

R&D Snapshot

Tracking Nutrients in Outdoor Piggery Systems

Investigator: Stephen Wiedemann, FSA Consulting

Purpose:

- To determine the long-term (three year) environmental impact of soil nutrient levels and nutrient distribution in rotational outdoor piggery systems using Electromagnetic (EM) mapping technology
- Identify possible management strategies to better manage nutrients at outdoor piggeries.

Take home messages:

- Nutrients were found to increase significantly in the surface and sub-soil with available Phosphorus and nitrate N (sub soil) exceeding environmental thresholds after only one year of pig farming
- Soil profile nitrate, and available phosphorus levels were sufficient for subsequent crop farming at both sites without additional fertiliser
- Nutrient levels in hotspots were sufficient for many years of cropping, after only one pig phase. Successful utilisation of these nutrients would require specialist management techniques
- Nutrients were not distributed evenly but distribution was improved by moving infrastructure such as shelters, feeders and waterers.

Additional information:

- [Click here to view the full report](#)
- Contact Janine Price at janine.price@australianpork.com.au or 02 6270 8827.

