of Australia's food supply through capturing the scale and contribution of our workforce.

Over the past year, the Australian Chicken Meat Federation has provided extensive support to the development of this report.

We take immense pride in having influenced the report's trajectory through our active participation as an advisory group member and by providing comprehensive written feedback to ensure this report effectively supports

workforce needs.

This collaboration has help led to the development of 41 recommendations directed to the Federal Government to address critical issues surrounding skilled migration, delivery of vocational training and workforce planning to support the future capacity of Australia's food supply chain.

Improving workforce

We particularly welcome the recommendation - based on our feedback to the study's discussion paper - to enhance workforce data modelling through a dedicated workforce data unit within the Australian Bureau of

Exciting developments at Poultry Hub Australia

■ Mentoring, research and education take centre stage

POULTRY Australia is paving the way for innovation and leadership in the poultry industry with several exciting initiatives announced for 2025.

These developments include a mentoring session at the Australasian Poultry Science Symposium, the creation of a new senior poultry researcher position and the launch of a groundbreaking poultry nutrition course on the open learning platform.

Together, these initiatives reflect PHA's ongoing commitment to fostering talent, driving impactful research and providing accessible education for the industry.

As part of APSS 2025, PHA will host an exclusive mentoring session in collaboration with the



by TAMSYN CROWLEY

AgriFutures Chicken Meat Consortium and the Poultry Research Foundation.

Scheduled to take place during the symposium, this session will provide an invaluable opportunity for students, earlycareer researchers and newcomers to the industry to engage with seasoned professionals.

Participants will benefit from expert advice on career development, insights into cutting-edge research and guidance on navigating the

evolving challenges of the poultry sector. I have highlighted

this initiative in shaping the future of the industry. We believe that mentorship is a cornerstone of profes-

sional development,

the importance of

especially in an industry as dynamic as poultry. This session will help connect emerging talent with experienced leaders, fostering meaningful

relationships that can

inspire and guide the

next generation.

In a move that underscores PHA's commitment to advancing research, we have also announced the creation of a new senior poultry researcher position.

This role is expected to play a critical part in driving innovation and addressing pressing industry challenges, including sustainability, productivity and animal

The addition of this role reflects PHA's strategic vision to strengthen its research capabilities and expand its collaboration with industry partners.

The senior poultry researcher position will be instrumental in moving our research agenda forward.

bringing on board a dedicated continued P2



The mentoring event at APSS 2024.



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Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

2025

FEB 18-19 – Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association Scientific Meeting, Wagga Wagga, NSW. www.avpa.asn.au/events

MAR 5 – 2025 NSW Poultry Industry Golf Day, Lakeside Golf Club Camden, NSW. Email: david.sherwood@ewnutrition.com

MAR 12-14 – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand. www.vivasia.nl/

APR 7-9 – Western Poultry Disease Conference, Calgary, Canada. www. wpdcfoundation.org/wpdc-2025

APR 7-9 – 2025 International Poultry Council Annual Meeting, Casablanca, Morocca. international poultry council.org

JUN 23-26 – 24th European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition, Maastricht, Netherlands. www.espn2025.eu

JUN 24-26 – 11th International Symposium on Avian Influenza, Newfoundland, Canada. harlowagency.swoogo.com/isai2025/6355095

SEP 14-17 – 20th European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products and the 26th European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat, Zadar, Croatia. eggmeat2025.com

How to supply event details: Send all details to National Poultry Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum Qld 4178, call 07 3286 1833 or email design@collins.media

poultrynews.com.au **07 3286 1833**

ACMF plays critical role in new Job and Skills Australia food supply chain workforce report

from P1
Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

We have long emphasised the need to better capture our industry's workforce and composition to support our lobbying efforts, as persistent data gaps can impede effective workforce planning and datadriven policy proposals.

We consider this to be a great step forward and we will continue to advocate for fit-forpurpose solutions to address underlying issues in workforce analysis and planning following the release of this report.

Biosecurity workforce top of the agenda

The report also features comprehensive industry profiles on

January 2025

An Essential Ingredient

ACMF provided extensive support to the devel-

The Food Supply Chain Workforce

both the biosecurity and veterinary workforces, both of which are fundamentally crucial to matters such as animal welfare, sustainability, biosecurity and food security

This consideration has established a strong basis for JSA to advocate for a national biosecurity workforce strategy by the Federal Government – a significant achievement for our sector, as the demand for a skilled biosecurity workforce is expected to rise in response to increasing biosecurity risks.

Addressing barriers to workforce participation

The report also provides a series of recommendations to enhance workforce participation rates, particularly

by improving access to vocational training opportunities, affordable housing and reducing upfront costs for employers engaging with the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme.

These are critical factors for attracting and retaining talent and we welcome such a strong focus on entry-level workforce opportunities through targeted skills development and vocational training initiatives.

Moving in the right direction

These are only a few of JSA's well guided policy recommendations, set to provide the government with ample guidance in securing the needs of our industry and beyond to ensure a robust and resilient food supply chain.

We are highly encouraged by the comprehensive scope of this report and its supporting rec-

ommendations, which align seamlessly with our internal efforts to bolster our workforce capacity through the Australian chicken meat industry workforce strategy.

The Australian chicken meat workforce strategy outlines several strategic priorities to secure diverse and suitable talent, ensuring the ongoing capacity and prosperity of our sector to meet Australia's rising food needs.

There is a particularly strong focus on workforce sourcing and building future skills, which aligns closely with the recommendations from the 'Food Supply Chain Capacity Study' report.

As an industry that provides the most consumed meat protein in Australia, we are acutely aware of our critical role in national food security.

Approximately 97 percent of our product is directed to domestic consumers, who on average consume over 50kg of chicken meat per year.

Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that our industry's 53,000 full-time equivalents are well supported by strategic workforce planning and capacity-building investments.

Overall, this report is only one part of a broader policy shift we are witnessing at both state and federal levels towards safeguarding animal health, maintaining biosecurity and building workforce capacity to support our vital food supply chain.

This recognition of the pivotal role Australia's food industries play in upholding food security, public health and economic growth gives us great optimism that policymakers are committed to implementing meaningful actions to secure our sector's workforce capacity.

You can read the report and its 41 recommendations by visiting the Jobs and Skills Australia website or by scanning the QR code below.

ACMF



Scan the QR code for the JSA report.

and its supporting rec- security. Core recommendations include:











The 41 recommendations include delivery of vocational training and workforce planning to support the future capacity of Australia's food supply chain.

Exciting developments at Poultry Hub Australia

rfrom P1

expert, we can ensure that our research initiatives remain at the cutting edge, delivering solutions that directly benefit the industry and the broader community.

opment of the new JSA report.

This position represents a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of innovation in the poultry industry, contributing to meaningful advancements that will shape the future of the sector.

PHA is also making strides in education with the launch of its poultry nutrition course on the open learning platform.

This comprehensive online course has been designed to provide

students, professionals and poultry enthusiasts with an in-depth understanding of poultry nutrition.

Covering essential topics such as feed formulation, nutrient requirements and the impact of nutrition on bird health and productivity, the course is accessible to learners worldwide.

We emphasise the transformative potential of this new educational offering.

Education is key to driving progress in the poultry industry.

By making this course available online, we are breaking down barriers and providing learners from all backgrounds with the tools they need to excel in poultry nutri-

This initiative is part of our broader mission to share knowledge and build capacity within the industry.

With these initiatives, Poultry Hub Australia is poised to make a significant and lasting impact on the poultry industry.

The mentoring session at APSS 2025 will inspire and support the next generation of leaders, the addition of a senior poultry researcher will strengthen PHA's research capabilities and the launch of the poultry nutrition course will enhance access to vital knowledge and expertise.

For more information on these exciting developments, visit poul tryhub.org

tryhub.org
Poultry Hub Australia remains dedicated to driving innovation, supporting professional growth and fostering excellence in poultry science, ensuring a bright future for the industry.



As part of APSS 2025, PHA will host an exclusive mentoring session in collaboration with the AgriFutures Chicken Meat Consortium and the Poultry Research Foundation.

Poultry N E W S P A P E R

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Big shift in climate reporting for the Australian poultry industry

The Australian poultry industry is gearing up to meet stricter climate reporting regulations starting January 2025. These regulations require detailed and accurate environmental data disclosure, emphasizing the need for advanced tools like Sustell™.

Sustell[™], developed by dsm-firmenich, is a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) platform specifically designed for the poultry value chain. By using farm-specific data, Sustell[™] offers precise insights into the environmental impacts of poultry production, covering areas such as feed, emissions, energy, and animal performance.

Sustell™ covers the entire footprint of poultry production, including:

- 1. Feed & Nutrition: crop cultivation, feed production, transportation, and feed conversion efficiency.
- 2. **Emissions** from manure storage, treatment, and barn operations.
- 3. **Energy Use:** electricity, fuel, and water usage.
- 4. **Animal Performance:** metrics such as mortality rate, number of pullets, and final body weight.
- 5. Processing and transportation.

The Sustell™ platform, an ISO-assured Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) tool, calculates the full environmental footprint—not just carbon—of poultry production, including broilers, laying hens, turkeys, and eggs, as well as other species. The Sustell™ dashboard empowers producers to monitor their environmental footprints, set sustainability targets, and simulate interventions to improve performance. With its superior usability and seamless connectivity to existing data systems, Sustell™ makes environmental footprinting accessible, affordable, and scalable—a true breakthrough for the industry.

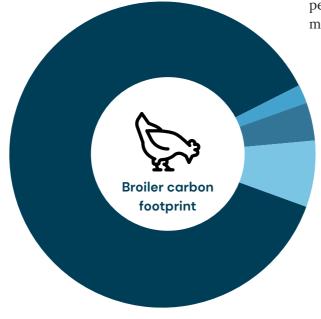
In addition to providing detailed reporting to meet compliance requirements, $Sustell^{\mathbb{M}}$ opens doors to eco-label certifications and sustainable financing opportunities. Its scalability and adaptability ensure that it can accommodate diverse production systems while maintaining accuracy and credibility through integration with leading agricultural databases.

By adopting Sustell[™], Australian poultry producers can efficiently navigate environmental regulations while enhancing operational performance and sustainability in an increasingly eco-conscious market.



Feed & nutrition

- Crop cultivation
- Other raw materials production
- Transportation
- · Feed mill processing
- Feed conversion ratio





Emissions

- Manure storage and treatment
- Emissions from the barns



Energy

- Electricity, gas & other fuels usage on farm
- Water usage on farm



Animals

- · Number of pullets
- Mortality rate
- Final body weight

Figure 1.Illustrative example: Breakdown of broiler production's environmental footprint



Contact us

casey.van-der-berg@dsm-firmenich.com or 0488 144 194

Learn more on environmental footprinting Scan Here dsm-firmenich

Wendy Muir wins prestigious teaching award

WENDY Muir, one of the longest serving academic staff members at the Poultry Research Foundation, has won the highly competitive 2024 Faculty of Science learning and teaching award for student experience excellence.

This is an award for staff who have excelled in driving a transformational experience for PRF students.

Dr Wendy Muir coordinates and delivers highly valued learning experiences throughout her teaching of animal health and disease, the culminative third year unit in the animal health, disease and welfare major in BSc/BAS (animal and veterinary bioscience) at the University of Sydney.

The unit focuses on the application of on-farm management practices to secure the health and wellbeing of production animals including sheep, cattle and poultry.

Wendy is a highly dedicated and passionate educator who provides students key learning opportunities to develop skills in animal handling and health-based management, as well as interaction with industry to gain real-world experience.

Wendy's curriculum design has facilitated outstanding student experiences in developing student skills in animal health and student engagement with the animal health industry.

This ensures that the students are career-ready when they graduate.

Student feedback on their experiences include the below.

"Wendy is a great communicator and coordinator and her passion for student education really shone through."

"The practicals were amazing — thank you for using them to catch us up on the skills we missed in the past years, while also teaching us new skills."

"The hands-on experience was without a doubt one of our most useful experiences at uni"

"They changed our perspective, from being imposters to deserving to be in this course."

"Were the first hands-on things I've got to do that relate to what I want to do postgraduation, providing lots of skills for my future career plan."

And "The industry visits were especially eye-opening and very informative – not only were we able to see the work done at the labs but participating in a lab investigation made the visit very engaging."

We are extremely proud to have educators such as Wendy at our university.

Mingan Choct Poultry Research Foundation



Dr Reza Barekatain is the newly appointed director of the Poultry Research

Dr Reza Barekatain appointed director of PRF

THE University of Sydney has appointed Dr Reza Barekatain as an Associate Professor and the next director of the Poultry Research Foundation following an international search.

Dr Barekatain completed his bachelor and masters degrees in animal science in Iran before moving to Australia in 2009 to pursue a PhD in poultry nutrition at the University of New England.

After earning his PhD, he spent a year at UNE as a postdoctoral fellow, working on two Poultry CRC-supported projects focused on early nutrition and ingredient evaluation in broiler chickens

In 2013, Reza joined the South Australian Research and Development Institute at the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide.

There, he successfully led several nationally and internationally supported projects on poultry nutrition and intestinal health.

In the past two years as a senior scientist, he has been the leader of SARDI Pigs and Poultry Group, managing a team of research scientists and technical staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise in monogastric

animal research.

Reflecting on his research experience, Dr Barekatain said, "As I progressed through my career, I developed a strong passion for intestinal health and digestive physiology, particularly focusing on intestinal barrier function and its interaction with nutritional factors in poultry."

"My lab was among the first to study intestinal permeability in the context of reduced protein diets and synthetic amino acids in broiler chickens, as part of a project supported by AgriFutures Australia.

"This research attracted industry attention and led to several subsequent collaborative projects investigating intestinal barrier function in chickens to improve resilience to stress and enteric disease.

"This field remains a primary area of focus for me moving forward," he said.

PRF is a unique research platform in Australia, where academia and industry collaborate to facilitate cutting-edge research that supports sustainable and profitable egg and meat production.

Earlier in 2024, the University of Sydney began transitioning PRF

into a research centre within the university, aligning it with the aspirations outlined in the Sydney 2032 strategy, which emphasises research excellence and addressing the greatest challenges of our time.

Dr Barekatain's expertise and leadership in research within an Australian context make him an ideal addition to the PRF's unique capabilities in poultry research.

Reflecting on his appointment, Dr Barekatain said, "I am truly honoured to be appointed as the director of PRF, a position that has been held by some of the most prominent poultry scientists since its inception in 1958."

"I am particularly excited about the opportunities to expand scientific capabilities and collaborate with my outstanding colleagues at PRF, as well as with the poultry industry and other institutes in Australia and abroad to tackle the most pressing issues facing the industry."

Dr Barekatain will commence his role at the University of Sydney on March 3, 2025.

Mingan Choct Poultry Research Foundation





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- Mike Kogut USA
- Sonia Liu Australia
- Frank Wong Australia
- Vitor Arantes USA
- Martha Pulido Landinez USA

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- Managing Antibiotic-Free Production
- Sustainable Use of Protein Ingredients
- Avian Influenza

Where to find us

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- Welcome drinks The Abercrombie Hotel
- Symposium dinner Doltone House -Darling Island.

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eggs taking centre stage.

Laying off for a while is rare but real

WHILE it's rare for me to lose my appetite for particular foods, I've recently emerged from an unexplained short hiatus - for a couple of months – from eggs.

I didn't give it much attention yet, for some reason, I haven't bothered cooking eggs and I haven't made my regular trips to the Fremantle Egg Company in nearby Munster to buy my usual mega jumbos.

Such visits have typically and happily laid me up for many more minutes than the transactions alone required.

These were often accompanied by a pleasant chat about all things eggs - and life for that matter - with owner and respected 'eggribusiness' leader and lifetime egg farmer Ian Wilson, who recently joined the board of directors of Australian Eggs.

Anyway, I am now pleased to report that I'm back on board with eggs and contentedly so.

A further inexplicable food confession... occasionally I go off fresh fish too, sometimes going a few months without supporting my wonderful local fish monger.

A few weekends ago, I enjoyed a whole

Cant Comment by **BRENDON CANT**

1.5kg goldband snapper baked in the oven with spuds.

My preference was for red emperor but alas it was unavailable. so second choice was acceptable.

According to an ABC Rural report on January 10, many Australians were off eggs too, though unlike me, not by choice.

An apparent national egg shortage was largely attributed to the legacy of an avian influenza outbreak in mid-2024, which necessitated the killing of upwards of two million chickens.

This unsurprisingly caused a shortage of eggs on supermarket shelves, as affected egg producers restock their farms in an effort to get back to previous production levels.

The ABC report quoted Egg Farmers of Australia as saying it took time for farmers to move back into full production after being

forced into quarantine when hit with bird flu, while other parts of the industry moved to free-range production.

EFA chief executive officer Melinda Hashimoto said: "The egg industry is facing a transitional period as some egg farms transition from caged-egg production to barnlaid or free-range production systems."

It takes time and capital expenditure to establish new farming infrastructure.

For those on the hunt for eggs, the advice was to shop at smaller and local stores.

"Major supermarkets have put up signs apologising for fewer eggs being on their shelves," Ms Hashimoto said.

"This is because Woolworths and Coles have a policy to mostly stock barn-laid or free-range eggs.

"However, you will find plenty of eggs at your independent

grocery stores or local fruit and vegetable outlets," she was quoted as saying.

I would add to that by suggesting consumers could also seek out conveniently located egg producers who are appropriately geared up to sell direct from farm.

Another option is to support local farmers' markets.

Either way, consumers can then enjoy a mutually rewarding and informative rapport with the farmers.

This is to be encouraged in order to bring producers and consumers closer, so both can understand and empathise when, inevitably, shortages and such hit.

Animosity, often hatched from ignorance and misunderstanding, can then fly out the window.



Now a director of Australian Eggs, lan Wilson of the Fremantle Egg Company.



In November, while on a refreshing 10-day ayurvedic retreat at Kerala in south-west India, the author enjoyed a made-to-order omelette at breakfast every morning. So good, backed up with fresh fruit and curries galore.



The author's favourite 'omelette chefs' at Somatheeram Ayurvedic Health Resort worked their magic daily with the freshest of eggs.

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Government can be confusing

own legislation and regulation.

When we receive enquiries from people wishing to set up an egg farm, the initial advice given is to write a business plan first, long before thinking about getting chickens or experiencing the excitement of eggs.

We hear the saying 'what comes first, the chicken or the egg' - well, it's actually a business plan.

There are several land use and water acts that must be consulted in the early stages of setting up a farm or expanding one through the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Queensland Department of Planning and the Queensland Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

The following example gives some insight into some of the requirements in WA pertaining to the requirements for an egg farm to function and the awareness that egg farmers need.

When focused on the pasture for birds, if housed outside, this would fall under the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, known as DPIRD, through the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945.

With farmers having ever present diligence in relation to biosecurity, DPRID is also responsible for acts such as the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, the Exotic Diseases of Animal Act 1983, the Veterinary Chemical Control and Animal Feeding Stuffs Act 1976 and the Animal Welfare Act of 2002.

The use of pesticides falls under the WA Department of Health through the Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011.

In addition, the Food Act 2008 is the act pertaining to food hygiene and safety, administered by the WA Department of Health also.

The handling of poultry manure also comes under WA Department of Health regulations through the Health (Poultry Manure) Regulations 2001.

In relation to the environment, there are four main acts of interest, in addition to the odour and noise emission regulations and regulations pertaining to ammonia through the Environmental Protection Authority WA and WA

EACH state has its Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

> These are included in the Environmental Code of Practice for Poultry Farms in Western Australia 2004, administered by the Department of Water and Environment Protection Act 1986, with the responsibility being the Department of Water and Environment Regulation.

> The 'Environmental Management and Cleaner Production Directory for Small and Medium Businesses: a guide to pollution prevention 2005' by the Swan River Trust and, finally, the Federal Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

> In relation to staff safety in the workplace, this falls under the WA Department of Commerce and Trade through the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1984.

> Pertaining to the movement of poultry, this falls under the Road Traffic Act 1994 overseen by the Western Australia Police Force.

> Other agencies of interest to farmers are:

• Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority under the Federal Government department that regulates agricultural and veterinary chemical products

• Food Standards Australia New Zealand which works with industry to see food standards pertaining to eggs

 Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, which stipulates labelling laws for the egg industry and through the Australian Competition and Consumer Act 2010, requires egg farmers to adhere to no discussions regarding commercially sensitive information regarding pricing, dealings with customers, suppliers and stakeholders, cost sharing or the restricting and/or limiting supply.

So, for an egg farmer to be fully informed to produce the humble egg, they would be required to understand the acts and regulations that fall under the departments, trusts and government agencies, often having name changes after each election.

Gorman-Rupp pump solves choking issues at meat processing plant

THE JBS Australian Dinmore operation is the largest beef processing plant in the southern hemisphere, and the plant is the largest employer in Ipswich.

The plant naturally uses a large number of varied pumps.

Some time ago it was having reliability problems with an end-suction centrifugal pump on a cattle vard run-off application.

Because of large suspended solids in the fluid, the centrifugal pump struggled with choking and also, because it relied on a foot valve to keep the suction line primed, was prone to losing prime if a solid caught in that foot valve.

It wasn't an easy application – the wastewater pump was delivering 201/s at a pressure of 800kPa because of the long discharge line it was pumping through.

Not only that, it was also on a suction lift in excess of 5m.

The options

After a site inspection and hydraulic analysis of the system, Hydro Innovations suggested the plant look at a Gorman-Rupp VS3A60-B, which is the only two stage selfpriming solids-handling centrifugal pump on the market.

The self-priming pump is of cast-iron construction, with a large inspection cover to allow access to pump internals for inspection and ser-

It is capable of handling spherical solids up to 63mm in diameter and internal clear-

ance adjustments can be done in minutes, allowing operators to keep the pump at peak operating efficiency for the life of the asset.

This self-priming pump is also an excellent primer and re-primer, which means it cannot lose its prime, even if solids get caught in the system.

The VS360-B is part of a 'family' of Gorman-Rupp high-performance high-head self-priming wastewater pumps that can deliver flows from 101/s through to 1201/s, and heads to 95m.

These Gorman Rupp pumps all have replaceable self-cleaning wear plates to assist in handling stringy materials such as rags and gloves and can operate on suction lifts up to 7.6m.

Being self-priming pumps, they are much safer to maintain than submersible sludge pumps because operators do not have to work over water or with cranes and heavy swinging weights.

The solution

The self-priming pump was duly installed and has operated with minimal operator interven-

tion for the past six years. The large solids handling capacity solved the choking issues and, because the pump does not need a foot valve or any other 'add-on' priming device, it is an extremely reliable self-primer.

To find out more call Hydro Innovations on 02 9898 1800 or email us at info@hydroinnovations. com.au 📎



The Gorman-Rupp VS3A60-B pump.

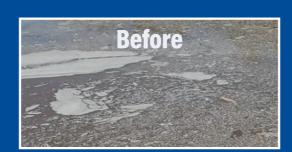
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pigs and poultry can lead to several advantages.

Enhanced health

By binding mycotoxins, Optimate helps reduce their negative impact, supporting overall animal health.

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Healthier animals are more likely to exhibit better growth rates and feed conversion ratios, contributing to increased productivity.

Safety assurance

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Optimate offers a natural and certified solution for managing mycotoxin risks in pork and poultry production, supporting the health and performance of livestock.

Contact Paul Buffey on 0400 006 065 or email paul.buffey@bpmnz.co.nz for more information or for your free sample bag.



The queue at the Australian Open for El Jannah's charcoal chicken. Photo: Heath Parkes-Hupton



Ambitious expansion plans for the chicken takeaway chain.

Sydney chicken shop's rapid expansion across Australia

A CHICKEN shop that became a legend in Sydney's west has made a surprising appearance at the Australian Open.

As tens of thousands flooded Melbourne Park for the Australian Open, one pop-up eatery's enormous queues stood out among the crowd.

Next to a storefront for Fish Bowl, the Sydneybased poke bowl chain, a growing crowd waited eagerly to sample the offerings of El Jannah.

Until a few years ago, this unassuming chicken shop could only be found in Sydney's working-class suburbs.

But its collaboration with the international tennis event marks another chapter in the rise of the Lebanese charcoal chicken icon – born in Granville 27 years ago.

El Jannah, which first opened in 1998, has

since grown to more than 30 stores, successfully carving out its place in Australia's competitive chicken market.

Experts say it's all about delivering a distinctive offering to the masses.

Hospitality expert Michael Vale said the restaurant's signature charcoal chicken – paired with its legendary garlic sauce and warm pita bread – sets it apart from other fast-food options.

Based in Sydney, Mr Vale has closely followed El Jannah's expansion and noted the "very strong history of growth" in Australia's chicken businesses.

"I would say chicken is an untapped market in Australia," he said.

"And El Jannah, in my opinion, just gave it an alternative to the regular barbecue chicken and deep-fried options.

"It's got a sense of

healthiness about it.

"It's openly chargrilled, not deep-fried.

"I can't see too much of a secret going on, it's very good."

El Jannah opened its second store in 2009, 11 years after its flagship Granville outlet first served customers.

But it was only six years ago that the company had seven stores in total, all located in western Sydney suburbs such as Penrith, Blacktown and Campbelltown.

Fast forward to 2025 and El Jannah now boasts more than 20 locations in NSW, including 12 franchises in suburban Melbourne and a new spot in Can-

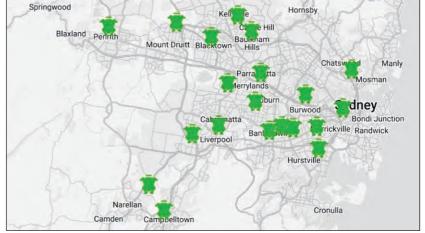
El Jannah's chief executive officer Brett Houldin said the company plans to reach 50 stores by June this year, with an ambitious long-

berra.

term goal of 100 stores within two years.

The brand's rapid growth in Melbourne "has been nothing short of explosive," Mr Houldin said, with 11 stores opening in just over a year.

"This rapid expansion, including plans for a presence in the CBD, shows our commitment to making El Jannah more accessible to a broader audience."



El Jannah's locations in Sydney. Photo: El Jannah



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Predation Competition 1 1 1 2

Fig. 1. Three ecological mechanisms of animal killing behaviour by humans, showing (1) predation (carnivory or meat-based diets), (2) interference competition (when animals are behaviourally deprived of access to shared resources or fear effects) and (3) exploitative competition (herbivory or plant-based diets, or consumption of shared resources). Solid lines = direct effects, broken lines = indirect effects.

Why humans kill animals - Part 2

■ Delving into and discussing the first two of the five reasons

KILLING animals has been a ubiquitous human behaviour throughout history, yet it is becoming increasingly controversial and criticised in some parts of contemporary human society.

Over a three-part series, researchers from around the globe review 10 primary reasons why humans kill animals, discuss the necessity or not of these forms of killing and describe the global ecological context for human killing of animals.

The article can be viewed in its entirety at sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969723039062

Humans historically and currently kill animals either directly or indirectly for the following reasons:

- Wild harvest or food acquisition
- Human health and safety

- Agriculture and aquaculture
- Urbanisation and industrialisation
- Invasive, overabundant or nuisance wildlife control
- Threatened species conservation
- Recreation, sport or entertainmentMercy or compas-
- sion
 Cultural and reli-
- gious practice
 Research, education and testing.

The first five of those reasons are discussed here

1. Wild harvest or food acquisition

Many omnivorous and carnivorous predators – from insects to whales – hunt and kill wild animals for food.

This behaviour is known as predation and is a process integral to the proper functioning and maintenance of ecosystems.

Predation can, and often does, cause great

harm and suffering to the individual animal being killed.

Some predators are specialists that target a narrow range of prey species and others are generalists that target a wider range of prey species.

Humans, and their ancestors and relatives, are generalists – omnivorous mammals that have hunted, killed and harvested a wide variety of animals for approximately 2-4 million years.

Wild harvest is the most ancient form of predation by humans.

Moreover, the evolution of humans' proportionately larger brain size is hypothesised to have occurred because of the fats and proteins acquired by eating animals, and therefore killing and eating animals was essential for the very emergence of humans.

Humans on or in the waters around all continents still harvest wild animals for food today, including people from developed and developing countries and those practicing traditional and contemporary lifestyles

Many types of sentient and non-sentient animals are harvested, including echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, insects, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Wild harvest of mammals, reptiles and birds is often characterised by low-volume or opportunistic hunting, such as the acquisition of bushmeat.

Other forms of highvolume or intensive harvesting are also practiced, such as the many fisheries in operation around the world or the commercial kangaroo harvest in Australia.

Wild harvest of animals cannot be practiced without killing animals.

Wild harvest, predation or directly killing animals for food can be avoided by adopting plant-based lifestyles (for example, herbivory or veganism), but doing so cannot avoid all the indirect forms of animal killing associated with such lifestyles (see reasons 3 and 4).

This type of indirect killing is known as competition, which can also lead to prolonged animal suffering, death and eventual extinction over time.

Herbivory leads to competition-induced animal killing when humans eat plants that would otherwise be utilised by other animals, that is exploitative competition.

Competition-induced animal killing also occurs when fear effects behaviourally deprive animals of otherwise available resources, that is interference competition.

Hence, the wild harvest of both animals and plants results in animal killing – the primary difference is that one is direct killing and the other is indirect killing (see Fig. 1).

Human carnivory and herbivory are forms of wild harvest that are ubiquitous across trophic levels, ecosystems and epochs.

All forms of wild harvest cause harm to animals and there are no viable alternatives to these forms of animal killing if we are to continue feeding the 8 billion plus humans currently on the planet.

Directly killing animals for food can often be done in ways that cause no or negligible amounts of pain or harm (see Fig. 2).

When done in these ways, it can give animals a more humane or painless death than the alternatives they would otherwise experience from large-scale plant or animal-based agriculture or through natural causes such as disease, starvation or intraspecific fighting.

2. Human health and safety

Killing animals in self-defence or to protect human health and safety is also one of the most ancient forms of animal killing by humans.

It is done proactively when an animal is killed to prevent a possible threat or reactively to eliminate a present threat

Examples of proactively killing animals for human health and safety reasons include

continued P11



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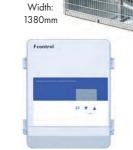
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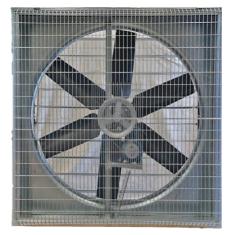




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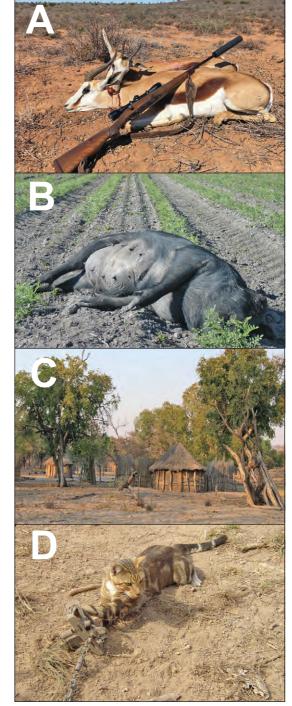


Fig. 2. Examples of direct and indirect animal killing by humans, showing (A) two springbok wild-harvested for meat in South Africa (reason 1), (B) land clearing for peanut and sugar cane crops in Australia with a feral pig shot to alleviate damage to the crops (reason 3), (C) small-scale urbanisation illustrated by a group of rondavels under trees in Botswana (reason 4) and (D) a feral cat in Australia trapped to protect threatened fauna from cat predation (reason 5). Photos: Benjamin Allen

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Why humans kill animals - Part 2

rfrom P10

killing large carnivores (e.g. lions, saltwater crocodiles or great white sharks) in the vicinity of human settlements or controlling populations of smaller mammals (such as racoons, feral dogs or black rats) to prevent the spread of zoonoses including rabies or leptospirosis.

Reactive killing for human health and safety reasons occurs when any animal attempts to harm or kill a human and the humans kill the animal in self-defence.

Examples include killing Asian elephants, cougars or eastern brown snakes that had attacked humans.

Killing animals for traditional medicinal use is another expression of killing for human health reasons practiced in many parts of the world, and the raising and killing of genetically modified pigs to provide a source of replacement organs for xenotransplantation into humans represents an emerging form of killing animals for human health reasons.

Proactive and reactive forms of animal killing (such as control of rodents in impoverished neighbourhoods) may also improve human mental health and wellbeing by reducing anxiety over both food security and disease risk.

In many, or perhaps most, cases there may be less harmful or even nonlethal ways to eliminate human health and safety risks from animals, which might eliminate the need to kill animals, especially contemporary proactive forms of animal killing (see reasons 3 and 5).

This could include vaccinating animals and humans against zoonoses, installing animal exclusion fencing around human communities, sealing buildings and grain silos to exclude grain-destroying birds and rodents or managing risk-enhancing human behaviours.

It might also be possible to reduce the need for reactive forms of animal killing by increasing tolerance of perceived threats, or by taking appropriate measures to prevent an incident or animal attack from arising, including avoidance of areas with high densities of large carnivores or other dangerous animals.

Such nonlethal practices might also include maintaining strong biosecurity systems to prevent zoonotic diseases or their animal vectors from invading new areas (see reason 5), chasing or relocating dangerous animals away from vulnerable humans, or adoption of plant-based traditional medicines or modern manufactured medicines rather than animal-based traditional medicines where culturally ap-

propriate.

Refraining from killing animals to protect human health and safety might be possible for some humans to avoid, particularly those in affluent circumstances.

But because of human inequality and poverty across much of the world, refraining from this form of animal killing will be largely impossible at broader societal scales without compromising human welfare, ignoring cultural sensitivities and losing human lives.

Part 3 will cover the remaining reasons as to why humans kill animals.

Ben Allen University of Southern Queensland

NFF appoints new chief executive

THE National Farmers' Federation recently announced Troy Williams' appointment as its new chief executive, effective March 3, 2025.

Mr Williams' leadership will focus on delivering measurable outcomes for the agricultural sector and NFF's member organisations, ensuring farmers remain at the forefront of national policy and reform.

NFF president David Jochinke said, "Troy is recognised for his exceptional ability to bring stakeholders together, negotiating with senior government officials, politicians and industry leaders."

"This will allow him to work with the NFF Board and member organisations to create an environment in which agriculture can thrive sustainably."

With the NFF Roadmap setting out an ambitious target for farm gate output to exceed \$100 billion by 2030, Troy's proven expertise in policy advocacy and navigating complex regulatory environments positions him to deliver results that matter to NFF members.

"Over more than two decades, Troy has been a champion for businesses in highly regulated and trade-exposed industries, addressing issues ranging from product regulation and international trade agreements to workforce planning and skills development," Mr Jochinke said.

"These are exactly the challenges faced by the businesses our members represent, and Troy's experience will be invaluable in addressing them."

As the peak national body representing farmers and the broader agricultural sector, the NFF's priority is delivering real outcomes for its members.

Mr Jochinke and Mr Williams emphasised the importance of working closely with member organisations to tackle critical issues impacting farmers.

Mr Williams said, "It's an honour to be appointed as the NFF chief executive, an organisation with a rich legacy."

"I'm looking forward to strengthening the NFF's connection with its members to ensure their priorities are at the heart of our advocacy.

"Whether it is advancing trade opportunities, addressing labour shortages or advocating for sustainable farming practices, our activity must build upon the great work that's already been undertaken to deliver practical results that empower farmers."

With a federal election

looming, Mr Williams' appointment comes at a crucial time for farm advocacy.

"I'm eager to engage with stakeholders – from Parliament to the paddock – to ensure agriculture is not only heard but prioritised in the national policy debate," Mr Williams said.

"This year will be pivotal in shaping policies that secure the future of Australian farming and rural communities."

Troy takes over from Tony Mahar, who served as NFF chief executive officer from 2016 to late 2024 and now serves as Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.



New NFF chief executive Troy Williams.



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36th Annual Australian Poultry Science Symposium - Invited Speakers February 10 – 12, 2025 University of Sydney, Australia



Mike Bedford

Born and raised in Birkenhead in the UK, Mike completed a bachelor degree at Nottingham University in animal nutrition, physiology, nutrition and production (1978-81). After meeting Professor John Summers there, he went on to do his masters at the University of Guelph in Canada on poultry amino acid nutrition (1981-1984). He then completed his PhD at the University of Guelph (1984-1988) on interaction of nutrition with poultry polyamine biochemistry, with post-docs at McGill (Montreal, 1988-1989, D Zadworny) and Saskatchewan (1989-1991, Hank Classen) in molecular biology and enzymes in poultry nutrition respectively. He has worked in the industry on feed enzymes principally at Finnfeeds International (1991-2001), Zymetrics (2001-2007) and finally AB Vista (2007-present) where he has been the director of research for almost 20 years. Mike has produced over 350 publications, including more than 250 full refereed journal articles, principally in the field of feed enzymes, more than 30 popular press articles and six book chapters. He has also published three books, including three editions of *Enzymes in Farm Animal Nutrition*.



Michael Kogut

Dr Kogut is a research microbiologist and lead scientist at the Southern Plains Agricultural Research Centre, College Station, Texas. He has published over 220 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 20 book chapters and has received five patents. Dr Kogut's research has concentrated on the development of cost-effective immunological interventions to improve gut health of poultry by studying the role of the microbiota in immunity to infection, the role of dietary metabolites in promoting immune regulation and immune responses to enteric bacterial pathogens, characterising novel molecular targets that mediate the actions of dietary compounds in gut inflammation and immunity, and understanding the integration of central metabolic pathways and nutrient sensing with antimicrobial immunity. Dr Kogut is a Poultry Science Association Fellow and is the current editor-in-chief of Poultry Science.



Sonia Liu

Associate Professor Sonia Liu is a poultry nutritionist from the University of Sydney. Her research focuses on reduced protein diets, digestive dynamics of nutrients, amino acid nutrition in layers and broilers and feed grain quality. Sonia has more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications. She was the recipient of the 2015 Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Science and Innovation Award for Young People, the 2018 Australia Awards – Endeavour Research Fellowship and the 2019 Australia Research Council's Discovery Early Career Researcher Award. Recently, Dr Liu won the ARC Early Career Industry Fellowship. This was on top of the ARC Linkage Project she secured earlier this year, worth over \$1 million, to examine the use of reduced protein diets in poultry production.



Walter Bottje

Professor Walter Bottje received his PhD at the University of Illinois and was hired in 1985 in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Arkansas. He served as head and director for the Centre of Excellence for Poultry Science (2002-2008). Starting in 2001, his research focused primarily on understanding the cellular basis of feed efficiency. He currently serves as project director of a USDA NIFA Sustainable Agriculture System grant (#2019-69012-29905), 'Empowering the US broiler industry for transformation and sustainability'. This is a multi-institutional comprehensive grant that includes research, teaching and extension activities with a major focus on water use efficiency to help meet challenges facing the poultry industry in an increasingly hot, crowded and hungry world.



Martha Pulido-Landinez

Holding a DVM and Master of Science in animal health and production from the National University of Colombia, College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry. Doctor of Veterinary Sciences from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil, College of Veterinary Medicine, American College of Poultry Veterinarians – ACPV, diplomate. With special training from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, Poultry Diagnostic and Research Centre, training in avian virology and histopathology, visiting scientist at the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Egg Safety and Quality Research Unit, and short term scholar at Mississippi State University, Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory. Martha has 33 years experience in poultry medicine with an emphasis on salmonella control, emerging bacterial diseases (enterococcus sp) and antimicrobial resistance.



Frank Wong

Frank is a senior research scientist with the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness International Program, where he serves as the World Organisation for Animal Health reference laboratory expert for avian influenza. He currently chairs the executive committee of the WOAH-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza and the OFFLU avian influenza technical working group. He represents OFFLU on WOAH/FAO/WHO tripartite activities on pandemic influenza preparedness and surveillance. At ACDP, Frank serves as the science lead for regional animal health laboratory capacity building and EID surveillance projects at the wildlife interface with southeast Asian countries. He also contributes to ACDP's national emergency animal disease response activities that advise state and federal government agencies on animal influenza outbreaks in Australia. His research interests include molecular epidemiologic surveillance of emergency transboundary animal diseases, viral pathogen phylodynamics and the development of sustainable viromics-based surveillance approaches that could contribute to emergency infectious disease preparedness in the Asia-Pacific region.



Steve Leeson

An expert in poultry nutrition and production, Steve Leeson PhD is a consultant Professor Emeritus at the Ontario University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. As a researcher, his primary areas of study included the potential for manipulation of eggs and poultry meat as it impacts human health. He previously worked on incorporating omega-3 and other polyunsaturates into eggs and studied the transfer efficiency of lutein into eggs. Lutein is known to sustain eye health in humans and Dr Leeson affirms eggs will likely become a major dietary source of this nutraceutical. His other research projects involve the use of medium-chain triglycerides to impact gut health in the absence of antibiotic growth promoters. He has published over 340 papers in referred journals and made over 1000 presentations at scientific and industry meetings. He's published eight books on poultry nutrition and management, including as co-author of the book *Commercial Poultry Nutrition*.



Pairat Srichana

Dr Pairat Srichana started his career in feed technical service at feed technology of Charoen Pokphand Group. In 2002, he was offered a university scholarship in the field of animal nutrition. He received his doctoral degree in 2006. After receiving a PhD in animal science nutrition from the University of Missouri-Columbia in the US, he was appointed chair of the Feed Research and Innovation Centre at CPF (Thailand) PCL. Dr Pairat has over 30 years of experience in feed research and animal nutrition. As the head of animal feed research and development, he was in charge of experimental data, statistical analysis, feed formulation, feed management, feedstuff quality and dietary supplement evaluation, enabling Dr Pairat to accumulate an in depth understanding of animal feed. In this role, Dr Pairat was also invited as a special instructor. He currently teaches introductory animal nutrition courses at undergraduate level and is a co-instructor for a graduate level course.



Sanna Steenfeldt

With a MSc (Biology) (cand.scient.) from the Aarhus University in 1988 and a PhD (poultry science) from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Denmark in 1995, Dr Sanna Steenfeldt is employed at the Aarhus University's Department for Animal and Veterinary Sciences as senior researcher. Dr Steenfeldt is the project manager of and participant in many research projects dealing with different topics related to poultry nutrition, physiology and production in both conventional and organic production. These include feedings strategies for broilers and allometric measures, nutritive value of feed ingredients for broilers and effect of fibres on intestinal viscosity, passage rate and nutrient digestibility, phosphorus and calcium levels in broiler and layers diets, and strategic allocation of calcium and the effect on performance, retention and leg health. Dr Steenfeldt teaches at several BSc and MSc courses and is experienced as supervisor for BSc, MSc and PhD students.



Vitor Arantes

Vitor Arantes is an experienced poultry nutritionist and technical services expert with over 15 years in the field. As the global technical services manager and global nutritionist at Hy-Line International, Vitor leads technical support initiatives for customers worldwide. He oversees the nutrition of pure lines and grandparent breeding flocks in Iowa, ensuring optimal performance through tailored nutritional strategies. Additionally, he plays a crucial role in managing Hy-Line's breeder and commercial databases, as well as contributing to the final review of technical literature and management guides. Before joining Hy-Line International, Vitor served as technical services director at Hy-Line Brazil, where he was responsible for managing product performance, customer support and breeder nutrition. He holds a bachelor degree in animal science, an MBA in industrial poultry and an MBA in business management.



Peter Chrystal

Peter completed his Bachelor of Science in South Africa under Professor Rob Gous in 1982 and completed his PhD at the University of Sydney in 2022 with Dr Sonia Liu and Dr Peter Selle, investigating reduced protein diets in broiler chickens. Peter has extensive commercial experience in both monogastric feeds and vitamin and trace mineral premix manufacture and has worked as a nutritionist for the largest poultry integrators in South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Peter is currently a senior poultry nutrition specialist with Aviagen. He has presented at a number of conferences around the globe and been both author and co-author of over 60 peer-reviewed publications.

Big sheds mean big clean up

AUSSIE Pumps is of 125 litres per minwell aware of the huge demands placed on the poultry industry to increase production and fight against the possibility of diseases such as avian influenza.

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ute.

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and manoeuvre without any real effort from the operator.

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Aussie only uses the best engines, with either a Honda petrol or a Yanmar or Kohler diesel.

Big electric-drive three-phase machines are also available including the 5000psi 161/min 'Aussie Hurricane'.

The company is famous for its breakthrough products and the ability of its engineers to listen to what the users say.

"The best ideas we've ever received for product development all came from users of the product," Mr Hales said.

Further information is available from aus siepumps.com.au 🦫





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US investigates new bird flu strain as Trump administration freezes health communications

HEALTH officials in the US are looking into the appearance of a worrying new strain of avian influenza, which has been detected in the country for the first time.

The strain H5N9 was found on a duck farm in Merced County, California, marking the first confirmed case in US poultry, according to the World Organisation for Animal Health.

However, the discovery was not publicly disclosed by US health authorities.

This lack of communication comes amid the Trump administration's suspension of government health communications while a political review is underway.

Experts are concerned that this delay in sharing critical information could hinder efforts to manage and contain potential outbreaks.

Stony Brook University vaccine expert Michael Kinch said, "It is extremely unusual, and I believe it reflects the policy decision for everyone to go dark."

"It's troubling because any sort of non-typical influenza is particularly problematic when it gains the ability to jump between species."

US officials are required to report outbreaks in animals to the World Organisation for Animal Health, but the US Department of Agriculture has yet to explain why the case wasn't publicly report-

This comes at a time when health authorities are facing increased pressure due to a US directive halting all collaborations with the World Health Organisation.

US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention senior official John Nkengasong issued a memo recently, halting all staff interactions with WHO, ordering them to "await further guidance."

This decision has raised concerns about the impact on efforts to tackle diseases such as Marburg virus and mpox in Africa, as well as other emerging global threats.

The discovery of new avian influenza strains is particularly worrying because the virus has fatalities over the years, typically from close contact with infected animals.

The USDA and state authorities are actively investigating the Merced County case, but health experts are especially concerned about the implications of H5N9.

Another more common avian influenza strain, H5N1 has been circulating in US poultry farms and, earlier this month, a woman in Louisiana died after contracting the virus.

However, human-tohuman transmission of H5N1 remains rare.

On the other hand, the H5N9 strain is less studied, which means there is limited information about its potential risks to human health.

The H5N9 strain is believed to be a genetic mix of bird flu viruses, including H5N1.

A highly pathogenic version of H5N9 was first detected in China over a decade ago.

The emergence of this strain raises concerns that it could evolve in ways that may make

caused several human it more dangerous to humans, requiring researchers to start fresh on vaccine development if it spreads.

"This is the wrong time of year and the wrong virus to be messing around with," Mr Kinch said, highlighting the urgency of studying the new strain.

While US health officials have been closely monitoring H5N1 for any signs of genetic mutations that might increase its threat, they have emphasised that currently there is no evidence of humanto-human transmission and the overall risk to the public remains low.

Nonetheless, experts caution that any mutation in a flu virus makes it impossible to predict the outcome.

Baylor College of Medicine vaccine expert Peter Hotez noted that the fact H5N1 is mixing its genetic material with other flu strains is a worrying development.

"It's concerning that these viruses are evolving," he said.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital leading flu researcher Richard Webby echoed the concern, pointing out that while the H5N9 case may not immediately increase the risk to humans or animals, researchers need to carefully examine its genetic sequence for any significant changes.

Meanwhile, in the UK, health authorities reported a case of H5N1 in a person from central England.

The individual, who had been in close contact with infected birds at a farm, was in good health and public health authorities were tracing all contacts to offer antiviral treatment.

UK officials stressed that the risk to the public remained "very

In response to recent outbreaks, UK authorities have been culling infected birds on farms to prevent further spread of the virus.

As health experts continue to monitor developments in both the US and UK, the global community remains on alert for any further mutations or strains of bird flu that could pose new challenges to public health.



The H5N9 strain is believed to be a genetic mix of bird flu viruses, including H5N1. The evolution of these viruses is concerning.



Donald Trump's second administration is pulling out of world health bodies, which experts warn will delay important disclosure of new diseases.

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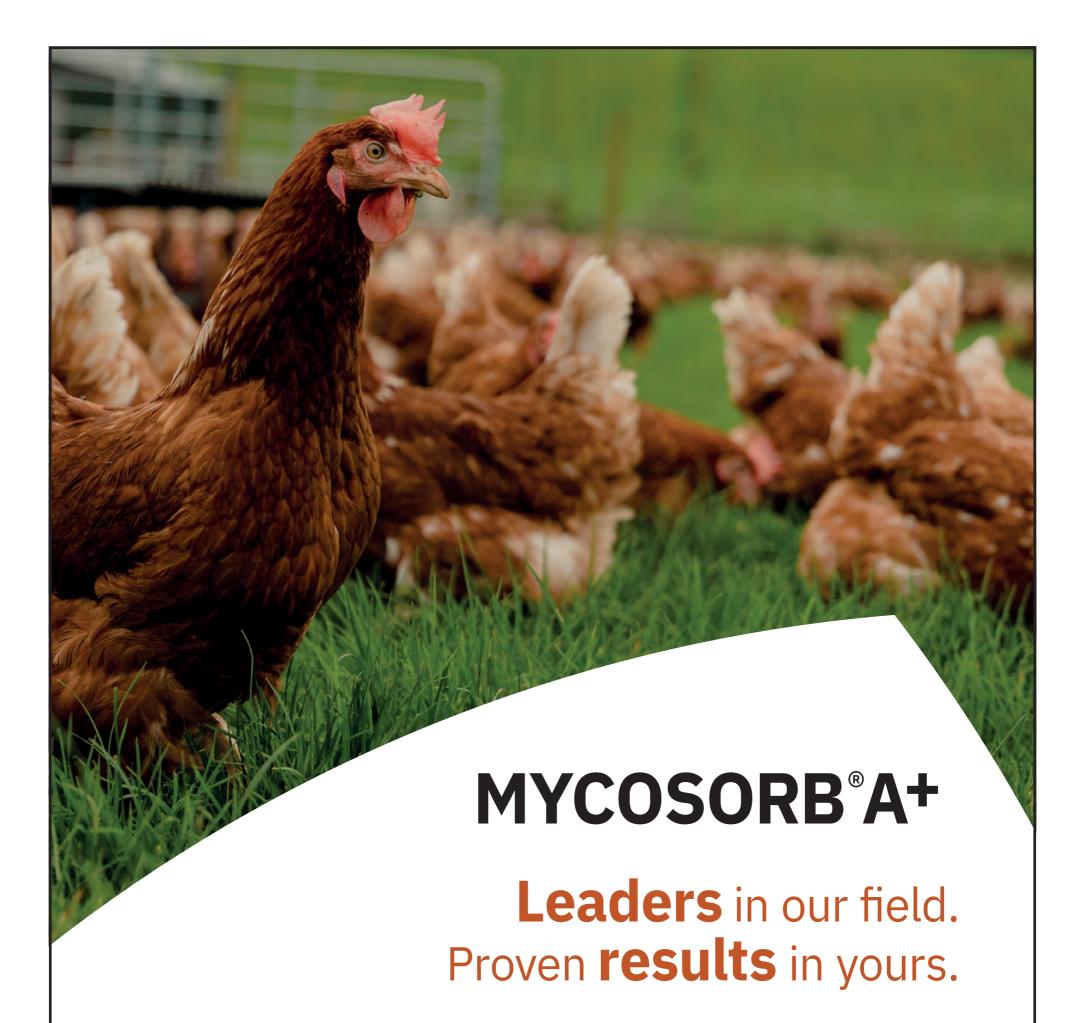
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