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Linley Valley  
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Dean Romaniello  
Livestock Coordinator

Mobile 0418 458 615  
Office (08)9573 1300

# WAPPA

## Pork Yarns



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## Pigs Can Fly – With A PigPass

**Rollout of the national vendor declaration (NVD) PigPass got underway in a co-ordinated move to ensure Australia's pig industry meets export and domestic market expectations on food safety and traceability.**

Although PigPass will not be fully implemented until January 1, 2007, processors have indicated all pigs destined for domestic and export markets currently require a PigPass before processing.

The pig NVD has been introduced as part of the Commonwealth funded Pig Traceability Project, which required Australia's pig industry to be proactive in its ability to identify and respond to any exotic disease outbreak.

PigPass also had to be introduced quickly because the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) indicated it would not continue to certify pork for the Singapore market if an NVD PigPass followed by on farm quality assurance (QA) program was not available to underpin AQIS export certification.

Subsequently, all Australian export abattoirs notified the industry they would not accept pigs on consignment for export markets, unless accompanied by a PigPass.

WAPPA President Graeme Dent said PigPass may be used in future as a waybill in states such as WA, which required a mandatory waybill for movement of stock.

"The new arrangements will enhance the industry's ability to trace and respond to any food safety and animal disease risks associated with pork," Mr Dent said.

Pig consignments would require a PigPass to travel to saleyards, export abattoirs or for vendor sales. Producers selling pigs to the domestic market should contact their processor if they have concerns about PigPass.

In July producers, processors and the smallgoods sectors endorsed PigPass, agreeing it should be linked to a certified on-farm QA program, such as SQF 1000 or ISO 9002 or Australian Pork Industry Quality (APIQ), by January 1, 2007. Mr Dent said PigPass would provide the opportunity for producers to link their QA systems with other sectors, in particular transport and abattoir, to achieve a greater measure of assurance along the supply chain.

PigPass has five sections to be completed by the owner of the pigs, the person in charge of pig husbandry, the transporter and the receiver of the pigs.



*Congratulating Emalyn Loudon (centre) on her award as WAPPA Industry Person of the Year are Pork Industry Training (WA) committee members Dr Bruce Mullan, Department of Agriculture and Food, Annette Howard, Wannamal, Neil Ferguson, Westpork and Sharon Martin, Wannamal.*

Producers should ensure staff responsible for administering veterinary products are familiar with products, correct dose rates and withholding periods (WHP).

The registration authority sets the WHP when the product is first registered, based on information supplied by the manufacturer and other sources. For some veterinary products, export markets require a longer period between the last treatment and slaughter.

Known as Export Slaughter Intervals, they must be considered for all pigs slaughtered in export abattoirs, regardless of whether the

carcase will likely go to a domestic buyer or to export, because their offal will likely go to an export market. A copy of each PigPass issued by a vendor or received by a buyer should be retained as evidence of the transaction for a minimum of three years.

For PigPass forms, together with explanatory notes, Freecall 1800 001 458 (during business hours EST). For credit card purchases only (Visa or MasterCard only), you can enter your details online at [www.pmasolutions.com.au/pigpass](http://www.pmasolutions.com.au/pigpass) or visit APL's website at [www.austalianpork.com.au](http://www.austalianpork.com.au).

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# WAPPA Executive Profile

It was a pleasant surprise for Wannamal producer Steve Martin (right) when he was elected to the WAPPA Executive Committee.

Replacing Immediate Past President, Stuart Coole of Boyup Brook, he is enthusiastic about his new role.

Steve has been involved in the pork industry for almost a decade, firstly working for Westpork in 1997 before shifting the next year to its grow-out farm, 'Mindara'.

In 2001 Steve started his own operation, 'Martin's Piggery' and is a contract grower for Wandalup Farms.

He runs a mixed livestock farming operation, with sheep, cattle and 8000 grower pigs, which are housed in 32 eco-shelters on his 1100 hectare property. 'Martin's Piggery' is a family operation, with Steve's daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Jarrad Carter working for him and his sister Denva Martin and local Louise Hahn working part-time.



Wife Sharon is also actively involved in the business and industry. She is on the Pork Industry Training (WA) Committee and WA Pig Skills Centre Committee.

"The labour shortage issue is one of the biggest facing the industry and I'm lucky to have family working with me," Steve says.

He is concerned about non-compliance with on-farm biosecurity regulations, which have the potential to compromise the industry. Non-compliance with on-farm bio-security regulations also worries him as it has the potential to compromise the industry.

## Industry Strength

Steve enjoys the camaraderie of other producers within the industry and sees this as one of its major strengths. However, he believes a majority of stakeholders resist change.

"Processors aren't taking on the advice that we need to start growing bigger pigs to meet local and export market demands, hence reducing production costs and improving industry efficiency.

"But we need to also cater to the individual needs of our markets and build the Asian marketplace,

including Japan and China, our biggest future markets.

"Vietnam and similar countries also have good potential, with their large pork eating populations and we need to tailor our pork production techniques accordingly," Steve says.

"We don't want to miss out on any potentially lucrative markets and the industry needs to produce more pork to service them."

Steve intends to do his best to support and advance the industry in any way possible.

**Steve Martin, Tel 9655 7057**

## Pork Scene - 2006 WAPPA Dinner



At the 2006 industry dinner are WAPPA Executive Committee members Steve Martin of Wannamal, Darren Edwards of Popanyinning, President Graeme Dent of Cuballing, Treasurer Errol Howard of Wannamal and Vice-President Richard Evison of Albany.



Enjoying the 2006 industry dinner are Stuart and Helen Coole of Boyup Brook and Neil Ferguson of Westpork.



Enjoying the 2006 WAPPA dinner are WA Minister for Agriculture and Food, Kim Chance and wife Sue and WAPPA President, Graeme Dent and wife Belinda of Cuballing.

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**It's no secret that I firmly believe our pork industry has a bright future.**

However, to maintain this we need skilled people working to develop the industry. One of our industry's skilled people was commended at WAPPA's recent annual dinner.

Pork Industry Training (WA) Training Officer, Emalyn Loudon was awarded the 'WAPPA 2006 Industry Person of the Year' for her industrious efforts and dedication in improving the quality and standard of training programs now available for the pork industry.

She is one of many working to ensure the pork industry's future is bright and that it has its fair share of highly skilled, well-trained and committed people. Human resources are probably our most precious resource and with a buoyant resources sector competing for staff in WA, staff are more important than ever before.

Whether it be the next generation or the current one, we need to ensure there are training programs which provide our industry with world class staff and management.

While I acknowledge automation plays an increasing role in 21st century pork production systems, it must be teamed with good animal husbandry practices.

We don't currently have a machine that can be trained in animal husbandry, so we need to ensure that



while automation makes the industry more efficient, we polish our skills in other areas, namely animal husbandry and animal welfare. Good animal husbandry needs good training and producers need to fully utilise people like Emalyn to ensure they have all the skills to run a successful business and produce quality pork.

While many of us are planning for the future and embracing the power of modern technology, we need to remember nothing replaces hard work. Producers need to also look beyond technology and their skills as producers and constantly be networking and looking out for new markets.

At the same time, they must service our current markets, while always clearly focusing on producing the right pig for the right market.

The pork industry has a bright future provided we all work together while 'mining' every available resource.

**Low winter rainfall, potential high feed prices and a revived live auction system were among the issues addressed by WAPPA during its recent AGM.**

President Graeme Dent thanked the WA Meat Industry Authority and Primaries for accommodating small producers with a live auction system. Presenting his President's report to about 30 producers and others at Pastoral House, Mr Dent said WAPPA Executive had dealt with many challenges while working co-operatively with stakeholders to improve industry standards in the areas of quality assurance, carcass grading, animal welfare and production costs. The biggest hurdle facing the industry was feed prices.

WAPPA Executive Officer, Russell Cox, presenting his report to the AGM said WAPPA has reviewed its strategic plan to be more specific to what it has the capacity to achieve within its resources. The strategic plan effectively defines the role and activities of WAPPA and particularly how to best represent and advance the interests of the pork industry with industry associates and all three tiers of Government.

"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 help the industry improve cost competitiveness through research and development to a level comparable with our international competitors," Mr Cox said.

WAPPA's annual industry dinner at Ascot Quays Hotel, attended by about 135 people, including WA Agriculture and Food Minister, Kim Chance, featured a special presentation to WAPPA's Industry Person of the Year, Emalyn Loudon.

**Dinner sponsors included Wesfeeds, Milne AgriGroup, Australian 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.**

## Changing Levy Structure

**At the recent WAPPA general meeting Andrew Spencer, CEO Australian Pork Limited (APL), proposed a change to the levy structure, which would increase funding available to APL for research and development without increasing costs to producers.**

Currently the Commonwealth will not pay funds beyond the accumulated research and development (R&D) levies collected since APL's existence. The Commonwealth pays funds to a maximum of 0.5% of the gross value of production (three year average ex farm gate) of the pig industry, which is the standard R&D cap for most agricultural industries.

However, the current applicable cap is resulting in a lower maximum for APL. This, in turn, means pork producers aren't receiving the full potential from the government.

Mr Spencer proposes to remove the arbitrary split in levies collected

between R&D (currently 70 cents) and marketing. This would mean merging the two to increase the amount claimable from the government.

"This will result in no change to the current \$2.35 total levy payable by pig producers to APL. However, it will result in flexibility in choosing the right amount of R&D to invest for the pig industry."

Mr Spencer added that it could result in the Commonwealth matching funds available on an extra \$1.5 million of R&D spending. However, he added that success in changing the levy structure depended on the support of industry and also APL's ability to convince the government of the "public good" associated with structure change.

"Although there is no guarantee the Government will agree to this proposal. APL will lobby all sides of politics to have this levy structure approved," he said.

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# Daph's APL Kitchen

by Daph Kavanagh,  
State Manager,  
Australian Pork Limited

With summer just around the corner many people are thinking about getting in shape and while an exercise routine is a good way to achieve this, eating healthily also helps.

And it will also help combat the obesity epidemic that is taking Australia by storm.

This recipe is one that will keep the doctor happy and won't add any unwanted inches to your waist.

The BBQ season is also upon as and as the weather gets warmer many people are dusting the cob-



webs off the BBQ and refilling the gas tank.

This tasty dish, with its spicy and exotic flavours, is the perfect one to get the BBQ season rolling.

**Bon Appetit!**

## Lizzie's Pork Steaks with Mango Lime Salsa

Serves Four  
Preparation Time: 10 mins  
Cooking Time: 8 mins

4 pork rump/scotch steaks  
Lime Juice & rind from 1 lime  
1 teaspoon Masterfoods Lemon grass & Chilli seasoning  
1 tablespoon oil Salsa  
1 x 400g can sliced Mango, diced or 2 fresh mangoes  
2 Capsicum (1 red /1 green) diced

1 tablespoon Masterfoods Coriander leaves (optional)  
2 tablespoon Masterfoods Sweet Chilli sauce Salad leaves for serving.



Pre-heat BBQ or griddle pan. Blend together the lime juice & rind, seasoning and oil in a non-metallic bowl. Allow pork steaks to marinate 2 - 20 minutes. Cook steaks on a pre-heated BBQ or griddle pan over a medium heat 3 - 4 minutes each side until cooked the way you like it.

While the steaks are cooking toss together mango, lime juice & rind, capsicum, coriander and sweet chili sauce. Serve steak over a bed of salad leaves and top with mango salsa.

## Producing Pork at a Global Standard

**An increasing world population, particularly in the ASEAN region, means pork production will need to grow by up to 30 million tonnes to meet demand, taking total global consumption to an estimated 130 million tonnes by 2030.**

WAPPA Executive Officer, Russell Cox said industry and governments must prepare for continued development and transformation of livestock production and distribution systems.

"Government policies must allow that to happen to satisfy consumer demand and growth opportunities.

"It's also possible most of the expansion problems faced by a growing intensive livestock industry can be met with technological advances," he said.

At the recent WAPPA general meeting several areas were identified that the WA pork industry needs to change to remain globally competitive, including:

- Primary producers (across all industries) need to change their attitudes.
- Increase carcase size.
- Reduce feed costs and costs in general.
- Better utilise technology.
- "Co-marketing" i.e. market pork with other products e.g. sauces.
- Learn from other countries e.g. Nuffield scholars.
- Increase WA herd size to 50,000 sows.

- Whole supply chain to contribute to compliance costs.
- Less competition/fragmentation across industries (but profitability driven).
- Become aware of major retailers and their influence.
- Become more vertically integrated.
- Market to Asian cultures within the domestic market.

Constraints were also identified, including:

- Lack of producer confidence to invest.
- Water.
- Location.
- Feed grain.
- Antibiotics.
- Lack of upward change in price over time.
- Meat quality in the domestic market.
- Energy.
- Banking industry's lack of confidence in the pork industry.
- Labour shortage.
- Lack of transparency in the supply chain.

During the next year WAPPA will co-ordinate development of a Pig Production Group, led by Dr Bruce Mullan, to facilitate a review of the 1996 Industry Taskforce Report. It will determine if WA has the capacity to grow and process pigmeat to world competitive standards.

During this process a cross section of industry views and opinions will be sought to develop practical and achievable goals.

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All correspondence, including Letters to the Editor, should be addressed to:

WAPPA, Suite 1, Pastoral House, 227 Great Eastern Hwy., Belmont, WA 6104 Tel: 08-9479 7315 Fax: 08-9479 7317  
Email: russell@wappa.com.au Web: www.wappa.com.au

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Managing Editor: Brendon Cant Editor: Trent Carslake

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