

## Foreword

The CRC for a globally competitive pork industry (Pork CRC) commenced in July 2005 and finished on 30 June 2011. The objectives of the Pork CRC were to enhance the global competitiveness of the Australian pork industry with emphasis on improving the efficiency of production and reducing costs.

During almost 6 years of operation, the Pork CRC revitalised pig and pork research in Australia and enhanced the global competitiveness of the Australian pork industry through the development of an unprecedented range of new technologies and information. The advances made in the areas of grain technology, herd feed efficiency and in establishing the human health attributes of Australian pork by the Pork CRC are the results of excellence in science, close involvement of industry in the R&D programs and effective communication and demonstration of outcomes to participants and to the industry in general.

The outcomes exceeded participant and industry expectations and demonstrate the value of the CRC model for aligning industry needs with Australia's research capabilities to develop collaborative R&D programs to enhance industry productivity and, at the same time, achieve excellence in science.

In terms of feed efficiency, Pork CRC research which translated into technologies adopted and now widely used by industry included:

- (1) The efficient and cost effective use of metabolism modifiers to enhance animal performance and profitability.
- (2) Establishment of the performance capabilities and amino acid requirements of Australian and New Zealand genotypes.
- (3) Establishment of changes over time in the performance, amino acid requirements and meat quality aspects of intact male pigs administered the boar taint vaccine (Improvac).
- (4) Establishment that the progeny of first litter females are at greater risk of disease, higher mortality and poorer

performance than those from older sows and the development of nutritional and other means of improving the health and performance of pigs at weaning and throughout their life time.

- (5) A number of breakthroughs in our understanding of sow reproduction and means of enhancing sow reproduction and longevity.

In all cases the outcomes were based on excellent science and verification at the commercial level. The results have global implications and many are the outcomes from undergraduate and postgraduate projects.

A number of these outcomes are published in this special edition of *Animal Production Science*. The Pork CRC appreciates the Editor's offer to publish what is a record of some of the quality science conducted by our researchers and students. The special edition will serve as a testament to the innovativeness and commitment of the scientists involved in the projects that have contributed to this publication.

The success of the Pork CRC extends far beyond the outcomes published here and would not have been achieved without the efforts and ideas of the scientists and students involved, the willingness of our participants and the industry in general to adopt the outcomes from the research programs, and the direction and expertise provided by the board and staff of the Pork CRC.

I offer my sincerest thanks to you all for what was an exciting and very productive 6 years.

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