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WELCOME

Welcome to the May edition of the Research Newsletter!

Working in the role of Associate Dean Research while Kathy is away, I realised that we really are a research intensive Faculty. In less than a month since I took over, I have signed off more than a dozen human and animal ethics applications from our Faculty, meaning that we submit about three applications per week. It’s amazing to have so much research activity in this small faculty where many of the academics spend a substantial amount of time in the clinics. We should be proud of what we achieve despite all the constraints.

This month, we also prepared and submitted a report outlining the outcomes from Compact funds allocated in 2012 and 2013. Thank you to those who provided us the required information at a very short notice. Thank you to Marie and Kim for extracting data from RIMS and other sources for the report. We experimented with the use of SurveyMonkey to obtain information from academics. We plan to extend this approach for gathering other data and information in the future.

This newsletter has information about some selected funding opportunities. You would probably already be aware that Australian Pork Limited has called for applications for the 2014-15 funding round. Please contact me if you are interested in submitting applications or even if you think that you have skills to contribute to one or two of the objectives but don’t want (or don’t have energy) to prepare and submit a full proposal on your own. I would be glad to connect you with others preparing grant applications where your skills could complement theirs. We also want to avoid unnecessary intra-faculty completion, if possible. The applications close on Wednesday 4th June 2014 but the Research Office expects to receive them by 28th May 2014, especially if you require any assistance with the budget. Rebecca Griffin is the Research Office contact person for APL submissions (email: rebecca.griffin@sydney.edu.au; Phone: 02 8627 8154).

Some media stories from our Faculty are also listed in the newsletter. It is interesting to see a lot of media activity this month. If you think you have some story to share please don’t hesitate to contact me or Marie. If the story is about a journal article, it is better to contact us as soon as the paper is accepted so that the date of media release is synchronised with the date of publication of the paper. Even if you haven’t used media to publicise your findings or even if you think that your paper is too technical to be of interest to the general public, it wouldn’t hurt to send us an email. You never know — you might be starring in the 6 pm news some evening!

Sincere thanks to Marie for preparing this newsletter. Please send any research information or other stories that you want to publish to Marie at vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au.
WHO HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS..

- ABC Rural interviewed Professor Richard Whittington from the Faculty of Veterinary Science about his research into testing for Johne’s disease.
- The Sunday Telegraph, Sunday Mail, Brisbane and Adelaide Now ran a story on University-led research about dangerous levels of preservatives in commercial fresh food for pets and interviewed Dr Anne Fawcett from the Faculty of Veterinary Science.
- ABC Newcastle Mornings interviewed Dr Anne Fawcett from the Faculty of Veterinary Science about pet food.
- Sydney Morning Herald and Brisbane Times interviewed Dr Cameron Clark from the Faculty of Veterinary Science about innovation in the dairy industry.
- 702 ABC Sydney Afternoons interviewed Dr Peter Higgins from the Faculty of Veterinary Science about dog breeds.
- Dr Mini Singh is leading the survey team: Multi-disciplinary team seeks to understand free range farming’s questions.
- SMH reported on Dr Cameron Clark’s “Royal Easter Show: Electronic monitoring on the farm has all the right moves.”
- A reminder if you have any research or findings that you think are suitable for media coverage please contact verity.leatherdale@sydney.edu or 9351 4312 before your work is published.

If you have any media items please send to vetsci.adr@sydney.edu.au

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?
Apart from being awarded a ginormous grant... I would like to develop a genetic test for a number of different soundness traits in racehorses. There is increasing evidence that traits such as fracture and tendon injuries are also partially heritable, while there are a number of traits such as epistaxis, roaring and typing up that we know are heritable.

Being able to test for them all would give owners and trainers more information about what their racehorse might be susceptible to, and allow them to modify training to try and prevent these issues. I would also like to breed the perfect racehorse...

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?
I am awesome at karaoke.
What is your area of expertise?

My primary research interest aims to understand the effects of nutrient balance on the behavior, physiology, life history and fitness of animals.

How did you first get involved in this area?

Nutritional Ecology is a well established research area that based most of their groundbreaking findings on laboratory experiments. I discovered that I had innovative ideas to promote the expansion of Nutritional Ecology into field research and I got involved.

What do you find most challenging about this area?

I think is a combination of factors... one is dealing with the numerous uncertainties that field-based research projects have and the other is based on the wide range of collaborative projects we are currently working (birds, cats, dogs, dolphins, devils). To be honest, both make things challenging but extremely rewarding when you achieve your goals.

Something about you that we don’t know?

I am a true believer that dreams are not negotiable and people should do whatever it takes to realised them. (Doing collaborative research at this level is a dream come true for me!). I love spending time with my family and I am extremely passionate about soccer.
PUBLICATIONS CONT.
AS LISTED ON IRMA APRIL 2014


Prime Minister’s prize for science
The Australian Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education invites nominations for its Prime Minister’s prize for science. The award is presented annually for a specific achievement within the following disciplines:
- mathematical sciences;
- physical sciences;
- chemical sciences;
- earth sciences;
- environmental sciences;
- biological sciences;
- agricultural and veterinary sciences;
- information and computing sciences;
- engineering;
- technology;
- medical and health sciences.
Nominations should within their field of science demonstrate original and meticulous research effort, significant scientific impact and advance human welfare or benefit society.
Only Australian citizens or permanent residents are eligible. Nominees must be currently active in their research.
The award includes a cash component of AU$300,000 and may be awarded to an individual or jointly to up to four individuals, if the achievement is a collaborative effort. In such cases, each member of the collaborative team would receive an equal portion of the grant.
Closing Date • 29 May 14
Further information: innovation.gov.au/science/InspiringAustralia/PrimeMinistersPrizesforScience/Pages/AboutthePrizes.aspx

Canine Research Foundation Research Grants 2015
The Canine Research Foundation is seeking applications for grants for research to commence in the year 2015. The Foundation is an independent public trust for the purposes of funding research directed at improving canine health, which it does through a program of annual research grants. The Australian National Kennel Council Ltd has adopted the Foundation as its research-funding vehicle.
Grants may be made by the Foundation for research projects relating to canine health where the research is conducted by an Australian university. Proposals should be received by the Foundation by May 30, 2014. See Flyer for further information, a word version of the application for funding is available contact marie.wildridge@sydney.edu.au
Closing Date • 30 June 2014

Australian Pork Limited
Researchers are encouraged to respond to the Call for Tenders addressing the priorities in the attached document. All proposals must be submitted via APL’s online portal pignet.com.au/ by COB Wednesday 4th June 2014.
This is a combined call for tender for research priorities for 2014/15 across the APL R&D portfolio, including:
- Genetics, Reproduction & Welfare
- Nutrition, Health & Physiology
- Industry Capability & Technology Transfer
- Environmental Management
- Food Safety, Biosecurity & Quality Assurance
Deadline for research proposals to be received by APL Wednesday 4th June 2014
Further Information:- see flyer at the back of the Research Newsletter

Animal Welfare Trust Research Grant
The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Animal Welfare Trust has some funding available for research grants to progress two objectives of the Animal Welfare Trust, specifically:
- To fund research into Animal Welfare Issues
- To promote and subsidise such research.
Further information can be found at the end of the Research Newsletter or by contacting Dr Bruce Twentyman, Executive Officer of the Animal Welfare Trust btwentyman@ava.com.au
Closing Date • 30 June 2014

The Rhodes Scholarship 2015 NSW
One candidate is selected for the Rhodes Scholarship for each state each year. Applications are invited from outstanding candidates rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk or further details are provided see flyer attached.
Closing 3rd September 2014
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

Snapshot of current Opportunities on Research Professional
- Target validation programme - Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, US Closing 28 May 2014
- Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, GB Closing 1 June 2014
- Conference Funding Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, GB - Closing 1 June 2014
- Improvement of animal models for stem-cell-based regenerative medicine (R01) Closing 5 June 2014
- Development of animal models and related biological materials for research (R21) Closing 16 June 2014

Research Professional: researchprofessional.com/ has many other opportunities listed.
Royal Easter Show: Electronic monitoring on the farm has all the right mooves

Julie Power
Published: April 17, 2014 - 3:00AM

Meet Anna. This 2½-year-old Ayrshire cow is a pin-up girl for modern dairying. Rather than wearing a bell around her neck, she is wearing a rumination and activity sensor that will tell the farmer when she is ovulating, when she is about to calve, when she is eating and when she is sick.

Soon it will be combined with GPS tags so the farmer can track everything that Anna does 24 hours a day from the comfort of a computer.

"We didn't have anything like that when I was a boy," said Barry Russell, whose parents had a dairy farm in Bega in the 1940s.

Stopping to look at Anna at the Royal Easter Show on Wednesday, he said the only way to find a cow back then was by "running around a paddock".

The new activity sensors are part of the first display of its kind by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW to show city folk that modern farming is technology- and data-driven. The display includes drones, used increasingly to survey pastures for drought or weeds; glasshouse tomatoes grown with 90 per cent less water and fertiliser than traditional field tomatoes: electricity generated from rubbish and pig faeces, and a portable methane digester.

Cameron Clark, from the University of Sydney's Future Dairy, said the research was designed to reduce the repetitive tasks so farmers could have time to analyse data and be proactive. Anna's tag contained an accelerometer - like a spirit level - that measured activity. This could tell the farmer when a cow was coming into heat because the cow tended to jump more. In addition, a rumination detector recorded when a cow was eating or not, useful because cows tended to stop eating before they calved or when they were sick.

"We will be able to work out where they [the cows] are, what they are doing, and improving methods of detecting oestrus, sickness, lameness," Dr Clark said.

By tracking patterns before calving, for example, they would be able to predict which cows would have trouble and thus reduce deaths.

Dr Clark said Generation Z - online, data crazy and computer literate - were the future of farming.

Agronomy student Hamish Doherty, 19, agreed. He said farming had "changed heaps".

"You don't have to drive a tractor any more," he said. "With precision agriculture, you can use all different images from unmanned aerial vehicles. And the drones tell you where the green spots are on your land, they send you different images, and can detect nutrients in the soil."
Keeping track: Cameron Clark and Anna model an electronic band used to feed information about the cow to the farmer. Photo: James Brickwood
Multi-disciplinary team seeks to understand free range farming’s questions

Welcome to another edition of eChook. In this edition, I would like to talk about what free range poultry production actually means in Australia. This stems from the fact that no two free range farms are the same. Consider the range of issues impacting on free range farms, including climatic conditions, species of plants (vegetation), soil type, landscape, water source, wild bird populations, insect populations, size of the farm, indoor vs. outdoor areas, shed and nest-box designs, stocking density, litter type inside the sheds, breed of birds, feed, environmental management, etc…

In Australia, currently 40% of eggs and 15% of meat chickens are produced free range, with dramatic increases expected over the next five years. In the case of eggs, this shift is facilitated by the two supermarkets, Coles and Woolworths, as they have decided to phase out cage egg sales during the next few years.

Can the Australian egg industry meet the demand for eggs by 2018? This is a difficult question for egg farmers because not very long ago some 30% of egg farmers dropped out of the industry due to changes in regulation related to cage size. However, ethical and sustainable production of food is the future trend for consumers in the developed world and thus it cannot be ignored.

Regarding the free range situation in Australia, the question is whether it is possible to have a uniform standard for a highly diverse production system, that is, is a “one size fits all” approach to free range production appropriate? The answer is, obviously, “no”. So what will be the common areas across all types of free range operations? What will make them more sustainable in terms of food production, bird health and welfare, and environmental management points of view?

The Poultry CRC is looking into conducting a survey of free range poultry farms across the country. The survey results will underpin the commissioning of rational, evidence-based research projects to address the important scientific and commercial questions pertaining to free range operations. The survey team, led by Dr Mini Singh of The University of Sydney, will consist of researchers from numerous partners including the South Australian R&D Institute (SARDI), the University of New England, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Poultry Works. I thank them for their enthusiasm, professionalism and collaborative effort!

Mingan.

http://www.poultryhub.org/2014/04/multi-disciplinary-team-seeks-to-understand-free-range-farmings-questions/
13 February 2014

Ms Jane Zhang
Research Administration Officer
Research Grants and Contracts
Level 6
G02 Jane Foss Russell Building
The University of Sydney
SYDNEY NSW 2006

Dear Jane,

Canine Research Foundation
Research Grants - 2015

The Canine Research Foundation is seeking applications for grants for research to commence in the year 2015. The Foundation is an independent public trust for the purposes of funding research directed at improving canine health, which it does through a program of annual research grants. The Australian National Kennel Council Ltd has adopted the Foundation as its research-funding vehicle.

Grants may be made by the Foundation for research projects relating to canine health where the research is conducted by an Australian university. Proposals should be received by the Foundation at the address noted on this letterhead by May 30, 2014.

Requirements of the Foundation in relation to the grants are:-

1. A report detailing progress on the project half yearly.
2. Within six months of the end of the period for which the project was funded, a final report covering the project and a summary for prospective publishing in journals of Member Bodies of the Australian National Kennel Council and other canine journals.
3. Any publications resulting from the work supported by the Foundation should acknowledge such support.

Grants per project will normally be in the order of $5,000-15,000 in any one year. Projects may extend beyond one year but funding each year will be dependent upon satisfactory progress as given in interim reports. Funds will be available as arranged through the university.

Note that funding is not usually provided for salaries, stipends or significant capital equipment.

An application form is attached. We ask that an electronic copy (preferably PDF format) be sent to the e-mail address noted on this letterhead as well as a hard copy forwarded to the postal address as noted.

Please respond where possible to the E-mail address as noted on this letterhead.

Yours sincerely,

Tracey Barry
Administrator

Att.
AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED

CALL FOR TENDERS

2014/15 R&D PROGRAM

April 2014
**Background**
Australian Pork Limited’s (APL) six Specialist Groups met in February 2014 to determine research, development, technology adoption and industry capability priorities for funding in 2014/15. The Specialist Groups are comprised of expert participants from industry, research providers and APL Managers. The priorities have been incorporated into business plans that have now been reviewed by APL’s R&D Advisory Committee (RDAC) and have been recommended by the RDAC to the APL Board.

**Priority Areas**
This is a combined call for tender for research priorities for 2014/15 across the APL R&D portfolio, including:

- Genetics, Reproduction & Welfare
- Nutrition, Health & Physiology
- Industry Capability & Technology Transfer
- Environmental Management
- Food Safety, Biosecurity & Quality Assurance

APL is seeking to fund research programs/projects in the following key priority areas.

**Genetics, Reproduction and Welfare**

1. **Improving Reproductive Efficiencies**
   Reducing involuntary culling of lower parity sows will have a significant impact on reducing the cost of production. But sow retention is only one facet of improving reproductive efficiencies. Management of the sow prior to and during lactation must take into account many factors. Failing to satisfy the sows’ requirements as regards animal husbandry will impact on her natural ability to care for and raise her litter and her successful re-breeding. Studies seeking to address these issues should consider:
   - Addressing risk factors associated with premature sow culling and mortality;
   - Pre-natal influences affecting the dam which impact on survivability and growth of piglets;
   - Development of a simple means of measuring muscle catabolism (body protein loss) in gestating and lactating sows;
   - Interventions to improve mated gilt retention rate, and
   - Interventions to reduce the impact of seasonal infertility.

2. **Breeding Females**
   Regarding the pig slaughter generation, female offspring are more desirable as issues with meat taint are greatly reduced. Currently, a vaccine against boar taint exists and is used to not only to reduce taint but also as a behavioral modifier reducing riding and aggressive interactions between young boars. Such products however are not accepted across all supply chains or by all members of the community and their use remains limited. Proposals seeking to address this issue of breeding more females should:
   - Develop a protocol whereby it will be possible to effectively and economically reduce the number of boars born in a litter, while still maintaining total litter size.

3. **Welfare Interventions**
   Animal euthanasia is a sensitive issue in the pig industry. On occasion, methods deemed suitable for painless termination may not appear so to the uninitiated. In addition, many stockpeople struggle to euthanize a pig that they may have spent time and energy caring for and treating. Proposals addressing this area should:
   - Provide practical and humane pig euthanasia protocols that could be tailored for individual farms based on pig ages and employee beliefs.
Ecoshelter management
Over the last decade or so, the use of eco-shelters has increased as they are perceived to be welfare friendly (as the pigs are weaned onto straw or rice hulls), and the shelters are able to house large numbers of animals at a relatively lower cost compared to conventional housing. Most welfare research has focused on conventional housing systems. Future welfare research should also focus on the management of pigs in these large groups as they present challenges that may not occur in conventional housing systems. The major outcome from proposals in this area should be:

- Protocols to maximise welfare of pigs reared in ecoshelters.

Novel Pain Markers
To meet accepted general principles for animal welfare there is a need to modify, prevent or minimise animals’ perception of pain following necessary human interventions. Pain research is a highly active area, particularly in biomedical science. As a consequence, the understanding of pain and its mechanisms are rapidly expanding, with a shift away from solely neuronal hypotheses to neuroimmune mechanisms of pain. It is timely with this shift in understanding and increasing body of pain research to re-assess if there are novel approaches that can be used to more objectively quantify pain in animals. Proposals for this 12 month project must include:

- A systematic literature search, which may include studies in humans and/or animals, for novel markers of pain. The proposal should also include a prioritised list of potential research ideas for mitigating pain in animals. It is also anticipated that proposals should include a plan for publication in a suitable peer-reviewed journal.

4. Community Engagement
Intensive pig production is a controversial issue for some sections of the community. Community concerns can impact on pork producer’s social licence to operate and may impact on consumer’s willingness to purchase pork. It is therefore critical that the Australian pork industry ensures that it understands the community’s attitude to welfare aspects of pork production and keeps abreast of changing attitudes and consumer responses. The successful project should:

- Incorporate an investigation to determine the level of community understanding of industry concerns and definitions i.e. develop an understanding of the consumers’ knowledge base as regards the pig industry.

One of the issues that in the future may impact on the industry is the push for provision of enrichment substrates and devices. Pigs are by nature curious animals and some groups have advocated that environmental enrichment/behavioural requirements be provided for all pigs. The commissioned project should:

- Determine the feasibility of provision of enrichment substrates as well as develop recommendations for provision of enrichment substrates for growing pigs.

Nutrition, Health and Physiology

1. Optimising Gilt Progeny Performance
Evaluating the cost incurred by the underperforming gilt progeny and strategies to minimise health and performance issues will be the core program of SG3 for the next 3 year period. The outcomes of this transformational priority are to optimise the gilt progeny performance by reducing variation and increasing MOFC for the gilt herd. This tender is seeking proposals to:

- Quantify the level of gilt progeny variation
- Investigate gestational, pre-lactational and lactational interventions to improve gilt progeny performance
- Weaning interventions that specifically target gilt progeny with outcomes potentially of benefit to all progeny
- Management interventions focussing on the impacts of weaning age and dam gestation length as well as early detection of stress and disease
2. **Disease Expression**

Improving the health of the herd leading to an improvement in feed efficiency is a concept which intuitively makes common sense however in reality no herd will be pathogen free. The considerable impact of mortality and disease on the feed efficiency of the herd needs to be understood and the contributing factors determined in order to develop strategies to achieve the objective of a reduction in post-weaning mortality by 1 percentage unit. This tender is seeking proposals to:
- Characterise factors effecting disease expression and growth aspects
- Investigate strategies to reduce mortality of the grower-finisher herd by 1 percentage unit
- Interactions of respiratory pathogens on immune response, carcase quality and carcase yield

3. **Feed Efficiency Innovations**

At a recent SG3 review meeting in 2013 it became apparent that variation in weaner weight and grower-finisher weight was a major source of production losses. As birth weight is highly correlated to weaning weight, reducing the variation in time to slaughter of the light and heavy weight piglets is difficult. This tender is seeking proposals to:
- Investigate alternative and innovative technologies to manipulate growth rate and feed efficiency at all stages of the production system, including pre-natal, gestation, farrow-wean and grower-finisher stages.

**Industry Capability and Technology Transfer**

1. **An Application for Smartphones and Tablets to Access APL Research Resources, Materials and Updates**

R&D outcomes need to be disseminated through a range of channels to promote rapid and wide spread adoption. In response to the shift to new and emerging communication technologies, APL recognises modern IT and social media have an increasing role and place in the world of agricultural extension, particularly in reaching various segments of industry. This is particularly the case for stockpeople, a segment which has traditionally missed out on R&D information yet they are integral in its implementation. Proposals are being sought for the development of a cross-platform Smartphone/Tablet Application, with information storage and decision assist ‘tool’ capabilities, for the Australian pork industry. The App should allow users to easily access a research resource library of videos, manuals, factsheets etc, have diagnostic/decision tree process capabilities, and receive push notifications. Simplicity is key and the best placed consultant will understand the importance in keeping the end users in mind.

**Environmental Management**

1. **Pondless Treatment Systems**

Traditional effluent management systems involve an anaerobic pond and associated storage ponds prior to evaporation or reuse of liquid/solids on site. The pork industry has explored the capture and use of renewable energy (biogas) on farm, mostly through covered anaerobic ponds, but is seeking an alternative holistic or closed loop approach to effluent management that integrates the waste, energy and water recovery aspects without the need for effluent treatment ponds. Projects are sought to investigate the individual or integrated technologies such as solid separation, energy recovery, nutrient recovery and water cleanup that don’t require ponds as the primary treatment option. * This project may involve collaboration with meat processing and other agricultural industries.

2. **Pelletisation/Nutrient Extraction**

Piggery liquid effluent and solids contain significant amounts of essential plant nutrients; however, these nutrients are often in a relatively dilute form, being mixed with large volumes of water which is costly and impractical to transport off-farm. Furthermore, raw liquid effluent and solids do not generally provide balanced nutrient requirements for agricultural crops. Technologies to extract the nutrients for processing into more concentrated, balanced fertiliser-type products have the potential to value-add piggery by-products, resulting in products that have a higher economic value which are
easier to handle and transport, with improved nutrient availability for plant uptake. Proposals and pilot type studies are being sought to enhance the industry’s knowledge of technologies suitable for the extraction and recovery of nutrients from effluent and manure. * This project may involve collaboration with meat processing and other agricultural industries.

3. Energy Audit Program
Recent results of an APL energy efficiency program have shown considerable variation in energy use between piggeries of similar production types. With the continual rise in energy prices (minimum of 25-40% across pig producing areas) and an industry goal of reducing resources and GHG emissions, there is the need to identify ways of reducing producer’s energy consumption and subsequent bills. This proposal seeks to develop and carry out an energy audit program for the Australian pork industry that can identify, quantify and suggest efficiency strategies to reduce energy use on site.

4. Sludge Profiling and Determining Sludge Trigger Point
Sludge handling/desludging is seen as an issue amongst the majority piggeries with effluent ponds and has been identified as the single biggest barrier/risk to the adoption of biogas systems. A recent APL project has evaluated existing sludge handling and management practices commonly used in other industries, in addition to generating some valuable sludge rheology data. A cost benefit analysis is also being carried out to assist producers in identifying appropriate sludge pumping equipment. From this work it was identified that gaps exist that have a significant impact on pond design and extraction systems. Sludge profiling knowledge is essential in designing sludge extraction pipe work and maximising pump use whilst knowing when to desludge is required to improve handling, pump suitability and reducing the loss of methane in covered ponds. This project seeks to generate complimentary information to assist producers in their decision making in relation to sludge profiling, removal trigger levels and desludging frequency to facilitate ease of removal while minimising losses in methane potential.

Food Safety, Biosecurity and Quality Assurance

1. Major Review of APIQ®
APIQ® Certification Policy requires a Major Review of the APIQ® program every four years; including a review of Standards, Policies, System, Documentation and Administration with the next Major Review scheduled for 2014/15. The Major Review is important to the program and industry and must be completed to maintain its credibility, integrity and robustness with all stakeholders. This year’s review includes a benchmark analysis of APIQ® against other domestic and international agricultural QA programs and Standards. It will identify impediments to uptake and draw on the findings and outcomes of the recently completed; ‘Third Party Evaluation – Outsourcing Management and Administration of APIQ®’ Project No. 2013/2128 and the ‘Review of Pork On-Farm HACCP Plan APIQ®’ Project No. 2013/2128.

A suitably experienced and qualified consultant/mediator is required to work with APIQ Management (APIQ M) to:
- Identify, engage, coordinate and facilitate stakeholder working groups and committees to review specific aspects of APIQ®
- Conduct desk top reviews of APIQ® documents, templates and records
- Review opportunities for improvement identified in existing reports and make recommendations for implementation
- Conduct a benchmark analysis of APIQ® against other domestic and international agricultural QA programs
- Provide reports of findings, opportunities for improvement and recommendations from all review activities as listed below

The successful applicant will provide:
- Records of attendance and participation in consultation activities
Minutes and records of discussions and all feedback received
A benchmark analysis
A Final Report outlining:
  - Opportunities for Improvement in APIQ®
  - Recommended revisions and amendments to Standards, Policies, Documentation, Management and administration of APIQ®
  - Be involved in the development of revised documentation for presentation and approval

**Relationship to the Core Objectives of APL**
These research initiatives target APL’s Core Objectives. More information can be found in [APL's Strategic Plan 2010-2015](#).

**Specific Terms of Reference**
Research providers successfully tendering for projects to meet the objectives described above will be responsible for:

1. Assembling expertise from within or between organisations to deliver one or more of the research outcomes identified earlier;
2. Designing scientific studies, in consultation with APL, to provide new information and know-how;
3. Securing access to research facilities (laboratories, equipment, on-farm demonstration sites) and the necessary approvals for the conduct of the research;
4. Developing a comprehensive project plan which includes detailed methodologies and budgets and describes the cash and in-kind contributions to the project, and subsequently delivering the research within budget;
5. Analysing and reporting all data generated in formal reports to APL; and
6. Disseminating key findings from the research to the wider scientific community in a variety of formats subject to approval by APL.

**Specific Outputs Required**
Specific outputs required by APL will be:

1. Progress reports against milestones/decision points agreed with APL that detail project findings from individual experiments;
2. A comprehensive final report (following approval of a draft by APL) detailing all aspects of the research conducted (methodology, data, analysis and conclusions);
3. A 10-slide PowerPoint presentation summarising the project and key outcomes; and
4. Scientific papers, conference presentations, producer talks and trade articles as appropriate and approved by APL.

**Timetable for the Current Tender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th April</td>
<td>Call made for tenders addressing research priorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4th June</td>
<td>Deadline for research proposals to be received by APL</td>
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General Conditions of Contracts

Research contracts entered into with APL will require:

1. Confidentiality to be maintained with disclosure only with approval of APL;
2. Copyright of all documentation and intellectual property to be vested pro-rata to the agreement parties on the basis of equity invested, or as agreed by the parties;
3. The project to be undertaken in an impartial, objective and professional manner consistent with good scientific principles and practice;
4. Applicants to provide their own insurance cover for the risks pertaining to the project;
5. Applicants to identify any areas of potential conflict of interest during the application process, or during the course of any supported project;
6. Opportunities for variation to the project objectives and work schedules subject to mutual agreement; and
7. Any material provided by APL to be used only for work specific to the project, unless expressly approved by APL.

Contracts will be issued using APL’s standard R&D Agreement which has been assessed by our legal advisors. On that basis, negotiation of terms will not be entered into. A copy of the R&D Agreement can be found on APL’s website.

Lodgement of Response

Applicants wishing to respond to this Call for Tenders should contact the relevant APL Research & Innovation Manager (refer below). All submissions (except for Industry Capability & Technology Transfer) are to be lodged as full proposals using the “Research & Development Application” in PigNet (https://www.pignet.com.au/). Proposals addressing Industry Capability & Technology Transfer priorities should use the “Award/Scholarship Application”. Finalised proposals for research will be developed and assessed using APL’s research & development assessment processes. For proposals that require the use of base-funded facilities, applicants should ensure that this detail is included in PigNet in the Budget section under “Contributions by others”.

Contacts

Genetics, Reproduction & Welfare
Dr Pat Mitchell
pat.mitchell@australianpork.com.au
03 5488 2306

Nutrition, Health & Physiology
Ms Robyn Terry
Robyn.terry@australianpork.com.au
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Industry Capability & Technology Transfer
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Imogene.gardiner@australianpork.com.au
0421 635 738

Environmental Management
Ms Janine Price
janine.price@australianpork.com.au
02 6270 8827

Food Safety, Biosecurity & Quality Assurance
Mr Tony Abel
Tony.abel@australianpork.com.au
02 6270 8812
Professor Roseanne Taylor  
Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science  
University of Sydney  
J D Stewart Building B01  
NSW 2006  

6th May 2014  

Dear Professor Taylor  

ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST RESEARCH GRANT  

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Animal Welfare Trust has some funds gained through subscriptions from AVA members and the wind up of the Australian Federation of the Welfare of Animals. The Trustees wish to make research grants available to progress two objectives of the Animal Welfare Trust, specifically:  

- to fund research into animal welfare issues  
- to promote and subsidise such research.  

As funds are limited, Animal Welfare Trust research grants are suitable for small, one-year projects associated with animal welfare. They can be used to assist postgraduate students working towards veterinary, honours and masters degrees or fellowships of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. The Trustees would extend this offer to other students undertaking studies that include animal welfare.  

The Trustees would welcome proposals for students to deliver papers at the AVA annual conference (in May each year) and/or to have suitable papers published in the Australian Veterinary Journal.  

The attached application form details requirements for the grants. Currently, the Animal Welfare Trust can support a single grant for a one-year project, up to the value of $10,000.  

Please note the closing date for applications for 2014 is 30th June, 2014.  

Please make your students aware of the availability of these research grants and the requirements detailed in the application form. Further information can be obtained from Dr Bruce Twentyman, Executive Officer of the Animal Welfare Trust, on 02 6273 0064 or at bttwentyman@ava.com.au.  

Yours sincerely  

Dr Susan Hazel  
Chair  
AVA Animal Welfare Trust
# AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST
# ANIMAL WELFARE GRANT APPLICATION

(Please restrict application to 6 pages)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title (12 words maximum):</th>
<th>Species and key animal welfare issue/s addressed:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linkage with other animal welfare research/science:</td>
<td>Research organisation:</td>
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## ADMINISTRATION CONTACT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>First name:</th>
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<th>Phone number:</th>
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## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/S' DETAILS

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Qualifications and experience:

Recent publications:

Position:
PROJECT MILESTONES AND REPORTS

Milestones:

Progress report at six months: Due date:
Final report at 12 months: Due date:

FIT WITH OTHER PROJECTS (if applicable)

RESEARCH CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE

SUPERVISOR'S, APPLICANT'S AND COLLABORATORS' SUPPORT AND NETWORKS

OTHER INVESTIGATOR DETAILS AND THEIR PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION (Who will be involved in the project and what contribution will they make)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTION</th>
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WHY ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST FUNDING WILL BE IMPORTANT TO THE PROJECT

*Please note that if funds are received from another source then funding from Animal Welfare Trust will be withdrawn.

ABILITY TO PRESENT RESULTS AT AN AVA CONFERENCE AND BY PUBLICATION IN THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY JOURNAL

PROPOSED BUDGET including GST
Note: Animal Welfare Trust funding is for one year only. Any further funding will be subject to reapplication and Trustee decision

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AVA ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST</th>
<th>12 months only</th>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and on costs</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Operating</td>
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<td>Capital (equipment)</td>
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<td>Other Research Organisation</td>
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<td>Total Animal Welfare Trust</td>
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<td>TOTAL including GST</td>
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BUDGET DETAIL (how and on what the funding will be spent)

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

AWT research application form   Page 4   5/6/2014
PROJECT LOCATION

REFEREES (minimum of two required and please include emails and phone)

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE AVA POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE

WHAT APPROVALS ARE NECESSARY FOR YOUR RESEARCH? (We seek clarification of ethics approval at the first milestone)

(Signature)
Principal Investigator

Date:
To: Deans and Directors  
Heads of Department  
Heads of Residential Colleges  

From: Dr Michael Spence  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal  

cc:  
Date: 22 May 2014  

Subject: New South Wales Rhodes Scholar 2015

The New South Wales Rhodes Scholar for 2015 will be selected in October this year. Applications close on 3rd September 2014.

Enclosed you will find a flyer for your notice boards and I would appreciate any other publicity for the Scholarship you may be able to arrange.

If you or your colleagues are aware of an outstanding student who might be a suitable candidate for the Scholarship I would be pleased if you would encourage him or her to contact the Honorary Secretary to the New South Wales Selection Committee, Dr William Adams, email william.adams@sydney.edu.au, phone 9351 3633, for further information. It is important that potential Rhodes Scholars are identified and encouraged to contact the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible if they are to make worthwhile contact at Oxford, as those planning to read for a D Phil will certainly need to do so.

The success of a university’s students in competing for prestigious awards such as the Rhodes Scholarship does much to influence the perceptions of the community, government and potential students as to the standard of excellence at that university.

Our students have an enviable record of being awarded the Rhodes Scholarship but there is always strong competition from other universities. If we are to retain our pre-eminence as the leading university in securing postgraduate awards it is essential that our best students are aware of the existence of the awards. This will only happen with the support and encouragement of our academic staff.

Your assistance and that of your colleagues in encouraging those students who may be eligible to apply for the Scholarship will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Michael Spence

Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal  
Quadangle A14  
The University of Sydney  
NSW 2006 Australia  

T +61 2 9351 6980  
F +61 2 9351 4596  
E vice.chancellor@sydney.edu.au  
sydney.edu.au
The Rhodes Scholarship 2015
New South Wales
(Tenable at the University of Oxford from September 2015)

Applications close 3rd September 2014

One candidate is selected for the Rhodes Scholarship for each state each year. There are also three Australia at Large Rhodes Scholarships which may be awarded to candidates from any state or territory each year. Candidates intending to apply for the Scholarship should contact the Honorary Secretary to the New South Wales Selection Committee, Dr William Adams email william.adams@sydney.edu.au phone 93513633 (until 30 June 2014) or Professor Tyrone Carlin email tyrone.carlin@sydney.edu.au phone 90366377 (after 30 June 2014). You should also look at the Rhodes website at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

What are the qualities required of candidates? (see website for complete details)

* You will be an Australian citizen and will have been resident in Australia for at least five of the last ten years and you will not have reached your twenty fifth birthday by 1st October 2015.

* You will have an outstanding academic record leading to a first class honours degree (or equivalent) at the end of this year or you will already have attained that qualification.

* A record of community service.

* Proven leadership abilities.

* An enthusiastic sports participant.

What are the benefits of the Scholarship?

* Return airfares to London.
* All fees paid by the trust.
* A yearly stipend.
* Scholars may be funded for up to three years.

Interested?

Check the website and contact the Honorary Secretary.