NATIONAL Poultry NEWSPAPER

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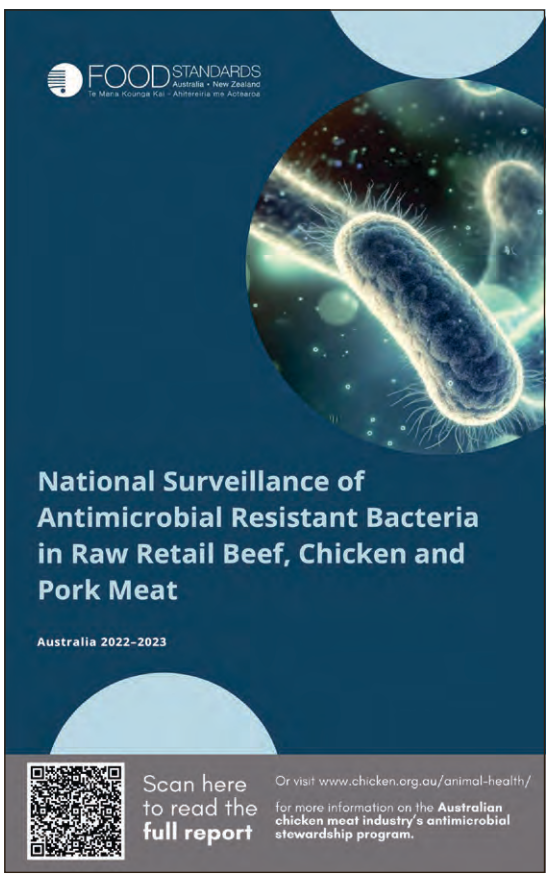
Australian chicken meat industry's leadership in antimicrobial stewardship

THE Australian Chicken Meat Federation welcomes the findings of the newly published 'National surveillance of antimicrobial resistant bacteria in raw retail beef, chicken and pork meat' conducted by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, which confirms the strong performance of Australia's chicken meat sector in managing antimicrobial resistance.

As the most comprehensive survey of its kind since 2008, the FSANZ study reaffirms that resistance to antibiotics critical to human health remains low across all meat categories and that the risk of transference can be eliminated with proper handling and cooking.



For Australian retail chicken meat specifically, the latest FSANZ study confirms that it presents a very low antimicrobial-resistance risk and any potential for bacterial transfer is effectively eliminated when the product is handled, cooked and prepared properly.

ACMF chief executive officer Dr Mary Wu said the findings highlight the sector's strong stewardship record while helping dispel misconceptions about our industry.

"There is a persistent myth that meat chickens are given a lot of antibiotics, but that is not the case," Dr Wu said.

"Antibiotics are not used routinely to raise meat chickens.

"They are used only to treat illness, under veterinary direction.

"This approach protects animal health while supporting food safety and public health."

The scale and scientific rigour of the FSANZ study has also provided a clearer national picture of AMR in retail meats than previously available, reinforcing confidence across industry, government and the community that Australia's surveillance systems, biosecurity measures and

☛ continued P2

Egg yolk pigmentation is the result of a finely balanced system involving nutrition, bird health and pigment characteristics.

Egg yolk pigmentation – what drives colour and why it matters

Egg Farmers of Australia

by MELINDA HASHIMOTO
CEO

DURING a recent visit to Japan, I was struck by the importance placed on egg yolk colour and intensity, with yolk fan scores reaching as high as 18.

This reflects a strong consumer preference for very deep richly coloured yolks and highlights how market expectations can differ significantly between regions.

The Japanese market demonstrates what is achievable through precise feed formulation, effective use of carotenoids and excellent hen health and management.

It also reinforces the need for producers and the wider industry to understand international benchmarks for yolk pigmentation, particularly as global trade, innovation and consumer awareness continue to grow.

Egg yolk colour is one of the most visible quality attributes noticed by consumers and is often associated with freshness, nutrition and hen wellbeing.

While preferences vary by market, a rich golden yolk is widely regarded as desirable.

Yolk colour however is not random.

It is the outcome of complex biological and nutritional processes centred on carotenoids, hen health and feed management.

Carotenoids are natural pigments responsible for yellow, orange and red hues in many plants and animals.

In laying hens, yolk pigmentation depends entirely on dietary carotenoids as birds cannot synthesise these compounds themselves.

For carotenoids to create an attractive yolk colour, they must be consumed in sufficient quantities, absorbed effectively through a healthy gut, transported in the bloodstream and ultimately deposited into the developing egg yolk.

Any disruption along this pathway

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NATIONAL Poultry NEWSPAPER

Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

2026

MAR 16-18 – Western Poultry Disease Conference, San Diego, USA. https://www.wpdcfoundation.org

MAR 18-20 – Alltech ONE Conference 2026, Lexington Kentucky, USA. https://one.alltech.com

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

MAY 13-14 – British Pig and Poultry Fair, Birmingham, UK. https://pigandpoultry.org.uk

MAY 16 – Rare Poultry Breeders Association Annual Show, Maitland Showground NSW, Australia. president@rarepoultrybreedersassociation.com

JUN 2-4 – 14th International Coccidiosis Conference, Ghent, Belgium. https://icc2026.eu/register-for-the-icc2026/

JUN 2-4 – VIV Europe, Utrecht, The Netherlands. https://europe.viv.net

JUN 13 – Hamburgh Club of NSW Annual Show, Mudgee, Australia. hamburghclubnsw@gmail.com

JUL 4 – Hamburgh Club of NSW Annual Photo Show, digital. hamburghclubnsw@gmail.com

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

NOV 10-13 – EuroTier, Hannover, Germany. https://www.eurotier.com/en/

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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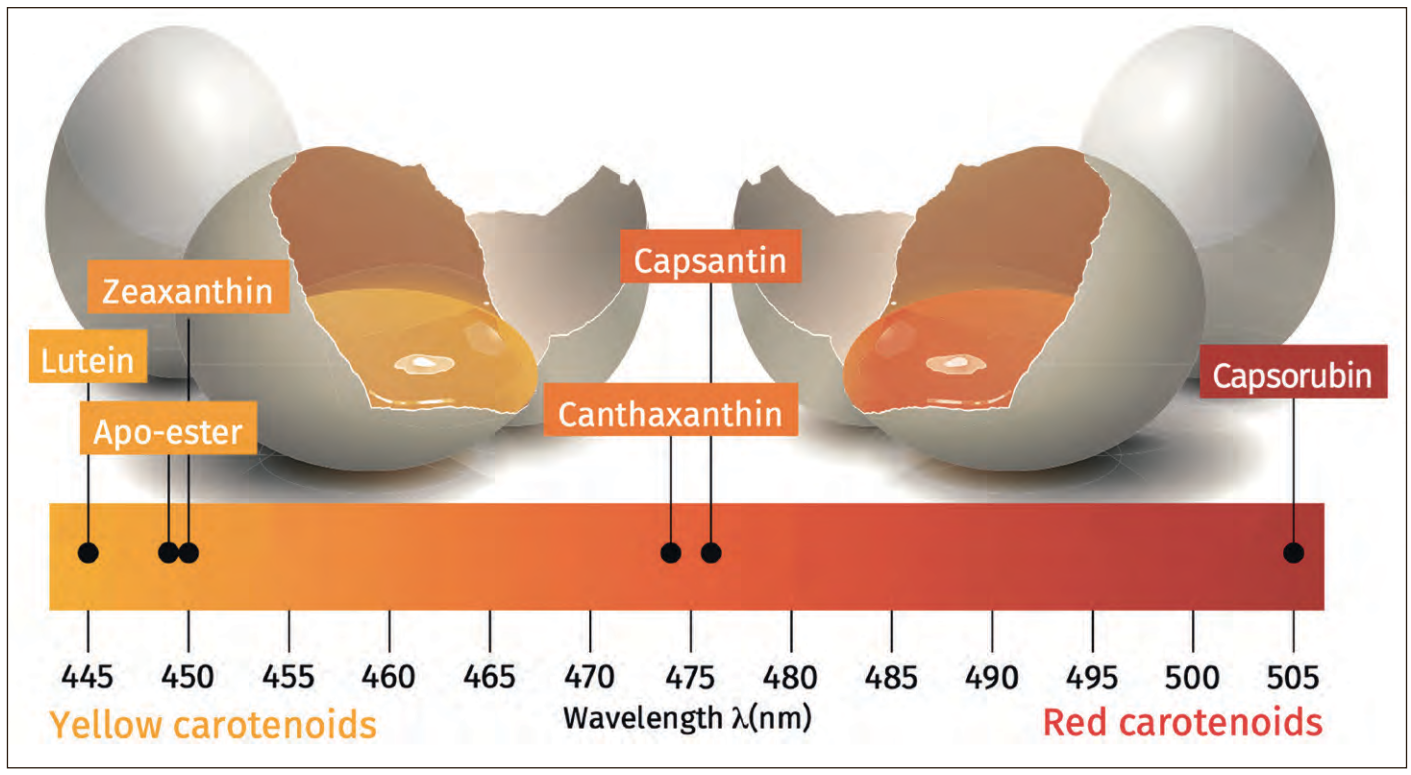
0450 672 553



Wavelengths of various carotenoids used for yolk pigmentation. Photos: dsm-firmenich

Egg yolk pigmentation – what drives colour and why it matters

☛ from P1

can reduce pigmentation efficiency.

Hen health plays a critical role in this process.

It has been said a golden yolk can only come from a healthy hen.

When birds are healthy, carotenoids are more likely to be used for yolk deposition rather than diverted for other physiological needs, such as immune responses or vitamin A synthesis.

Conversely, sick or stressed hens or those with poor appetite may eat less feed or utilise carotenoids for survival functions, resulting in paler yolks even when pigment levels in the diet are adequate.

For producers, achieving consistent yolk colour is not simply a matter of increasing pigment inclusion.

Variability in feed intake, gut function and carotenoid bioavailability can significantly influence outcomes, highlighting the need for structured pigmentation programs rather than single-point adjustments.

The efficiency of egg yolk pigmentation is influenced by two main factors – the rate at which carotenoids are deposited into the yolk and the colour or wavelength of the carotenoids used.

Different carotenoids behave very differently in the hen.

Yellow carotenoids such as lutein, zeaxanthin and apo-ester are deposited at varying efficiencies, with apo-ester showing particularly high deposition rates.

Red carotenoids, including canthaxanthin and capsanthin capsorubin combinations, contribute deeper orange to red hues but generally require higher inclusion rates due to lower deposition efficiency.

Yolk pigmentation typically occurs in two phases.

The first is the saturation phase, where yellow carotenoids establish a yellow base colour in the yolk.

Once this base is achieved, the second colour phase begins, during which red carotenoids shift the hue towards a deeper orange or golden tone.

Combining yellow and red carotenoids is often more cost-effective and allows producers to fine tune yolk colour to meet specific market expectations.

Importantly, increases in dietary carotenoid content lead to proportional increases in yolk carotenoid concentration, provided the hen is healthy and able to absorb and deposit these pigments efficiently.

This makes careful feed formulation, ingredient selection and carotenoid source choice essential tools for producers seeking consistent yolk colour while optimising cost and performance.

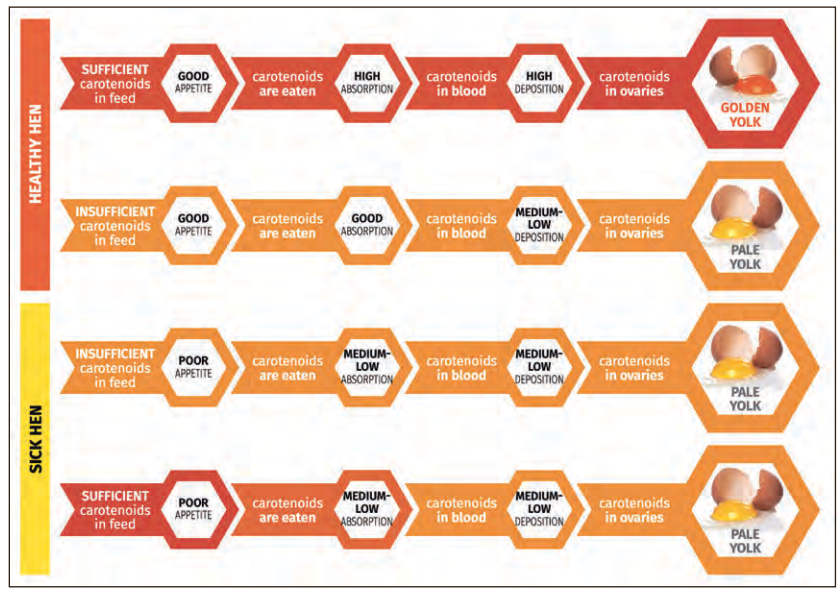
In summary, egg yolk pigmentation is the result of a finely balanced system involving nutrition, bird health and pigment characteristics.

Understanding how different carotenoids function – and ensuring hens are healthy and well-managed – enables producers to deliver consistent yolks of the desired colour and quality.

As consumer expectations evolve, effective management of yolk pigmentation and its drivers will be increasingly important for consistent high-quality egg production.

I wish to acknowledge and thank dsm-firmenich for technical guidance and scientific input in the preparation of this article.

In Japan, importance is placed on egg yolk colour and intensity, with yolk fan scores reaching as high as 18.



Hen health plays a critical role in the yolk colouring process.

Australian chicken meat industry's leadership in antimicrobial stewardship

☛ from P1

antimicrobial stewardship frameworks are performing effectively.

ACMF has welcomed these results as an important reaffirmation of Australia's high standards in food safety and antimicrobial stewardship and will continue to work closely with regulators and research partners to ensure these outcomes continue to be upheld in order to deliver safe and high-quality food to consumers.

You can read the full report by scanning the QR code or visiting www.foodstandards.gov.au/publications

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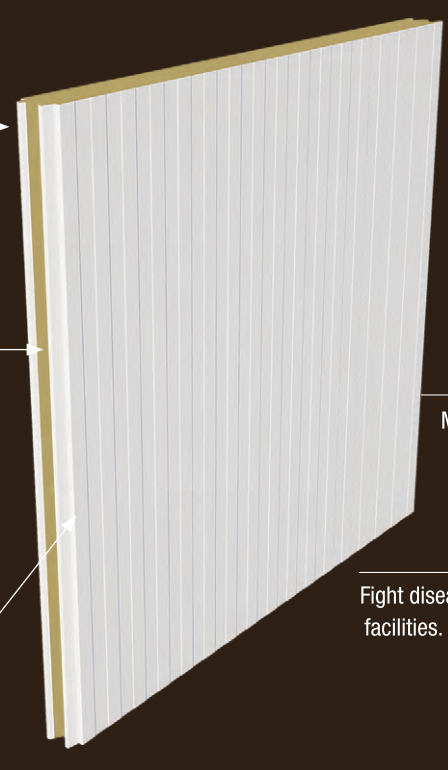

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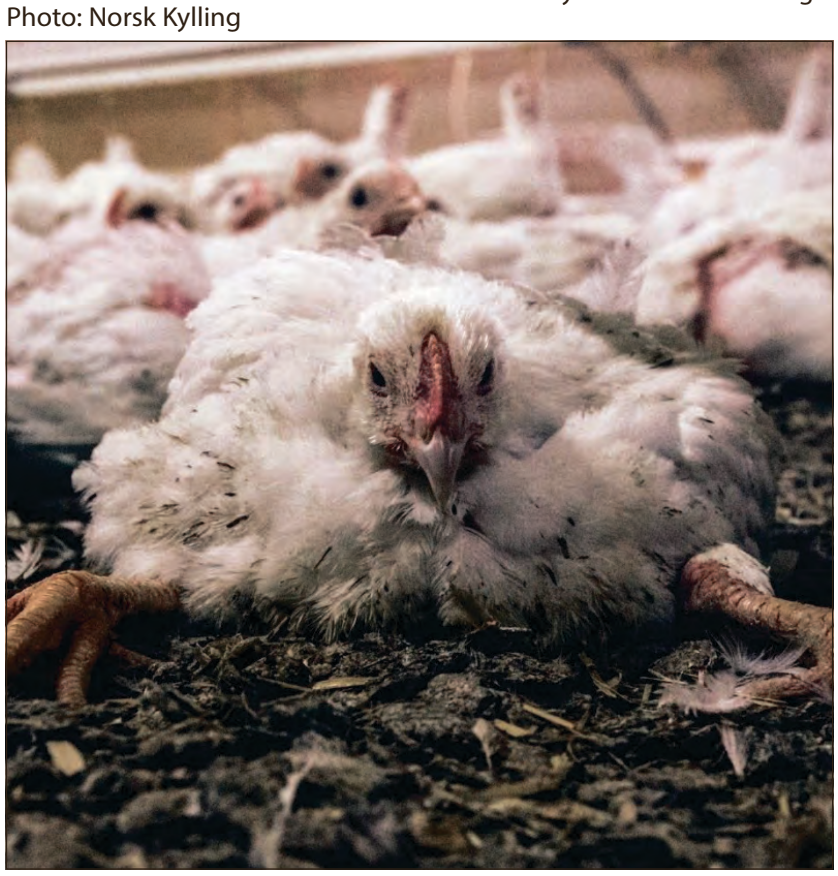
Build Better

Norsk Kylling's trailblazing rapid rise to become a global leader for chicken welfare shows that motivation is the only real barrier to change. Photo: Norsk Kylling



A fast-growing broiler chicken on a UK farm. Wealthy nations lag far behind in raising animal welfare standards, including the UK and Australia. Photo: Anima International

Looking to the future, the Norwegian chicken meat industry will phase out all fast-growing chicken breeds by 2027. Photo: Norsk Kylling

Norway phasing out fast-growing chickens by 2027

NORWAY is now on track to be the world's first country to phase out inhumane fast-growing chicken breeds by 2027.

This is an incredible accomplishment even by Norway's exceptional track record for animal welfare.

But how did they get here?

And what lessons could we learn to see how Australia could follow in their footsteps?

Unexpected allies – animal welfare advocates and a major chicken producer

In 2015, major chicken producer Norsk Kylling and the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (Dyrevernalliansen) began a collaboration that set the stage for historic change.

Norsk Kylling rebuilt their slaughterhouse to remove its live shackling and electrical water bath stunning system, replacing it with more humane gas stunning.

In 2018, they introduced a slower growing breed.

Notably, this was only two years after the Better Chicken Commitment was publicly launched as an animal welfare framework, meaning they were ready to invest in a switch to higher animal welfare standards right from the get-go.

In 2022, Norsk Kylling reduced stocking densities and introduced enrichments and natural light to their grower sheds for all chickens.

Due to their proximity to the arctic pole, they can't provide natural daylight year-round, so they installed lighting that uses daylight spectrum bulbs to make up for it.

They also have blackout blinds installed to ensure chickens get a minimum eight hours of total darkness each day for rest, as during Norwegian summers the sun barely sets at all.

With those final changes, Norsk Kylling became fully compliant with the Better Chicken Commitment.

Rapid change

What makes Norsk Kylling's groundbreaking leadership even more impressive, is that in 2014 they were ranked the worst chicken producer in Norway by animal welfare advocates.

Company leadership took this as a challenge to do better and a decade later were winning international awards for their animal welfare leadership.

The story of Norsk Kylling's trailblazing rapid rise to become a global leader for chicken welfare shows that motivation is the only real barrier to change.

A tipping point

Norsk Kylling's investment in animal welfare raised the bar for all Norwegian chicken companies, as well as showing the world that the BCC was achievable.

What's more, they did it without raising retail prices.

While raising animal welfare standards increased Norsk Kylling's production costs, this was at least partially if not fully offset by increased efficiency.

Far fewer chickens were dying prematurely, and far fewer carcasses were rejected due to myopathies.

In other words, fewer chickens were needed to produce the same amount of meat and those chickens lived far better lives.

Animal advocacy organisations next set their sights on Nortura, Norway's largest chicken producer.

They campaigned for retailers and restaurant chains to sign the Better Chicken Commitment to continue growing demand.

Anima International has spent the past six years in constant dialogue with the industry and commercial chicken buyers behind the scenes of their more public campaign activity.

Anima coined the term 'turbokylling' (meaning 'turbo chicken' in both Norwegian and Danish), which became so widely used in the public discourse that it's now in official dictionaries.

From major producers to regional arms of multinational food corporations to everyday consumers, Norwegians are enthusiastically jumping on board with the Better Chicken Commitment.

The phase-out

Last month, the Norwegian chicken meat industry announced a groundbreaking commitment – to phase out all fast-growing chicken breeds by 2027.

The joint statement from the industry association for meat producers KLF and Nortura was a globally historic milestone for farmed animal welfare.

Currently about 60 percent of chickens in Norway are fast-growing breeds.

By 2027 there will be 0 percent.

Beyond Norway

The success of Norway has thrown into stark contrast how other wealthy nations such as the United Kingdom and Australia lag far behind.

People want higher animal welfare standards, but companies are falling behind public expectations.

Norway has shown us that when companies really want to, they can make massive improvements to their animal welfare standards within only a few years.

So, who will be the first Australian producer to rise above the rest?

April Broadbent
Better Chicken Australia

Taking pressure off modern poultry shed water management

■ Why pressure control is becoming a performance tool

AUSTRALIAN poultry producers are operating in an environment where labour is stretched, margins are tight and incremental performance gains are increasingly difficult to achieve.

As a result, attention is shifting toward systems that quietly but consistently influence bird behaviour, shed conditions and uniformity across a full grow-out.

Water delivery is one of those systems.

While water intake has always been recognised as critical to flock health and performance, the way water pressure is managed inside sheds has often been treated as a set-and-forget function.

In reality, bird demand for water is dynamic, changing throughout the day, across growth stages and in response to temperature, lighting programs and feed intake.

Traditional drinking systems typically rely on fixed pressure settings or manual adjustments to manage this variation.

While functional, these systems can struggle to respond consistently across large sheds or multiple drinker lines.

The result may be uneven water availability, unnecessary leakage, wetter litter and increased labour spent on monitoring and adjustment.

This is where automated water pressure management is increasingly being viewed as a performance tool rather than a convenience.

Plasson's 'Water On Demand Pro' system was developed to allow producers to manage water pressure centrally and dynamically, adjusting in response to bird demand rather than maintaining static settings.

Pressure is reduced during periods of low consumption and increased only when birds require higher flow, supporting consistent access while minimising excess water delivery.

One of the biggest benefits of the system is maintaining the required pressure, even in peak consumption.

And the most immediate advantage of improved pressure control is better litter condition.

Excessive pressure can lead to increased water leakage, particularly during low-demand periods, contributing to wet litter and elevated ammonia levels.

By matching pressure to demand, water-on-demand systems help maintain drier floors and a more stable shed environment.

Labour efficiency is another key consideration.

Manual pressure adjustments across multiple lines are time-consuming and can vary between sheds or staff.

Centralised control reduces the need for repeated physical intervention, allowing managers to make precise adjustments quickly and focus attention elsewhere.

Importantly, consistent pressure also supports uniform water access throughout the shed.

Variations along drinker lines, especially during peak demand, can impact intake and growth uniformity.

Systems designed to manage pressure evenly help ensure birds have reliable access regardless of location.

A further advantage for producers is that Plasson's Water On Demand Pro system can be integrated into existing shed infrastructure.

Improving water management does not require replacing entire drinker lines or undertaking major rebuilds.

The system is designed to retrofit into current setups, allowing producers to enhance control, responsiveness and consistency without discarding proven equipment.

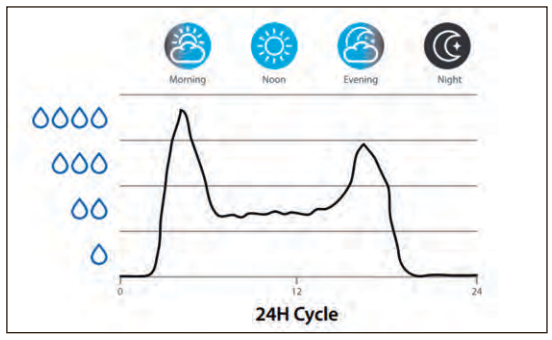
As Australian poultry operations continue to scale and modernise, managing water delivery with the same precision applied to feeding, ventilation and lighting is becoming a logical next step.

In an industry where the next gains are often found in the fundamentals, how water pressure is managed is increasingly part of the performance conversation.

Plaus Agency is excited to be an exhibitor at PIX 2026 – visit our booth for more information.

Alternatively, contact us at sales@plagency.com.au or call Johann on 0487 671 377.

Plagency



Pressure is reduced during periods of low consumption and increased only when birds require higher flow.

Plasson Water on Demand Pro control units installed on-site, enabling centralised pressure management and real-time monitoring.

Installation of the Plasson Water on Demand Pro system integrated into an Australian broiler operation.

In Tasmania recently, these happy housed hens caught the author's eye.

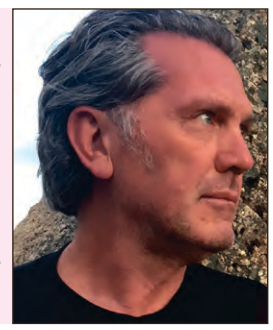
Chicken lives matter. So far from industrial scale, this modest little hen and her chickens in Ubud Bali were simply irresistible – at least for the author's camera.

Surely as we enjoy such special scrambled eggs, we should pay our respects to the hard-working chickens that effectively served them up. And we should spare a thought for the environments and conditions they worked in.

A healthy alliance for welfare's sake

Cant Comment

by **BRENDON CANT**



SUPPORTING the Australian Alliance for Animals is a no-brainer for me.

AAA aims to create an independent animal welfare policy system that works for animals, not against them.

Through its programs it leads sector-wide support for crucial reforms, holds decision-makers to account and brings its members and allies together to strengthen the representation of animals.

What's not to like about that!

While I've worked for decades within and on the fringes of animal industries of all shapes, sizes and species, I've increasingly felt that animal welfare – especially on intensive farms and in processing facilities – has gone down deep cruel dark holes the bigger the industries have become.

Industrial scale farming – in particular of chickens and pigs – has been allowed to evolve to unprecedented levels and sadly, this has come in tandem with often unacceptable and never before seen animal welfare outcomes.

Also, producer industry bodies have too often spent their precious time and farmer levy funds effectively forgiving and often defending perpetrators of poor animal welfare practices, while consistently aiming their blame game at those who often bravely – and yes, I acknowledge often illegally – expose malpractices.

Anyway, having made my welfare feelings known, I now handover to the Australian Alliance for Animals, courtesy of its 2025 annual report.

Following is the intro, written and signed by co-founders Dr Bidda Jones and Dr Jed Goodfellow.

When we founded the Australian Alliance for Animals, our purpose was clear – to unite the animal protection movement around a shared vision of systemic reform.

Just a few years on, the Alliance has become a vital bridge between compassion and political change.

We bring together experts, advocates and everyday Australians to ensure animal welfare remains firmly on the political agenda.

In 2025, collaboration proved its strength once again.

During the federal election, our national scorecard campaign secured support for five key animal welfare policies, including expanding the inspector-general of animal welfare's role, establishing an animal welfare trade policy, banning hunting trophy imports and more.

We were also proud to play a central role in defending the historic legislation to end live sheep export.

When pressure mounted to reverse the government's commitment, the Alliance coordinated a national advertising campaign with Animals Australia and Stop Live Exports to ensure the government held the line, and together we succeeded, reaching over 3.7 million Australians in the process.

Throughout the year, we continued to build the foundations for our 'Fair go for animals' campaign, with over 60 organisations now pledging their support for a fairer more independent animal welfare governance system.

Momentum also grew for Better Chicken Australia, as thousands of Australians joined the call to raise the standard for the 700 million chickens farmed for meat each year.

Thanks to the collective strength of our members, allies and supporters, the Alliance is now recognised as a trusted national voice for animals – one capable of influencing policy, shaping debate and turning public compassion into systemic change.

Together we are creating a future where animals are no longer an afterthought in decision-making but part of a system that respects their sentience and protects their welfare.

To bring things back into the chook pen, the following is a taste of what the AAA annual report had to say about what its cracked on the egg front.

Our campaign to end the use of battery cages in Australia continued to build momentum in 2025, despite some disappointing setbacks from the supermarkets.

We continued to drive progress through a combination of targeted advocacy, public mobilisation and direct government engagement.

We supported the Open Wing Alliance's global investigation, which exposed the realities of battery cage farming around the world, placing increased pressure on food businesses to meet their 2025 cage free commitments.

To hold Australian governments accountable for their 2023 promise to phase out battery cages, we launched a nationwide letter-writing campaign, enabling supporters to write directly to their state agriculture ministers.

Following this advocacy, Queensland, NSW and Victorian governments confirmed their intention to regulate the new national poultry standards and phase-out battery cages.

While this was welcome news, major Australian supermarkets Coles and Woolworths announced they were pushing back their 2025 commitments to be cage-free.

In response, we joined leading animal protection organisations in publishing a joint open letter scrutinising their backtracking and urging the supermarket giants to uphold their promises to Australian consumers and hens.

As we move into 2026, we will continue to put pressure on the supermarkets and press for the introduction of legislation in every jurisdiction to finally bring an end to battery cages in Australia.

PIX 2026: Developing our future

PIX2026
POULTRY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Gold Coast, 12–14 May 2026

Poultry Grower Rebate Program

Supporting growers' attendance at PIX 2026. This rebate program assists poultry growers in accessing the latest information and innovations presented at PIX.

- $500 Rebate towards registration costs
- Limited numbers available - apply early!
- Invest in your industry knowledge

Apply now by scanning the QR code or visit:
https://www.pix.au/pix-rebate-program

These programs align with PIX's core purpose—facilitating the exchange of information, encouraging fellowship among those with a shared interest in poultry, and strengthening engagement across the industry.

Speaker Highlight

The 2026 program brings together globally respected poultry experts delivering practical, production-focused insight.

Michael Toscano
University of Bern

Michael Czarick
University of Georgia

Brian Fairchild
University of Georgia

Mark Allan
Lohmann Breeders

Visit: https://www.pix.au
for more program information

FOOD with PURPOSE
A PIX, AMC and APL Event

PIX 2026 – Global expertise driving practical outcomes

AS Australia's poultry sector navigates rising input costs, workforce transition and accelerating technological adoption, standing still is not an option.

PIX 2026 'Developing our future' – to be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from May 12-14, 2026 – arrives at a critical moment for purposeful collaboration and capability building.

Delivered under the broader Food with Purpose 2026 banner alongside the Australian Milling Conference and Australian Pork Limited, Poultry Information Exchange once again unites poultry with allied sectors to drive practical outcomes across production, processing and supply chains.

The 2026 program features internationally respected technical leaders.

Lohmann Breeders global technical service manager (cage free) Mark Allen brings decades of experience spanning United Kingdom integrator operations to global cage-free flock management, with expertise in housing design, welfare systems and commercial integration aligned to evolving production systems.

Michael Czarick from the University of Georgia will provide practical insight into poultry house environmental control and energy conservation – critical as producers seek efficiency gains through ventilation optimisation and system performance management.

Joining the program is Professor Brian Fairchild, also from the UGA Department of Poultry Science.

Professor Fairchild is internationally recognised for his work in poultry house management, ventilation, litter management and bird performance.

His applied research bridges engineering principles with on-farm productivity outcomes, delivering practical strategies producers can implement immediately.

University of Bern's Centre for Proper Housing Poultry and Rabbits group leader Dr Michael Toscano is internationally recognised for his work in poultry welfare and housing systems.

His research leadership on keel bone damage and behavioural management ensures welfare improvements are grounded in measurable science-based outcomes.

Supporting producers on the ground

Equally significant for 2026 is the introduction of the PIX Poultry Grower Rebate Program.

With up to $500 available to approved delegates, the initiative reduces financial barriers and enables more growers to participate.

The rebate acknowledges that time away from farm operations carries real cost, yet access to suppliers, researchers, peer networks and emerging technologies is critical to maintaining productivity and competitiveness.

By supporting producer attendance, PIX strengthens on-farm capability and ensures conference insights translate into practical outcomes back in sheds, feed mills and processing facilities.

Rebate numbers are limited and early application is strongly encouraged.

Apply now at www.pix.au/pix-rebate-program

Developing our future in action

PIX 2026 is firmly focused on developing our future – not as a concept but through deliberate action.

Investing in industry expertise, young professionals and grower participation ensures the poultry sector remains resilient, skilled and forward-looking.

Places are limited and early applications are strongly encouraged – www.pix.au/registration

Bringing commercial biopesticide for lesser mealworm within reach

LESSER mealworm – also known as darkling or litter beetle – is one of the most persistent and damaging pests in Australian chicken meat production.

Increasing insecticide resistance and limited control options has made lesser mealworm difficult and expensive to control, prompting the search for new solutions.

Research funded by AgriFutures Chicken Meat Program has identified a biopesticide that has delivered promising results that could transform the way the chicken meat industry manages this persistent pest.

Led by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, the research found that mycopesticides – biopesticides containing the insect pathogenic fungus beauveria bassiana – provide a safer, effective and more sustainable alternative to traditional chemical insecticides.

The beetle, occurring in bedding litter, can harbour and spread harmful pathogens such as salmonella and escherichia coli, and its burrowing behaviour causes extensive damage to shed flooring and insulation.

Traditional control has relied on spraying chemical insecticides onto the floors and walls of chicken sheds in between flocks, but growing resistance issues and a reduction in effective chemical options has made management increasingly difficult.

Queensland DPI principal technical officer and lead researcher Steven Rice said, "There are only a few control insecticides left for producers to use, and they are becoming less effective."

"That's why we needed to explore alternatives."

B bassiana naturally infects and kills insects, including lesser mealworm.

It is already found in chicken shed environments, is safe to birds and mammals and does not promote chemical insecticide resistance.

But despite its strong potential as a biopesticide, key data gaps – particularly around safety, metabolite levels, product stability and regulatory requirements – have slowed commercial investment.

☛ continued P9

Aussie Pumps clean shed kit

INSPIRED after reading the January 2026 edition of this publication, we applaud Brendon Cant's wish list.

On the other hand, we have to face reality and accept the growing demand for both chicken and egg production.

We know that well-ventilated sheds with air quality and adequate temperature control are an obvious must.

We come back to the realities that the sheds must be cleaned and drains cleared properly to avoid blockages to protect the birds.

Here's the Aussie package.

Aussie Muck Off

We developed the Aussie Muck Off that has a high-flow high-pressure pump to clear and wash sheds fast.

With up to 125LPM flow and 40 bar pressure, good housekeeping practices are improved.

Aussie's Hot Wash Systems

The Aussie Heat Wave is a hot-wash machine in a stainless-steel frame that produces 4000PSI pressure and hot water temperatures of up to 130C.

It's an essential piece of kit for major operations.

The Jetter

Aussie Pumps Cobra – a drain cleaning jetter – has a 4000PSI pressure rating and 20LPM flow.

The machine is a Class-A unit and Aussie even throws in free-of-charge safety training on both high-pressure water systems and drain-cleaning jetter equipment.

What the Cobra can do for you is jet blocked drains clear fast to avoid the build-up of mosquitoes and whatever other impediments might be in the drains.

Aussie jetters are replacing the old established Electric Eel in a huge breakthrough in efficiency, time saving and safe operation.

We have a free safety training program for jetters too, open to all.

Our job is to keep operators safe, but also to provide the best cleaning solutions.

Further information is readily available by contacting us, Aussie Pumps.

We are well represented across Australia with top-quality distributors and service stations.

For our free jetter safety training program, scan the QR code below.

Warwick Lorenz
Aussie Pumps MD

Aussie Pumps SS frame jetter cleans blocked drains fast and doubles as a 4000PSI HP blaster.

Bringing commercial biopesticide for lesser mealworm within reach

☛ from P8

Building the data needed for commercialisation

At the project's outset, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority assessed previously completed research to determine what additional data was needed for the mycopesticide to be registered in Australia.

The research team explored the safety of secondary fungal metabolites, undertook detailed genomic analyses of the b bassiana strain and examined the shelf life of potential mycopesticide formulations.

They also worked to increase yield while refining and reducing the cost of fungal production, ensuring the technology could be commercially scalable.

Finally, extensive on-farm trials were undertaken, comparing the performance of the mycopesticide against standard insecticides commonly used by producers.

Key findings – safe, stable and highly effective

Laboratory studies confirmed that b bassiana produces important secondary metabolites – oosporein and beauvericin – in quantities well below thresholds of concern for poultry or human health.

"Safety is a top priority," Mr Rice said.

"The low metabolite levels give us confidence that the mycopesticide can be safely used in commercial chicken sheds."

Genomic analyses of 20 samples of the b bassiana strain found the strain used in the mycopesticide is genetically distinct from strains already present in commercial fungal products.

"This uniqueness of the strain strengthens the commercial value of the mycopesticide and separates it from other commercial products," Mr Rice said.

The study also confirmed strong product stability, with granular formulations remaining viable and effective against lesser mealworm for 14 months after storage in hot and humid conditions – stored at 300C and up to 75 percent humidity.

"This level of stability is a major breakthrough, indicating the shelf life is suitable for global poultry operations and they are competitive with established lesser mealworm control products," he said.

"Optimised production methods also resulted in an 80 percent reduction in consumable costs and a 66 percent increase in fungal yield, improving the commercial feasibility of large-scale manufacturing.

"If this is going to succeed commercially, its production must be affordable, and we've shown it can be."

The project's field trials showed that using 10 percent less fungus than previous trials reduced lesser mealworm populations by 87 percent, outperforming the industry-standard chemical insecticides, which achieved only 62 percent control.

"The mycopesticide has consistently outperformed the industry insecticides across all our field trials, and doing so as a natural option," Mr Rice said.

Potential impacts for the chicken meat industry

The results demonstrate not only the efficacy of the biopesticide but also its potential role in slowing resistance development and reducing chemical residues in litter.

Additionally, producers will see reduced structural damage from beetle tunnelling and lower pathogen transmission risks.

Consumer confidence in the sustainability of the chicken meat industry will also strengthen.

"The industry is looking for tools that are both effective and sustainable," Mr Rice said.

"Mycopesticides have the potential to become a core part of integrated pest management in chicken production, not only in Australia but globally.

"The Australian chicken meat industry is now a step closer to the introduction of a safe, effective and sustainable mycopesticide for controlling one of the chicken industry's most persistent pests."

With strong performance in field trials, robust safety indicators and improved commercial viability, the foundations are set for the next phase of industry partnership and product registration.

"We have strong scientific data but commercialisation needs further investment," Mr Rice said.

"With this data, we're in a much stronger position to bring partners on board."

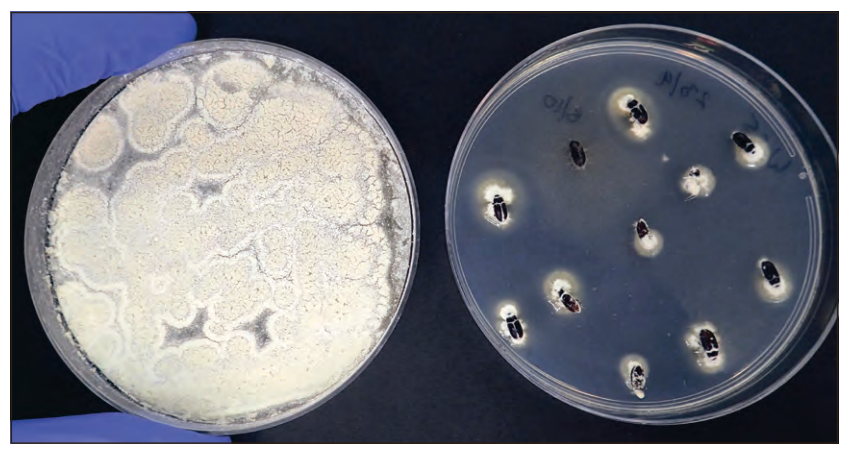
AgriFutures and Queensland DPI are undertaking an 'expression of interest' process to identify a commercial partner to deliver the mycopesticide.

Scan the QR code below for further information on this.

AgriFutures Australia

The mycopesticide has consistently outperformed the industry insecticides across all field trials and doing so as a natural option.

Queensland DPI principal technical officer and lead researcher Steven Rice.



Lesser mealworm, a persistent and damaging pest in Australian chicken meat production. Biopesticides containing the insect pathogenic fungus beauveria bassiana provide a safer, effective and more sustainable alternative to traditional chemical insecticides.

Results show that faba beans and field peas can replace a substantial proportion of soybean meal without compromising overall performance.

Shay Sadr

Using domestically-produced legumes in chicken broiler diets as alternatives to imported soybean meal.

Aussie-grown legumes in chicken meat diets could boost industry resilience and food security

IN her time as the 2025 AgriFutures Gary Sansom scholar, Shay Sadr's research into Australian-grown legumes for use in broiler chicken diets is paving the way for a more sustainable chicken meat industry – cutting reliance on imported soybean meal without reducing productivity or bird health.

Shay is entering the third year of her PhD at the University of Sydney, working within the Poultry Research Foundation.

Strengthening her research through close alignment with chicken meat industry needs, she has focused on the use of domestically-produced legumes – particularly faba beans and field peas – in chicken broiler diets as alternatives to imported soybean meal.

Australia's current high dependence on imported soybean meal exposes the poultry industry to global price volatility.

Identifying effective local alternatives could therefore improve Australia's food security, strengthen industry resilience and support domestic agriculture.

"I chose this research because feed is the largest cost in commercial broiler production and a major driver of environmental impact," Shay said.

"Excess dietary protein can increase nitrogen excretion, odour and greenhouse gas emissions, so improving protein efficiency offers a practical pathway to more sustainable production."

Testing 'ground feed'

Changing broiler diets however is not without its complications.

Replacing soybean meal with alternative ingredients can trigger complex changes in birds, including changes in feed intake, gut function and overall performance.

Therefore, Shay's research has evaluated not only growth performance outcomes but gut health and immune function.

"What makes this work unique is that I combine conventional performance measurements with mechanistic (cause and effect) approaches such as gene expression and transcriptomics," she said.

"This allows me to explain not just what happens, but why it happens – information that is essential for developing feeding recommendations that maintain productivity while improving long-term sustainability."

Using targeted gene expression analysis allows Shay to determine not only what happens when broiler chicken diets are altered but also better understand the biological processes driving the results.

So far, she has completed two major feeding studies and analysed key digestibility and nutrient utilisation.

Across trials, she has measured feed intake, growth rate, body weight gain and the feed conversion ratio, while collecting tissue and digesta samples to assess health and physiological responses.

"Together, these approaches allow me to connect dietary changes to functional shifts in the gut and metabolism, supporting stronger and more confident recommendations," Shay said.

Where performance meets biology

It's good news so far, with results showing that faba beans and field peas can replace a substantial proportion of soybean meal without compromising overall performance.

At higher replacement levels however, the most consistent response is a reduction in feed intake, which can translate to lower body weight gain.

"This is where the gene expression and transcriptomics component becomes especially valuable," Shay said.

"It allows me to investigate whether reduced intake is linked to changes in gut barrier integrity, immune activation or low-grade inflammatory signalling, shifts in nutrient transporter expression or alterations in metabolic pathways that influence appetite and nutrient utilisation."

One key lesson in Shay's research is that performance outcomes aren't simply determined by crude protein intake alone.

Performance depends on multiple interacting factors, such as how the protein is structured, the type and behaviours of starch and fibre as well as how the bird's gut responds physiologically.

The findings from Shay's first feeding trial were published in *Poultry Science*, while the full gene expression analyses for both trials is underway and will form the basis of her next publications.

"My goal is to develop practical feeding strategies that reduce reliance on imported soybean meal while increasing the use of domestically sourced ingredients, without compromising bird performance or feed efficiency," she said.

Gary Sansom scholars bring research to the real world

Shay's research highlights how quickly poultry research can translate into real-world outcomes.

"I also value how the chicken meat industry is focusing on efficiency, welfare, sustainability and continuous improvement," she said.

"Through the scholarship, I've especially enjoyed meeting people across the sector and seeing how the industry values my research.

"There's a real sense that the work matters, economically, environmentally and for food security."

As chicken remains Australia's most pop-

☛ continued P11

Aussie-grown legumes in chicken meat diets

☛ from P10

ular source of animal protein, the AgriFutures Gary Sansom Scholarship plays an important role in validating and valuing research to support an industry that most Australians rely on for food every week.

Established in honour of former AgriFutures Chicken Meat Advisory Panel chair and Australian Chicken Meat Federation president Gary Sansom, the scholarship encourages new people into the chicken meat industry and supports them to build a career in a thriving industry.

"The scholarship has provided several valuable opportunities, including accelerating progress in my PhD research, allowing me to advance experiments, analysis and outputs more efficiently," Shay said.

"It has created networking and mentorship opportunities, connecting me with industry leaders and researchers and helping me better understand how science translates into commercial practice."

Shay encourages future applicants to "apply with confidence", as it's an invaluable opportunity to kick-start their career in the chicken meat industry.

"The strongest applications clearly communicate why the research matters to industry, how the outcomes can translate into real-world impact and your commitment to learning, collaboration and professional growth," she said.

"Scholarships like this can genuinely accelerate your research progress, expand your network and help you grow as both a scientist and a future industry leader – supporting students who want to contribute to the Australian chicken meat industry long term, whether through research or industry-facing roles."

AgriFutures Australia

Australian Poultry Science Symposium 2026 wrap up

ON behalf of the organising committee of APSS 2026, I would like to thank all our invited speakers, sponsors and delegates who travelled from all over the globe to attend.

We had 26 countries represented, with over 360 delegates registered for the three-day event – a new record.

They came to share their knowledge, engage with colleagues old and new, exchange ideas and explore the latest developments in poultry science.

The general feeling was of a huge family reunion, an amazing experience for those attending for the first time – I trust you enjoyed it.

For those who arrived early, we had a wonderful informal welcome event at the Dizzy Bird restaurant at Four Points by Sheraton on the Sunday prior to the start of the thirty-seventh Australian Poultry Science Symposium.

The Student/Industry 'Meet and Greet' Monday morning was also a huge success, with more than 64 students, early career researchers and industry members attending this mentoring networking function – it was encouraging to see these passionate researchers and industry members contributing to the future of the industry.

The conference was officially opened by University of Sydney Interim Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research Enterprise) Professor Antoine van Oijen, and was hosted by the director of the Poultry Research Foundation Associate Professor Reza Barekatain and PRF president Lisa Jamieson.

With 119 submitted papers received – another record – the program included nine invited speaker presentations, 45 oral presentations and 45 poster presentations.

All submitted papers were peer reviewed, so a big shout of thanks to our dedicated colleagues who reviewed these for us, along with the chairs who keep our sessions on time.

The conference is growing from year to year, and we couldn't do it without your support.

I would also like to congratulate and acknowledge the 30 students who took part in our oral and poster presentations – well done, it is so exciting to see your research being recognised by your peers.

Congratulations to the winner of the Mingan Choct Award for Best Student Oral Presentation Ruby Putt from the University of Sydney, with her presentation on 'Exploring risk factors for floor egg production in cage-free layer flocks'.

Along with the winner of the Poultry Research Foundation Award for Best Student Poster Sharmin Akter from the University of New England for her 'Energy dependent regulation of performance, intestinal morphology and gene expression in broilers supplemented with glucose oxidase' poster.

Exceptional work.

The *Starship Sydney* was the place to be for the annual symposium dinner in 2026 – it was a beautiful evening cruising on Sydney Harbour.

The annual Australian Poultry Award for 2025 was awarded to Greg Hargreave, a truly deserving ambassador of our industry.

Fireworks let off somewhere over Sydney added to the celebration, though we claimed them for ourselves – congratulations Greg.

The proceedings will be loaded onto our PRF website in coming weeks, so please check out the list of sponsors, reviewers and all the exciting research papers that were presented.

Lastly, I would like to thank European Catering who kept our delegates in coffee, lunches and amazing morning and afternoon teas.

And also to Platinum Shuttles for the transfers to and from our venues, keeping our delegates somewhat organised.

I hope to see you all again next year.

Jo Geist
APSS 2026

Australian Poultry Award for 2025 winner Greg Hargreave.

APSS 2026 conference photos

February 9 – 11, 2026

The University of Sydney Business School

A dynamic range of speakers and guests attended the APSS conference in February 2026.

PRF president Lisa Jamieson welcomed the audience.

Professor Antoine van Oijen opened the symposium.

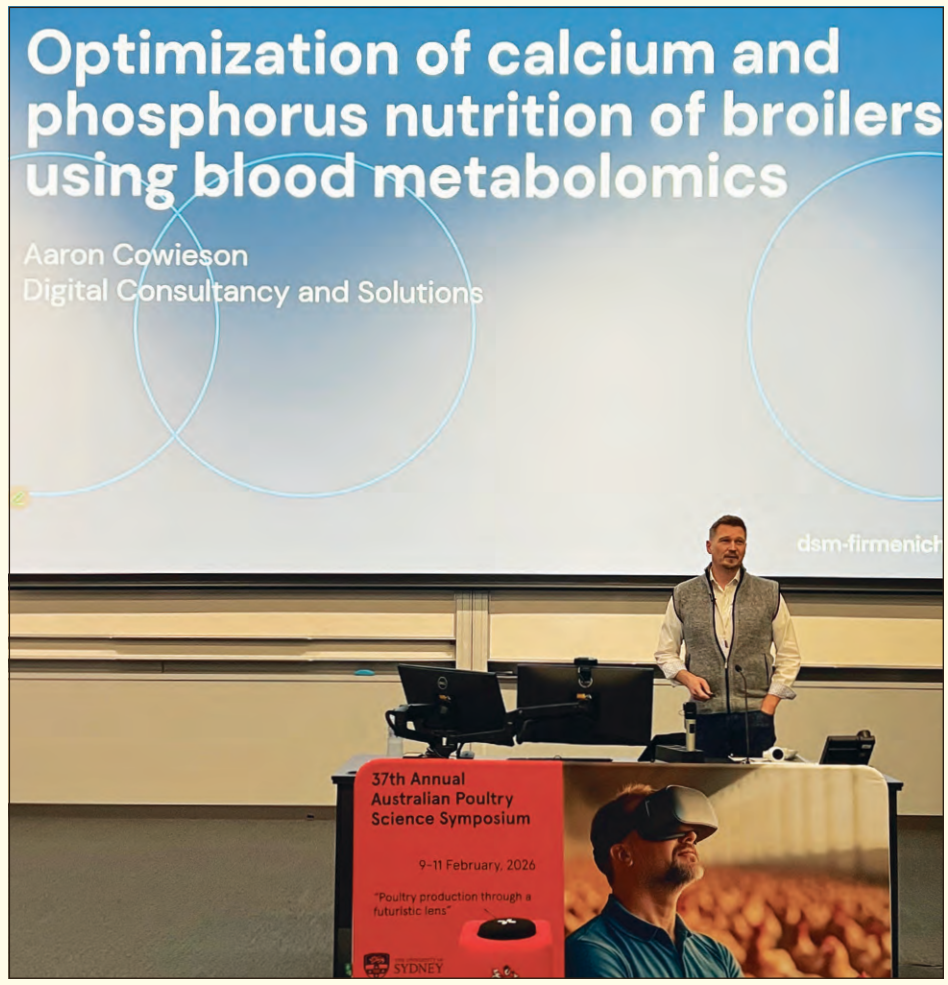
PRF director Associate Professor Reza Barekatain gave an overview of the scientific program.

Professor Tina Widowski from the University of Guelph in Canada.

Dr Chien Duong from Curtin University.

Dr Jean-Francois Gabarrou from Laboratoires Phode in France.

Dr Peta Taylor from the University of Melbourne.



Professor Aaron Cowieson from dsm-fermenich.

APSS 2026 conference photos

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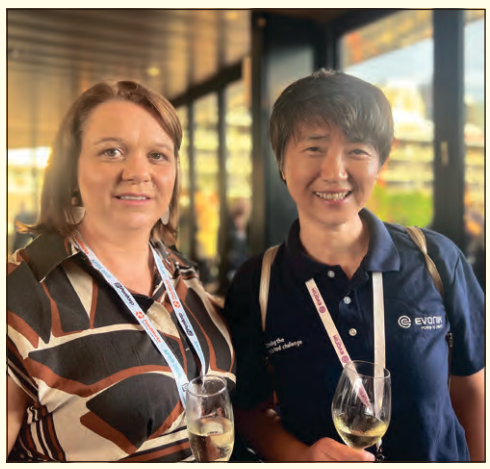






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Bantams or miniature fowls

WHILE most show schedules will feature an extensive classification for bantams, many of the breeds catered for are in fact miniature versions of large fowl.

When new breeds were being imported into the United Kingdom in the nineteenth century, a few breeds of genuine bantams with no large fowl counterparts were among those coming in from various parts of Asia.

Some of these – most notably the breed that came to be known as the Rosecomb – were used by dedicated breeders to create miniature versions of some of the more established large fowl breeds.

So, while most of the birds classified as bantams do at some stage in their development have genuine bantam blood in their background, they also descend from a large fowl breed with the same name.

Over the past century, interest in bantams has increased to the point where at many shows the number of bantams on display outnumbers the large fowl.

The true bantams present a very diverse group, some of which have unique and very appealing characteristics.

All are purely ornamental breeds, with none laying claim to having any utility purpose.

In Australia, around 10 breeds of true bantams have been represented at various times.

Among the most popular of the true bantams is the Pekin.

This breed, which is of Asiatic origin, is a favourite of both exhibitors and backyarders due to its very placid nature and its almost inability to fly.

The breed appears to be a profusion of feathers with heavily feathered legs and comes in a variety of colours.

Though the original colours of this breed were what are known as self-colours – black, white, buff and blue – it is now also available in a number of patterned colours.

The Pekin is bred to a very high standard of perfection and is often in the running for Best in Show awards.

Also of Asiatic origin is the Japanese.

This breed possesses a gene which results in the breed having very short legs.

In fact, in some of the best exhibition birds the legs are so short they appear to have only feet.

This peculiar stance, coupled with what appears to be a disproportionately long almost upright tail, makes the Japanese unmistakable in appearance.

It comes in a variety of colours, but self-whites display the best type in exhibition birds.

A breed that has for many years been a favourite exhibition bird is the Rosecomb.

This breed gets its name from the rose comb that is one of its main features.

Originally occurring in a black variety, the shiny black plumage coupled with a brilliant red comb and pure white earlobes made it a hard breed to beat when bred to perfection.

It is now available in a variety of colours, though most are not produced to the same high standard as the original black.

Another gem of an exhibition breed is the Sebright.

Developed in England about two centuries ago, the Sebright is unique among the true bantams in that the males are entirely hen feathered, meaning they lack the characteristic male tail and hackle feathers that other breeds possess.

This often results in a reduction in the fertility of the best males, presenting their breeders with a challenge that is often difficult to overcome.

The Sebright can be seen in two colour varieties – gold and silver – both of which are exquisitely laced with black on each feather.

A group of breeds known collectively as Belgian Bearded Bantams has gained a wide following in exhibition circles.

Three quite distinct breeds come under this banner, and in addition each one of these three breeds has a rumpless variety, which is virtually unknown in Australia.

The Barbu d'Anvers is rose combed and has unfeathered legs, the Barbu d'Uccle has a single comb and feathered legs, while the Barbu de Watermael has a small crest of feathers and unfeathered legs.

All three have a well-developed beard and muffling, hence their generic breed name.

These breeds come in a huge range of colours, many of which are rarely found in other breeds of fowl.

Among the most popular colours are millefleur, porcelain and quail.

A recent introduction to the Australian exhibition poultry scene is the Dutch Bantam.

Imported in 2014, the Dutch Bantam is standardised here in two colour varieties – gold partridge and yellow partridge.

Local breeders are working to develop other colour varieties, most of which are based on game fowl colours.

Since its introduction, the Dutch Bantam has gained a strong following among the exhibition fraternity and appears to be growing in popularity.

Two other breeds that were imported a couple of years after the Dutch Bantam are the Nankin Bantam and the Serama.

The Nankin Bantam is buff coloured with black points and is widely recognised as being the original source of buff colouration in many bantam breeds.

Unfortunately, the Nankin Bantam did not attract many fanciers and is probably destined to remain a rare breed in this country, if it is not already extinct.

The Serama, which was developed in Malaysia, is often cited as being the smallest chicken breed.

Males of this breed have a peculiar upright stance and are trained to exaggerate this stance for exhibition purposes.

The Serama is still in few hands and many of the birds that are available show signs of having been crossed with Japanese bantams.

However, it has attracted a keen following, with a few dedicated breeders who are committed to seeing the breed progress.

One breed that is often referred to as a bantam is the Silkie.

This is confusing for many people who know it as the 'Silkie bantam', when in fact the Silkie is standardised as a large fowl breed, albeit a very small one.

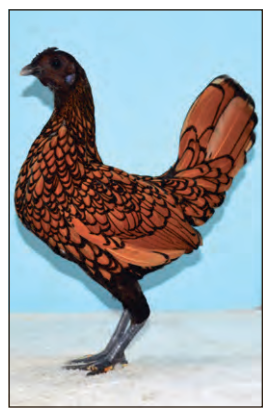
Grant Andrews
Rare Poultry Breeders Association


The Barbu d'Anvers


The Rosecomb


The Dutch Bantam


The Japanese


The Sebright


The Pekin

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