

R&D Snapshot

Establishing the Risk of Toxoplasmosis Associated with the Consumption of Pork and Pork Products

Investigator: Dr David Hamilton, SARDI, co-funded by Meat and Livestock Australia

Purpose:

- To develop Australian-based capability and capacity for reliable and accurate detection of *Toxoplasma gondii* in meat.

Take home messages:

- *Toxoplasma gondii* is a protozoan parasite found in all warm-blooded animals that can cause lifelong infection in humans and is the most costly food-borne disease after Salmonella
- A molecular test for identifying *Toxoplasma gondii* infected meat, with known limits of detection, was validated
- This test is now being used in a pilot prevalence study to determine risks of toxoplasmosis that may be attributable to pork
- Risk management tools will be demonstrated to pork processors and small good manufacturers for their ongoing use to minimise food safety risks from toxoplasmosis.

Additional information:

- Click [here](#) to view the full report
- Contact Heather Channon at heather.channon@australianpork.com.au or 0423 056 045.

