

LEADING EDGE PORKSCAN TECHNOLOGY LAUNCHED AT PAN PACIFIC PORK EXPO

The Australian pork industry has proudly launched PorkScan, an AUS-MEAT approved system for measuring carcass quality, at the industry's biennial event, the Pan Pacific Pork Expo 2012 held at the Gold Coast on 16–17 May 2012.

Close to a decade ago, the Australian pork industry recognised the need for stronger market signals around pork quality founded on improved carcass measurement systems.

During extensive research conducted over a two year period, the PorkScan system was collaboratively developed as part of an AusIndustry Industry Cooperative Innovation Program project together with an industry consortium, comprising of Australian Pork Limited (APL), Murray Bridge Bacon, Rivalea (Australia), Swickers Kingaroy Bacon Factory, Primo Smallgoods and Linley Valley Pork.

The PorkScan system measures fat and muscle depth at the P2 site on pig carcasses using an ultrasound probe. PorkScan captures and stores measurements for every carcass on the slaughter floor, allowing producers to query results for particular carcasses with their processor if required.

While the P2 fat depth measure provides an effective replacement for other mechanical measurement probes, fat depth is only 60 per cent reliable in predicting carcass lean meat yield. Research into a laser light striping system to measure lean meat yield of pig carcasses was also conducted as part of the consortium project. This system involves laser light beams being emitted onto the surface of a carcass. Image analysis software determines the amount of curvature of these beams at particular sites on the carcass. This information is then incorporated into a complex algorithm to accurately predict lean meat yield.

Currently, this system is being refined for future commercialisation as part of a new Pork CRC project to determine whether 3D imaging cameras can be used as an alternative to laser light striping to improve system robustness. It will be an additional component to PorkScan.

The PorkScan system is currently being used at four export abattoirs across Australia and is commercially available to all Australian pig abattoirs.

For further information contact APL Research and Innovation Manager, Product Quality, Heather Channon, at heather.channon@australianpork.com.au.

ENDS

For media enquiries contact:

Emily Mackintosh

General Manager, Communication

Ph: 02 6285 2200 M: 0418 697 595

E: emily.mackintosh@australianpork.com.au

W: www.australianpork.com.au

Amy Braddon

Media & Publications Officer

Ph: 02 6285 2200

E: amy.braddon@australianpork.com.au

W: www.australianpork.com.au