



R&D Snapshot

Australia is leading the world in pig welfare benchmarking

Investigator: Emalyn Loudon, Emalyn Loudon Consulting

Purpose:

- To promote the voluntary uptake of on-farm welfare benchmarking

Take home messages:

- The on-farm welfare benchmarking protocol uses animal-based measures to assess welfare of pigs in different production systems
- Animal-based measures such as lesion incidence, lameness, tail biting etc. are used on-farm to assess the pigs' welfare outcome as they focus on what is happening to the animal
- Welfare benchmarking:
 - Can lead to improved understanding of welfare within a herd
 - Demonstrates that the industry is proactively monitoring and managing welfare
 - Enables producers to demonstrate that they are proactively monitoring and managing continuous improvement in animal welfare
 - Provides assurance for consumers knowing that industry has welfare front of mind
 - Provides industry with a point of difference as wide scale welfare benchmarking in pigs is uncommon around the world
- An implementation manual will be expected to be released as an outcome of this project later in 2017.

Additional information:

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

APL Project 2015/469 – Promoting industry uptake of welfare benchmarking

