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WAPPA FACES CHALLENGES HEAD ON

Low winter rainfall, potential high feed prices and a revived live auction system were just some of the issues addressed by the WA Pork Producers' Association (WAPPA) during its annual general meeting last Friday, September 1.

WAPPA President Graeme Dent of Cuballing thanked the WA Meat Industry Authority and Primaries for accommodating small producers with a live auction system.

Mr Dent also welcomed Wannamal producer Steve Martin to WAPPA's Executive Committee.

Mr Martin who replaced retiring past-President Stuart Coole of Boyup Brook, joins Mr Dent and Vice-President Richard Evison of Albany, Treasurer Errol Howard of Wannamal and Darren Edwards of Popanyinning.

Presenting his President's report to about 30 producers and others at Pastoral House, Mr Dent said WAPPA had reviewed its strategic plan and condensed it into a practical document to progress the industry.

“The Executive has dealt with the many challenges it has faced, while working co-operatively with stakeholders to improve industry standards in the areas of quality assurance, carcass grading, animal welfare and production costs.”

However, Mr Dent added that the biggest hurdle facing the industry was feed prices.

“The current season is presenting many challenges and the lack of rain is reducing grain supply and increasing feed prices.”

WAPPA Executive Officer, Russell Cox, presenting his report to the AGM, also highlighted the fears that the global demand for feed grains will raise the price of cereals, which will adversely affect the WA pork industry.

However, he added that WAPPA continues to support producers and had reviewed its strategic objectives to better serve its stakeholders.

“WAPPA will represent and advance the interests of the pork industry and its members at all levels of Government and with their relevant departments.

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“WAPPA will assist producers to develop and maintain industry best practices for quality assurance, environmental management and animal welfare and build industry confidence to attract re-investment by current stakeholders and target new investors.

“WAPPA will also assist the industry to improve cost competitiveness through research and development to a level comparable with our international competitors,” Mr Cox said.

After the AGM and general meeting, which included an address by Australian Pork Limited CEO Andrew Spencer on the introduction of Pig Pass/National Vendor Declaration and a forum on growing WA’s pork industry facilitated by Dr Bruce Mullan of the Department of Agriculture and Food, WAPPA held its annual industry dinner at Ascot Quays Hotel.

Attended by about 135 people, including WA Agriculture and Food Minister, Kim Chance, it featured a special presentation to the industry person of the year.

Pork Industry Training WA Training Officer, Emalyn Loudon was presented with the award for her industrious efforts and dedication in improving the quality and standard of training programs now available for the pork industry.

Dinner sponsors included Wesfeeds, Milne AgriGroup, Australia Pork Limited, Bio John Animal Health, Computing Australia, D’Orsogna, Watsonia, Hyfarm Genetics, Intervet, Pfizer Animal Health, PIC Australia, Provimi Australia, Portec Australia and Poultry Farmers of WA Co-operative, with pork product for the dinner supplied by PPC Linley Valley Fresh.

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Authorised by WAPPA and issued on its behalf by Brendon Cant & Assoc., Tel 08 9384 1122

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