



R&D Snapshot

The environmental impact of the pork industry over time

Investigator: K. Watson, S.G. Wiedemann, L. Biggs, and E.J. McGahan – Integrity Ag and Environment

Purpose:

- Determine the trend in environmental performance of the Australian pork industry by investigating GHG emissions and resource use per decade between 1980 and 2010, and predicted impacts to 2020.

Take home messages:

- Herd efficiency improvements have improved feed conversion ratio, due to lower feed requirements.
- This has resulted in reduced manure production and reduced GHG emissions from manure.
- The use of deep litter housing as well as the introduction of covered ponds in Australian piggeries have contributed to reduced environmental impacts from pig production.
- Reduced tillage, higher grain yields and a lower proportion of irrigation water used for grain production improved the efficiency of grain production systems, resulting in lower impacts per kilogram of feed grain produced.

APL Project 2017/2212 – Trends in environment impacts from the pork industry.

