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# NATIONAL Poultry

## NEWSPAPER

Vol 9. No. 6 June 2026 National Poultry Newspaper PO Box 162 Wynnum 4178 Phone 0450 672 553 Email ben@collins.media

## Industry collaboration on display at PIX and AVPA Scientific Meeting

AUSTRALIAN Chicken Meat Federation was out in force at two key industry events last month, participating in both the Poultry Information Exchange conference and the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association Scientific Meeting.

These separate but complementary forums highlighted the strong collaboration happening across industry, research and development and government in addressing challenges and opportunities related to biosecurity, supply chain resilience and the future of sustainable food production.

Both forums featured common messaging



regarding the importance of coordinated action to support a resilient Australian poultry industry among the backdrop of emerging risks.

At the AVPA Scientific Meeting, ACMF chief executive officer Dr Mary Wu delivered a presentation on industry's highly pathogenic avian influenza preparedness activities including updates on the High5 Project and

future considerations in our biosecurity capability uplift.

The presentation also focused on key workstreams under the industry-led High5 Project, relating to its core themes of depopulation, disposal, decontamination and recovery.

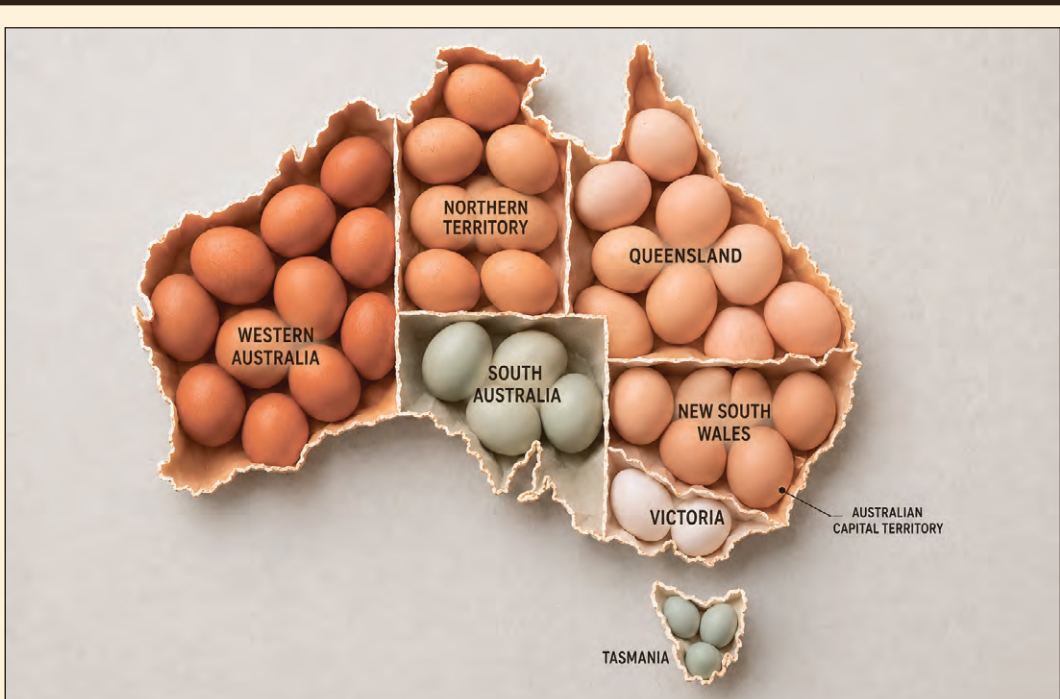
A key highlight of the presentation was the discussion on the rollout of MANE workshops – a project focused on securing readiness among producers and government in responding to large-scale emergency animal disease outbreaks.

These important workshops have been developed in partnership with AgriFutures

continued P2



ACMF CEO Mary Wu at PIX.



## Understanding our regulatory landscape for egg production

AUSTRALIA'S egg industry operates within one of the most comprehensive regulatory environments in agriculture, reflecting the sector's importance to food safety, biosecurity, animal welfare and consumer confidence.

While often viewed as complex, this framework is ultimately designed to protect both producers and the public, ensuring a resilient and trusted food system.

At the national level, the regulatory foundation begins with food safety.

The Food Standards



Australia New Zealand Standard 4.2.5 sets the benchmark for egg production and processing, outlining strict requirements around hygiene, handling and traceability.

These standards ensure that eggs reaching consumers meet consistent safety expectations

across the country. Complementing this is the Biosecurity Act 2015 Cth, which governs how Australia manages pests and diseases that may threaten animal, plant or human health.

For egg producers, this legislation is particularly critical given the ever-

present risk of avian influenza.

As a national notifiable animal disease, any suspicion of AI must be reported immediately, reinforcing the shared responsibility across industry and government to respond quickly and effectively.

Supporting this legislative framework are nationally agreed guidelines and response plans.

The *National Farm Biosecurity Manual - Poultry Production* provides practical on-farm measures to reduce disease risk, while Ausvetplan, managed by Animal

continued P2



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## Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

**2026**

**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](mailto:hamburghclubnsw@gmail.com)

**JUN 24-26** – Livestock Philippines, Manila, Philippines. <https://www.livestockphilippines.com/>

**JUL 4** – Hamburgh Club of NSW Annual Photo Show, digital. [hamburghclubnsw@gmail.com](mailto: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 Avian Pathologists Annual Meeting, Orlando, USA. <https://www.aaap.info/future-annual-meetings>

**SEP 1-3** – Shell Egg Academy 2026, Indiana, USA. <http://shelleggacademy.org/>

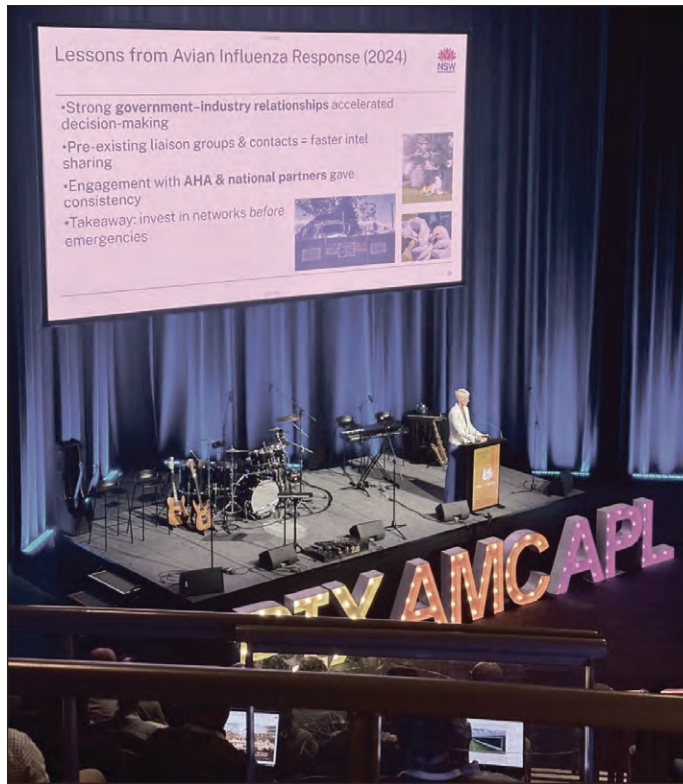
**SEP 22-24** – Poultry Asia 2026, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. <https://www.poultryasia.com/>

**SEP 27-30** – Mediterranean Poultry Summit 2026, Split, Croatia. <https://www.mpn-wpsa.org/split2026/home/index.php>

**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](mailto:design@collins.media)

**poultrynews.com.au**  
**0450 672 553**



Jo Coombe presenting at PIX on HPAI response in NSW.



ACMF and AgriFutures Chicken Meat Program at PIX.

## Industry collaboration on display at PIX and AVPA Scientific Meeting

from P1

Australia and state jurisdiction and will be delivered in the coming months.

The AVPA forum provided an opportunity to share with a broader audience the incredible work our industry has been doing to improve preparedness across the sector.

It also offered a valuable opportunity to engage in more detailed discussions on disease management, research developments and operational preparedness with leading industry experts.

Separately, PIX under the Food with Purpose 2026 conference banner provided a broader industry platform to engage colleagues from the feed and manufacturing sector along with other

intensive industries.

A key contribution in the plenary session came from NSW chief veterinary officer Dr Jo Coombe, who delivered an update and reflection on the recent HPAI outbreaks and overall lessons learned.

Her presentation, entitled 'Building resilient biosecurity systems through shared responsibility and strategic partnership', provided much food for thought as to how industry and government can better communicate and coordinate with one another to manage and respond to the 'unexpected'.

Alongside a core focus on biosecurity, PIX also facilitated a number of valuable discussions examining the practical and operational realities of

managing HPAI outbreaks and strengthening preparedness across the poultry sector.

Sessions included discussions on logistics and movement management during a disease outbreak, broader learnings from recent avian influenza responses, personal reflections on the impacts of experiencing an AI outbreak first-hand and strategies to prevent and control avian influenza in poultry production systems.

Out of these broader presentations and discussions, there remains a clear and specific need to ensure biosecurity response settings remain fit-for-purpose and scalable, including preparedness for worst-case scenarios affecting

supply chains, animal welfare and production continuity.

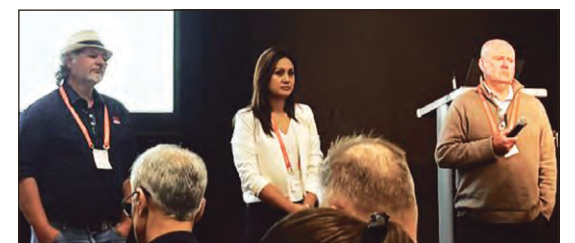
Such outcomes can only be supported by strong and close collaboration between government and industry, and we are pleased to see how this has been thoroughly acknowledged at both forums and proactively addressed through projects already underway, such as the High5 Project.

Engagement in forums such as these reinforces our shared responsibility and need to participate in

transparent dialogue with other key industries and government stakeholders, in recognition of our joint role in securing Australia's food production system.

As the peak industry body that represents the nation's most consumed protein, we will continue to participate in such crucial forums that allow for major cross-cutting themes to be discussed and actioned upon, recognising our joint role in Australia's food future.

ACMF



Mary Wu presenting at AVPA.

## Understanding our regulatory landscape for egg production

from P1

Health Australia, outlines coordinated response strategies in the event of an outbreak.

Together, these tools form the backbone of Australia's preparedness for high-impact diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Beyond biosecurity, animal welfare is guided by the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry*.

While implementation sits with state and territory governments, these standards establish a consistent national expectation for the care and management of birds. This ensures that

welfare considerations remain central to production systems, regardless of jurisdiction.

Consumer protection is another key pillar.

The Australian Consumer Law regulates marketing claims, including those relating to production methods such as free-range or cage systems.

This is essential in maintaining consumer trust and ensuring transparency across the supply chain.

Chemical and veterinary inputs are also tightly controlled.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority oversees the approval and use of agricul-

tural and veterinary chemicals, ensuring that any treatments used in egg production are safe and that residues do not compromise food safety.

Record-keeping requirements further strengthen traceability and accountability within the industry.

Environmental considerations are addressed through the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, particularly for larger developments that may impact sensitive ecosystems.

This reinforces the industry's responsibility to operate sustainably and minimise environmental harm.

While national frameworks set the overarching direction, state and territory regulations add further layers of detail, covering areas such as licensing, planning approvals, environmental management and workplace safety.

Requirements can vary significantly between jurisdictions, particularly around accreditation thresholds, egg stamping and property identification codes.

For producers, navigating this regulatory landscape can be challenging.

However, it also provides a strong foundation for industry integrity.

By aligning food

safety, biosecurity, welfare and environmental standards, Australia's egg industry continues to position itself as a trusted supplier both domestically and internationally.

As regulatory settings continue to evolve – particularly in response to biosecurity threats and changing consumer expectations – ongoing engagement between industry, government and stakeholders will be essential.

A clear understanding of these frameworks not only supports compliance but strengthens the long-term sustainability of the sector.

# Missed the industry **announcement?**



Please contact your local Technical Services Manager at SBA to find out more about these two Australian firsts.

- **Lohmann Rustic**
- **Cheggy:** In-Ovo sex determination



Watch the  
**Cheggy** video



No-till farming systems can leave heavy stubble and crop residues that provide ideal shelter and food for rodents.



Rodent outbreaks can create major biosecurity, feed contamination and infrastructure risks for intensive livestock operations.

## Stronger mouse baits offer hope as rodent pressure escalates across Australian farming regions

AUSTRALIAN producers are being urged to remain vigilant as severe mouse activity continues across key agricultural regions, particularly in Western and central Australia, with experts warning the economic and operational im-

pacts extend well beyond grain production.

For poultry farmers and pork producers, the current mouse surge is a timely reminder of the importance of integrated rodent management across feed storage, sheds, silos, manure areas and production facilities, particularly as cooler weather approaches and rodents seek shelter and food sources around intensive livestock operations.

### Mouse numbers well above plague levels

Landholders in parts of Western Australia, including Northampton, Mullewa and Ravensthorpe, have reported mouse densities exceeding 8000 mice per hectare in recent months.

Mouse plagues are typically declared at levels above 5000 mice per hectare, although CSIRO research indicates economic damage can begin at populations as low as 200 mice per hectare.

The outbreak has prompted strong industry advocacy for access to more effective control tools, with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority now approving emergency access to higher-strength zinc phosphide bait (ZP50) for grain producers.

Previously, most producers only had access to lower-dose ZP25 bait, which many growers argued was failing to adequately suppress rapidly increasing populations.

Grain Producers Australia research, development and extension spokesperson Andrew Weidemann said the situation had become critical for

many farming businesses.

"There's no sugar-coating it – it's an absolute emergency right at the moment for growers with mice," he said.

"This is another kick in the guts... there's no doubt about it."

Adding that there had been a number of distressful calls received in recent weeks, which had "been a bit gut-wrenching to be honest, and we're doing our level best."

### Why the situation matters to livestock producers

While much of the immediate focus has been on grain crop losses, rodent outbreaks can create major biosecurity, feed contamination and infrastructure risks for intensive livestock operations.

Mice can contaminate feed supplies, damage electrical systems and insulation, spread disease organisms and create animal welfare concerns inside sheds and storage areas.

Egg farms, poultry sheds and piggery facilities are particularly vulnerable because of abundant feed sources and warm shelter.

The CSIRO website states changing farming systems and seasonal conditions may be contributing to more persistent mouse problems across Australia.

"Current farming systems may inadvertently contribute to the increased prevalence of high mouse populations, providing the right conditions, like shelter and food, for mice to survive year-round."

Researchers said no-till farming systems, while beneficial for soil conservation, can

leave heavy stubble and crop residues that provide ideal shelter and food for rodents.

### Rapid breeding drives explosive population growth

CSIRO researchers warn that mice are capable of reproducing extremely quickly under favourable conditions.

"Mice are prolific breeders."

"They can give birth to a litter of up to 10 offspring every 20 days, and they can fall pregnant as soon as they have given birth."

Experts say populations can increase six-fold in as little as three weeks when food and shelter are abundant.

CSIRO research officer Steve Henry described the impacts of mouse plagues as deeply disruptive for farming families and rural communities.

"Unlike other problems, like a drought, you can close the door and turn on the air conditioner to get away from it for a little while," he said.

"With a mouse plague when you go inside and you go to the cupboard to get something to eat there are mice there.

"You go to the linen press to get a towel, there's mice in the linen press.

"You go and get your clothes out of your drawer, there's mice in the drawers.

"When you go to bed at night, they're running across the bed.

"These sort of impacts are really difficult to quantify, but they're really profound."

### Stronger baits expected to improve control

CSIRO research has supported the move to stronger bait for-

continued P5



CSIRO mouse researchers process a captured mouse in the field. Photo: Sharyn Watt



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# Stronger mouse baits offer hope as rodent pressure escalates across Australian farming regions

from P4  
 simulations, with trials showing significantly improved efficacy from the higher-dose product.

“Our research shows that with the 50g bait, it killed over 80 percent of the mice 80 percent of the time... the 25g bait killed over 80 percent of the mice only 20 percent of the time,” Mr Henry said.

“The reason we started doing our research was that farmers were telling us that they would apply the bait and it wouldn’t work, and then they would apply it again.

“In some instances, we were hearing of three or four applications of the 25g bait.”

The APVMA said the emergency permit was approved under strict safety and environmental standards.

APVMA chief executive Scott Hansen said: “This prioritisation does not mean taking shortcuts in examination of the product and the way

in which it is proposed to be used, including its potential impacts on human health, wildlife and the environment.”

Western Australia Agriculture and Food Minister Jackie Jarvis said the decision would provide practical support for affected communities.

“I’m pleased this decision will provide a way forward for landholders and communities to undertake effective mice control,” she said.

“The State Government is also supporting affected communities with additional funding to local government for baits and clean up measures to help alleviate the cost and stress of dealing with this issue.”

**Early detection remains critical**

The CSIRO website states surveillance and early intervention remain among the most important tools available to producers across all agricultural sectors.

“Preventing mouse

plagues and their devastating effects on Australian crops starts with appropriate practices and precautions for minimising food availability to mice.”

Recommending the monitoring of populations at least two months prior to sowing in grain systems.

The same principle applies to intensive livestock operations, where routine monitoring around feed storage, silos, poultry sheds and pig facilities can help prevent infestations escalating.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development said conditions this season have made control particularly difficult.

DPIRD deputy director general Cec McConnell said: “Mice control has been extremely challenging this season, which is particularly concerning now crops are emerging, and ZP50 baits will be another tool to help

landholders to get on top of this issue at a crucial time.”

**Safety remains important during clean-up**

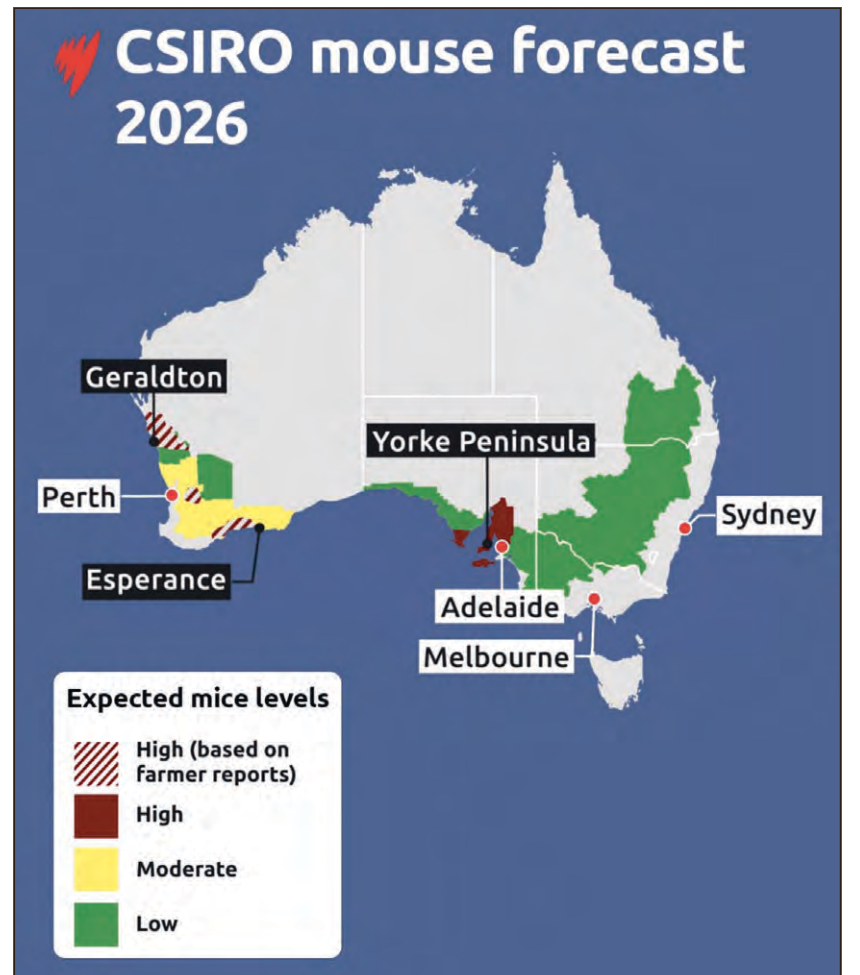
Authorities are also reminding producers and rural residents to follow appropriate hygiene precautions when handling dead mice or cleaning contaminated areas.

Recommendations include wearing disposable gloves, closed footwear, long sleeves and face masks when handling rodents, sealing carcasses before disposal, washing hands thoroughly and carefully disinfecting surfaces contaminated with droppings or urine.

With mouse activity remaining high across several agricultural regions, producers across both cropping and livestock sectors are being encouraged to review rodent management plans, monitor feed and storage areas closely and act early before populations escalate further.



Routine monitoring around feed storage, silos, poultry sheds and pig facilities can help prevent infestations escalating.



CSIRO data shows the current outbreaks are centred around southern SA and southwest WA

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# Circling food waste for chicken meat



Dr Amy Moss, poultry researcher, University of New England.

RECYCLING of pretty much anything for the benefit of the environment, our health and the economy presses this global citizen's button.

On an obviously micro scale – the best and typically only place to start – I try to make a personal difference, recycling bath, kitchen and laundry water, composting kitchen scraps and much more.

Hence, a federally funded research project that demonstrated how commercial food waste can be converted into nutritious feed for meat chickens while delivering a practical circular economic outcome recently pricked my attention.

The story in the *Food Technology and Manufacturing* e-mag, that I regularly monitor for clients and moi, detailed how Dr Amy Moss, a poultry researcher from the University of New England, was awarded a \$410,000 Discovery Early Career Researcher Award from the Australian Research Council in 2023.

## Cant Comment

by BRENDON CANT



Her three-year research program investigated sustainable feed options for meat chickens, including trials using a commercial food waste diet.

The project was conducted in partnership with industry to ensure the findings were commercially relevant and scalable and provided the best value for the poultry sector.

Dr Moss partnered with Food Recycle Limited, which had developed a patented process to convert commercial food waste into high-value feed suitable for poultry, pig and aquaculture applications.

According to Dr Moss, the cost of feed for meat chickens makes up about 70 percent of the cost

of production.

“As food waste is significantly cheaper than commercial poultry feed, it can provide significant economic and environmental benefits,” she said.

Building on a successful earlier trial with layer hens – where the Food Recycle Ltd food-waste diet was reported to have outperformed commercial poultry feed – the latest trial used food waste from commercial sources, including brewers’ grains, bakery waste and food collected from TAFE colleges, restaurants and hospitals.

The trial ran over 42 days – the production span of a meat chicken – and once again the food waste diet outperformed the control commercial feed.

A control diet using typical commercial ingredients (wheat, soybean meal and canola meal) and one consisting of 50 percent food waste ingredients both performed statistically similarly over starter, grower, finisher and withdrawal phases of a meat chicken’s development.

The findings concluded that “due to the substantially lower cost of food-waste diets, all food waste treatments significantly improved feed cost (A\$) per kg live gain.”

Following the success of the UNE trials, the same technology is now being rolled out in NSW and the ACT as part of a new Food Recycle Co-Op before being taken to

a national scale.

The co-op will allow commercial food waste to be collected and converted into high-value poultry, pig and aquaculture feed.

Unlike most waste services that charge disposal fees, the co-op model enables members to benefit from both 30-40 percent savings in disposal costs and the opportunity to receive dividends from the sale of animal feed produced.

Food Recycle Ltd chief executive officer Norm Boyle said: “With new food organics and garden organics rules being introduced in NSW from July 2026, this is an opportunity time for businesses to take advantage of the Food Recycle Co-Op to both reduce disposal costs and earn money from dividends.”

The project highlights how strategic government investment in early-career research can translate into real-world environmental and economic benefits.

Bravo I say to any research efforts that can turn waste into value and/or simply recycle something once used and discarded into something of use and of value for the future.

In this case, let’s encourage and maximise more Moss growth. 🐔




Scan for Food Recycle Ltd.



Scan for Food Recycle Co-Op.




Dr Amy Moss has been investigating sustainable feed options for meat chickens.




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daryl@wildseasfishmeal.com

# Highly efficient and cost-effective wastewater pump for poultry producer

HAZELDENE'S Chicken Farm, located near Bendigo in Central Victoria, is a world-class producer of free range and RSPCA accredited poultry.

It has a state-of-the-art poultry production facility and its products are sold through Coles, Aldi, Woolworths, Harris farms, IGAs, butcher shops, charcoal chicken stores and smaller specialty retailers.

The business employs more than 750 people in the local Bendigo area.

## The options

In line with its focus on quality, Hazeldene's was looking for a quality solution for its wastewater pumping needs.

It had previously tried several different brands

of self-priming wastewater pumps, but none were able to deliver the quality of service Hazeldene's engineers were looking for.

The business needed a pump capable of handling all the solids included in the wastewater stream of a chicken process plant – such as feathers, internals, feet and such – that was also an extremely reliable self primer.

## The solution

Hydro Innovations recommended a V3B60-B, which is part of Gorman-Rupp's range of Ultra V Series of self-priming wastewater pumps.

Technical services manager Adam Hazeldene was well aware of Gorman-Rupp's quality reputation and

was keen to see one installed in his wastewater system to solve the problems the farm was experiencing.

## The pump

The V3B60-B has a 100mm suction and 80mm discharge and is capable of handling a 76mm spherical solid along with stringy materials.

The pump can also be placed on a suction lift up to 7.6m, can deliver flows to 50L/s and can be relied on to prime and re-prime automatically every time it is asked to pump.

For more corrosive environments, the V3B can be supplied with

316 internal components and, for abrasive applications, hardened iron materials can be fitted.

The pump was duly purchased and installed and Adam has had no regrets about his purchase.

For further information regarding the extensive range of Gorman-Rupp self-priming pumps and the services that Hydro Innovations is able to offer to remedy wastewater, sewerage, aeration and any pump issues, visit [hydroinnovations.com.au](http://hydroinnovations.com.au) or phone 02 9898 1800.

Hydro Innovations



Hazeldene's has had no regrets about its purchase of a Gorman Rupp V3B60-B.

## Chick selection tech welcomed by Aussie egg farmers

EGG farmers have welcomed an announcement that they will soon be able to access new technology that can identify the gender of chickens before they hatch.

Specialised Breeders Australia is set to introduce 'in-ovo sexing' technology to the national egg industry for the first time.

The company is the largest supplier of day-old chicks and point-of-lay pullets to commercial egg farms.

Egg Farmers of Australia chief executive officer Melinda Hashimoto said the move was an important advancement for commercial egg production.

"This advancement represents an important step forward in animal welfare by enabling the identification of the sex of a chick in the early incubation stage, therefore reducing the need for the culling of day-old male chicks," Ms Hashimoto said.

"It also reflects our industry's ongoing commitment to

continuous improvement, innovation and response to evolving community expectations."

EFA acknowledged the large capital investment and leadership shown by SBA in bringing the technology to Australia.

Mrs Hashimoto said in-ovo sexing would play an important role in supporting a sustainable and responsible egg supply chain.

"EFA will continue to work with industry partners, governments and stakeholders to ensure that new technologies are implemented in a practical science-based manner that supports both animal welfare and the long-term viability of egg farming in Australia," she said.

Aussie egg farmers produce 18.8 million eggs a day from a national flock of 24 million hens.

Eggs have the lowest carbon footprint of any animal food protein produced in Australia.

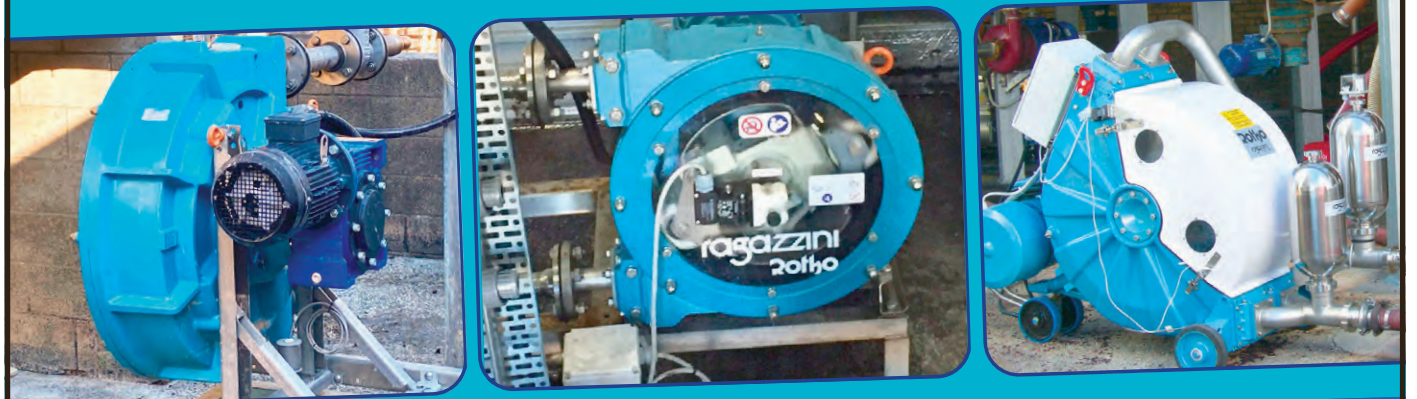
Egg Farmers of Australia



**HYDRO INNOVATIONS**

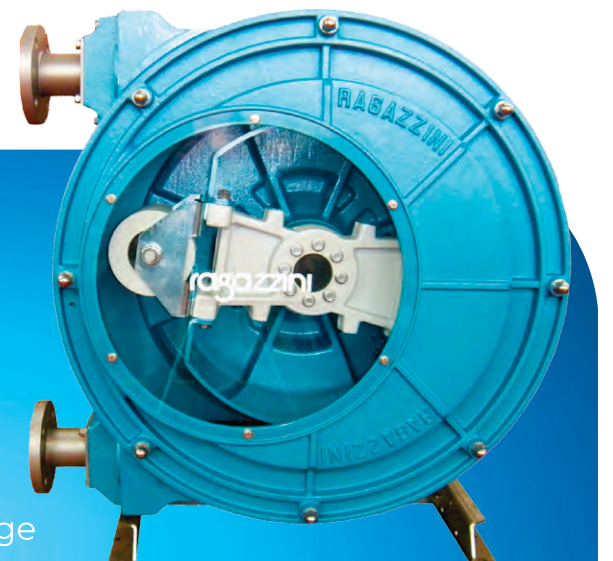
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# Complete compendium of Campine



A Silver Campine cockerel showing the hen feathering typical of the males of this breed yet this bird lacks the sharpness of barring required by the standard on his breast.

THE Campine is widely recognised as being of Belgian origin, the breed taking its name from the area of the same name that spans across the provinces of Antwerp and Limburg.

Introduced into England in 1898/1899 by Sir Edward Brown, a prominent poultry authority of the time, the Campine was promoted as being the latest super layer.

Records indicate that for at least 400 years, the ancestral Campines were the predominant laying breed in its native Belgium.

When first introduced to England, the silver variety lacked the refinement of colour that it now displays.

The cock bird at that time had a white saddle hackle, a white patch on each wing and a black tail, while the female's plumage was very mossy and lacked a definite pattern.

English breeders soon set about 'perfecting' the colour, with the result that the two varieties that are currently standardised – gold and silver – each have a neck hackle of the appropriate ground colour, while the rest of the plumage has barring of beetle-green on the ground colour.

## Rare Breeds

by GRANT ANDREWS



as the barred Plymouth Rock, and it was this difference that aroused the interest of geneticists at Cambridge University early in the twentieth century.

Ultimately, this led to the creation of the first of the autosexing breeds, the Cambar.

Unfortunately, the Cambar and the plethora of other autosexing breeds that followed its introduction failed to make an impact on the commercial poultry scene.

In addition to the breed having been imported into Australia as early as the first decade of the twentieth century, a more recent importation of Campine genetics was effected in 2014, when Av-Gen Poultry included them in their first importation.

It was thought that the availability of new bloodlines would have given the local fowls a boost, yet there seemed to have been very little improvement made by the new birds.

Unfortunately, it would seem that the Campine has gained very little if anything in popularity as a result of the new genetics.

Like many other rare breeds, the Campine has had its fair share of fanciers who were attracted to it because of its rarity however have done very little to improve it or increase its numbers.

Fortunately, there are a few long-term dedicated breeders who continue to ensure the survival of the breed in Australia.

The barring should form regular rings around the body – three times as wide as the ground colour – and must be sharp and well-defined, the colours being distinct and not running into each other.

One of the most common faults still found in many Campines is ill-defined barring on the breast, especially noticeable in the silver variety.

Unlike the original birds that were imported into England, the modern Campine male is 'hen-feathered' without sickles or pointed neck and saddle hackles, this having been selected for by the early English fanciers of the breed.

A similar breed of Belgian origin is known as the Braekel but, unlike Campine males, the males of the Braekel breed are not hen-feathered and sport full flowing saddle hackles and large well-curved sickles.

As for the Campine, the Braekel was imported into Britain in 1898 and there is some evidence that the modern 'British-style' Campine may have been developed from a mixture of the original Campine blood with the Braekel, then selectively bred for refined markings and

hen-feathering in the males to distinguish them from the Braekel.

Records indicate that the Campine made its way to Australia from England in the early years of the twentieth century, initially introduced on its reputation as a commercially viable layer.

However, as was the case in England, the Campine was no match for the Leghorns and Orpingtons (later Australorps) that were starting to exert their dominance as layers and it was relegated to the ranks of a small holder's or fancier's breed.

Concentration on perfecting the markings did little to preserve their original laying capacity and, though many early publications made reference to the Campine being used to produce the finest winter milk chickens, others commented on the necessity to fatten them on range as they were not able to stand fattening in confinement.

Reference is also made to their somewhat flighty nature, as well as their ability to fly over a standard 2m high fence.

The barring of the Campine is genetically quite distinct from that of most barred breeds such

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A Gold Campine hen demonstrating the characteristic barring of this breed along with the desired ground colour.

# From concept to connection for Plaus at PIX 2026

FOLLOWING a dynamic three days at the Poultry Information Exchange 2026, the Plaus team returned energised by the level of engagement, insight and opportunity seen across the Australian poultry sector.

PIX 2026 marked an important milestone for Plaus, providing a platform to showcase not only our product offering but our broader approach – delivering integrated practical solutions that improve on-farm performance.

At the stand, visitors experienced a cross-section of globally trusted technologies.

Core to this was our partnership with Plasson, where we highlighted feeding and drinking systems engineered for efficiency,

reliability and bird welfare.

Particular interest was shown in the Water on Demand system, which continues to gain traction as producers look for smarter water management strategies that reduce waste and labour while maintaining optimal conditions for bird performance.

Complementing this, our collaboration with DACS drew strong attention, especially around advanced ventilation solutions such as the MagFan range.

With increasing focus on energy efficiency and environmental control, producers are actively seeking systems that offer both performance and long-term cost savings.

We were also pleased to showcase Duram Rubber, engaging with

processors around durability, consistency and yield optimisation in plucking and deboning systems, a critical but often overlooked component of processing efficiency.

Beyond the technology, what stood out most at PIX was the quality of conversation.

From large-scale integrators to independent producers, there is a clear shift towards data-driven decision making, system integration and long-term operational efficiency.

These discussions reaffirm Plaus' commitment to not only supplying equipment but partnering with producers, shed builders

and distributors to deliver tailored outcome-focused solutions.

As we move forward from PIX 2026, our focus remains on supporting the Australian poultry industry with proven technologies, local expertise and responsive service.

The connections made during the event have laid a strong foundation for future collaboration and we look forward to building on this momentum in the months ahead.

For more information on our wide range of products, contact us at 0487 671 377 or [johann@plagency.com.au](mailto:johann@plagency.com.au)

**Plagency**



Representatives from Plasson, Duram, Plaus Agency and DACS at PIX 2026, highlighting collaborative partnerships supporting the Australian poultry industry.



Duram Rubber Products showcased its range of high-performance picking fingers and processing components, highlighting durability and consistency for modern poultry processing operations.



The DACS MagFan drew strong interest, demonstrating advanced climate and ventilation technology designed to optimise airflow efficiency and bird performance.



The Plaus Agency stand featured integrated solutions from Plasson, DACS and Duram Rubber Products, showcasing complete systems for poultry production and processing.

## THREE INDUSTRY LEADERS ONE TRUSTED PARTNER



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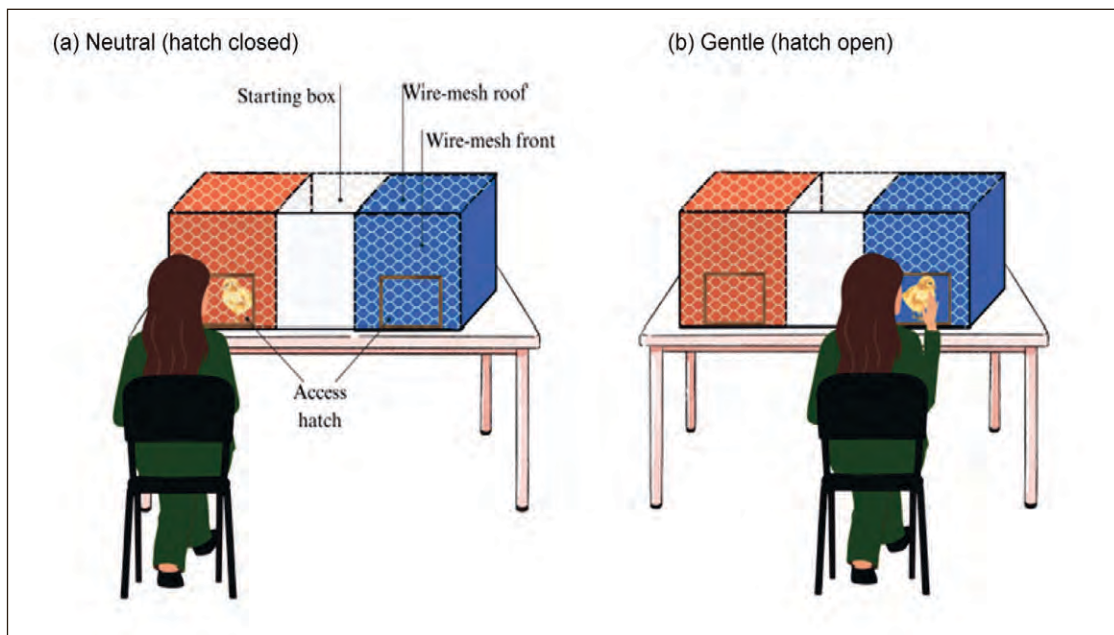


Figure 1. Conditioned place preference apparatus including the neutral human presence (a) and the gentle handling (b). The apparatus featured two chambers with wire-mesh fronts, allowing chicks to see the experimenter. Positioned on a table, the set-up enabled the experimenter to sit in front to conduct conditioning (gentle handling vs neutral presence). Each chamber included a hatch, which was opened during gentle handling and remained closed during neutral presence.



## Human touch leaves chicks feeling happy

CHICKS, like most young farm animals, benefit from gentle human touch, new research in the United Kingdom has revealed.

Scientists at the University of Bristol have discovered that gentle human interactions do not only prevent fear in baby chicks but also trigger positive emotions.

The findings offer new insights into how early-life handling affects the welfare of

young farm animals. Early interactions with humans are known to influence farm animals' behaviour and stress levels, yet it has remained unclear whether animals really experience gentle handling as emotionally positive.

In this study, published in *Animal Welfare*, researchers used a 'conditioned place preference' test, a method commonly used in

neuroscience to explore what animals remember of past experiences.

The key principle is simple – animals should develop a learned preference for places where they feel good/better.

Twenty domestic chicks from a laying hen strain were trained in a two-chamber setup, each marked with different colour cues.

After their initial preferences were recorded,

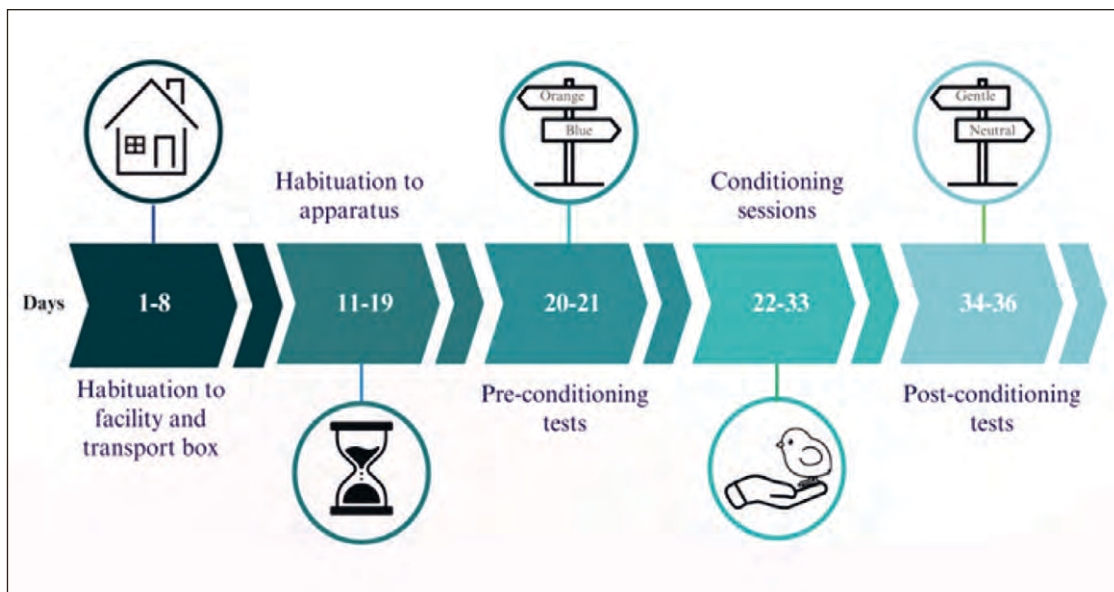


Figure 2. Experimental timeline. Chicks were individually habituated to the facility and handling from days 1–8 and to the testing apparatus from days 11–19. Two pre-conditioning tests were conducted on days 20–21, followed by a conditioning phase from days 22–33. The three post-conditioning tests took place on days 34–36.

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# Don't miss out at tax time

WITH farmers focused on maximising future yields and sowing at this busy time, it's easy for the end of financial year to creep up unnoticed.

Aussie Pumps would like to alert farmers and small business owners to the government's instant asset write-off support.

## Instant asset write-off

Aussie Pumps is urging business owners to consult with their tax agent to determine if they are eligible.

Companies with a turnover of less than \$10 million can get the benefit of instantly writing off assets worth individually up to \$20,000.

The benefits are enormous.

Now is the time to buy and take advantage of these tax incentives.

Aussie Pumps has some great suggestions for products to consider, which will appeal to farmers, businesses and tradespeople.

Focused on meeting market needs through research and user feedback, Aussie Pumps designs products to be more efficient, ultra reliable and last a lifetime.

The inspiration is the feedback from a wide range of customers who use its products.

## Aussie bacteria solution

Fighting bacteria by sanitising sheds on a regular basis is becoming the new normal.

Aussie Pumps recognises the need for fast and efficient prevention from the spread of

germs in the poultry industry.

Though Aussie specialises in hot water, many growers still use cold-water high-pressure cleaning for shed washdown.

Numerous poultry operations are already using the 4000PSI Aussie Scud pressure cleaners.

These can be fitted up with hose reels and 30m of high-pressure hose.

The hose reels are stainless steel, the frames are stainless and the machines are designed to perform in the fight against infection to the highest possible ability.

The 4000PSI hot wash Aussie Heatwave machines are driven by a Honda petrol electric start engine.

The registered Aussie Scud – made in stainless steel with four steel wheels and flat-free tyres – is elegant in its design and suitable for both big and small cleaning jobs.

## Hot wash helps

Aussie Pumps' steam cleaner can generate up to 130C steam, bearing in mind that germs can just as easily be killed at 60C without having to burn that much more diesel fuel to operate the boiler.

The big hot wash machines all have steel chassis and stainless-steel covers.

Aussie's pumps are always slow speed 1450RPM and driven by four-pole slow-speed single or three-phase electric motors.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales

said, "We found it to be a big seller with the earthmoving industry.

"Now, we're seeing it coming into its own in livestock environments.

"We understand how tough it is in poultry industry now.

"The least we can do is to offer a high-pressure cleaning kit at a great price."

For more information, contact Aussie's high-pressure pump division or visit [ausiepumps.com.au](http://ausiepumps.com.au)

The team understands the need for sanitation and the elimination of germs to prevent infections and keep table birds healthy.

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# Human touch leaves chicks feeling happy

from P10 the chicks completed a series of pairing sessions.

One chamber used gentle human handling, slow stroking and soft speech, and the other used a neutral human presence, still and silent.

When tested after the conditioning sessions, the chicks consistently spent more time in the chamber previously associated with gentle human handling, demonstrating a positive association with this experience.

Crucially, the chicks did not avoid the chamber linked to neutral human presence, indicating their behaviour suggested attraction to the gentle-handling environment rather than

avoidance of the neutral human presence.

The study's principal investigator Dr Ben Lecorps said, "Our findings show that gentle human contact can trigger positive emotions in young chicks."

"The study demonstrates how simple calm handling has the potential to shape the human-animal relationship from fear-inducing to positive and consequently improve the chicks' welfare."



Scan for the full study.





# Food with Purpose 2026

May 12 – 14, 2026

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia



## Reflections on Poultry Information Exchange 2026

WHEN reflecting on Food with Purpose 2026, I am incredibly proud of what the Poultry Information Exchange achieved this year – not only via the technical program but through the sense of community, collaboration and shared purpose that continues to define PIX.

While again Food with Purpose brought together PIX, the Australasian Milling Conference and Australian Pork Limited, the poultry program itself reinforced exactly why PIX has remained such an important event for more than 50 years.

Since its beginnings in 1969, PIX has focused on practical discussion, shared learning and fellowship and this year's theme 'Developing our future' reflected that strongly across both meat and egg sessions.

One of the strongest themes across the conference was resilience – not only in terms of production systems but people and culture.

The biosecurity and avian influenza sessions were particularly impactful, moving beyond theory into the realities producers are now facing.

Discussions around layered biosecurity systems, vaccination strategies and emergency preparedness reinforced that the future of farm protection relies on prevention, detection and response working together.

The egg sessions discussing recent avian influenza outbreaks were some of the most honest and impor-

tant conversations I have seen at PIX in many years.

Hearing producers openly share the operational and personal impacts of outbreaks was confronting, yet also a powerful reminder of the resilience within our sector and the importance of learning together.

At the same time, the program also looked forward.

Sessions on artificial intelligence, genetics, welfare monitoring and energy efficiency challenged delegates to think differently about how future poultry systems may operate.

Discussions around AI-enabled decision making and connected production systems highlighted that technology is no longer only about automation – it is becoming part of how we improve welfare, sustainability and long-term business resilience.

The practical workshops continued to be one of the great strengths of PIX.

From ventilation and evaporative cooling workshops with Mike Czarick, to hatchery and brooding sessions with Debbie Fisher and Gary Fisher, and the interactive layer workshop hosted by Mike Toscano and Peta Taylor – the focus remained firmly on practical knowledge growers could take back onto farm immediately.

One of the most encouraging discussions throughout the conference centred around community trust in agriculture.

Hearing that Australian farmers are

ranked as the third most trusted profession by consumers – behind only medical professionals and teachers – was a powerful reminder of the respect producers continue to earn through hard work, transparency and care for both animals and people.

Personally, one of my favourite parts of PIX continues to be watching the way people support each other.

Whether it was experienced leaders mentoring young delegates, growers openly sharing lessons from difficult experiences or people from different sectors sitting together discussing common challenges, there is something genuinely special about the culture that exists within poultry.

That same spirit was reflected in the extraordinary support shown for FightMND throughout the week.

Through auctions and fundraising activities, delegates, exhibitors and sponsors helped raise more than \$30,000 for an incredibly important cause.

As Food with Purpose 2026 closed, the final discussions around trust, transparency and the future of food production left the room with a strong sense of optimism.

If the event showed us anything, it is that the future of Australian agriculture will be strongest when industries continue working together – and I have no doubt Food with Purpose 2028 will build on that momentum even further.

**Sarah Haberecht**  
PIX President



# Food with Purpose 2026

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## Boehringer obtains two EU CVMP positive opinions for avian influenza vaccines

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim, a global leader in preventive medicines for livestock, obtained positive opinions by the European Medicines Agency recommending the granting of marketing authorisations under exceptional circumstances for its avian influenza vaccines Vaxxitek HVT+IBD+H5 and Vaxxinact H5.

Both vaccines immunise birds against the H5 avian influenza virus, which is currently causing outbreaks across Europe.

### Strengthening outbreak preparedness in the European Union

Avian influenza, commonly referred to as avian flu or bird flu, is a highly contagious disease affecting domestic and wild birds.

The H5 strain is one of the most prevalent avian influenza virus strains causing outbreaks in both wildlife and commercial flocks.

As avian influenza is a highly regulated and notifiable disease, there is vigilant monitoring.

To contain avian influenza outbreaks, large numbers of birds often need to be culled,

leading to significant economic losses for poultry producers and possible restrictions in international trade.

As the virus continues to evolve, innovative vaccine solutions are an effective way to help prevent and manage avian flu outbreaks.

Decisions regarding vaccination against avian influenza rest with the national authorities of each country.

International institutions such as the World Organisation for Animal Health recommend integrating vaccination into bird flu control strategies.

Head of the animal health business unit and member of the board of managing directors Armin Wiesler said, "Transboundary animal diseases like avian influenza will continue to be a threat, so new approaches to control these infectious diseases in animals, especially livestock, are increasingly important."

"Boehringer Ingelheim is committed to investing in research and innovation, and we are ready to support governments, health authorities and producers with our vaccines and expertise in monitoring

and in setting up robust disease control plans."

### Global impact of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5

Since 2021, highly pathogenic avian influenza H5 has caused unprecedented outbreaks, spreading across most continents globally and leading to massive poultry losses.

The outbreaks have expanded to new regions such as Latin America and even Antarctica.

The economic impact has been severe, with tremendous financial damage to the poultry industry, disruptions in egg and poultry meat availability and trade restrictions.

### Containing bird flu – the role of DIVA vaccines in biosecurity and surveillance

Vaxxitek HVT+IBD+H5 and Vaxxinact H5 are so called DIVA – differentiate infected from vaccinated animals – vaccines that can play an important role in monitoring disease outbreaks.

These vaccines include a biomarker that distinguishes the immune response to vaccination from antibodies caused by infection.

In combination with

surveillance efforts, DIVA vaccines are essential for reducing the risk of trade restrictions, as they enable both, exporters and importers to differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals, ensuring confidence in the safety of traded animal products.

Head of franchise poultry Taoufik Rawi said, "By continuously monitoring the efficacy of our vaccines and advancing our technologies, we ensure the right protection against the evolving avian influenza virus."

"The DIVA feature allows our customers to implement their surveillance programs and support safe trade while vaccinating.

"The positive opinions for Vaxxitek HVT+IBD+H5 and Vaxxinact H5 are critical to increase preparedness against avian influenza outbreaks in Europe."

Following the CVMP's positive opinions, the European Commission is expected to decide on marketing authorisations under exceptional circumstances in the coming months.

**Boehringer Ingelheim**

## Rodenticide rotation and weather effect

RODENT control is a critical component of animal production systems such as poultry farms, piggeries, dairies and feedlots.

These environments offer rodents a reliable supply of feed, water and shelter, enabling rapid population growth if not properly managed.

Rodents cause substantial economic and biosecurity risks.

They consume and contaminate feed with droppings, urine and hair, increasing costs and reducing feed efficiency.

They are also known carriers of diseases such as salmonella, leptospirosis and fowl cholera, posing risks to both livestock and humans.

Additionally, their gnawing damages buildings, wiring and equipment, sometimes resulting in costly repairs or fire hazards.

Their presence can also stress animals, negatively affecting productivity performance and wellbeing.

### Importance of rotation

Rodenticides remain a key tool in controlling rodents in livestock environments.

These include anticoagulants that disrupt blood clotting and non-anticoagulants that act more quickly through other physiological mechanisms.

However, continuous use of the same rodenticide, especially in environments with abundant alternative feed can lead to sub-lethal dosing and the development of resistance.

Resistance occurs

when rodents survive exposure to a specific active ingredient and pass that tolerance to future generations.

Over time, this reduces the effectiveness of standard treatments, allowing infestations to persist even with regular baiting.

This is a common challenge in intensive animal production systems where rodent populations are stable and continuously exposed to control measures.

Rotating rodenticides is essential to maintaining effective control.

This involves switching between products with different active ingredients (modes of action) over time.

Rotation reduces the likelihood of resistance developing, improves overall effectiveness and helps manage bait aversion, where rodents avoid certain baits after negative experiences.

### The weather effect

Weather conditions play a major role in rodent activity and population dynamics.

During colder months, rodents often move indoors into animal housing facilities seeking warmth and food, leading to sudden increases in activity inside sheds and storage areas.

In contrast, warmer conditions – especially following rainfall – can boost breeding rates and food availability, allowing populations to expand rapidly.

Dry conditions may also drive rodents toward farms in search of water.

These seasonal and environmental shifts mean that ro-

dent pressure is not constant and must be managed proactively throughout the year.

### An effective control program

An effective rotation program should align with seasonal changes and production cycles.

For example, increasing baiting efforts and switching products ahead of winter can help manage rodents moving indoors, while rotations during warmer months can address increased breeding activity.

Monitoring rodent activity such as bait consumption, droppings and sightings is essential for evaluating success and adjusting strategies.

### Rodenticides seasons BASF

Maintaining good sanitation, cleaning up feed spills, securing storage and sealing entry points all reduce rodent attraction and improve control outcomes.

Baits should always be placed in secure stations to protect livestock and non-target species.

In conclusion, an effective rodent control program in animal production areas requires a strategic and adaptive approach.

Weather patterns significantly influence rodent behaviour and population growth, making year-round management essential.

Rotating rodenticides, combined with strong hygiene and monitoring practices, ensures effective sustainable control while protecting productivity and farm biosecurity.

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