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HEATHER CHANNON WINS 2015 BATTERHAM MEMORIAL AWARD

Australian Pork Limited's Manager, Product Integrity, Heather Channon, has been recently awarded the Australasian Pig Science Association's 2015 Batterham Memorial Award at the 15th Biennial Scientific Meeting held from 22-25 November 2015 in Melbourne.

The Batterham Memorial Award is a prestigious award conferred by the Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) in memory of the late Dr Ted Batterham. The Award is made with the aim to "stimulate and develop innovation and initiative in the pig industry" and enables the winner to broaden their exposure to national or international pig science.

APL's General Manager, Research and Innovation, Dr Darryl D'Souza said "This award highlights the excellent work and significant contributions that Heather has made to the Australian pork industry".

Heather is currently undertaking her PhD entitled 'Predicting the eating quality of pork' at The University of Melbourne and is supervised by Professor Frank Dunshea and Dr. Darryl D'Souza. Heather's PhD program is providing new information to support the development and implementation of a cuts-based eating quality system for Australian pork. Her studies, supported by funding from Australian Pork Limited and the Pork CRC, have aimed to improve eating quality consistency of different pork cuts using a pathway approach, with the overall objective to reduce the incidence of pork rated as unsatisfactory or below average by consumers (fail rate) to less than 10 per cent. New information on the interactions between multiple pathway factors on the eating quality attributes of different pork cuts have been delivered. Heather's work has also validated that immunocastrated male pigs produce pork cuts of comparable eating quality to those from female pigs.

Heather said, "Identifying, communicating and implementing outcomes arising from industry-funded R&D to optimise return on investment continues to be my major motivator, particularly in relation to pork eating quality, product integrity and carcass measurement".

In her role with Australian Pork Limited, Heather is responsible for identifying new opportunities, managing her project portfolio in Product Integrity and delivering outcomes arising from industry investment in food safety and traceability to key stakeholders. Heather also provides strong management and effective co-ordination of the Pork Processor Referral Group.

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