

NATIONAL

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The author's message is clear, the current disease outbreak serves to highlight that, by losing conventional caged production in the marketplace, Australia is exposed to a reduction in production capacity.

EFA helping with avian influenza impact

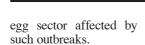
FOLLOWING impact of the current outbreak of avian influenza in Victoria, Egg Farmers of Australia has reached out to its members whose farms have been impacted.

We aim to assist our members in any way we can through the response period being driven by Agriculture Victoria.

During such incidents, poultry vet Dr Peter Scott, Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies and myself as Egg Farmers of Australia chief executive officer attend government and industry meetings overseen by Animal Health Australia, which plays an important role



of Australia by **MELINDA HASHIMOTO** CEO



Thanks also to Heather McKimm for her job as liaison to the livestock industry.

Having done the role, I appreciate the time being put in to supporting our sector.

Further updates on the current situation are in guiding those in the available on the Agriculture Victoria website - scan the QR code on page 2.

This event has seen a commonsense approach from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in relation to the granting of a housing order.

This means the eggs from free range hens that

Small Scale Free Range Poultry website

THE Small Scale Free Range Poultry website, part of the ExtensionAUS network, is a comprehensive resource dedicated to supporting smallscale poultry farmers.

This platform provides extensive information on various aspects of poultry farming, aiming to assist both novice and experienced farmers in optimising their operations.

The content is designed to promote sustainable and ethical farming practices, ensuring that farmers can produce high-quality poultry products while maintaining the welfare of their animals.

With recent challenges in both health and biosecurity, it is anticipated that this website will serve as a community of practice and aid small-scale producers through challenges such as avian influenza outbreaks.

The website is supported by several experts, including Joanna Blunden from NSW



by TAMSYN CROWLEY

Department of Primary Industries, Isabelle Ruhnke from Freie University, Rachele Osmond from Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and myself.

The website emphasises the importance of maintaining poultry health and biosecurity.

It provides detailed guidelines on preventing diseases, recognising symptoms of common poultry illnesses and implementing effective biosecurity measures to protect flocks.

Resources include expert articles, videos and downloadable guides that cover topics such as vaccination, parasite



control and biosecurity protocols.

Navigating the regulatory landscape is essential for small-scale poultry farmers.

The website provides insights into the legal requirements for poultry farming, including permits, labelling laws and food safety standards.

This section helps farmers understand their obligations and ensure compliance with local and national regulations, thus avoiding legal issues and ensuring the quality and safety of their products.

Egg production is a significant focus for many small-scale poultry operations.

The website offers comprehensive guidance on managing laying hens, from selecting breeds and optimising egg production to handling and storing

It also addresses common challenges such as egg quality issues and seasonal variations in production, providing practical solutions to maintain consistent output.

Promoting high standards of animal welfare is a core principle of the site.

Resources include best practices for humane treatment, stress reduction and enrichment activities that improve the quality of life for poultry.

The site advocates for ethical farming practices that not only benefit the animals but also enhance the overall sustainability and reputation of the farming operation.

The Small Scale Free Range Poultry website also serves as a hub for continued P2



A snapshot of the Small Scale Free Range Poultry website.



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Poultry Industry Calendar of Events

2024

AUG 19-21 - USPOULTRY National Safety Conference for the Poultry Industry 2024. Florida, USA. https://www.uspoultry.org/ programs/education/

AUG 22-24 - Poultry and Livestock Expo 2024, Bangalore, India. https://iplexpo.com/

SEP 12-15 - Aviana Madagascar, Madagascar. Africa. http://www. avianaafrica.com/madagascar/index.html

OCT 2-3 - VIV Africa, Kigali Rwanda. vivafrica.nl

OCT 16-17 - National Chicken Council Annual Conference 2024, Washington, USA. https://www.nationalchickencouncil.

OCT 16-17 – Dutch Pork and Poultry Expo, Evenementenhal Hardenberg Netherlands. www.porkpoultryexpo.nl/

OCT 28-29 - International Conference on Poultry Science, Lisbon Portugal. waset. org/poultry-science-conference-in-october-2024-in-lisbon

NOV 12-15 - 28th Latin American Poultry Congress, Punta del Este Uruguay. ovum2024.uy/en/ovum2024-english/#pll_ switcher

NOV 12-15 - EuroTier 2024, Hanover Germany. www.eurotier.com

2025

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

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

poultrynews.com.au **17 3286 1833**

Egg Farmers of Australia helping with avian influenza impact

from P1

have been ordered inside barns during the disease period can still be labelled 'free range' for a set length of time.

EFA is very appreciative of ACCC agriculture commissioner Mick Keogh and the work his staff have undertaken in supporting our industry during this difficult time.

Though all egg farming systems can be impacted by avian influenza, the current outbreak has included cage facilities with free range farms nearby.

Free range are at a higher risk due to the impact of wild birds.

Australia's major supermarkets turned their backs on cage egg production - citing animal welfare issues.

As a result, they now

rely heavily on the supply of free range eggs.

In light of the Victorian issue, it was noted that Coles announced limiting the number of eggs their customers could purchase.

Though there is no shortage at this time with it being publicly reported that the impact is 4 percent of the total egg production from over 20 million birds.

This is exactly the discussion that industry raised around the risk of reducing production systems and supermarkets putting all their eggs in the one basket.

It is now timely to reflect on the decision of the supermarket giants to phase out the sale of cage eggs by 2025.

This was backed by animal welfare activists, who once pushed for conventional caged profree range to be the only option for Australian egg sales.

After major scares in the European free range market, which recorded huge hen losses due to disease, we have seen non-industry stakeholders back pedal and remarket free range eggs as simply being 'cage

The issue of cage, barn and free range in supermarkets was raised during the review into the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry.

Various state governments are still yet to decide on the timing of any phase out of conventional cages.

The current disease outbreak only serves to highlight that, by losing

duction in the marketplace, Australia is now exposed to a reduction in production capacity of up to 25 percent per egglaying shed.

EFA has raised this time and again with various governments, yet it has been ignored.

Working through the disease response that we currently have in Victoria does not come free.

Together, the egg industry, other poultry signatories and various governments continue to pay for the impact of such responses as endorsers of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.

On a more positive note, it was refreshing to learn that egg farmers previously impacted by avian influenza have reached out to offer guidance and moral support to those farmers in Victoria now experiencing the destruction of their hens.

It is hoped that a new insurance product offered by one rural insurance broker - which provides cover for AI and salmonella enteritidis outbreaks in Australia may soon go some way to assist farmers impacted by future incidents.

Scan the OR code for Agriculture Victoria updates on the current avian influenza situation.



Zoetis supports mental health with Beyond Blue

IN recent years, Australians in rural and regional areas have faced unprecedented challenges that have taken a toll on mental health and well-being.

Factors such as inflation, cost-of-living pressures, climate change and the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have underscored the importance of mental health support, particularly for farmers and rural communities.

Recognising the critical need for support, Zoetis has partnered with Beyond Blue to once again champion mental health initiatives in rural Australia.

With a commitment of \$800,000 over the past eight years, Zoetis has been a steadfast supporter of Beyond Blue's vital services, which have seen more than 300,000 individuals reach out for assistance in 2023 alone. For 2024, Zoetis has

set a goal to raise an additional \$100,000 by the end of the year by donating \$5 from each sale of the company's livestock, pig and poultry vaccines and drenches.

Zoetis senior vice president Australia and New Zealand Lance Williams said, "Our partnership with Beyond Blue is more than just financial support."

"It's about fostering a culture of hope and resilience, ensuring that those facing mental health challenges know they are not alone and that help is available."

Over 3.4 million people in Australia are dealing with anxiety or depression and nearly half of the population will face mental health issues in their lifetime.

Not only are Australians living in rural and remote areas disproportionately affected by stress and anxiety, accessing services is significantly harder due to attitudinal, financial and

digital barriers.

The Beyond Blue Support Service has been instrumental in providing a lifeline to those in distress.

After contacting the service, a significant majority of individuals reported feeling heard, understood and less distressed, highlighting the positive impact of early intervention and support.

The journey to mental health is a collective effort that relies on a foundation of compassion, understanding and support.

Support can be given in many ways, including lending a listening ear.

"Every act of kindness, no matter how seemingly small, carries immense significance," Mr Williams said.

"Whether it's a simple check-in with a neighbour, a supportive conversation with a friend or a compassionate gesture towards a work colleague, these actions

contribute to building a community where mental health is prioritised and stigma is dismantled."

"It's crucial to remember that this journey doesn't have to be a lonely one.

"It's about recognising that each person's experience is unique and valid, and that seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness."

As Australia continues to navigate various challenges, Zoetis remains committed to promoting mental health awareness and supporting initiatives that strengthen the well-being of rural communities.

Together with Beyond Blue, Zoetis is harnessing the power of hope to navigate through difficult times and build a brighter healthier future for all Australians.

People can support the Zoetis initiative between July 15 and October 31, 2024.

For each sale of the

company's livestock, pig and poultry vaccines and drenches, Zoetis will donate \$5, up to \$100,000, to Beyond Blue.

For more information on how you can help Zoetis to raise vital funds to support mental health in rural communities through its partnership with Beyond Blue, visit zoetis.com.au

For more information about depression and anxiety, visit beyond blue.org.au

The Beyond Blue Support Service offers free and immediate counselling, advice and referrals via phone, webchat or email.

To talk to a mental health professional for free, contact the twentyfour seven Beyond Blue Support Service on 1300 22 46 36.

Free web chat is also available twenty-four seven at beyondblue.org. au/support-service/chat and you can join the online forums for free.

Small Scale Free Range Poultry website

from P1

community engagement and networking.

It features a calendar of events, including workshops, webinars and field days where farmers can learn from experts and connect with peers.

The platform encourages knowledge sharing and collaboration, fostering a supportive community of small-scale poultry farmers.

One of the standout features of the website is its access to expert advice and real-world case studies.

Farmers can read

about the experiences of others in the field, learning from their successes and challenges.

Expert articles cover a wide range of topics, from advanced breeding techniques to innovative marketing strategies, providing valuable insights that can help farmers improve their practices.

The Small Scale Free Range Poultry website is an invaluable resource for anyone involved in or considering entering the field of small-scale poultry farming.

By offering a wealth of information on health. nutrition, business regulations, egg production and animal welfare, the platform supports farmers in building sustainable and successful operations.

Additionally, its emphasis on community and expert guidance makes it a vital tool for continuous learning and improvement in the poultry farming indus-

For more detailed information and to explore the resources available, visit the Small Scale Free Range Poultry website by scanning the QR code on page 1. 🦫









Industry experts on the website include Isabelle Ruhnke, Joanna Blunden, Rachele Osmond and

NEWSPAPER

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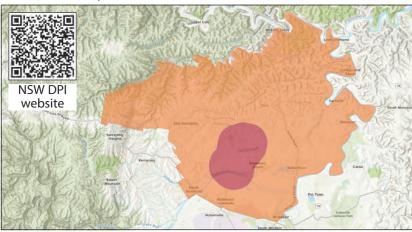
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Ag Vic website

Map of control and restricted areas in Victoria.



Current AI situation in Australia

AS at June 26, 2024, 10 cases of avian influenza had been confirmed in Australia.

Note that none of the cases in Australia have the H5N1 strain of avian influenza currently causing global concern.

Agriculture Victoria was responding to the detection of avian influenza at eight Victorian poultry farms and NSW Department of Primary Industries had implemented an emergency order to help manage the two cases detected in the greater Sydney basin on June 19 and June 22.

Avian influenza is a viral disease of birds found globally.

Virus strains are described as low pathopathogenicity, HPAI.

Of the Victorian cases, seven infected properties near Meredith were confirmed to have a high pathogenicity H7N3 strain of avian influenza, and one infected property near Terang was confirmed to have a high pathogenicity H7N9 strain.

A comprehensive surveillance program has been put in place in the restricted and control areas in order to detect the presence of such viruses.

The restricted and control areas in place surround all infected premises within both the Golden Plains and Corangamite shires.

All properties have been placed in quaranbe safely and humanely disposed of.

The sites will be cleaned and cleared of the infection.

Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground supporting the affected properties and working closely with poultry owners and industry to contain and eradicate the virus

Tracing is also underway to determine the source and spread of the infection.

Of the NSW cases. avian influenza was detected at two commercial poultry farms in the greater Sydney basin in June 2024.

On June 19, 2024, the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness confirmed detection of an H7N8 strain of HPAI on a commercial mixed free range and barn egg laying farm in the Hawkesbury District, NSW.

A notification to the World Organisation for Animal Health has been made on this new detection.

On June 22, 2024, ACDP confirmed a second detection of an H7N8 strain on a chicken meat farm within the current restricted area in the Hawkesbury district.

These detections are separate from the current HPAI outbreak in Victoria involving H7N3 and H7N9 strains.

The NSW emergency order requirements are:

• Implementation of an AI restricted emergency zone within a two-kilometre radius around the NSW detection

• Movement restrictions of all avian influenza susceptible birds into and out of the restricted and control emergency zones

• All avian influenza susceptible birds within the control and restricted emergency zones to be housed to prevent contact with wild birds.

The emergency order will remain in place for a period of six months.

NSW DPI will continue to engage with industry around these biosecurity measures and how to comply.

While the following is in reference to the situation in Victoria, it may be of assistance to those impacted in NSW.

Housing all poultry

Agriculture Victoria has issued movement controls that include a housing requirement for all birds within the restricted and control areas in Meredith, Lethbridge and Terang.

Under the housing requirement all poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners must house or keep their birds enclosed in cages or sheds.

Poultry farmers, back-

yard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Food safety

Consumers should not be concerned about eggs and duck meat products.

They do not pose a risk and are safe to consume.

Victoria has a secure supply chain, including the importation of eggs from interstate, so the current outbreak has not significantly affected supplies.

Human health

While cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are possible, the current risk to the public remains extremely low.

Find out more about avian influenza in humans from the Better-Health Channel.

Compensation in an **Emergency Animal** Disease outbreak

In the event of a declared Emergency Animal Disease outbreak, financial compensation will be available to livestock owners and businesses that experience livestock or property losses as a direct result of the disease.

For more information, visit the Agriculture Victoria website by scanning the QR code below. Personal well being

Stressful events can cause feelings of worry and unease, especially where there are levels of uncertainty involved, but there are things you can do to take care of yourself - visit the website for more information.

Movement controls

Movement controls are now in place to prevent any spread of avian influenza.

This includes:

- A restricted area that covers the impacted Meredith and Lethbridge properties and a broader control area buffer zone, which is bound by Bacchus Marsh Rd in the east and the Colac-Ballarat Rd on the western boundary, are in place
- A restricted area covering a 5km radius around the Terang farm area buffer zone covering a 15km radius
- A housing requirement for all birds within these areas

The movement controls require permits for the movement of birds, poultry products, feed and equipment on or off the properties in these areas.

Heavy penalties apply for those who do not follow these restrictions.

Examples of products that can't be moved without a permit include eggs, poultry continued P5



Zoetis has donated \$800,000 to Beyond Blue over the last 8 years. Help us raise another \$100,000.

For Zoetis livestock, poultry & companion animal vaccines or parasiticides sold by Zoetis between 15 July and 31 October 2024, Zoetis will donate \$5 per product, up to \$100,000 to Beyond Blue.





"\$100,000 will assist over 1,500 people in Australia"

*Assistance through the Reyond Blue Support Service

Georgie Harman - CEO Beyond Blue



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Current Al situation in Australia

from P4 feed and bedding.

To apply for a permit, fill in the relevant online form.

Note that processing of complex permits may take a few days and it is recommended to apply early to ensure enough time for Agriculture Victoria to assess your applica-

Housing require-

Agriculture Victoria has issued a housing requirement for all birds within the restricted and control areas in Meredith and Terang.

Housing birds is an effective method of minimising direct contact with wild birds that can carry the disease with no apparent symptoms.

The order will reduce the risk that more birds will contract avian influenza, however it will not eliminate the risk of spread.

If you don't have a building in which to house your birds, then efforts must be made to separate them and their food and drink from wild birds that may be carrying avian influenza, as an example, by using netting.

Support for farmers Individual affected farms will experience significant financial

Compensation is payable under specified circumstances for destruction of livestock and property on infected premises.

See more about compensation in an emergency animal disease outbreak on the Agriculture Victoria website by scanning the QR code on page 4.

Other supports are available, including:

• The Rural Financial Counselling Service

• The Farm Household Allowance is a fortnightly Commonwealth Government payment for farming families in financial hardship

• Low-interest loans for farm businesses are available through the Commonwealth Government's Regional Investment Corporation.

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements do not apply to a biosecurity emergency. More information

A comprehensive list of resources and contact details for industry and individual support including technical, financial and mental health information, support and services - is available via both the Agriculture Victoria and NSW DPI web-

sites. 🦫

University of Sydney School of Veterinary Science experts on bird flu outbreak

BIRD flu, or avian influenza, has started to appear in commercial poultry farms in Australia, leading to the euthanising of tens of thousands of chickens.

Experts from the University of Sydney School of Veterinary Science talk about the epidemiology and management of bird flu and what to expect in coming months.

Sydney School of Veterinary Science Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety chair Professor Michael Ward said, "The current situation we are seeing with bird flu outbreaks in Australia is highly unu-

"We've never seen this many outbreaks involving this diversity of viruses and affecting so many farms.

"Bird flu outbreaks are expected to extend throughout winter, driven by complex environmental interactions," Prof Ward said.

An expert in epide-

miology at the Sydney School of Veterinary Science and a member of the Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute, Associate Professor Jenny-Ann Toribio said, "This outbreak of bird flu in NSW and Victoria involves viruses originating domestically, not the exotic avian influenza virus H5N1 that is causing large scale outbreaks affecting multiple species overseas."

"Australian-origin viruses are involved in bird flu outbreaks on small numbers of poultry farms every few years.

"All previous outbreaks have been effectively stopped by the depopulation and decontamination measures that state authorities are implementing with cooperation from industry now in NSW and Victoria," Assoc Prof Torbio said.

Lecturer in poultry health in the School of Veterinary Science, Dr José Quinteros said,

"There is ongoing concern over the emergence of virulent bird flu strains and their transmission across farms and states in Australia because it might be exacerbated by the presence of free range operations, facilitating the interaction between wild avifauna and domestic poultry.'

"This will require ongoing observation and management," Dr Quineros said. 🐎

University of Sydney

Russia banning free range poultry because of avian influenza

THE Russian Agricultural Ministry proposed banning free range poultry, citing the need to protect industrial farms from infectious diseases.

The step was expected to hurt thousands of backyard farms and the organic segment.

Under a new set of veterinary rules, free range poultry will be banned from March 1, 2025.

Russian poultry industry executives spoke in favour of this step.

Russian Poultry Union president Vladimir Fisinin said the measure would be correct from the point of view of biological safety of the Russian poultry in-

He added that free range poultry can come into contact with wild animals, jeopardising the production process. Bird flu is to blame

Advisor to the head of Rosselhoznadzor (Russian veterinary watchdog) Julia Melano said, "A violent spread of avian influenza is seen in Europe, where liberal legislation with cage free keeping of birds is practised."

"This leads to contact between farm poultry and wild birds and infection of the flock with avian influenza."

According to Rosselhoznadzor, 412 highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks have been registered in Europe since the beginning of 2024.

"The new rules prohibiting free range make organic production impossible.

Backyard farms will suffer

Russian market players earlier voiced deep concerns that such a ban could potentially devastate small independent farms and backyard farms, meaning a significant loss of livelihood for these farmers.

The Russian state statistical service Rosstat calculated that independent farms accounted for 15 percent of broiler meat and 18 percent of egg production in Russia in 2023.

Russian producers of organic products also expressed grave fears that the ban on free

range poultry would not only slow down but completely halt the development of the segment.

This could have a profound impact on the availability of organic products in the market.

The Russian Union of Organic Farming, a key player in the organic sector, said the state standards for organic poultry production required free ranging, with the duration of artificial lighting limited to 16 hours a day.

This means that the ban on free range poultry could significantly impact the ability of organic farmers to meet these standards, potentially leading to a decrease in the availability of organic poultry products in the market.

"The new rules prohibiting free range make organic production impossible," the union said.

Mr Fisinin argued that this was not the case.

He pointed out that organic production largely depends on bird nutrition and will still be possible after the new rules come into force.

"The feed should be based on grain grown without the use of chemicals and mineral fertilisers," he indicated, not addressing the manufacturers' fears.

Organic poultry production has perked up in Russia over the past few years, though this segment is still believed to be small.

Poultry World



www.kemin.com

Pictured last year by the author, pastured chickens in South Australia living a happy and free ranging life, moving when the pasture needs refreshing.



These United Kingdom chickens enjoy some freedom.

Committing to better chicken welfare

AVEC Poultry - the Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the European Union countries - has published a study analysing the additional costs and likely implications of adopting the European Chicken Commitment, also known as Better Chicken Commitment.

Numerous companies across Europe, spanning retailers to restaurants and catering businesses, have already signed up to BCC - a framework of standards promoted by animal welfare non-government organisations to enhance animal welfare, which exceeds current EU legislation.

BCC commits its signatories to apply several requirements, such as the use of slower growing chicken breeds, lower stocking density and use of enrichment tools, to 100 percent of their fresh, frozen and processed poultry supply chain by 2026.

As BCC compliance progresses, crucial

Cant Comment by **BRENDON CANT**

questions regarding its environmental implications and its effects on chicken meat production remain unanswered.

AVEC has now commissioned a comprehensive impact study examining the potential consequences of fully transitioning from current EU chicken meat production to BCC standards, conducted independently by RSK ADAS Ltd – a consultancy firm specialising in agriculture.

AVEC's secretary general Birthe Steenberg said: "The unique aspect of this study lies in the emphasis placed on calculating costs per kilogram of meat, unlike previous research focused solely on the consequences for live birds or liveweight, which doesn't accurately reflect market realities since we sell meat, not live animals."

ADAS technical director for livestock Jason Gittins said: "Due to differences in meat yields between standard and BCC production, earlier studies often underestimated the true impact of switching to BCC standards."

The 'Costs and implications of the European chicken commitment in the EU' study finds that fully transition-ing to ECC standards would result in:

- An additional production cost of 37.5 percent per kilogram of
- A 35.4 percent increase in water consumption, equating to an additional 12.44 million cu m annually • A 35.5 percent increase in feed consumption, amounting
- to an additional 7.3 million tonnes A 24.4 percent rise in greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram

of meat produced

- A reduction of 44 percent in the total meat produced compared to standard production methods at present in existing EU growing space (>30kg/ sq m)
- The necessity to construct 9692 new poultry houses, with an estimated cost of \$A13.37 billion, to maintain current production levels.

These effects on production would inevitably lead to higher prices that could exclude a large proportion of consumers from buying chicken meat or drastically increase imports from countries with lower animal welfare

standards. AVEC president Gert-Jan Oplaat emphasised the importance of consumer choice and informed decision-making, "While the BCC aims to improve animal welfare, it is crucial to recognise that these improvements come with significant economic and environmental implications."

"Knowing that EU poultry consumption is predicted to grow in the EU in the next 10 years, consumers should have the choice to select higher welfare products if they wish, but it's crucial that standard affordable options remain available."

Meanwhile, Compassion in World Farming has criticised the partial adoption of BCC by some firms and urged poultry companies moving to lower stocking densities to also use slower growing breeds.

The animal welfare NGO has published its second annual European ChickenTrack report, which aims to "hold companies accountable" for any public commitments they've made.

CIWF said this year most European companies that have signed up are falling behind.

The report looks at 85 companies (chosen for their geographic relevance, size and 'chicken footprint') across eight European countries.

The featured companies comprise of 33 retailers, 14 companies in the food sersector, 23 restaurants, nine manufacturers content.

and six producers.

Of the 85 companies included in Chicken-Track, the highest proportion committed to BCC is in France – a total of 28, of which 20 are reporting on their transition progress and significantly all major retailers in France have signed up to BCC.

In the United Kingdom, 18 companies have signed up.

In the UK, two retailers - M&S and Waitrose – have signed up.

The report notes that other retailers including Sainsbury's, Co-op and Morrisons have committed to reduce the stocking density of their chicken to 30kg/ sq m.

However, CIWF criticised these retailers for not using slower growing breeds.

The report acknowledged that some retailers were offering a 'tier' of BCC-compliant chicken - such as Tesco's Room to Roam or Morrison's Space to Roam.

Compassion in World Farming global director for food business Dr Tracey Jones said, "It is encouraging to see an increase in companies working to deliver on their commitments and reporting on their transition progress.'

"However, only when the full package of changes is made will chickens start to feel the benefits and the company can say its products are higher welfare.

"It is undoubtedly a challenging time for everyone, particularly with the cost-of-living crisis, but we need to keep pressing on."

Disclosure – launched in April 2016, www. poultrynews.co.uk is a dedicated news website serving the UK's poultry industry.

With news updated daily, readers are kept informed of the very latest developments within their marketplace.

A twice-weekly newsletter is sent to subscribers, including the vice and hospitality edges the publication for much of the above



Backyard chickens look happy enjoying kitchen

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Annual Australian Poultry Science Symposium 2025

THE Poultry Re- try Science Symposisearch Foundation, in conjunction with World's Poultry Sci-Association ence Australian Branch, cordially invites you to attend the thirtysixth Annual Australian Poultry Science Symposium to be held at the University of Sydney, Abercrombie Business School (Camperdown Campus) from noon Monday February 10 to 5pm Wednesday February 12, 2025.

The Australian Poul-

um is the premier avian science conference in Australia, attracting delegates from across the country and around the world.

The 2025 conference will focus on an overarching theme of 'Enhancing productivity through resilience'.

The organising committee has decided the event will again be exclusively face-to-face, however is investigating the possibility of providing a virtual recorded version as well.

This would be re-

leased at the conclusion of the conference, enabling anyone who could not attend the event in Sydney to review the presentations and discussions postevent.

The decision to move the event back to campus was made in order to strengthen the relationship between the conference and the university, with stateof-the-art facilities at the Abercrombie Business School offering a larger tiered lecture theatre, smaller spaces for side-meetings and ample room for socialising and networking at the event.

The program will officially begin at midday on the Monday, with check-in for the symposium opening at 9am.

As always, APSS will continue to include an excellent array of invited speakers to feature at the event, as well provide delegates with plenty of time to network and socialise by offering a lively social program.

So, save the dates and start writing your papers for February 2025. 🦃



Kemin broiler chicken and turkey diets product approved

KEMIN Industries, a global ingredient manufacturer that strives to sustainably transform the quality of life every day for 80 percent of the world with its products and services, conducted extensive research that served as the basis for the US Food and Drug Administration Centre for Veterinary Medicine's approval of the use of chromium propionate as a source of chromium in growing turkey di-

With this approval, chromium propionate is now approved for use in swine, broiler chickens, cattle, horses and growing turkey diets.

KemTRACE Chromium from Kemin is the only FDA-reviewed source of chromium propionate on the market today and has been fed to millions of animals around the globe.

KemTRACE Chromium is a highly bioavailable organic source of chromium propionate that helps stabilise insulin receptors in animals, improving glucose utilisation and reducing the negative impacts of stress.

Every cell in the animal relies on glucose to fuel its function and growth, so maximising cells' utilisation of glucose may result in improved immune response and overall health and performance.

Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health North America vice president of regulatory affairs and quality assurance Kristi Krafka said, "We are thrilled that the use of chromium propionate in animal diets continues to expand in the US and beyond."

"Kemin has spent decades advancing the nutrition and performance of livestock and poultry through novel feed ingredients, and is now able to offer safe effective KemTRACE Chromium to turkey producers, nutritionists and veterinarians."

With more than 25 vears of research and countless peer-reviewed chromium research studies, Kemin paved the path to establish chromium propionate as safe and efficacious.

Published research across many species has shown chromium has the ability to reduce cortisol, which is a hormone secreted in response to stress.

The reduction in cortisol during times of stress may decrease negative impacts from stress events, such as extreme heat or cold, diet changes, disease challenges and more.

North Carolina State University professor emeritus Dr Jerry Spears said, "There is a robust and growing body of research demonstrating the utility of chromium propionate supplementation in cattle, swine, broilers, horses and now turkeys."

"We appreciate the opportunity to continue to partner with Kemin to help bring this new research to the turkey industry, and support advancements in animal health and performance."

Results of a recent study indicate that chromium propionate (KemTRACE Chromium) supplementation can improve turkey performance and is safe when supplemented in turkey diets at five times the minimal concentration, which enhanced insulin sensitivity.

This study demonstrated:

• Over an 84-day feeding period, turkeys supplemented KemTRACE with Chromium had greater average daily gain and tended to gain more efficiently than controls

· Body weights of turkeys supplemented with KemTRACE Chromium were heavier than controls by day 84 in studies published in the Journal of Poultry Science.

KemTRACE Chromium is manufactured at Kemin at Des Moines, Iowa in the US.

The facility has the Food Safety System Certification 22000, which is recognised by the Global Food Safety Initiative as a rigorous food safety management system, certified by approved third-party organisations.

The certification covers the manufacturing of food ingredients used for further processing and is designed to deliver greater confidence in food, reduce health risks, lower audit costs, improve brand protection and improve supply chain management.

For more information about utilising chromium in growing turkey diets, visit kemin. com/na/en-us/mar kets/animal/products/ kemtrace-chromium or contact Kemin on 02 9844 5700.

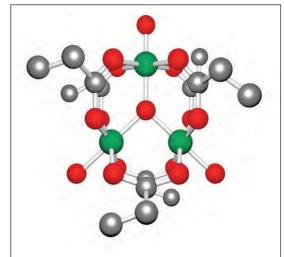


Figure 1. Drawing of Kemin chromium propionate cation. Green indicates chromium atoms, grey indicates carbon atoms, red indicates oxygen atoms. Hydrogen atoms are not shown for clarity.



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Thick waste sludge no problem for Ragazzini pump

BLANTYRE Farms is a highly produc-tive mixed farming and livestock business situated near Young in NSW.

It needed a reliable pump to transfer sludge from the covered methane gas dam.

In other words, the business found itself faced with a very old Australian conundrum... pushing slurry uphill.

That's when the maintenance manager at Blantyre Farms, Mark Schulz, contacted Hydro Innovations to find a suitable pump for the application.

The problem

The issue for the farm was that the slurry had the consistency of molasses and pumping it a kilometre uphill to the ponds was no easy feat

for standard pumps.

Hydro Innovations NSW regional manager Phil Rothheudt said: "Ordinary pumps just couldn't handle the slurry."

The solution

Phil's solution was to use a Ragazzini peristaltic pump model MS3.

The operation of this style of pump derives from human 'peristalsis' intestinal muscle movements - an alternating contraction and relaxation of muscles around a tube to coax the contents through.

"Peristaltic pumps are usually found in medical situations, often used to pump blood," Phil said.

The results

Mr Schulz was happy with the outcome and said: "The information supplied by Phil to select

the correct pump for our application was great, as was the communication for the actual purchase."

Phil said, "Our success is due to a team with many years of expertise.

"We can turn around an enquiry same day and offer a solution – we know the specifics, that's what matters.'

The benefits

Ragazzini pumps use a roller-on-bearing design, so the casing does not have to be filled and re-filled with expensive lubricating fluid.

This means that hose changes are quicker and cleaner, and also that owners are able to take advantage of Ragazzini's fast leak detection system, which warns owners when a hose needs replacing.

Pumps can be used on suction lifts up to 9m and can produce pressures to 15 bar.

More information on these pumps may be obtained from Hydro Innovations on 02 9898 1800 or info@HydroInnova tions.com.au 🦠



Innovations Hvdro select the pump suitable for the application. In this case, pushing slurry uphill.



The Ragazzini peristaltic pump model MS3 was the perfect solution.



The impact on egg supply should remain limited and Australians will continue to enjoy over 18 million eggs every day.

Egg industry digs deep to eradicate avian influenza

THE egg industry is main limited and Auscontinuing to work with authorities to eradicate avian influenza in Victoria, with additional sites now having been identified within the Control Area around the initial impacted property.

Agriculture Victoria has introduced movement restrictions for all impacted sites and testing is ongoing in surrounding areas to identify infections as early as possible as the threat of wild bird populations remains.

Australian Eggs managing director Rowan McMonnies said, "The entire industry is on high alert and there's a big operation underway with authorities and egg farms working to address these incidents and minimise ongoing risks."

"It's deflating to see new sites emerge, which is terrible for the farms involves and for the welfare of the birds, but comfort can be taken that it is within a defined re-

"If this can be maintained, the impact on egg supply should retralians will continue to enjoy over 18 million eggs every day.

"Consumers can be assured that there are still hundreds of egg farms around the country collecting, packing and shipping eggs each day to maintain supply while the impacted farms recover," Mr McMonnies said.

Agriculture Victoria has also published guidance that, while cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are possible, the current risk to the public remains low.

Find out more about avian influenza in humans from the Better-Health Channel.

For more information on avian influenza and the current response, visit Agriculture Victoria by scanning the QR code below.



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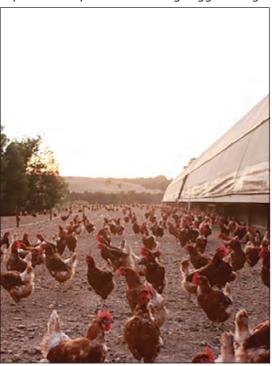




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The current avian influenza situation in Australia exposes the flip side of free range egg farming.



Free range egg farm housing outside.



Free range egg farm housing inside.

Flip side to free range poultry production

FREE range poultry farming in Australia presents both advantages and significant risks, particularly concerning the spread of avian influenza.

Avian influenza is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily affects birds but can also pose a threat to humans under certain circumstances.

Understanding the risks associated with free range poultry farming requires a comprehensive examination of the factors involved.

One of the primary benefits of free range poultry farming is the improved welfare of the birds.

Birds have access to outdoor spaces, can exhibit natural behaviours such as foraging and generally have better living conditions compared to intensive confinement systems.

Consumers often perceive free range products as healthier and more ethical choices.

However, these benefits come with inherent risks, particularly concerning disease transmission.

In Australia, cage egg farming remains a preferred producer system. Introduced in the

Introduced in the 1960s, this system became popular due to its efficiency in maximis-

ing egg production in a relatively small space. Other primary reasons

for its adoption were: **Economic efficiency**

Cages allowed farmers to house a large number of hens in a compact space, increasing the number of eggs produced per unit area of the farm.

This efficiency helped meet the growing demand for eggs in a costeffective manner.

Biosecurity

Cages were initially seen as a way to reduce disease transmission among poultry by keeping individual birds separated from each other.

This was particularly important in the context of preventing the spread of diseases such as avian influenza.

Egg quality

The controlled environment of cages was believed to provide a more consistent and cleaner environment for egg production, leading to potentially higher quality eggs.

However, the ethical concerns are that hens are confined to small wire cages, often unable to spread their wings or exhibit natural behaviours – dust bathing, foraging, nesting, roosting and socialising.

These conditions raise animal welfare issues, leading to calls for reform from animal rights advocates and consumers alike.

Proponents argue that cage systems can be more efficient and economically viable, ensuring consistent egg production and protection from disease and predators.

However, opposition highlights the psychological and physical stress on hens, advocating for alternative methods such as free range or barn systems that offer more space and opportunities for natural behaviours, aiming to balance ethical considerations with agricultural productivity.

As avian influenza viruses are known to infect a wide range of bird species, including domestic poultry and wild birds, free range systems where birds have access to the outdoors and potentially interact with wild birds, increase the risk of exposure to avian influenza viruses.

Wild birds can carry these viruses without showing symptoms, acting as natural reservoirs.

Australia has stringent biosecurity measures in place to mitigate the risk of avian influenza outbreaks.

Despite these efforts, the virus can still be introduced through migratory birds or contaminated equipment and materials.

When free range poultry come into contact with contaminated wild bird droppings or secretions, avian influenza can spread rapidly among the flocks, facilitated by close contact and shared outdoor environments.

AI can be passed from one hen to another through several routes:

Direct contact

Hens can transmit avian influenza viruses directly to each other through close contact, such as pecking, touching or through respiratory secretions including nasal discharge and saliva.

This direct contact allows the virus to transfer from infected birds to healthy birds within the same flock.

Indirect contact

AI viruses can survive outside the bird for varying periods depending on environmental conditions.

Infected birds can shed the virus into the environment through faeces, respiratory secretions or feather dust.

Healthy birds can then become infected by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces, water, feed, equipment or materials such as nesting ma-

terials and litter. **Airborne transmission**

Some strains of avian influenza viruses can spread through the air over short distances.

When infected birds cough, sneeze or exhale, virus particles can become aerosolised and be inhaled by nearby birds, thus spreading the infection within the flock.

Vertical transmission

In some cases, avian influenza viruses can be transmitted vertically from an infected hen to its chicks.

This transmission occurs when the virus crosses the eggshell and infects the embryo or newly hatched chick.

Vectors

Certain animals, such as wild birds, rodents and insects, can act as mechanical vectors by carrying the virus on their bodies or through contaminated faeces.

Contact with these vectors can introduce avian influenza viruses to poultry flocks.

Infected birds shed the virus through respiratory secretions, faeces and other bodily fluids, contaminating the environment and potentially infecting neighbouring farms.

Avian influenza viruses can vary widely in their ability to infect and spread among poultry.

Factors such as the specific strain of the virus, environmental conditions, flock density, biosecurity measures and the health status of the birds all play crucial roles in determining how effectively the virus is transmitted from one hen to another within a flock.

The economic impact of avian influenza outbreaks in free range systems can be substantial.

Infected flocks may need to be culled to prevent further spread, leading to financial losses for farmers and disruptions in the poultry supply chain.

Moreover, consumer confidence in free range

products can diminish following disease outbreaks, affecting market demand and farm profitability in the long term.

From a public health perspective, avian influenza viruses can occasionally cross the species barrier to infect humans, though human-to-human transmission is rare.

The risk increases when viruses undergo genetic reassortment, potentially leading to the emergence of new strains with pandemic potential.

Monitoring and surveillance are crucial to detect any such developments early and implement effective control measures.

Mitigating the risks associated with avian influenza in free range poultry farming requires a multifaceted approach.

Enhanced biosecurity practices, including restricting access to wild birds and implementing strict hygiene protocols, are essential.

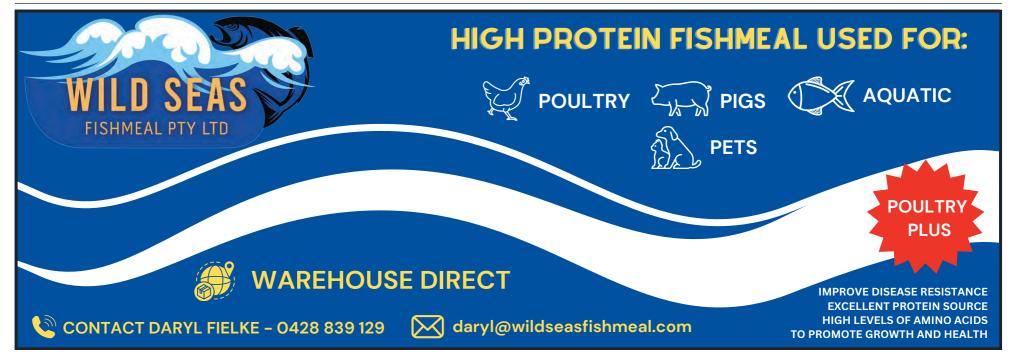
Regular surveillance and testing for avian influenza viruses help identify outbreaks early, allowing for prompt containment measures.

Vaccination programs for poultry may also be considered, yet effectiveness can vary depending on the virus strain.

Ultimately, while free range poultry farming offers benefits in terms of animal welfare and consumer perception, it also presents significant risks, particularly concerning the spread of avian influenza.

Vigilance, effective biosecurity measures and proactive disease management strategies are crucial to minimise these risks and ensure the sustainability of free range poultry farming in Australia.

By balancing welfare concerns with disease control efforts, the industry can strive towards a more resilient and responsible approach to poultry production.





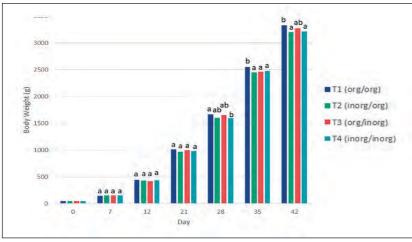


Figure 1 – Average body weight of broiler offspring per treatment, letters (a, b) indicate significant differences (P < 0.05).

, <u> </u>	,			
	T1 (org/org)	T2 (inorg/org)	T3 (org/inorg)	T4 (inorg/inorg)
Mortality (%)	2	3	6	6
Feed conversion ratio (FCR)	1.68	1.71	1.75	1.76
Drip loss (%)	1.04a	1.18a	1.67ab	2.02b
Selenium deposition breast muscle (mg/kg)	0.48	0.51	0.25	0.24

Table 1 - Results (mortality, FCR, drip loss, selenium deposition). Letters (a, b) indicate significant dif-

			P-value	
	Sodium selenite	L-SeMet	Selenium	Stocking density
Body weight (g)	2377.6a	2429.8b	0.002	0.32
Body weight uni- formity (%)	85.32a	87.43b	0.003	0.93
FCR	1.35b	1.327a	0.04	0.23
Shear force (breast ; g)	3868.5*	4408.7*	0.05	0.92

Table 2 – Average results for sodium selenite and selenomethionine treatments (body weight, FCR, body weight uniformity, shear force). Letters (a, b) indicate significant differences (P < 0.05), * indicates trend (P < 0.10).

L-selenomethionine in broiler breeder and broiler nutrition

SELENIUM is an essential trace element with functions in animal health, reproduction, performance and reducing oxidative stress, and can thus contribute to better health status of breed-

Selenium can be added to the diet in organic or inorganic forms.

Organic selenium in the form of l-selenomethionine has the unique property, compared to other selenium sources, of being able to be stored in animal protein, such as eggs and animal tissue.

Thereby, selenium can be transferred to the offspring via the egg and supply a continuous source of selenium to the animal during high stress periods, such as high stocking densities.

In this article, two trials will be described to show the beneficial effects of l-selenomethionine in broiler breeders and broilers.

L-selenomethionine in broiler breeders positively affects the broiler offspring

The first study aimed to investigate the effects of different selenium sources in broiler breeders on the performance of broiler offspring.

The trial was carried out at the facilities of the National University of Luján in Argentina.

Two sheds with 45-week-old breeders were used for the trial.

The breeders were fed two different diets consisting of two selenium sources – sodium selenite or 1-selenomethionine (Excential Selenium 4000 by Orffa Additives).

In week 55 of age, eggs were collected and incubated.

In total, 180 chickens from each treatment were selected.

The chickens originating from the various groups were divided over four different treatments, distributed in 24 pens with a randomised block design, leaving six replications per treatment.

Chickens from broiler breeders supplemented with 1-selenomethionine were fed two different diets:

• T1 – Regular diet + 0.3ppm selenium (1-selenomethionine) – org/

• T3 – Regular diet + 0.3ppm selenium (sodium selenite) - org/ inorg.

Chickens from broiler breeders supplemented with sodium selenite were fed two different diets:

• T2 - Regular diet + 0.3ppm selenium (1selenomethionine) inorg/org

• T4 – Regular diet + 0.3ppm selenium (sodium selenite) - inorg/ inorg.

For the broiler offspring from day 28 receiving T1 (org/org) showed significantly higher body weights (P = 0.0001) compared to birds receiving T4 (inorg/inorg) (see Figure

At 35 days, birds receiving T1 continued with a higher body weight compared to the other three treatments (P = 0.0001).

At the end of the trial, day 42, birds receiving T1 still showed significantly (P = 0.0001)higher body weights compared to T2 and

Lower drip loss percentages (see Table 1) were observed in the treatments that received organic selenium in the broiler diets.

It was shown that meat from birds receiving T1 (org/org) and T2 (inorg/org) had significantly lower drip loss percentages compared to meat from birds receiving T4 (inorg/inorg).

Selenium deposition was shown to be numerically higher for the treatments receiving organic selenium in the offspring diets.

L-selenomethionine improves performance in broilers

The second study continued P13





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The doses are intended for those most exposed to the H5N1 virus, such as poultry farm workers and veterinarians.

EU to secure 40 million avian flu vaccines for 15 countries

THE European Commission signed a contract recently to sedoses of a preventative avian flu vaccine for 15 countries, with the first shipments heading to Finland.

The deal secures up to 665,000 doses from vaccine manufacturer CSL Seqirus and includes an option for a further 40 million vaccines for a maximum of four years.

The vaccines will be jointly procured by the commission's emergency health arm HERA and 15 countries in the EU and the European Economic Area.

The doses are intended for those most exposed to the H5N1 virus, such as poultry farm workers and veterinarians.

The US, Canada and Britain are also in the process of securing preventative vaccine

sioner Stella Kyriakides said, "When it comes to avian influenza, we cure over 40 million are continuously and actively monitoring the situation ... and with our Member States, we are ensuring access to over 40 million doses of avian influenza vaccine to protect those most exposed."

"Deliveries to countries that have immediate needs are already on their way," Ms Kyriakides said.

The H5N1 virus has spread across most of the US states, affecting primarily poultry and in recent months over 80 dairy farms.

So far, there have been no confirmed human-to-human transfers though three people in the US were infected after exposure to infected cattle since April 1.

There were no active cases in humans or in cattle in the EU as of early June, according EU health commisto the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

In a weekly report in early June, the ECDC said, "Transmission to humans remains a rare event and no sustained transmission between humans has been observed so far."

"The risk of zoonotic influenza transmission to the general public in EU/EEA countries is considered to be low."

commission, The through HERA, has already secured 111 million doses from GSK and Seqirus of pandemic influenza vaccines, which can be adapted to any prevailing flu strain.

Note, the H5N1 virus referred to above has not been detected in Australia.

At the time of writing, the H7N3 strain of avian influenza had been found on four farms in Victoria, while H7N9 had been detected at a fifth property in that

Effect of AM/PM diets for free range laying hens

NUTRIENT requirements change gradually to meet an animal's needs throughout growth.

However, the inherent assumption here is that there are no fluctuations within a day.

But is this the case?

To explore the nutrient requirements for laying hens, in conjunction with Poultry Hub Australia and Australian Eggs, Dr Moss, Dr Dao and team at the University of New England completed a study on the effect of AM/PM diets for freerange laying hens.

Laying hens have a cyclic reproductive physiology that requires high dietary protein and energy levels for yolk and albumen formation in the early morning and high dietary calcium levels for shell and membrane formation in the afternoon/evening.

Therefore, feeding one diet throughout each day may be problematic as there is excess calcium in the morning and excess protein/amino acids and energy towards the end of the day.

To minimise excess nutrients, there is increasing interest in alternative strategies, such as AM/PM feeding, where a high energy and protein diet with lower calcium is provided in the morning and a lower energy and protein diet with higher calcium is fed in the afternoon.

AM/PM feeding has previously been illustrated to improve feed efficiency and eggshell quality and reduce environmental pollution by minimising excess nutrient and allowing the capacity for the hens to sequentially select feed.

However, there are opportunities to investigate the potential effects of AM/PM diets on hen welfare, particularly feather pecking, and under an Australian freerange system.

Therefore, an experiment was conducted at UNE's free-range research facility, where two dietary treatments a conventional layer hen diet (control) and AM/ PM hen diets – were offered to nine replicate pens of 20 hens each, giving a total of 360 hens (18 pens) from 34 to 53 weeks of age.

Mash wheat-sorghumsoy based diets were used.

The control diet con-11.6MJ/kg tained AMEn, 0.810 percent digestible lysine, and 4.1 percent calcium.

Hens offered the AM/ PM diet received the AM diet (12.5MJ/kg AMEn, 0.900 percent digestible lysine, 2.5 percent calcium) from 8am to 4pm and the PM diet (10.8MJ/kg AMEn, 0.760 percent digestible

AUSSIE GMP

lysine, 5.6 percent calcium) from 4pm to 8am.

Egg weight and egg production were measured daily, while feed consumption and feed conversion ratio were measured weekly.

Egg quality and bone quality were measured at week 53.

Additionally, hen behaviour was assessed from 49 to 50 weeks of age with camera recordings and individual ranging behaviour was monitored by radiofrequency identification

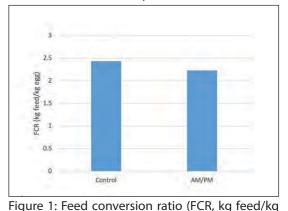
technology from 39 to 48 weeks of age.

The results showed that AM/PM feeding improved laying hen performance by increasing egg mass by 2.15 percent (60.4 vs 59.1g/hen/day, P = 0.086) and improving feed efficiency by 8.34 percent (2.231 vs 2.436kg feed/kg egg, P < 0.05, see Figure 1) compared to the control feeding regime over 20 weeks of the study.

Hens offered the AM/ continued P14



Dr Amy Moss



egg mass) of hens offered control and AM/PM

AUSTRALIA

L-selenomethionine in broiler breeder and broiler nutrition

from P12

aimed to investigate the effects of l-selenomethionine on improving performance in broilers, while increasing stocking density.

This trial included 1630 broiler chickens (Ross 308), divided over six treatments, five pens per treatment.

Treatments included a negative control with sodium selenite (0.3mg Se/kg feed) and a treatment group with 1-selenomethionine (Excential Selenium 4000 by Orffa Additives) (0.3mg Se/kg feed).

The two treatments were applied for three different stocking densities - standard stocking density (50 birds/ pen or 29.84kg/sq m), +10 percent stocking density (55 birds/pen or 32.84kg/sq m) and +16 percent stocking density (58 birds/pen or 34.63kg/sq m).

The birds were all fed the same corn and sovbean meal-based pelleted diet, with the only difference being the type of selenium.

The trial lasted 35 days and production parameters were recorded during the trial.

This second trial showed that replacement of sodium selenite with 1-selenomethionine significantly increased body weight at all stocking densities applied.

Body weight uniformity - standard deviation of individual body weight in each pen/average body weight of the pen – was improved and feed conversion ratio was significantly reduced for all stocking densities applied.

L-selenomethionine showed a trend towards lower shear force of breast meat.

Conclusions on use of **l-selenomethionine in** broiler breeders and broilers

Overall, the first trial showed that l-selenomethionine does not only allow for positive effects when fed to broilers, but also allows for long-lasting positive effects in offspring when fed to broiler breeders.

The significant improvements in body weight and drip loss that were found for the 1-selenomethionine supplemented groups in breeders and/or offspring - indicate potential for a more economical production.

When combining these results with the second trial, where it was shown that 1selenomethionine improved performance, tenderness and flock uniformity compared to sodium selenite in broilers, this hypothesis on economic benefits is confirmed once

In conclusion, 1selenomethionine allows for significant improvements in bird performance.

The best results can be obtained when both broiler breeders as well as broiler offspring have a diet supplemented with 1selenomethionine. Jolien van Soest **Central Technical**

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Effect of AM/PM diets for free range laying hens

from P13

PM diet also had a higher yolk colour score compared to the hens offered the control diet (12.3 vs 11.6, P < 0.01).

The amounts of pigments across all diets were the same, so this result was likely due to AM/PM hens spending longer on the range (2.85 vs 2.47 hours/day, P < 0.001, see Figure 2), which may mean they consumed more pigmented material such as insects and grass.

Hens on the AM/PM

egg lab.

poultry shed.

Analysis of eggs in University of New England's

University of New England Laureldale Free Range

treatment also had higher tibia ash content (43.3 percent vs 41.6 percent, P < 0.05) and breaking strength (19.98kg vs 17.13kg of force, P < 0.05, see Figure 3), meaning that AM/PM hens may be less prone to bone fractures.

Furthermore, AM/PM hens were observed to feather-peck less frequently than the control hens (0.39 percent vs 1.15 percent, P = 0.01), possibly because their dietary needs were more closely met.

Thus, AM/PM diets had performance, skeletal health and possible welfare benefits.
Finally, we completed

a cost-benefit analysis, which demonstrated that the feed cost per kilo of egg mass was approximately 20 percent less for AM/PM fed hens, or a saving of \$0.012 per kilogram of eggs, compared to hens fed the control diet.

For a farm of 100,000 layers from 18 to 90 weeks of age, this equates to a total sav-

ing of roughly \$30,000, which would probably justify the initial outlay of extra silos to set the AM/PM feeding system

We would like to acknowledge and thank Poultry Hub Australia and Australian Eggs for funding the project and guidance, encouragement and support.

For more information, contact Dr Moss on amoss22@une.edu.au Amy Moss University of New

England

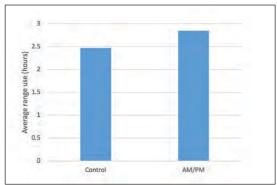


Figure 2: Average range use (hours/day) of hens offered control and AM/PM diets.

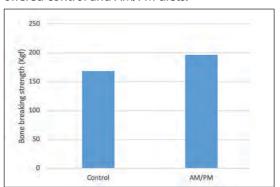


Figure 3: Bone breaking strength (Kgf) of hens offered control and AM/PM diets.



John Burns' genuine love of the brand and its products is what led him to become a Lenard's franchisee veteran of 25 years.

Affair with Lenard's still strong

A MECHANICAL engineer turned Lenard's chicken franchisee will soon celebrate 25 years as part of the iconic Australian poultry company.

Born and raised in Perth, Western Australia, John Burns did not expect his love for poultry to change the course of his career.

"I am a Perth boy with a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Western Australia," Mr Burns said.

"I worked in the automotive field in Victoria (mainly with Ford) for 10 years after graduation.

"I was a real fan of Lenard's products, so I bought my first store in Joondalup on July 7, 1999."

John went on to

proudly own a total of six Lenard's stores with not a single regret in mind.

Nowadays, John and business partner Kerry Dunsire are the owners of both Lenard's Warwick Grove and the Western Australian Central Manufacturing Facility, which supplies meat-case products to Australia's leading wholesale distribution company, Metcash.

Above all else, a genuine love of the brand and its products is what has led John to become a Lenard's franchisee veteran of 25 years.

"The team I interact with at the national support office in Brisbane are all true believers in the product – it's rare and why I love Lenard's so much," Mr Burns said.

"Most franchise owners put a great deal of love into the product, which I think shows.

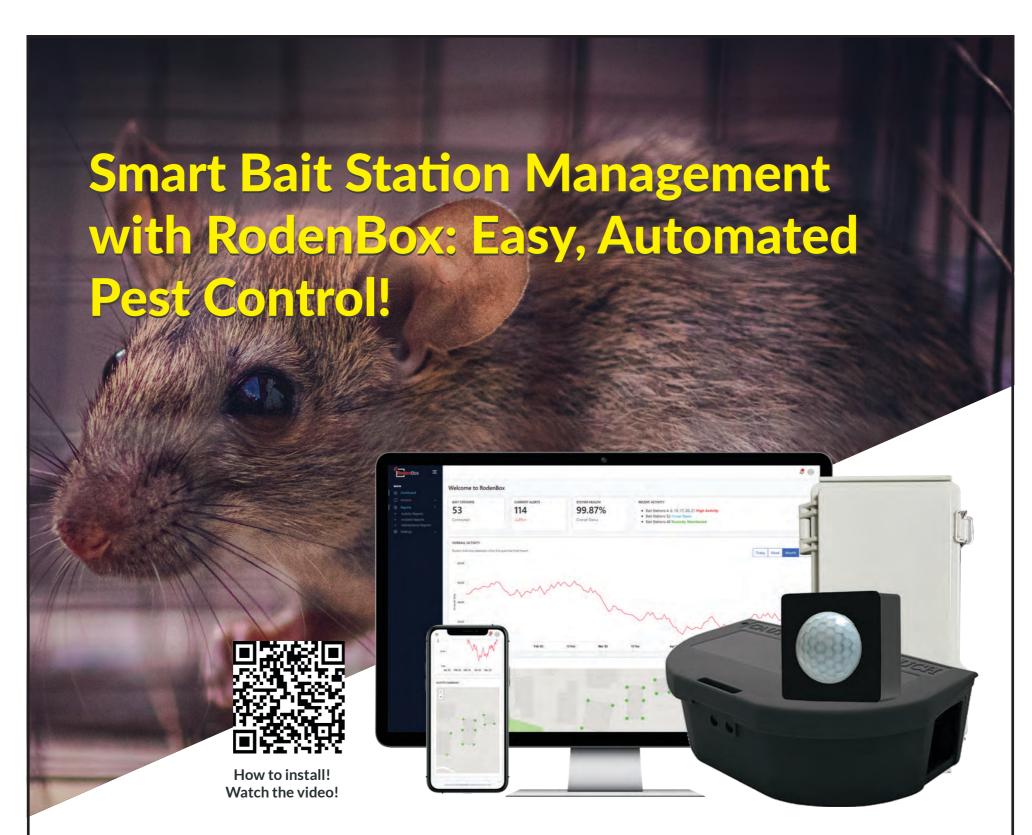
"However, what I love most about Lenard's is the taste and convenience of their products – the chicken kiev is a classic, the mini strudels are quick, easy and kids love them and, my personal favourite has always been the camembert and bacon baguette with brown onion gravy and roast veggies."

For John, this is only the beginning.

"I love the products and it is great to be able to make them for the people of Perth," he said.

For more information about Lenard's, visit lenards.com.au





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The Australian delegation at the 91st General Session of WOAH.

91st General Session of WOAH delegates

HELD in Paris France, the 91st General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation of Animal Health was a landmark event for the global animal health community.

The event convened more than 1100 participants, comprising representatives from 183 WOAH members in its centenary year.

Representing Animal federal governments, Health Australia Industry Forum and the Australian Chicken Meat Federation, I had the privilege of joining the Australian delegation.

Led by Australia's chief veterinary officer Dr Beth Cookson, the delegation was made up of representatives from Wildlife Health Australia, the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, both state and

among others.

During the delegation, significant interventions and revisions were made to enhance and amend WOAH's chapters.

This included clarifications surrounding the chapter on 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine' and its intended purpose, particularly around antibiotics used for growth promotion.

Within the 'Slaughter of animals' chapter, wording was amended to ensure shackling of large birds, including turkeys, could continue as an acceptable operational practice.

Beyond revisions to the chapters, delegates were called upon to visualise, through facilitated workshops, the potential challenges that WOAH might encounter in the future.

These workshops focused on foreseeing obstacles that are intrinsically linked to animal welfare and health, including issues arising from political factors, environmental sustainability, consumer trust and food security.

Attending WOAH afforded me the opportunity to engage with our international counterparts, including through a networking event held by the International Poultry Council.

Given the current sit-

uation surrounding the spread of H5N1 Clade 2.3.4.4b globally and the most recent avian influenza outbreak in Victoria, exchanging lessons learned and response and preparedness efforts were highly material.

It was also a privilege to witness former ACVO and WOAH delegate Dr Mark Schipp accept the WO-AH Gold Medal for his work in animal health, spanning three decades.

The ACMF had the privilege of working with Dr Schipp in his capacity as the ACVO between 2014-24.

His service to both the Australian and global animal health community is highly commendable and we deeply appreciated his contribution to indus-

Again, we wish him all the best in light of his retirement early this year.

I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for inviting me to be a part of the Australian delegation.

The insights and collaborations gained during this session will undoubtedly contribute to advancing our industries' collective efforts in animal health and welfare.

Verity Price **ACMF Deputy CEO**

Bird flu warning from Aussie Pumps

THE recent outbreaks of bird flu in Victoria are disturbing to say the least.

Hygiene, a sanitary environment and a regime of strict disinfectant procedures are required.

Aussie Pumps, Australia's leading pressure cleaner manufacturer and supplier, has developed a range of high-pressure cleaners that produce up to 130C steam.

It is well known that the use of hot water pressure cleaners, such as the Aussie Sizzler hot wash, were widely used for disinfection purposes during the COVID-19 crisis.

The machines can be used in all types of applications, from aged care homes to council park benches and barbeques, washroom facilities and many more.

The company specialises in hot water machines, with a new 4000psi 415V steam cleaner being at the top end of the range.

That machine, called the Admiral 4000, has a 6.6kW four-pole motor and produces tremendous results, with 15LPM flow to add extra grunt.

Best of all, it has a wide range of protection built in.

Including timed total stop, low fuel sensor and warning light, low water cut out warning light and a safety thermostat to protect the pump.

Micro-leak detection with a warning light is also an added advantage for the user.

Operating a machine with a leaking hose or coupling can create downstream problems with the water circuit on the machine.

The big 4000psi machine has an 18-litre diesel fuel tank for the burner and comes with high-pressure detergent injection built into the system.

The machine has a stainless-steel cover, steel chassis with bumper and a flexible coupling between the motor and the pump.

This allows for cooler and smoother running and reduces wear, extending the operating life.

The company also offers a range of super heavy-duty wet/ dry vacuum cleaners designed for industrial applications.

The Jumbo is an amazing heavy-duty vac that can be operated either out of a 75-litre polypropylene barrel mounted on a trolley or can be used as a 'drum vac'.

The drum vac comprises of a 200-litre steel drum with the vacuum cleaner head mounted on top.

It is an easy fit and when the drum is full, the head can be taken off and put on another drum, allowing for easy disposal of the contents.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "With bird flu around, when it comes to cleaning and sanitising sheds and shelters, steam cleaners have advantages over using cold high-pressure water blasters."

"Oily grime melts away faster and the area dries quickly, reducing slip hazards.

"When chemicals are applied with warm water, they react faster.

"Lower volumes are needed - a cost saving!"

Further information on the Aussie Pumps product line-up to help fight bird flu is readily available from aussiepumps.com.au or contact the highpressure division on 02 8865 3500.



Aussie Pumps Admiral 4000psi steam cleaner delivers steam to 130C for a fast hygienic clean.



The author with Dr Tiggy Grillo and Dr Simone

Australia's global leadership and excellence was

demonstrated with the granting of the WOAH

Gold Medal to Dr Mark Schipp. The prestigious

accolade cemented his legacy of vast contri-

butions to veterinary science, biosecurity and

antimicrobial resistance, and through leadership

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Early immune function in broiler chicks is modulated by in ovo carvacrol delivery

IN the first two weeks after hatching, broiler chickens are quite susceptible to disease.

tem – jejunum, bursa of Fabricius, yolk sac – around hatching (embryonic day 19.5

This is partially due to an immature immune system, which is not entirely operational until several weeks post-hatching, leaving a window where defence mechanisms are not fully developed.

Therefore, our objective is to improve immune function in early life.

Our approach focused on using the natural plant compound carvacrol.

Carvacrol is known for its beneficial effects on broiler gut health by promoting digestion, but also because it has antimicrobial as well as antioxidant properties and can modulate immune function by regulating inflammation.

To explore its potential during early life, we sought to supplement carvacrol during embryonic development, using 'in ovo' injection into the fertile

We hypothesised that in ovo delivery of carvacrol could influence immune development in different organs of the immune system – jejunum, bursa of Fabricius, yolk sac – around hatching (embryonic day 19.5 to day 14 post-hatch), thereby enhancing immune functionality in hatched chickens.

To do so, we looked at whether carvacrol affects expression of genes that promote inflammation (pro-inflammatory), those that counteract inflammation (anti-inflammatory), as well as genes that encode for antibodies and whether we could see changes in morphology of the bursa of Fabricius – an organ specific to avian species that is heavily involved in adaptive immune function through B-cell development.

We injected either a saline control or a carvacrol solution into the amniotic fluid of fertile eggs at embryonic day 17.5.

Tissue samples of the jejunum, bursa of Fabricius and yolk sac were collected at embryonic day 19.5, hatch and day 14 post-hatch with 10 replicates per treatment per day (see Figure 1).

Gene expression analysis (qPCR) of immune-related genes was conducted across all tissues and time points, alongside morphological assessment of the bursa of Fabricius at day 14 posthatch.

In the jejunum, in ovo delivery of carvacrol resulted in elevated gene expression of pro-inflammatory mediators IL-1 β , NF- κ B, along with anti-inflammatory mediator IL-10, while decreasing expression of antibody IgM (see Figure 2).

This suggests a potential for carvacrol to trigger pro-inflammatory responses in the jejunum, but this is also counteracted with anti-inflammatory effects.

In the bursa of Fabricius, expression of pro-inflammatory mediator IL-6 decreased over time, but this decrease was even more pronounced at day 14 post-hatch after in ovo delivery of carvacrol.

In the yolk sac, in ovo delivery of carvacrol led to a lower expression of pro-inflammatory mediators IL-8 and IFN-γ at hatch.

Furthermore, in the bursa of Fabricius, in ovo delivery of carvacrol induced morphological changes at day 14 post-hatch, including a larger cortex (outside of the bursal follicles), as well as an increased cortex-to-medulla (inside) ratio, which could be indicative of enhanced B-cell stimulation and maturation

These effects in both bursa of Fabricius and yolk sac may suggest anti-inflammatory properties of carvacrol and potential stimulation of adaptive immune responses.

Taken together, these results show that in ovo delivery of carvacrol was able to modulate immune function and was able to do so across different tissues.

Independent of treatment, age-related changes in expression of immune-related genes were observed across all organs, with some gene showing increased expression over time, others showing decreased expression and some showing a dip in expression at the time of hatching.

In conclusion, in ovo delivery of carvacrol modulated immune function in the jejunum, bursa of Fabricius and yolk sac between embryonic day 19.5 and day 14 post-hatch.

nd day 14 post-hatch. Additionally, changes in expression of immune-related genes occurred during this phase, independent of in ovo treatment.

Interestingly, the yolk sac – generally known as the main source of nutrients for the developing embryo, but which also plays a role in early immune function – was affected by in ovo delivery of carvacrol.

In our follow-up experiments, we will explore these immune mechanisms by comparing the transcriptomes of carvacrol-treated chickens to the control group.

Additionally, we will explore the potential of carvacrol to enhance defence against pathogens in an experimental inflammatory challenge model.

So, stay tuned for further exciting developments!

We would like to acknowledge the Agri-Futures Chicken Meat Program as well as Delacon Biotechnik for funding this project.

For more information, contact PhD candidate Mila Meijer on m.meijer@uq.edu.au or Professor Eugeni Roura on e.roura@uq.edu.au

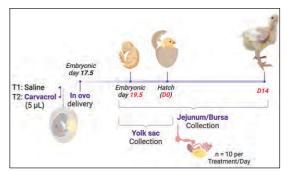


Figure 1: Timeline of procedures and sample collection. In ovo treatments (saline or carvacrol solutions) were delivered into the amniotic fluid at embryonic day 17.5. Tissue samples of the yolk sac, jejunum and bursa of Fabricius were collected at embryonic day 19.5, hatch and day 14. (No yolk sac samples were collected at day 14).

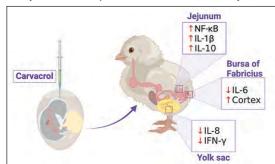


Figure 2: Overview of immunomodulatory effects of in ovo delivery of carvacrol, assessed between embryonic day 19.5 to day 14 post-hatch.



Author and University of Queensland PhD candidate Mila Meijer.

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Egg consumers shouldn't flip out over purchase limits

is aware of reports of purchase limits being introduced on egg cartons by a major retailer.

While the egg industry is continuing to work with authorities to eradicate avian influenza in Victoria, consumers can be assured that there are still hundreds of egg farms around the coun-

and shipping eggs each day to maintain supply while the impacted farms recover.

EggsAustralian managing director McMonnies Rowan said, "These avian influenza incidents will cause some disruption to egg supply, as retailers reorganise their supply, but purchase limits or patchy super-

AUSTRALIAN Eggs try collecting, packing market shelves do not indicate a nationwide shortage.'

> "We know many Australians rely on eggs as a staple and it might be concerning to see signs of a shortage, but we want consumers to know that only a small part of the industry has been impacted by AI and other egg farms are working hard to ensure over 18

million eggs continue to be available every day.

"Purchase limits are double edged.

"If a retailer has been impacted by the AI incidents, then it might be necessary for them, but they can send the wrong message to consumers about broader egg supply." Mr Mc-Monnies said. Australian Eggs



Purchase limits or patchy supermarket shelves do not indicate a nationwide shortage of eggs. Over 18 million eggs continue to be available every day.

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¹ Froyman R. & De Keyser H. Flubendazole: safety regarding egg production and reproductive performance of breeder chickens. Av Dis 27:1 (43-48). 1983.