

# R&D Snapshot

## Reducing variation in growth performance through pST interventions at weaning

**Investigator:** Mr Robert Hewitt and Prof Robert van Barneveld, SunPork Farms

**Purpose:**

- The aim of this project was to determine the response of weaned piglets to the judicious short-term use of porcine somatotropin (pST) to reduce variation in weaner performance and its ability to alleviate the post-weaning growth check.

**Take home messages:**

- Porcine Somatotropin is a growth promoting technology and its use in the finisher phase improves growth performance, increases feed efficiency, and reduces backfat. However, the administration of pST is prohibited from use under some retailer agreements.
- Over the three experiments conducted there was no improvement in weaner pig performance as a result of differing short-term pST administration.
- Further research in this area would likely require a longer timeframe of administration which would likely lead to similar issues with its administration in finishers.

**Additional information:**

- For further information or a copy of the full report, please contact Dr Robyn Terry at [robyn.terry@australianpork.com.au](mailto:robyn.terry@australianpork.com.au) on 02 6270 8820

APL Project 2013/044

