

RURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR PROFIT PROGRAM

Briefing note

Enhancing Supply Chain Profitability through Reporting and Utilization of Peri-mortem Information by Livestock Producers

Background

The project, 'Enhancing supply chain profitability through reporting and utilization of peri-mortem information' is one of the seventeen projects announced on July 1, 2016 that received funding from the Commonwealth Government under Round 2 of the Rural Research and Development for Profit Program. The Rural Research and Development for Profit Program is a \$200 million competitive research initiative with funding available over eight financial years (2014-22). The objectives of the Program are to realize productivity and profitability improvements for primary producers by:

- > generating knowledge, technologies, products or processes that benefit primary producers;
- > strengthening pathways to extend the results of rural R&D, including understanding the barriers to adoption; and
- > establishing and fostering industry and research collaborations that form the basis for ongoing innovation and growth of Australian agriculture.

Project objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

- > Develop a business case for a peri-mortem data capture and reporting system that meets the needs of stakeholders across the beef, goatmeat, pork and sheepmeat supply chains
- > Develop standards and software that can be used to collect and consistently report disease-related carcass

and offal condemnations (total and partial) during ante- and post-mortem inspection

- > Conduct validation studies to identify challenges or barriers to implementation and recommend solutions prior to rollout of the national system
- > Implement a national extension and adoption strategy to allow standardized data collection and reporting systems to be integrated into Australia's beef, goatmeat, pork and sheepmeat supply chains
- > Provide data to support on-going risk assessments of inspection procedures.

Project partners

The project is a partnership between APL, MLA, AMPC, Agriculture Victoria (AgVic) and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

Project summary

Many recording systems are already in place in meat processing plants to provide feedback to producers, for example, hot standard carcass weight. However, data collection on disease-related carcass and offal condemnations and feedback of this information to producers varies considerably. This Project aims to develop a standardized approach to data collection on disease-related carcass and offal condemnations and a nationally agreed, consistent feedback system to producers. It is envisaged the new system will allow producers to monitor disease prevalence in their livestock and make informed decisions to maximize yield

outcomes. A standardized approach will also provide the data to support on-going risk assessment of inspection procedures.

Project management

A Project Steering Committee comprising representatives of AgVic, AMPC, APL, MLA, SARDI and Animal Health Australia (AHA) has been established. The role of the Project Steering Committee is to guide and direct the project and to ensure it is accountable to the respective livestock industries and project partners. The Project Steering Committee will also provide overall governance and advice to the project team.

A Project Management Committee will oversee the project on an operational basis and may comprise project consultants, research providers and/or additional parties from time to time (eg. MINTRAC, AMIC) to present research findings, provide input to the Project and/or inform the Project Operational Plan.

Project budget

The project has received \$711,668 from the Commonwealth Government, plus \$1,129,905 from a number of Rural Research and Development Corporations, including AMPC, APL and MLA. AgVic and SARDI are making in-kind contributions to the project

(equivalent to \$259,021).

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme.

Project timeline

The project will run for four years (July 2016 to June 2020).

The business case for the peri-mortem data capture and reporting system, as well as the standards for the national reporting system will be developed in the 2016-17 financial year. Stakeholder engagement forums, including an online forum, will be conducted during March and April 2017 to generate industry awareness of this project and ensure all activities and proposed outcomes are industry driven.

During the 2018-19 financial year a platform capable of collating and validating data from multiple sources will be built. The platform will support industry-level modelling and data analysis. Software to support the national uniform feedback system across the beef, goatmeat, pork and sheepmeat supply chains will also be developed.

The validation studies for the national system will be conducted during 2019-20.

