Research Investor View: Priorities and Opportunities

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Animal welfare RD&E

- Increasing prominence of animal welfare as an issue confronting industries;

- Need to continually improve productivity whilst safeguarding animal welfare;

- Need to underpin policy with sound, science based solutions;

- Changing expectations of consumers and the general community regarding animal welfare standards;

- Development and proliferation of animal welfare standards by retailers and trading partners;

- Increasing pressures from animal rights organisations and consequent market impacts;

- More competition for resources

- Need to maintain market access and the social licence to operate

RD&E priorities

- Industry strategic plans considered
- Identified similarities across RD&E priorities for each industry
- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy RD&E priorities considered and included
- Themes developed with underpinning "focus areas" and outcomes
  - Enables flexibility for industries to determine their own projects (either within this Strategy or the other Sector Strategies)
  - Provides clear communication on national direction of animal welfare RD&E
  - Enables direct linkage with Sector Specific RD&E Strategy themes

Theme 1:
Animal Welfare Assessment

Theme 2:
Pain assessment and management

Theme 3:
Management, housing and husbandry

Theme 4:
Transport, humane destruction & slaughter

Theme 5:
Public attitudes, social science & community

Theme 6:
Education, training & extension

Theme 7:
Policy & market access

Pork R,D&E Strategy

Pork R,D&E Facilities:

1. Focus resources into fewer but better funded facilities to meet the current and future R,D&E needs

2. Provide certainty for these facilities by base funding them on a rolling two year basis

Pork R,D&E Programs:

3. Move from a project by project basis to a coordinated "National Program" approach

4. Enhance the development and retention of appropriate human resources and skills within the R,D&E programs

Pork R,D&E Programs Approach

- Develop R,D&E Programs for key priorities involving multiple research providers (expertise, capacity building)

- Foster collaboration between R,D&E providers at a national & international level

- Increase R,D&E programs for the mentoring of young scientists

- Assist R,D&E providers to develop technical staff succession plan within core R,D&E facilities

Pork industry animal welfare program

- Annual budget around $800K (last 7-9 years)

- Priorities defined by Specialist Group – business plan

- Significant investment going forward with the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork
  - ❖ Sustainable minimal - confinement housing systems for breeding and grower pigs

- APL welfare remit changed to avoid duplication
  - Welfare assessment methodology
  - Consumer attitudes

Pig industry welfare R&D priorities

RDE Priority	Cross-sectoral opportunity
Gestation sow management in group housed systems	• None
Addressing knowledge gaps in our understanding of the impacts of road transport on welfare	• Ensuring framework of competence for those transporting animals/poultry • Developing acceptable protocols to ensure welfare outcomes will be met across species
Benchmarking stockperson skills	• Develop valid and reliable metrics that have widespread practical application in the livestock and poultry industries, that are consistent with community expectations and scientific data
Pain assessment methodologies	• Pain Management & elective husbandry procedures. Determination of the level of stress and pain during husbandry procedures • Identification of alternatives and / or suitable analgesic and anaesthesia protocols for use. • Cross-sectoral opportunities while possible could be very segmented as different industries have different requirements
Welfare assessment	• Further investigate and develop well-accepted welfare methodology that can be used by animal welfare scientists to assess animal welfare requirements in a broadly agreed manner across species • Cross-sectoral opportunities while possible could be difficult.
Community Engagement	• Public attitudes: Understand public perceptions of farm animal welfare issues to develop strategies for managing public perception in the broader community and inform government, industry and welfare groups on animal welfare

Moving forward

- Committed to funding a 3-yr welfare research scientist position at Univ of Melbourne (AECL & Chicken Meat)

- APL and Pork CRC R&D program opportunities

- Potential to work with other funders on projects
  - Consumer perceptions and expectations
  - Welfare assessment methodology
  - Education and training

Animal welfare priorities

Organisation	Theme 1 – animal welfare assessment	Theme 2 – pain assessment	Theme 3 – Management, housing & husbandry	Theme 4 – transport, euthanasia and slaughter	Theme 5 – public attitudes, social science and community	Theme 6 – education, training and extension	Theme 7 – policy and market access
AECL	*				*	*	
AWSC	*				*	*	
SARDI	*				*	*	
AWI	*	*	*		*		
FRDC					*		*
DA	*				*	*	
MLA	*				*	*	
AAWS (including livestock working group priorities)	*	*	*	*	*		
APL	*				*	*	
DEEDI			*	*	*	*	
NSW DPI	*		*	*	*	*	
CSIRO	*	*			*		
DPI Vic	*				*		
AMPC	*			*	*	*	
Areas of commonality (ranked in approximate terms only)	1	4	3	4	1	2	5

A Collaborative effort will deliver:

- Enhanced joint planning, collaboration & co-investment between:
  - RD&E providers (build on existing agreements – example model)
  - RD&E investors (determining cross sector RD&E priorities)
  - RD&E investors and providers (annual planning forum & national RD&E Committee)
- Strategic focus on issues that are of national significance and are across-sector
  - Enhancing collaboration and investment with Sector Strategies accordingly
- National recognition of animal welfare RD&E and capability
  - Improved national focus (agenda) in RD&E
  - Better underpinning of policy
  - Improved support of the broader aims of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (PIMC initiative)
- Opportunity for industries to address issues collaboratively e.g. community attitudes/education