

R&D Snapshot

Development of Practical Measures to Benchmark Pig Welfare in the Australian Pork Industry

Investigators: Jeremy Skuse & Lauren Hemsworth, AWSC

Purpose:

- To develop a practical Pig Welfare Benchmarking Tool (PWBT) that can be used on farm for self auditing by Australian pork producers and stock-people.

Take home messages:

- A range of key animal-based breeder and weaner/grower welfare assessment indices were identified, field tested and form the welfare benchmarking tool
- The PWBT has potential to be used to:
 - Measure and monitor pig welfare within and between farms;
 - Be incorporated by producers in their management routines; and
 - Identify areas to further improve pig welfare on-farm.
- This PWBT ensures that the Australian industry:
 - Remains a leader in animal welfare practices through continuous improvement, maintaining high standards and positive welfare; and
 - Production systems provide levels of animal management and welfare standards greater than required under the Model Code of Practice.
- On-farm validation of the animal-based indices to provide scientific accuracy is currently underway.

Additional information:

- Contact Pat Mitchell at pat.mitchell@australianpork.com.au or 03 5488 2306 for additional information.

