

the drumstick

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Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2012 edition of the Drumstick newsletter.

This edition of the Drumstick includes a new section called the Drumstick GuidePost. The GuidePost contains links to useful websites, resources, industry service, information providers and more. Putting the Drumstick together often involves hours of hunting for new and interesting material to write about. In doing so I often stumble upon websites and other resources I think many growers and others in the industry would find useful. This is the purpose of the Guidepost.

Most growers would be aware that the Carbon Tax will be introduced on 1 July 2012. Whilst agriculture has not yet been included as one of the industries directly targeted under the tax there is no doubt that the impacts of the tax will be felt across the economy, including the poultry industry. For this reason this edition of the Drumstick features articles on Tunnel Ventilation Fan efficiency and on the carbon footprint of the poultry meat industry.

In writing several articles for this edition of the Drumstick I used a number of reports found on the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) website. RIRDC have a whole section devoted to the chicken meat industry and I was astounded at the breadth and depth of the information on this site. It occurred to me that it would be a tremendous shame if the people who would most benefit from this information either weren't aware of the material or didn't realise its value. If you have access to the internet I would urge you to visit the RIRDC website to have a look for yourself. For details on where to find the site have a look at the new Drumstick Guidepost in this edition.

Finally, I have included a market research survey form in this edition. We are very interested in knowing about the training needs and interests of poultry farmers and I invite you to spend just 5 minutes completing the survey and returning it by fax, post or email. Information from the survey will assist us to develop a training program that is targeted to the needs and interests of poultry farmers in NSW. Thank you.

Best Wishes
Byron Stein
Editor



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The human face of meat chicken farming

THE DRUMSTICK

The Drumstick is a free quarterly newsletter produced by NSW Department of Primary Industries, providing information and updates for the poultry industry.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Letters and stories from growers and industry personnel are always welcome.

ADVERTISING

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DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with appropriate advisers.

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Dr Andreas Dubs, Australian Chicken Meat Federation

In late May 2012, the Australian Chicken Meat Federation ran a pilot workshop with seven volunteer growers to explore the possibility of having farmers representing the industry more actively in the media. From time to time, ACMF is approached by journalists with a request to interview a grower. In the past, almost without exception, the request had to be refused because it was just too difficult to find a suitable candidate and line it all up in the short time generally available for such requests. Now ACMF, with the full support of its grower and processor members, has launched a pilot project with the aim of establishing a small group of growers who are willing and able to act as the "human face of the chicken meat industry".

ACMF will of course remain the spokesperson for the industry, deal with ministers and government departments, and ensure factual information is readily available. This new project has a different objective and a different approach.

"One of the negative perceptions of the chicken meat industry that we would like to tackle over time is the belief that our industry is made up of large national or even multinational operations as opposed to traditional family farms", notes Dr Andreas Dubs, the ACMF's Executive Director. The

expression "factory farming" is often used by critics of intensive farming to indicate that they believe these operations do not pay adequate attention to the welfare of the animals being raised. To break down these misconceptions, ACMF believes it is useful to present the "human face of meat chicken farming" through individual farmers and their lives, experiences and aspirations. That is what this pilot project is all about.

Initially, ACMF plans to produce short videos interviewing some of the participants, which will be made available on our web site. Other ways of drawing on this new resource to the benefit of our industry will be explored over time. As Andreas Dubs explains, "the pilot project is just one of the ways we will bring our industry closer to consumers by showing them what we do on farm".

Readers of this publication all appreciate that meat chicken farmers care about the wellbeing of their flocks for ethical as well as economic reasons. "We must ensure that the broader community appreciates our commitment to raising animals in a healthy and low-stress environment, protecting them from predators, climatic extremes and diseases", Andreas stresses. "Our ability to operate with minimal intervention by regulators depends on the acceptance of our industry by society as responsible and having ethical values in line with their own."

Drumstick GuidePost



The Drumstick GuidePost contains links to useful websites, resources, contact details and other information for the poultry industry. The intention is to grow the GuidePost as new resources and information is gathered and discovered. If you know, or are aware of

any useful websites or other resources pertinent to the industry, and which are not displayed below, please let the Editor know so that we can continue and develop this resource into a truly useful reference for everyone in the poultry industry.

Topic	Description	Reference or contact details
Research and Development		
RIRDC Chicken Meat Program	This site contains a large number of very useful project reports ranging from topics on nutrition, litter re-use, energy efficiency and much more.	https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/collections/cme
Poultry CRC and Poultry Hub	The Poultry CRC conducts research and drives education and training to help Australia's poultry industries produce more from less, sustainably.	www.poultrycrc.com.au www.poultryhub.org
Poultry Research Foundation	The Foundation sponsors industry related research, assists in the training of scientific personnel and acts in an industrial liaison capacity.	http://sydney.edu.au/vetscience/foundations/prf/introduction.shtml
Peak Industry and Coordinating Bodies		
Australian Chicken Meat Federation	ACMF is the peak coordinating body for participants in the chicken meat industries in Australia.	www.chicken.org.au
Australian Chicken Growers Council	The Australian Chicken Growers Council (ACGC) Limited represents the interests of contract meat chicken growers at the national level.	www.acgc.org.au
Australian Egg Corporation Limited	The Australian Egg Corporation (AECL) is a producer owned company which integrates marketing, research and development and policy services for the benefit of all stakeholders.	www.aecl.org
NSW Farmers Contract Poultry Group	The Contract Poultry Group has 10 members representing all geographic growing areas of the state on a proportional basis.	www.nswfarmers.org.au/policy_committees/poultry_meat
Poultry industry news and technical articles		
WorldPoultry.net	Global poultry news, events, market analysis, technical articles and much more.	www.worldpoultry.net
The Poultry Site	Updated daily, the web site delivers up-to-the-minute industry and product news, technical articles and information on a wealth of subjects including health & disease, nutrition, technology and much more.	www.thepoultrysite.com

Topic	Description	Reference or contact details
The Poultry Digest	Poultry Digest is the only independent commercial publication delivering industry news to the layer (egg) and broiler chicken meat industries in Australia and New Zealand. We also publish information of other commercial poultry species like duck, turkey and quail.	http://poultrydigest.com
Biosecurity		
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website has a wealth on information and resources on biosecurity for the poultry industry.	www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/pests-diseases-weeds/biosecurity/animal_biosecurity/bird-owners/poultry_biosecurity_manual
Farmbiosecurity.com.au	Farm Biosecurity is a national education and engagement campaign which aims to help producers reduce the risk of diseases, pests and weeds.	www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/
NSW Department of Primary Industries – Biosecurity Section	Livestock producers and owners are in the best position to protect their own animals, and those of their neighbours and the wider livestock industries, by adopting good biosecurity practices.	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/animal
Poultry housing, ventilation, husbandry and other technical information		
Auburn University	Poultry ventilation and housing tips. Based on American research and conditions.	www.aces.edu/poultryventilation/
University of Delaware Poultry Extension	Information on just about anything poultry. Based on American research and conditions.	http://sites.udel.edu/poultryextension
Avian Advice	Information on just about anything poultry. Based on American research and conditions.	www.avianadvice.uark.edu
poultryventilation.com.au (University of Georgia)	This site contains a wide variety of information related to poultry house environmental control and energy conservation:	www.poultryventilation.com
Animal Welfare		
Animal Welfare Science Centre	Our scientific research and teaching capacity in animal welfare science is considerable and we have made many important national and international contributions to animal welfare research, teaching and training.	www.animalwelfare.net.au
RSPCA Science Updates	Every quarter, the RSPCA Australia science team produces the Animal Welfare Science Update. The aim of the update is to raise awareness of recent developments in animal welfare science that relate to the work of the RSPCA.	www.rspca.org.au/resources/science-updates

Topic	Description	Reference or contact details
Food Standards and Food Safety		
NSW Food Authority	The NSW Food Authority is the government organisation that helps ensure food in NSW is safe and correctly labelled. Their website has information on the new food safety standards for chicken meat.	www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/meat/poultry
NSW Legislation, codes of practice, technical information, industry guidelines and best management practice documents and more		
NSW Department of Primary Industries	NSW DPI's role is to provide support to the poultry industry through the provision of an extension officer, research scientists, diagnostic laboratories, publications, poultry keeping courses and regulatory services. We also have extensive information on landuse planning and development for intensive livestock industries.	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/poultry www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/environment/landuse-planning/agriculture
NSW based poultry meat processing companies		
Baiada Poultry Pty Limited	Baiada Poultry Pty Limited is a privately owned Australian company which provides premium quality poultry products throughout Australia.	www.baiada.com.au
Cordina Farms	Is an Australian owned family company with 65 years experience in the Poultry business.	www.cordina.com.au
Inghams Enterprises	Is a family company that began on a small farm in south-west Sydney more than 80 years ago. Since then it has grown into a multi-faceted company and one of the largest producers of chickens and turkey products in Australia.	www.inghams.com.au
Red Lea Chickens	Red Lea Chickens produces more than 100 product lines that are sold on to Wholesalers, Supermarkets, Butchers, Restaurants, Hotels and Clubs as well as 47 Retail Outlets of their own that sell direct to the public.	www.redlea.com.au
Pepe's Ducks	Pepe's Ducks is now the largest producer of ducks in Australia and New Zealand, producing over 70,000 ducks per week. The company consists of its own broiler farms, breeder farms and hatcheries.	www.pepesducks.com.au



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Tunnel ventilation fans – choosing the right fan can save you thousands of dollars

Article adapted from M Dunlop & G Brown, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Toowoomba, Qld

Choosing the most energy efficient fans has the potential to save \$20,000 to \$40,000 per shed in the first 10 years of operation. A four shed farm might potentially save \$160,000 over a 10 year period.

A recent study by FSA Consulting in Queensland found that fans are responsible for up to 85% of electricity consumption on tunnel ventilated chicken meat farms. This is a significant cost further emphasising the need to choose the most energy efficient fans available.

For growers installing new fans, the upfront purchase cost and brand/manufacturer are most likely the primary determining factors when making their choice. However growers may not realise that the purchase cost of fans is only a relatively small part of the overall costs of tunnel ventilated fans. In fact, a recent RIRDC funded project conducted by the DAFF in Queensland has shown that



fan purchase costs typically range from only 15% to 45% of the total costs of ownership and operation over a 10 year period. Electricity costs account for 55% to 85% of fan running costs. This makes it really important to select the most energy efficient fans that suit the needs of your ventilation system and shed design to minimise the whole-of-life costs associated with fans. Therefore a considered investment upfront will save you money later. As electricity costs continue to rise these savings will only increase over time.

The DAFF research team reviewed a range of fans available in Australia and found that most had an energy efficiency rating at 25 Pa static pressure of less than 32 cubic meters per hour per watt ($\text{m}^3/\text{h}/\text{W}$) (approximately 19 cfm/watt). There are however fans with an energy efficiency rating greater than 35 $\text{m}^3/\text{h}/\text{W}$ (approximately 20.5 cfm/watt) that would deliver electricity savings.

On a per shed basis, costs to purchase fans may range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 while the electricity costs to operate the fans over 10 years may range from \$27,000 to \$65,000 per shed. Calculating fan costs is challenging. To assist growers and their advisers in making an informed choice, Mike Czarick and Brian Fairchild from the University of Georgia in the US have developed a spreadsheet tool to help growers compare fans. The 'Tunnel Fan Comparison Spreadsheet 2011' can be downloaded from <http://www.poultryventilation.com/spreadsheets> to help estimate the whole-of-life costs associated with ventilation fans. Users need to input essential information and fan specifications. The spreadsheet enables direct comparison of several fans. This is one of the best ways to estimate whole-of-life costs for specific fans, and will allow a grower or their adviser to select the most cost-effective fan for their specific situation.

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Table 1. Top 20 fans available in Australia for purchase and electricity costs over a 10 year period

	Fan Description	Fans required	Purchase cost (\$)	10 year Electricity (\$)	Total cost over 10 years (\$)
1	Titan WM1220/0.75/5B (1 hp)	16	21,600	26,900	48,500
2	Hired Hand 6603-8010 54" - CONE 1.5 hp	11	16,104	34,200	50,304
3	Hired Hand 6603-7403 52" (60 Hz) CONE 1 hp	11	12,463	41,200	53,663
4	American Coolair MNBCCCE54L (60 Hz) CONE 1 hp	12	22,656	31,400	54,056
5	Titan WM1220/1.1/5B (1.5 hp)	13	18,330	36,700	55,030
6	Hired Hand 6603-6527 52.5" - Butterfly damper (60 Hz) CONE 1 hp	11	13,182	43,900	57,082
7	Titan WM1000/1.1/5B (1.5 hp)	18	21,600	35,600	57,200
8	Eurofan 50" butterfly fan 0.75 kW - 1.0 hp, 3 blade CONE (9FJ12.7T-4)	15	15,795	42,000	57,795
9	Munters Euroemme EC-50 (60 Hz, 1 phase) CONE 1 hp	14	15,414	44,800	60,214
10	Eurofan 50" butterfly fan 1.1 kW - 1.5 hp, 6 blades CONE (9FJ12.7T-3)	10	10,530	50,300	60,830
11	Eurofan 50" axial fan 1.1 kW - 1.5 hp, 6 blades (9FJ12.7)	11	9,163	51,900	61,063
12	Multifan MF130 0.75 kW (50.5", 1.0 hp, 3 blade) CONE	14	12,460	49,100	61,560
13	Titan WM1372/1.5/8B (2 hp)	10	18,700	43,500	62,200
14	Skov 1400 Cone 1.5 hp (3ph airflow, 1ph effic)	11	9,900	52,500	62,400
15	Hired Hand 6603-3000 52.5" - CONE 1.5 hp	12	18,505	44,400	62,905
16	Titan WM1220/1.5/6B (2 hp)	11	16,060	46,900	62,960
17	Multifan MF130 1.12 kW (50.5", 1.5 hp, 3 blade) CONE	12	10,680	52,700	63,380
18	Eurofan 36" axial fan 0.4 kW - 0.75 hp 6 blade (9FJ9.1)	29	15,370	49,100	64,470
19	Munters Euroemme EC-50 CONE 1.5 hp	11	12,331	52,500	64,831
20	Titan WM1372/2.2/8B (3 hp)	8	15,600	50,400	66,000

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Fans available in Australia

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry looked at a range of fans that are currently available in Australia to review performance and energy efficiency. Fan data was requested from suppliers of Munters, American Coolair®, Hired-Hand®, Multifan, Fanquip, Eurofan, Skov, Titan Poultry and Gigola and Riccardi brand ventilation fans. Fans were assessed using data—in order of preference—from independent test lab reports, manufacturer’s test reports, manufacturer’s brochures or data provided by the supplier. Not all of the fan test information provided enough detail about fan configuration or test conditions. Indicative fan purchase prices also obtained and were based on supplying only a small number of fans and **exclude GST, delivery costs, and bulk-purchase discounts.**

Total costs for purchasing and operating the fans over a 10 year period ranged from \$48,500 to \$88,620. The top 20 most cost effective fans (based on combined purchase and electricity costs over a 10 year operating period on a per shed basis) are listed in Table 1 (on previous page).

Important Note: The information in the Table 1 was calculated using the Tunnel-Ventilated Broiler House Fan Comparison Spreadsheet 2011’ based on a set of inputs which are typical for the majority of tunnel ventilated sheds. Because these inputs may be different to the situation on your farm (or in your new sheds), the conclusions regarding 10 year costs may not be applicable to your situation. It is therefore advisable to access the spreadsheet yourself and use your own input values.

Existing fans

With existing fans, the primary focus should be on fan performance to make sure shed air exchange rate and air speed are at the required level (assuming the shed had the correct ventilation capacity to begin with). Accurate measurement of air speed is very challenging and unlikely to give growers a definitive answer about whether or not the fans are performing adequately. The best way to check that a fan is performing as it should (i.e. when it was new) is to use an electronic tachometer, which can be purchased for as little as \$20. Tachometers allow a grower to measure fan rotational speed (in revolutions per minute, rpm) in only a few seconds. Fan rpm is directly related to air flow rate. Tachometer measurements should be performed under the same condition (for example with shed static pressure set to 25 Pa) and it is recommended to repeat the measurements frequently and record the measurement so any trends in declining rpm can be used to identify fans in need of some attention.

If the fans you have in you shed are not very efficient, it is unlikely to be cost effective to replace them with a more energy efficient fan unless you’re facing significant maintenance or replacement costs. It may be more viable to replace some of the most regularly operated fans (to get the greatest benefit from improved efficiency) or modify your existing fans to a more energy efficient configuration in consultation with your fan supplier. All things considered, the only sure way to have energy efficient fans is

Half page black and white, Australasian Agricultural Services Pty Ltd ad

to install them in the first place, reinforcing the need to investigate fan efficiency before purchasing them.

To summarise:

- Fan operating costs are directly linked to energy efficiency, so it is worthwhile installing energy efficient fans if you have the opportunity to do so. The difference in operating costs between an energy efficient fan and a less efficient fan could be as much as \$20,000–\$40,000 per shed over 10 years.
- The best way to check that your ventilation fans are performing adequately is to measure fan rotational speed. This check only takes a few seconds per fan but will tell you a lot about the fans condition. It is recommended to record the values and re-check rotational speed every batch, or every few batches to identify when fan performance declines. Frequent cleaning and maintenance will ensure that fan performance and efficiency are not compromised.

For more information about fan performance and efficiency, please contact Mark Dunlop by phone 07 4688 1280 or email mark.dunlop@daff.qld.gov.au To access the Tunnel-Ventilated Broiler House Fan Comparison Spreadsheet 2011 go to: <http://www.poultryventilation.com/spreadsheets>. Here you can also find more detailed information on fan efficiency, performance and the criteria used to compare fans.

A full report of tunnel ventilation fan efficiency will be published on the RIRDC website (<https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/collections/cme>) within the next couple of months.



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Rodent Management – tips, tools and tales



Byron Stein, Editor

Rodent numbers can build rapidly in the right conditions, leading to damage of sheds and equipment, contamination of feed and the potential spread of disease. Mice and rats can spread food poisoning bacteria and disease such as meningitis and salmonella. With the new Food Safety Code being implemented in 2012, growers may be required to demonstrate that they have an adequate and effective rodent control program on their farms. This article focuses on monitoring and early detection which is essential if effective control is to be implemented. Control options are also discussed.

Mice are always present in low numbers, but can increase rapidly under favourable conditions including:

- prolonged availability of high quality feed
- early autumn rains that produce seed set of winter weeds
- favourable burrowing conditions such as cracking or light soils.

The grain belt of Australia experienced a significant mouse plague in spring and summer of 2011 and it is possible, given further favourable conditions that a second plague may occur in spring and summer this year.

The build up of mouse numbers is not generally noticed until it's too late. At this point control and damage minimisation becomes difficult and expensive, so early detection and action are essential.

Step 1. Observation and monitoring

Growers should monitor their own farms to establish if mice are likely to become a problem. When mouse numbers have been high in autumn, monitoring should continue through winter and spring.

Simple monitoring in paddocks and around sheds can be used if conditions indicate that mouse numbers might increase or if early signs are evident (large numbers of mice seen at night as well as frequent day-time sightings).

Hole counts and census cards provide an indication of mouse activity, while trapping provides the opportunity to assess populations and breeding status. Either of these

systems can be used to get an idea of mouse numbers and activity on your farm.

Hole Counts

Active holes can be identified by sprinkling talcum powder around holes and inspecting the level of disturbance the following morning. Five holes per 100 m² can be equivalent to 1000 mice/hectare. Checks should be made across the property as populations can be patchy.

Census cards

Census cards are 10cm by 10cm pieces of strong paper or cardboard which are marked with a 1cm grid and soaked in canola oil. They are used as an indicator of mouse numbers (see Figure 1).

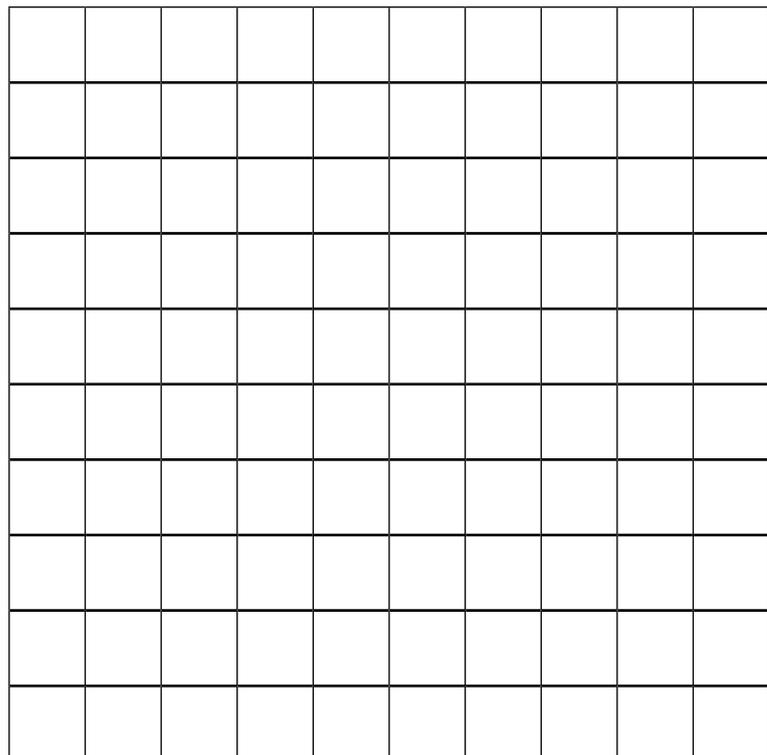


Figure 1. A 10cm by 10 cm census card, with 1 cm gridlines.

- For each sampling area (e.g. sheds, silos, other feed stores etc.) this method requires 10 pieces of strong paper or light card (10 cm by 10 cm), marked with a 1cm grid and soaked in canola oil. Cut sufficient cards to do each night's count. You need 10 cards per monitoring line (fewer cards is not a reliable indicator). Soak cards in canola oil for at least one hour. When ready for dispensing, drain cards for 10 minutes. Put cards out in the afternoon (the later the better). Mark and note each monitoring line.
- Place the cards randomly around sheds, silos, machinery sheds and in paddocks. Peg the cards to the ground. Fix cards to the ground with wire spikes (not clods of dirt) to prevent them being carried off or blown away.
- Retrieve cards the following morning.
- Mouse presence and damage potential can be assessed by determining the percentage of each card eaten. Counting the number of squares eaten will give a percentage. Greater than 10% to 15% of the card eaten indicates that there could be a potential mouse problem. Assessment using this technique can be done any time monitoring is required.

Trapping

- Set out a single straight line of 20 to 25 snap traps, spaced at 10 cm intervals, for 3 consecutive nights.
- Set out these lines of traps in areas you wish to monitor e.g. between sheds, around silos, in paddocks.

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- Trap success is indicated by the number of mice caught, divided by the number of traps per line, multiplied by the number of nights.

For example, 20 mice from 25 traps over 3 nights would be:

$$\frac{20(\text{mice})}{25(\text{traps}) \times 3(\text{nights})} \times 100 = 26\%$$

- A trapping rate of more than 10 percent indicates a significant mouse population is emerging
- For ease of baiting, permanently attach a small piece of leather to the trap trigger and occasionally add a few drops of linseed (or similar) oil. Alternatively, smear peanut butter on the trigger each time the trap is set.



Mouse in snap trap.

Step 2. Control

Growers should not rely on a quick fix poison bait program alone, but should consider using an integrated pest management (IPM) approach. This simply means using a variety of tools and management to effectively combat rodent infestations. These include:

1. Keep your farm clean. Minimise the amount of spilled feed around silos and other feed storages. Keep these facilities sealed and rodent proof. This helps to reduce the potential for the mouse breeding period to extend into late autumn/winter
2. Control weeds before seed-set to minimise sources of food and shelter.
3. Remove or reduce cover, including long grass, rubbish and general clutter around buildings, silos and feed storage areas as these all provide protection and habitat for mice.
4. Implement a poison baiting program. A baiting program for rodents must be implemented where a risk assessment and monitoring (see above) deems this necessary (e.g. live rodents, droppings, nests).

Such a baiting program must include the following features:

- bait stations must be numbered and a map kept of their location.
- bait stations must be placed at regular intervals around the sheds. The number of bait stations should be increased in areas where there are signs of increased rodent activity.
- bait stations must be designed to minimise the opportunity for other animals and birds to access the bait.

Tip: PVC piping, cut into 30 cm lengths and joined by a PVC tee piece make excellent and cost effective bait stations. The top of the bait station can be capped to prevent excessive moisture from entering the bait station. These bait stations can be easily secured to fence posts or other structures, or tech screw the station onto a 150 mm x 400 mm timber base. Simply lift the cap to pour or drop in the recommended amount of bait. Check the bait station every week or two and replace used or stale baits as required.

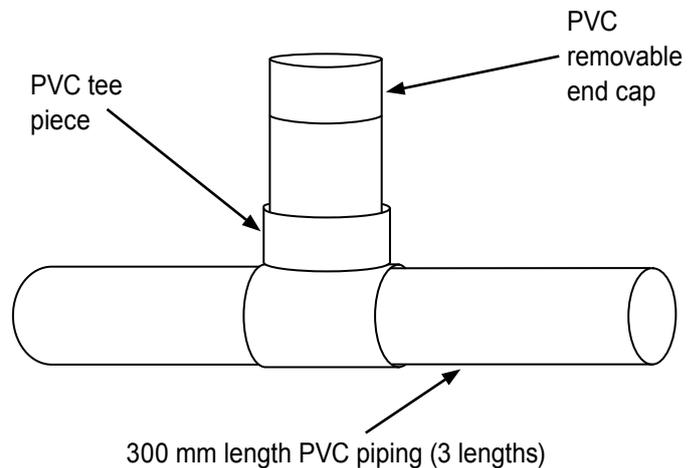


Figure 2. Home made poison bait station.

5. Poisons used for mouse and rat control are called rodenticides. Most of the rodenticides currently available are anticoagulants, which are generally used around humans and domestic animals (except pigs, which have very low tolerance to anticoagulants). Some commonly used rodenticides are:

- bromadiolone (Bromakil®)
- brodifacoum (Talon®)
- coumatetralyl (Racumin®)
- flocoumafen (Storm®)
- warfarin (Ratsak®).

When using any rodenticide growers are reminded that they must follow label instructions and record the use of any poisons on their properties.

These baits are not for field or in-crop use. They can only be used in and around farm buildings. Anticoagulants are marketed as grain or pellets, paraffin blocks, powder

or liquid and are used as a bait, a drink or a tracking powder. All products are available in small or bulk quantities for immediate use.

Note: The use of poisonous bait around buildings and storage facilities may be relatively successful for controlling small populations of mice. Once mice begin to plague and the numbers of dead mice appear to be increasing, baiting may have little or no effect on the overall population.

If you require more detailed information on rodent control NSW DPI has an excellent publication called Mouse monitoring and baiting. The publication is available on the DPI website at http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/387719/mouse-monitoring-and-baiting.pdf or contact your local NSW DPI office for a copy.



Litter-less poultry flooring system – a new innovation

Byron Stein, Editor

I recently heard about a potentially exciting new development in poultry housing being developed by our American cousins — litter-less poultry floor technology. The “litter-less” flooring system consists of two layers of polymer flooring with an air plenum in between.

My understanding is that this concept is very new and is currently undergoing testing by several universities in the USA, including the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the University of Georgia.

The flooring system has been developed by AviHome™, an American company based in Maryland. The AviHome™ flooring system has a highly engineered design that virtually eliminates litter use and ammonia production in poultry houses. The technology uses plenum ventilation beneath the birds to dry the faeces enough to prevent any significant ammonia production and limit bacterial activity.

Half page black and white, Intensive Farming Supplies ad

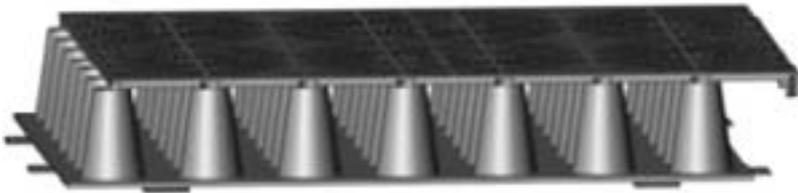
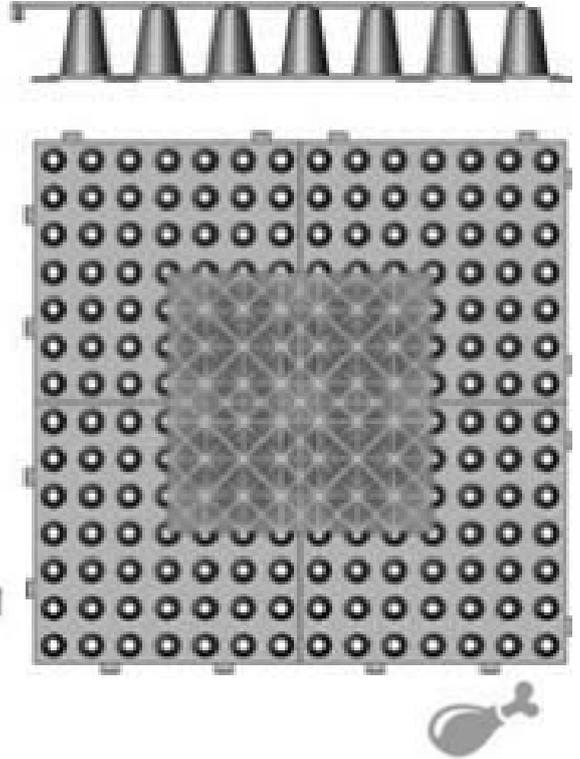
With its durable design, the flooring can be cleaned and reused between flocks. The specially designed cones of the bottom support tile can also support heavy equipment typically used on farms such as Bobcats® and Moffetts™ that are typically used on farms today.

Full scale tests by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore have shown a significant reduction in ammonia emissions (by over 80%), increased bird weight gain (5–15%), and improved feed efficiency (2–6%). Implementation of this system suggests that it may provide the possibility of enhanced benefits to the environment, improved bird and worker health benefits, and increased bottom lines for poultry producers.

AviHome™ began as a research project to discover a solution to a long standing and growing concern in the poultry industry; ammonia emissions and runoff from chicken houses. Through government sponsorship and cooperative lab testing at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, they have developed a flooring system

for production chicken houses that prevents ammonia production. By creating an affordable, clean, and healthy environment for the birds, this allows the bird to grow faster and healthier.

For more information about this new litter-less flooring system go to the AviHome™ webpage at <http://www.avihomellc.com/technology.aspx>



Half page black and white, Central Poultry Industries Pty Ltd ad

Chicken's green credentials give it the edge

Byron Stein, Editor

Chicken meat, together with other poultry meats, is experiencing tremendous growth both in Australia and overseas. Consumption in Australia is currently 43.9 kilograms per person and this is projected to rise to 46.4 kilograms per person by 2016–2017, making chicken the preferred meat protein for Australian consumers.

But what are the impacts on the environment associated with this growth in the chicken meat industry and is this growth environmentally sustainable?

Research conducted in Australia and internationally demonstrates the environmental impacts of chicken meat production is low, and, when compared to other land based meat protein sources is one of the most environmentally sustainable meat production systems.

A recent Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) funded study entitled 'Using Life Cycle Assessment to Quantify the Environmental Impact of Chicken Meat Production' shows that chicken meat production uses less energy, less water and emits less Green House Gases (GHG) than beef, sheep and pork meat production systems.

This is largely attributed to the efficiency with which chicken meat converts feed, principally grain, into meat protein. Just 1.7 kg of feed is required to produce 1 kg of chicken meat. Compare this to pork which requires 3.6 kg of feed and beef which requires 5 kg or more of feed, depending on whether grain or pasture fed.

In terms of energy use, free range and organic chicken meat production are the most efficient 'users' of energy, requiring just 17 and 13 MJ/kg of energy respectively to produce 1 kg of chicken meat. Energy use in conventional chicken meat production compares favourably with other meat protein production systems. Conventional chicken meat production requires between 15 and 20 MJ/kg chicken meat compared to 20–24 MJ/kg for both beef and pork. Sheep meat requires approximately 23 MJ/kg to produce 1 kg of sheep meat.

In terms of Green House Gas emissions and water usage, chicken meat is way ahead of the pack. This is shown in Table 1.

From Table 1 it is clear that chicken meat is in front of pork and outstrips beef in terms of its environmental impact of production. Chicken production has a significantly lower carbon footprint (1.9–2.4 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kg

of meat grown) and uses less water (20–22 litres per kilogram of meat grown) than its two main rivals, pork and beef.

'This is interesting but probably useless information' I hear you say. I disagree, for the following reasons:

1. The smaller Green House Gas, energy and water use footprint of the poultry meat industry makes it an attractive product for environmentally conscious consumers. This fact will increase the competitive advantage of chicken over other meat choices.
2. Chicken is likely to be less impacted cost wise in a carbon constrained economy.
3. The next time a grower lodges a DA with their local council and/or EPA, it certainly wouldn't hurt pointing out the environmental credentials of the poultry meat industry. With chicken meat production suffering from sometimes adverse public and community perceptions, it may be useful to provide a counter argument with some hard facts and scientifically validated data.

At current human population growth rates it is projected that we will need to double global food production by 2050. We will need to do this on less land, using fewer resources, less energy and less plant based feed and we will need to do it without adding more Green House Gases to the planet. Chicken meat is well placed to achieve this.

For more in-depth information about the environmental impact of chicken meat production visit the RIRDC website and download the recently released report entitled Using Life Cycle Assessment to Quantify the Environmental Impact of Chicken Meat Production

Table 1.

Species	Greenhouse gas emissions	Water usage
Chicken	1.9–2.4 kg CO ₂ -e/kg	20–22 L/kg
Pork	3.1–5.5 kg CO ₂ -e/kg	41–49 L/kg
Beef	9.9–12 kg CO ₂ -e/kg	209–540 L/kg

Note: these figures represent whole of supply chain data, that is, from paddock to plate (including feeding, growing and processing the products).



The NSW BiobiN[®] Service - smart solutions to old problems

By Resource Recovery Management P/L

Since July 04, Resource Recovery Management P/L has operated a BiobiN[®] service for poultry growers in the Central Coast, Hunter, Western Sydney and Southern Highlands regions of NSW.

The BiobiN[®] was developed to address biosecurity, pest control and environmental problems associated with poultry mortality disposal. The BiobiN[®] is a 9 cubic metre enclosed composting bin, which incorporates a re-circulated aeration system to accelerate composting and control odours. Mortalities are placed inside the bin along with carbonaceous materials (e.g. sawdust, mulch) to obtain the optimum carbon to nitrogen ratio for composting. When full the BiobiN[®]s are transported to specialised enclosed composting facilities that operate under negative pressure to prevent the escape of odours and dust. These composting vessels (pictured bottom right) treat the mortalities under control conditions and elevated temperatures (>55°C) for up to 28 days, which destroys potential pathogens. The finished compost is then marketed for domestic and agricultural use.

After emptying, BiobiN[®]s are washed out and disinfected before being returned to farmers. The cost to dispose 5 tonnes of mortalities is generally around \$1,200 in NSW. Most growers agree the BiobiN[®] is a simple and effective option to manage mortalities with much improved environmental outcomes.

Growers may purchase new or second hand bins, with lease and rental options also available. For information on BiobiN[®] prices and services in other states see BiobiN[®] Australia (www.biobin.net) or call Mr John Hogarth on (08) 8556 5295.



Quarter page black and white, Central Poultry Industries Pty Ltd ad

Consultants – who needs them?

Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries

Gaining approval for a new or expanded poultry farm can be a time consuming and complex process. A suitable consultant can help you to gain the necessary approvals faster by ensuring that your proposal meets current regulations and is presented in a format that will assist council and others to readily identify the issues and how they will be addressed or avoided on your site.

A good consultant can also help you to understand all the factors that need to be considered and should be able to give you an honest opinion of the chance of successful approval.

What services may an experienced consultant offer?

- Preparation of the Development Application in the required format
- Preparation of shed designs and drawings
- Development of Environmental Management Plans
- Odour, noise and dust and traffic impact modelling
- Vegetation impact assessment if relevant
- Bushfire Risk and Aboriginal Heritage Assessment if relevant
- Design of litter management and waste disposal systems
- Applications to the EPA (POEO Act) if required

Additional Services a consultant can help with

- Identifying site constraints and legal requirements.
- Preliminary consultation with yourself and council about the proposal.

- Consultation with neighbours about the proposal and possible impacts.
- Preparing necessary documents to support your application (eg SEE or EIS, shed design, site elevation, photos, expert reports).
- Arranging and supervising more detailed studies (eg odour or noise) if required.
- Meeting with council and negotiating consent conditions.
- Presenting your case to Council or the Joint Regional Planning Panel on your behalf.

Checklist for hiring a consultant

- Understand your needs –
 - Have a clear plan for your development
 - Provide details about your site and current business
 - Detail your expectations about timelines
- Understand the consultants role and expertise
- Choose an experienced consultant with relevant experience –
 - Note their qualifications and what organisations they belong to.
 - Check if they have completed similar tasks recently and how long this took.
 - Ask other growers who have used consultants for referral.
- Negotiate a clear contract and get an itemised written quote.
- When evaluating quotes make sure you are comparing “apples with apples”.
- Make sure the firm you select is someone you trust and feel you can work with.

Before Obtaining quotes ensure you provide consultants with clear details. Write a brief summary of your project and where it is located.

Check their experience and success with Poultry DAs rather than just relying on the cheapest price. Then get a written statement of what they will do for the agreed price.

What does a consultancy cost?

Costs for environmental consultancy can vary considerably based upon the:

- complexity of the job
- extent of work to be done
- consultants expertise.

Remember hiring the right consultant can result in significant cost savings in the long run. Consultants should provide free quotes. If there is substantial variation between quotes ask why.

Questions to ask the consultant before hiring them:

- Do they think the proposal is realistic, are there major environmental problems and what hurdles may exist?
- What is the consultants expertise and experience?
- What will the consultant do and how long will each step take?
- What other reports or services may be required?
- Who will be involved – does the consultant need to bring in other experts?
- How often will you be billed?
- What happens if the application is refused or further information is required?

The bottom line

Growers are permitted to prepare their own applications for developments without hiring a consultant, however performing this task can be complex and time consuming. Lengthy delays and extra costs can also result if the DA overlooks critical information. A poorly prepared application can also increase the risk of conflict and objections.

If you are proposing a poultry development in locations near residential areas (even if it is a rural zone) hiring a consultant with the relevant experience and skills can make the task simpler and save costs in the long run, especially if timing is critical. Before you hire a consultant make sure you know what you are paying for and be confident that you trust the person you select.

Where can I get more information about poultry farm developments?

Preparing a DA for Intensive Agriculture in NSW –
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/land/planning/dev-app-intensive

NSW Chicken Meat Farming Guidelines –
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/poultry/poultry-keeping-environment



Half page black and white, KH Heitmann Machinery Aust. Pty Ltd ad

Industry News...

Peter Cashman hangs up the towel

Peter Cashman has resigned from his position as the Poultry Meat Manager of the NSW Farmers Poultry Contract Growers Group. Peter joined NSW Farmers in February 2008 advocating for improved contract conditions for NSW growers and representing the interests of growers on the Poultry Meat Industry Advisory Group. Peter has a wealth of knowledge about the industry and will be missed by NSW Farmers and its grower membership.

Peter's replacement at NSW Farmers is Ray Lee who is based on the Central Coast. Ray may be contacted on 0428 882 178 and email leer@nswfarmers.org.au

We wish Peter and his family all the best for the future.

Poultry CRC wins CRCA Collaboration and Innovation Award!

The Poultry Cooperative Research Centre has been recognised for its collaborative efforts with industry and research partners in the development of a vaccine against fowl cholera, Vaxsafe® PM.



Professor Mingan Choct receiving CRCA Collaboration and Innovation Award

The award, for significant innovation in Agriculture and Food, was made at the Cooperative Research Centres Association Conference on May 16. As CEO of the CRCA, Professor Tony Peacock, explains "the Australian Collaborative Innovation awards are an exciting development, as they celebrate research that makes an impact and is out there actually transforming the lives of Australians".

Vaxsafe® PM is a live attenuated vaccine providing broad protection against different strains of *Pasteurella multocida*, the causative agent of fowl cholera. It has been developed over an eight year period in

a collaborative effort between The University of Melbourne, Bioproperties Pty Ltd and the Poultry CRC.

Poultry CRC CEO, Professor Mingan Choct, said at the time, "the development of this innovative product is the direct outcome of an extraordinary collaborative effort. Without the specific expertise each collaborator was able to provide, this would not have been possible to achieve".

With conservative estimates of \$13M savings annually for the Australian poultry industry, which accounts for less than 1% of the global poultry industry, the development of Vaxsafe® PM represents the type of real-world output that can be achieved under a collaborative model like the CRC Program. "The poultry industry is a major contributor to Australia's food basket. Without continued innovation and successful collaboration in this sector we will fail to meet the challenges of feeding a growing population", said Professor Choct.

Poultry CRC would like to take this opportunity to thank our participants and researchers, in particular, Dr Peter Scott, Dr Rima Youil, Dr David Tinworth and many other staff members from The University of Melbourne and Bioproperties who made this success possible. Professor Kevin Whithear of The University of Melbourne was our program manager to whom we owe our sincere thanks.

Hazeldene's new cutting edge processing facility

Established in 1957 by Dick and Mavis Hazeldene, the Hazeldene's brand is now over half a century old and has developed into one of Australia's only fully integrated regional poultry processors. The business is now owned and run by the second generation of the Hazeldene's family.

The family is in the final stages of completing a comprehensive upgrade of their plant involving the construction of a new cutting edge processing facility on



The new production facility at Hazeldene's Lockwood site

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Industry News...

the family's Lockwood site, approximately 15 kilometres from the centre of Bendigo in Victoria. The processing plant is set on 1500 acres of land and is the only major business in the Lockwood area. Hazeldene's is also one of the areas biggest employers.

Project driver, Adam Hazeldene remarked that "the old plant was aged at more than twenty years, resulting in high maintenance/down time costs, reduced productivity and downgrading of product quality".

He also commented that the new project "will improve animal handling and welfare for chickens, further enhancing 'high' standards of finished product quality and will significantly increase our overall productivity".

Lab 45 were contracted to complete the installation of all of the Marel Australia poultry processing equipment that included kilometres of stainless steel tube work, vacuum service lines for transporting product around the plant, steam lines, as well as the compressed air and sanitary lines for sanitising the plant post production. The team also refurbished the existing spin chiller from the old plant as well as the supply and installation of stainless steel drip trays. Lab45 also supplied a bi-directional, cleated conveyor to divert product to trucks at the offal discharge area.



Marel Australia Atmosphere Stunner during the installation period.

I asked Lab 45's Technical Project Manager, Mr Jason Grant, what it is about this new plant that makes it 'cutting edge'. According to Mr Grant "The new plant has the combination of three new and innovative systems and the outcome of all three systems integrated together is cutting edge for the poultry industry. These include the GP system which is the crate receives area resulting in a significant advancement in product hygiene (biosecurity). The second is Controlled Atmosphere Stunning which is a major milestone for the welfare of the chickens. The third is Aero Scalding which improves the humidity applied to the bird to assist in the plucking process."

The new plant's layout uses predominantly Marel Australia processing equipment and includes a new receives area, controlled atmosphere stunning capable of processing 13,000 birds per hour, kill line, evisceration line and spin chillers that are used to bring product temperatures down after the birds are processed.

Notably, the Hazeldene's are focused on systems and procedures for increasing animal welfare. The plant's upgrade has taken on many improvements including the live birds travelling through to a system of controlled atmosphere stunning using carbon dioxide.

Atmosphere stunning has several welfare advantages as the birds are numb and lack any feeling by the time they are hung on the shackles. Prior to atmosphere stunning, the traditional methods of hanging the birds on the processing line use to induce stress on the birds and resulted in lesser quality meat. The new system has resulted in improved product quality and animal welfare.

Start up of the new plant was delivered on time, meaning the plant's production times were maintained throughout the installation process. Saleable cuts

Quarter page Seeking Poultry Farm Leasing ad

Industry News...

were made on the first day of the processing operation.

Lab45 General Manager, Miles Pepperall commented that "our company has been heavily focused on providing turnkey solutions to the Australian poultry market and is now looking to expand in building factories across the food



processing industry. The new facility at Hazeldene's is cutting edge and provides a bench mark for the Australian market"

Researchers successfully influence sex ratios in chickens

Researchers from CSIRO Livestock Industries' Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and the University of Melbourne's Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) – both based in Victoria – have solved the long-standing mystery of what determines sex development in chickens. The collaborative effort is a scientific breakthrough which could have significant benefits for animal welfare.

The MCRI researchers first discovered the DMRT1 gene in 1999 and proposed its sex-determining role in birds.

CSIRO, in partnership with MCRI, showed that manipulating chicken embryos to silence DMRT1 caused testis to become ovaries — bringing about male to female sex reversal.

According to CSIRO Research Group Leader Dr Tim Doran, the aim of this gene technology work was to determine if knockdown of DMRT1 in ovo (in the chicken egg), using the CSIRO-developed RNA interference (RNAi) technology, could in fact induce the selective development of a female gonad phenotype.

"This research has major applications for the poultry industry, in particular the egg industry which does not require male chickens — presenting a welfare challenge."

Dr Doran, CSIRO Research Group Leader advised that "This research has demonstrated that there is potential to generate only female chickens through knocking down or silencing the DMRT1 gene," he said.

The scientists are now attempting to hatch embryos in which the level of DMRT1 gene expression has been knocked down. If successful, the discovery could allow researchers to influence sex ratios in poultry.

"This research has major applications for the poultry industry, in particular the egg industry which does not require male chickens — presenting a welfare challenge. However, the general public will also need to be supportive if we are successful. While gene technology is a tool that offers potentially enormous benefits, it is still relatively new technology and it is important that its use is carefully regulated by government to protect human health and the environment," Dr Doran said.

The new discovery could also bring the scientific community one step closer to uncovering the genetic cause of sex development disorders in humans. As 80 per cent of genes are common in birds and humans, the technology developed to analyse the role of the DMRT1 gene in chicken embryos can be used to explore the function of many different human disease genes.

The findings are published in the prestigious journal *Nature*, with the paper entitled *The avian Z-linked gene DMRT1 is required for male sex determination in the chicken*.

Source: <http://www.csiro.au/en/Outcomes/Food-and-Agriculture/Sex-determination-chickens.aspx>

Hatching bird flu resistance

Protecting poultry and humans from dangerous strains of avian-influenza (bird flu) may one day be possible through CSIRO research that aims to 'switch on' natural immunity processes and produce flu-resistant chickens.

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According to CSIRO research leader Dr Tim Doran, the quest to enhance the process of natural immunity in chickens follows on from CSIRO's discoveries in plant diseases in the 1990s and the role of naturally occurring gene silencing mechanisms in plants and animals.

"We are hoping to be able to prove that flu resistant chickens can be produced in the laboratory through speeding up the natural process of gene silencing," Dr Doran said. Gene silencing is naturally triggered when a viral pathogen invades a cell in a plant or animal and enables that plant or animal to stop the virus from replicating and causing disease.

"If we can prove the concept of flu-resistant chickens in the research lab then our focus will be to study how feasible, safe and effective it would be to introduce such birds in countries where bird flu presents a major problem," Dr Doran said. "Vaccines can help prevent regular flu but they are not effective in controlling the highly dangerous strains of bird flu and do not prevent the spread of the virus from infected chickens to humans.

"However, gene silencing could potentially provide a high level of protection." Bird flu epidemics since 2003 have highlighted the serious health risks this disease poses to people and poultry and the need for effective control options. Use of this natural mechanism by scientists is still at the early research stage and operates under strict guidelines and in full compliance with Australian legislation for gene technology. "Certainly no flu-resistant chicken breeds developed through this research could enter the food chain without approval from Australia's regulatory bodies and without appropriate assessment by international health and science communities."

The research is taking place in the world's most bio-secure research laboratory — CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong in collaboration with the world's largest poultry breeding company.

Source: www.csiro.au/ruralpress/42

Biosecurity laws put NSW on front foot

The NSW Government is stepping up its fight against possible disease threats through the introduction of tough new biosecurity measures, said NSW Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson.

"The Primary Industries Legislation Amendment (Biosecurity) Bill 2012 was passed by NSW Parliament.

"The changes are designed to keep NSW pest and disease free, and improve our capability to respond to an emergency disease outbreak. The laws give the NSW Government new powers to manage the movement of plants and animals, and undertake additional disease monitoring and surveillance. They also allow for the destruction of suspect plants and animals, and introduce new measures that require landholders and members of the community to notify authorities of potential animal and plant diseases," Ms Hodgkinson said.

Ms Hodgkinson said the new laws are all about protecting New South Wales' \$9 billion Primary Industries sector and environment from potential pests and diseases.

Source: *ThePoultrySite News Desk*

New pigeon virus confirmed in NSW

Pigeon paramyxovirus has been detected in a hobby pigeon flock in Western Sydney and follows numerous cases of the virus in domestic and feral pigeons in Victoria.

"The property has been placed in quarantine and tracing is now underway to confirm the origin of the virus," NSW Chief Veterinary Officer Ian Roth said. With other racing, fancy or wild pigeons can



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Industry News...

minimise the risk. The first signs are usually increased thirst and diarrhoea, loss of appetite, and reluctance to move and fly." Mr Roth said.

"Pigeon paramyxovirus also causes neurological symptoms such as trembling of the wings and head, tumbling on landing, partial paralysis of the wings and legs and head flicking before death.

"Bird owners should seek advice from their private veterinarian on using poultry vaccine to minimise the risk of infection."

Ways to protect your flock:

- Do not take birds to shows, fairs or race meets.
- Do not trade or introduce new birds.
- If you must introduce new birds or take birds to races or shows, isolate them for 14 days (feed and water these isolated birds last and wash and change afterwards).
- Keep your aviary, loft and equipment clean.
- Disinfect equipment used to house, transport, feed or water other birds.
- Prevent wild birds (and their droppings) from having contact with your birds.
- Prevent feed and water being contaminated by animal or bird waste.
- Limit visitors to your birds.
- Disinfect your boots/shoes and wash your hand and clothes if you visit other birds.



More information at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/poultry/health-disease/paramyxovirus-in-pigeons>

Aviagen & Inghams enterprises sign heads of agreement on future supply

The two companies formally entered into the principles of agreement on Sunday, 20 May, that will strengthen their partnership and form an important commitment for future supply to both Inghams and the Australian poultry industry.

The agreement addresses the full transition by Inghams to Ross breeding stock and the commitment by Aviagen to lease and acquire several Inghams owned production

facilities within New South Wales over the near future.

Aviagen will initially acquire the land and buildings on two large Ingham great grandparent farms near Goulburn and Bowral NSW and will make a significant investment to expand GP capacity.

Inghams will lease their quarantine station in Bungonia, NSW to Aviagen.

A feasibility study is underway to assess expansion potential of the Ingham hatchery in Maldon, NSW prior to its purchase.

Aviagen will initially lease the remainder of the Inghams grandparent farms.

The agreement extends an excellent business relationship built upon Ingham's transition to the Ross 308 in New Zealand and a strong commitment and trust in the performance of each company in the Australasian poultry market.

Inghams is an industry leader in the Australasian chicken meat market with a turnover this year in excess of AUS\$2 billion – a business they entered in its formative years of the 1950's. The company entered the



Industry News...

New Zealand market in 1990 with the acquisition of Harvey Farms. Apart from its chicken business Inghams is also a major supplier to the turkey market in Australia using the Aviagen Nicholas breed .

When Inghams CEO Kevin McBain was asked at a recent NSW Farm Writers Lunch, 'why has chicken been so successful?' he responded by referring to the gains made in egg production, hatch, livability and importantly feed conversion flowing from the ever – improving genetics offered by the international genetic breeding companies. He added the second most important factor was the science of chicken nutrition with its impact on cost, followed by husbandry and the way growers now farm their birds with tunnel ventilated sheds creating the perfect conditions for growth and welfare.

Aviagen is the global leader in poultry genetics, marketing three successful commercial products, Arbor Acres Plus, Indian River and Ross to about 130 countries worldwide. The company is headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama and has supplied breeding

stock to the Australian market since 1991 from its breeding programs in the UK and US. Aviagen Australia Pty Ltd was formed with the purchase of the grandparent facilities of Bartter Enterprises in NSW in 2008 and the primary objective of providing domestic supply and technical support to customers in Australia and Asia.

"We are pleased with this agreement and the commitment from Aviagen to work closely together to utilize our current facilities and pursue future growth in our market," commented Kevin McBain, CEO Inghams Enterprises.

Bob Dobbie, President Aviagen International added,"This agreement with Inghams is a reflection of the trust and understanding that has grown between the two companies. We look forward to supporting Ingham's in their future growth and to expanding their excellent facilities to fulfill our commitment to the Australian poultry industry."

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New welfare code for poultry expected soon

New Zealand – A new animal welfare code for layer hens is expected to be introduced shortly.

According to Radio New Zealand, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) says it has finalised the code and will send it to the Government for approval by the end of the week.

NAWAC chair Dr John Hellstrom says the new code would rule out the use of battery cages, but would not specify the timing.

Dr Hellstrom says larger colony cages, which allow hens to stand and flap their wings, would be an alternative along with free range and barn-style systems.

On Monday, 25 June, activists were removed by police from New Zealand's largest egg farm, Mainland Poultry near Dunedin, where they were protesting the use of cages to house chickens, a method used by 90% of the country's egg producers.

Egg producers say the cost of the switch to colony cages will cost the industry more than \$150 million.

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Red flag issues



Poultry standard a step closer in NSW

A new national standard for the poultry industry has been developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand. The standard will only commence in NSW once the NSW Food Regulation 2010 has been amended to include the standard's requirements.

The Primary Production and Processing Standard for Poultry Meat (Standard 4.2.2) aims to strengthen food safety and traceability throughout the food chain, and reduce the *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* contamination of poultry meat. It covers growers and transporters of live poultry, poultry processors and poultry product transporters. Details of the standard are available at www.foodstandards.gov.au

NSW poultry processors are currently licensed with the NSW Food Authority (the Authority) and have audited food safety programs in place, so the standard brings no change for these businesses.

The Authority has been meeting with industry to discuss ways to minimise the regulatory burden created by the standard, particularly on poultry growers.

Certain affected businesses will need to hold a licence with the Authority, pay an annual licence fee, have a food safety management statement (FSMS) and be subject to a verification program. Details are on the Authority's website at www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/meat/poultry/

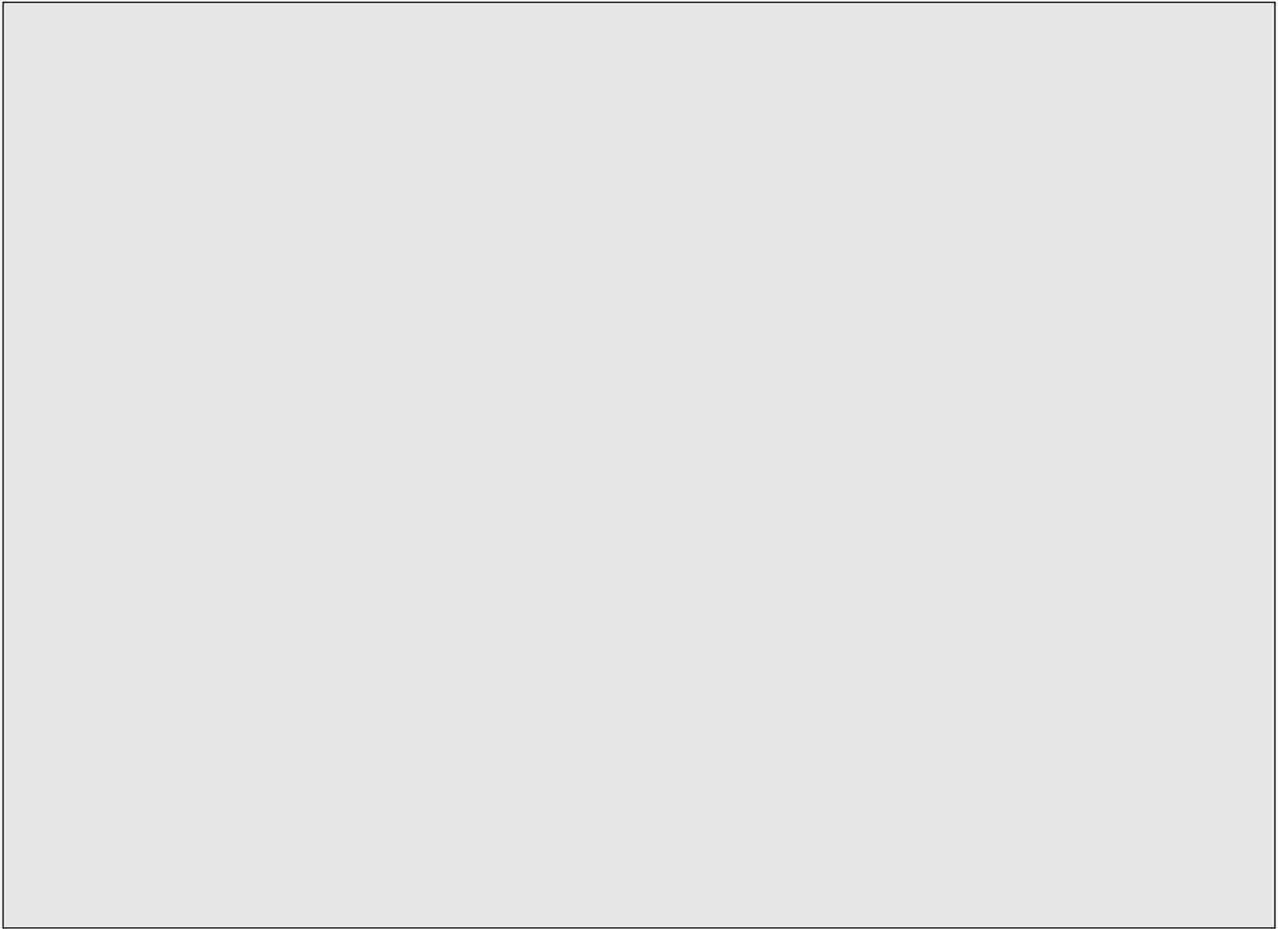
The Authority is developing a template FSMS which will be on the website for free download. Once these matters are finalised, and Food Regulation 2010 is amended, the Authority will advise the start date of the standard. Businesses that are covered by the new standard will have two months from that date to apply for a licence (if applicable) and six months to develop an FSMS.

The Authority is compiling a list of poultry businesses that will be impacted by the standard so it can keep them informed of developments. Please contact the helpline on 1300 552 406 if you want to be on that list.

*Information provided by the NSW Food Authority
www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au*

Quarter page black and white, Elders ad

The drumstick marketplace



A4 black and white, Retracom ad