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WAPPA PLAYS PIVOTAL ROLE IN PORK PRODUCTION

While advocating on behalf of WA's pork producers is the main role of the WA Pork Producer's Association (WAPPA), there is much more to this organisation than sitting back and waiting for issues to emerge.

WA accounts for more than 10 per cent of Australia's one billion dollar a year pork production and WAPPA delivers leadership, policy, advocacy and services to WA producers and industry stakeholders.

Recently, WAPPA has taken pro-active steps towards ensuring WA pork producers are protected from potential biosecurity risks and has played a pivotal role in developing the new pig welfare code.

A recent Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) seminar at Pastoral House, where WAPPA is head-quartered, trained producers and key industry stakeholders in effectively managing an emergency animal disease outbreak.

WAPPA President and Cuballing producer, Graeme Dent, believes these sorts of programs safeguard not just the pig industry, but all livestock industries and reflects WAPPA's dedication to improving the industry for all producers.

“By providing trained ILOs to the national disease management framework, WAPPA is positioning itself alongside other peak industry bodies, helping ensure the sustainability of the pork industry and other Australian livestock industries,” he said.

“Being part of a modern, pro-active, environmentally savvy organisation is all about looking to the future and then doing all we can to be viable and profitable.”

Part of WAPPA's ongoing commitment to Australia's pork industry will be working with Australian Pork Limited in implementing the new Pig Welfare Code, which ensures ethical practices in pig handling and production.

“This is a great step forward for WAPPA and pork producers because it sets out specific guidelines which, when implemented and followed, will alleviate some concerns the public may have about the treatment of our animals,” Mr Dent said.

“As producers, we realise more than anyone that our animals are our livelihood and their ethical treatment is integral to our industry's prosperity. WAPPA is committed to world's best practice in animal welfare.

“A further commitment to quality assurance underlines everything we do, ultimately ensuring consumers can enjoy a safe, healthy product.

“Three quarters of WA’s pork is produced under the national APIQ QA program.

“WAPPA is working with the relevant industry stakeholders and authorities to have all pigmeat in WA produced with an industry approved on-farm quality assurance program in place,” Mr Dent said.

www.wappa.com.au

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