

PIG INTERNATIONAL



Electronic Newsletter

July 28, 2005

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Indonesia struggles against bird flu

Indonesia's minister of agriculture Anton Apriyantono said this week that the Indonesian government would need the equivalent of US\$84.2 million in order to carry out a mass cull of pigs and poultry because of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza. A shortage of funds had limited its initial response after confirmation that 3 residents of the town of Tangerang in Banten province (a local official and his 2 young daughters) had died of the infection. In the first culling, according to the *Jakarta Post*, only 31 pigs and 40 ducks at 2 farms were slaughtered as having been infected. Originally the government had said it would act against the threat of the influenza virus spreading to humans by culling all pigs and poultry within a 3km radius of the Tangerang deaths. A parliamentary budget committee has met this week in Jakarta to hear appeals from the agriculture ministry for more money to tackle the avian flu crisis.

Culling in other parts of Indonesia will not affect exports of slaughter pigs to Singapore from the Indonesian island of Bulan, asserted the production manager of Batam-based PT Indo Tirta Suaka. The ITS enterprise holds about 240 000 pigs and sends 1000 pigs per day to Singapore, where its shipments meet 20% of all pork requirements.

China battles streptococcal outbreak

A bacterial infection of type 2 *Streptococcus suis* from pigs is being blamed in China for causing the deaths of 24 people in the country's largest pig-producing province and the illness of 70 others. Pork exports from Sichuan province have been suspended as a precaution. World Health Organisation (WHO) officials have referred to the outbreak as the world's largest involving Strep. suis. Human infections of the bacteria have been known in various countries including China since 1968 and usually involve people whose work brings them into contact with pigs. Strep. suis was once the most common cause of meningitis among workers on farms or in abattoirs in Hong Kong.

Inside Spain's pig business

An analysis of the Spanish pig sector by Mercasa has said that there are approximately 205 000 pig units in Spain, including about 42 000 piglet-producing enterprises. Spain in 2004 had 23.3 million pigs on its farms and produced 3.32 million tons of pork.

Vall Companys is identified as Spain's largest pig producer, in a report by *DS Nyt*, publication of Danske Slagterier in Denmark. Some 7.5% of all pigs in Spain are attributed to Vall Companys by the report, compared with 1.9% for second-placed Proinserga and 1.8% for Segre. Fourth spot goes to co-operative Guissona with 1.4%, fifth to Baucells with 1.3% and sixth to Victoria with 1.2%. Leridana is shown accounting for 1%, Comapor for 0.9%, Copaga for 0.9%, Cefusa 0.8%, Coren 0.8% and Uteco 0.8%. Proinserga, described as a group of about 300 units in Segovia having a total of about 110 000 sows (individual herds range from 100 sows up to 2000 sows), is reckoned to produce over 1.7 million slaughter pigs per year. As with about 75% of Spanish pig production, Proinserga has links to feed manufacturing – its 5 feedmills producing some 450 000 tons of feeds annually.

The Danish report also refers to the meat processing sector in Spain, indicating that Campofrio has a pork market share of about 12.5%. It is followed for size by Navidul (6.2%), El Pozo (4.7%), Argal (3.8%), Casademont (3.2%), Oscar Meyer (2.7%), Tarradellas (2.5%), La Piara (1.6%), Monells (1.6%), Molina (1.6%).



South Africa ponders imports

Importation of pork into South Africa has increased substantially in the past 2 years. The total of 21 792 metric tons imported in 2004 compared with 13 156 tons in 2003 and only between 8000-9000 tons in each of the years 2001 and 2002. South African producer organization Sappo/Savpo has applied for the national levy on imported pigmeat to be raised from 15% to 37% amid concerns over the impact of imports on the local industry. About 12 000 tons last year was brought in from Brazil, just under 5000 tons from France and 2400 tons from Belgium, but the overall increase in the import total mainly reflected an extension in the list of suppliers – new names included New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, South Africa's own pork output has increased through a gradual rise in carcase weight and sales per sow/year, although the breeding herd has not changed appreciably in size from a level of about 100 000 sows. Against such a background of extra supplies from domestic and foreign sources, it is surprising that pork prices locally have remained good. Industry insiders say this can only mean that the demand for pork has also been strong. They comment, certainly there is an ever increasing middle class developing in South Africa who can afford meat.

The present buoyancy of the South African pig industry reflects an attractive 6.25 ratio between pork and feed prices as the pork price stays good and the feed price looks reasonable. Pig feeds in the country are corn (maize) and soybean based. The relative strength of the Rand has kept local soya prices in check and South Africa had a bumper crop of maize in the 2004/5 season. However, swine-specialist veterinarian Dr Peter Evans (now at his own Pevan Vet clinic in Kyalami) notes that maize growers locally are in a serious situation which may mean they will plant fewer hectares next year. Many maize farmers have enquired about starting in pigs, he adds, but the capital investment seems to put them off. By contrast, many of the larger existing pig producers have already started to expand or are thinking along those lines. A number of them in the past 2-3 years preferred to focus on improving production efficiency by replacing old buildings, upgrading health status (partial and full depopulation exercises) and refining pig flow.

Australia waits for PMWS all-clear

Producers in Australia may have to wait 8 weeks before the country's PMWS scare is finally declared at an end. A suspected case of the wasting disease involving a New South Wales herd was cleared in mid-July, but the authorities have said they want to continue precautionary monitoring of a separate site in South Australia until the end of September.

The scare arose in the middle of a battle between pork industry representatives and the federal government over the risk of bringing in PMWS through imports of pigmeat from affected countries. Although the low-risk verdict of a governmental biosecurity commission was thrown aside by a ruling from federal court judge Murray

Wilcox, the government refused to revoke a series of import permits that had been issued before his judgement became known.



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In a separate development, Australian producers have been warned to expect a continued decline in their pig prices over the longer term relative to the prices of the farm inputs they use in production. The warning is contained in a 'stocktake' review of Australia's agriculture and food sector, undertaken this year by the governmental department of agriculture. Against this scenario, it adds, gains in productivity will be important for the international competitiveness of the national pig industry and for determining the farm-level allocation of resources between pigmeat production and other enterprises. Data quoted by the review include that New South Wales produces the most pork in Australia (30%), followed by Queensland (21%), Victoria (19%), South Australia (17%) and Western Australia (12%). In round terms the industry comprises a total inventory of about 2.5 million pigs, with approximately 340 000 sows.

Forecasts for the next 15 years

Expect world pigmeat production and consumption to grow at a rate of 1.8% per year in the period up to 2014, says an *Agricultural Outlook* survey of global markets produced jointly by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and United Nations food/agriculture agency FAO. Be aware of sharply contrasting growth rates between the developed and developing countries, however. The more developed members of the OECD area will add to their pork output at a rate averaging only 0.8%. For the developing countries, production will grow by 2.6% per year.

In volume terms this will mean the OECD bloc producing 39.376 million tons in 2014, against 36.522 million tons in 2004. Production from the developing countries will increase from 62.34 million tons to 78.42 million tons over the same time. People in OECD states will continue to eat more pork per person/year, however. Their average uptake is projected rising from 23.5kg to 24.4kg, whereas the populations of the developing countries will average 11.2kg from 10kg in 2004.

World human population growth is expected to slow to just over 1% per year over the outlook period, compared to 1.3% over the last decade. However, the growth rate of the populations of the developing countries will remain above those of the OECD area. Therefore the review states that the developing countries will continue to increase their share of the world population, currently standing at more than 75%.

Separately, projections of pork production in major countries or regions have been produced by Rabobank International. These suggest that China's annual output could accelerate from a present level of approximately 45 million metric tons to reach 54 million tons by the year 2013. But less growth is thought likely for the big players in Europe and North and South America. Rabobank's projected totals show the enlarged 25-country European Union growing production only from 21 million tons to 22.6 million tons, Russia and Poland both reaching 2.1 million tons/year in 2013 from 1.7-1.8 million tons in 2004. In Northern America, the projections are gains from 9.2 million tons to 10.1 million tons for USA and from 1.9 million tons to 2.4 million tons for Canada. South American figures have Brazil expanding from 2.9 million tons to 3.2 million tons and Mexico growing from 1.1

million tons to 1.4 million tons.

By 2020, the annual demand for meat will be over 70 million metric tons higher than today, according to remarks by Christopher Delgado of US-based International Food Policy Research Institute, quoted in an Agra Europe report from an international grassland conference held in Ireland. He added that, in 202, China would account for one-third of world meat consumption. At a world level, the 3% per year growth of consumption in developing countries would contrast with a rate of only 1%/year in the developed countries.



More European pork in 2006

Rising pig inventories throughout the European Union area in 2005 will lead to another increase in EU-25 pork production next year, predicts a new Gain report from the foreign agricultural service of the US department of agriculture. It sees slaughterings up from 241.8 million pigs in 2004 and 240 million in 2005 to 242.2 million in 2006. That will take the total production of pork to 20.9 million metric tons, from this year's 20.72 million tons and last year's 20.85 million tons carcass weight.

These projections are based on an assessment of the trend in sow numbers for the 25 European Union countries. From 14.59 million at the end of 2003, it seems that the number of breeding sows slipped back to 14.28 million in 2004. But it is now projected to recover to 14.35 million by December 2005. The USDA analysts say production increases are happening in the new EU member states. The pig sectors in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are expected to expand as a result of foreign investments, they comment, involving producers and processors from the USA as well as from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

Korea sees high prices

Pork prices in South Korea are predicted to stay high for the second half of 2005 after hitting a new record of 2690 Won (about US\$2.70) per kilogram in May. June surveys by the Seoul ministry of agriculture this year indicated that the country had 8.78 million pigs — only 0.0% down from the March 2005 level, but 2.6% less than the inventory of June 2004. Numbers had reduced after the enactment of a new law to strengthen various environmental standards for the disposal of waste from pig farms, according to an agriculture ministry statement. However, there is also reported to be a slowdown in the Korean demand for pigmeat as beef resumes its popularity after losing market shares because of BSE worries.



Research receives a global boost

Contacts have started between agricultural research leaders from around the world, towards building a global partnership to explore opportunities for research and innovation in the pig and poultry value chains. So says Dr Leo den Hartog, director of R&D at Nutreco after the Dutch-based group hosted a gathering of top researchers before its AgriVision conference in the Netherlands. The gathering was attended by 8 research leaders from the 4 continental regions of North and West Europe, Central and East Europe, North America, South America and Asia. Their roundtable discussion called InnoVision defined the innovation priorities needed to respond to growing demands for meat protein in these regions. Said Dr den Hartog: "Through these discussions we have already identified several areas where inter-regional actions may accelerate and increase the productivity of research. Our next steps are to explore these opportunities further and build genuinely global research partnerships."

ASF virus is sequenced

Scientists at the UK's Pirbright Laboratory, Institute for Animal Health, have successfully completed sequencing the genome of the virus responsible for African swine fever (ASF). The completion is called a breakthrough that opens the way for use of the genome sequence as a template for vaccine design, in a new UK£2 million joint project funded by the Wellcome Trust and bringing together expertise from the UK, France, Spain, Portugal and a number of African countries. Dr Chris Oura, head of the Institute for Animal Health's reference laboratory for ASF, has said that there is an urgent requirement to develop an effective vaccine to support disease control programmes in Africa. ASF has caused severe economic losses in Mozambique, Madagascar, several countries in West Africa (Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, and Burkina-Faso) Kenya and Zambia since the mid-1990's. The pig population in Madagascar has halved since the first outbreak in 1998. The virus is spread from wild warthogs to domestic pigs through the bites of infected ticks. These ticks can remain infected in pig houses for up to 8 years and can even live without feeding for up to 5 years.

Japan prepares for manure law

Covering of slurry pits and composting of dry manure become mandatory by law in Japan after 1st November this year, after being provisional requirements since November 1999. Farms will be patrolled by local prefectures to monitor their compliance. However, the manure utilisation law applies only to farms with 100 or more pigs. Various livestock farmers have reportedly reduced their animal numbers so they are not affected or have stopped production altogether, claiming that the costs involved in meeting the legislative requirements are too high.

Shows and seminars

Spain's Expoaviga international trade show on pig and poultry production is moving to a new venue for its next edition. The 16th Expoaviga will be held 17th-20th October 2006 at the Fira de Barcelona's Gran Via M2 complex on the outskirts of Barcelona. Previous editions of the fair took place about 2.5km away, at Montjuic showground in the city. Expoaviga 2006 will occupy 3 halls providing 56 000m² of exhibition area and auditoriums for holding symposia and congresses.

Over 70 oral presentations on topics relating to food-borne pathogens, antimicrobial resistance and chemical/physical hazards in pork will be made at the SafePork 2005 symposium set for California, USA, 6th-9th September 2005. This will be the 6th symposium in the series on the epidemiology and control of food-borne pathogens in pork and is being held at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park, California.

Dates of Sunday 22nd June to Thursday 26th June have been decided for the 2008 edition of the International Pig Veterinary Society congress when it takes place in Durban, South Africa. A website for the event is being created

and the organisers plan to provide detailed information on the venue, hotels, tours and functions when they attend IPVS 2006 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

National Swine Improvement Federation (NSIF) 2005 meeting will be the first for 10 years to be held in Canada. With dates of 1st-3rd December, it meets in Ottawa under the auspices of the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement.

Updates on companies

With apologies to the company, a wrong telephone number was given for vaccination instruments manufacturer Henke-Sass Wolf GmbH of Germany, in the latest annual Buyer's Guide directory of PIG INTERNATIONAL. Please note the correct telephone number of +49 7461 189-118. Fax number was listed correctly as +49 7461 189-182 and the website as www.henkesasswolf.de.

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health has announced the results of a survey conducted by Spain's University of Leon with the company and bioScreen GmbH, Germany, indicating that 97% of sow herds across Europe are infected with the *Lawsonia intracellularis* bacterium that causes ileitis. On finishing units the incidence is 93%. Almost 16 000 blood samples were analysed, from pigs on 342 units in 12 European countries. Other announcements by the company have been that it has launched Ingelvac PRRS MLV in China and Thailand after receiving official authorisations and, in the USA, its American arm Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc has received USDA-Aphis approval for simultaneous use by pig units of the 3 oral vaccines Enterisol Ileitis FF, Enterisol SC-54 FF and Ingelvac ERY-ALC.



Hypor reports supplying 2 SPF multiplication farms in the east of Germany, with pigs sourced from the breeder's SPF nucleus in Spain. One is a 400-sow unit in Nienstedt for Mark Woestmann, who has 2300 sows at Wallhausen. The second multiplier, of 700 sows at Dübén, is for brothers Leon and Erik van Dijck who operate a 1050-sow enterprise in Jänickendorf.

American arm of Intervet has said it is discontinuing its inactivated PRRS vaccine PRRomiSe on the US market and terminating its work to commercialise new PRRS technologies for that market. The PRRS products sold in Europe by Intervet International are not affected by the decision. Separately, the healthcare company's parent group Akzo Nobel has described Intervet as a quiet success story, after recording a 9% increase in revenues for the second quarter of the current financial year. It was the strongest quarterly performance by the company in 3 years, helped by a further 3% growth in its sales in Europe.

Herd-recording software producer AgroSoft has moved to new offices in Tørring, Denmark.

Canadian processing giant Maple Leaf Foods is expanding its pigmeat operations in Saskatchewan, western Canada, by building a C\$110 million primary pork processing plant in Saskatoon. Initially the new facilities will process 20 000 pigs per week, on a single-shift basis, although the design capacity will be 40 000 pigs/week in 2

shifts. It replaces a factory acquired by Maple Leaf during its takeover of former Smithfield operation Schneider Foods, that handles some 17 000 pigs per week.

There are about 1.5 million sows in the Philippines, of which approximately one-third are in commercial herds, according to Andrew Bateson, managing director of PIC's Asian operations, when announcing the stocking of the breeder's third high-health nucleus herd for the country. Over 200 GGP gilts and boars had been imported from a PIC nucleus in the USA to populate the new RGA Farms venture started in partnership with local agribusiness operator Rafael Abello. The site is located at newly constructed facilities within a 600-hectare sugar plantation on the island of Negros, in the Visayas region of the country. It joins other nucleus sites for PIC in Luzon and Mindanao. The herd will be developed to at least 400 GGPs from the initial seedstock.

Impextraco from Belgium has co-ordinated a series of meetings in China, Taiwan and the Philippines on PMWS and mycotoxins as causes of reduced immunity in pigs. Dr François Madec of French food safety agency AFSSA said other pathogens and the environment had a role in triggering the PCV2 circovirus causing PMWS. The emergence of the syndrome in the main pig-producing countries (often at nearly the same time) was an indication that something wrong had occurred in the way of raising pigs in recent years. Mathieu Cortyl from Impextraco Singapore pointed to recent research that mycotoxins such as aflatoxin, ochratoxin or fumonisins reduced resistance of piglets to pathogenic bacteria including *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. There was also clear evidence that mycotoxins played a role in vaccination failure.

Biological fly control company Biofluen in Denmark reports obtaining permission to sell its predator slurry flies in Poland, as the first step in a planned expansion of exports to pig units in Eastern Europe.

JSR Genetics from the UK reports supplying grandparent-generation (GP) gilts for the multiplier herd of Italian farm co-operative Progeo Mangimi, that has 4000 members in northern Italy producing 165kg carcass weight pigs for the prosciutto (Parma ham) market.

Selko of the Netherlands has opened a manufacturing site at Santos harbour in Brazil for its feed acidifiers and preservatives. It is the company's first factory outside Europe.

USA office of Genes Diffusion has noted the decision by Canada-based breeder Genetiporc to use the French company's Gedis all-in-one AI catheter for all its herds in Canada, totalling 14 000 sows in the east of the country and 2500 sows in the west. Testing at a 1300-sow Genetiporc unit had shown a saving of 4 minutes per insemination compared with the time taken by technicians to breed animals manually using conventional AI.

Producer-owned American pork processor Triumph Foods has revealed plans for a second plant even before the first has opened. Construction is progressing at St. Joseph, Missouri, on a 57 500m² facility costing US\$150 million and due to process 8000 pigs daily when it starts in September. Triumph now says it will build another factory, this time in Nebraska.

People in the news

Aco Funki from Denmark has named Per Nielsen as sales manager and Thue Kragh as supply chain manager, in a change of top management positions after the merger of Aco Durofarm and Funki Tech companies under former managing director Finn Madsen.

Dr Roger Campbell has become the first chief executive of the new Co-operative Research Centre for pork

production and product development that opened officially in July in Australia as a centre of excellence for collaborative pig research. The CRC is based at the Roseworthy campus of the SARDI Pig and Poultry Production Institute in South Australia. Famous internationally as a specialist in swine nutrition and breeding, Dr Campbell has returned to Australia after managing US-based pork genetics business AusGene International.

Trejo y Associates (TAEI) has been founded in Winnipeg, Canada, by veterinarian Dr Francisco Trejo. It offers export/import services between Canada and Latin America in breeding pigs, feed ingredients and pig equipment as well as swine consultancy.

Eric Neumann, formerly director of swine health research at National Pork Board, USA, has joined Massey University in New Zealand as senior lecturer in pig medicine and epidemiology.

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Data in brief

Malaysia in 2005 has 1.439 million pigs on 678 farms, said data from the Department of Veterinary Services. The 40% of people in Malaysia who eat pork are averaging an uptake of 20kg per person/year.

Mexico produced 1.058 million tons of pork in 2004 and is likely to see this amount rise to 1.089 million tons in 2005, according to Sagarpa figures quoted by Mexican feed association Canacintra at an International Grains Council conference.

European Union pig numbers in April/May 2005 were just 0.2% lower than a year earlier, statistics bureau Eurostat has calculated. Its surveys and estimates found 150.75 million pigs on the farms of the 25 member states. Although the countries of the former EU-15 area registered a marginal 0.8% increase in inventory to 122.9 million, the 10 new members from centre/east Europe saw their own pig numbers falling by 4.1% to 27.9 million. The 14.978 million breeding sows indicated for all 25 countries represented a decrease of 2.5%. This included a fall of 2.8% in sow numbers for the former EU-15, down to 12.08 million.

USA in June had a total inventory of 60.81 million pigs on its farms, said the NASS national agricultural statistics service of the US Department of Agriculture. Total pigs had stood at 60.70 million in June 2004 and 59.60 million in mid-2003. Latest US quarterly Hogs and Pigs report also gave a national breeding herd of 5.977 million pigs compared with 5.937 million a year ago and 6.026 million in June 2003. Sow units in the USA are saving more piglets — the average for the March-May 2005 period was 9.02 pigs saved per litter compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 total pigs to 9.10 for units with more than 5000 pigs. USDA calculated that the hogs being produced under contract (owned by operations with over 5000 pigs each, but raised by contractees) accounted for 40% of the total US inventory, up from 38% at the same stage last year.

France in May 2005 had an on-farm inventory of 15.123 million pigs compared with 15.173 million a year earlier, said statistics bureau Agreste. Sow numbers had dropped 1.4%, from 1.329 million to 1.31 million.

Slovak Republic pig numbers of 1.443 million in 2003 and 1.149 million in 2004 are expected to slide further to 1.04 million in 2005, on forecasts from agrifood economics institute VUEPP as published in *Agra Europe*. The country's sow inventory is predicted at 80 000 from 82 000 last year and 105 000 only 2 years ago. Slovak units produced 136 000 tons in 2004, but output this year is forecast down to 110 000 tons.

Canada averaged 19.9kg of pigmeat consumed per person/year in 2004, up from 19.1kg in 2003, on Statistics Canada data.

Netherlands in 2004 saw its pig numbers increase for the first time since 1999 notes a yearbook called '*Livestock, Meat and Eggs in the Netherlands 2005*'. But the number of pig units fell by 7% to 9980. Pig slaughterings rose 3.9% to 14.4 million. The average slaughter weight in 2004 was 89.7kg, resulting in 1.3 million tonnes of pigmeat produced (+3.4%). Dutch exports of pigs and pork equivalent to 1.2 million tons carcass weight were valued at €2.1 billion, some 11.2% more than in 2003. Pigmeat consumption in the Netherlands remained steady at about 688 000 tonnes, corresponding to 42.3kg per person. New agriculture ministry notes suggest that only 6% of Dutch pig farms inspected in 2005 provided no materials for environmental enrichment (toys) for the pigs, compared with 57% in 2000. About 98% of finishing sites this year were found to provide continuous access to drinking water during feeding sessions, the other 2% filled their troughs with water after feeding time.



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Calendar

The dates shown are given in good faith, but please check with the organisers in each case. Details of new events for possible listing should be sent to: Calendar, PIG INTERNATIONAL, 18 Chapel Street, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3DZ, England. e-mail: best@watt-4.demon.co.uk



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[MULTI-SITE PIG PRODUCTION](#)

[THE SCIENCE & PRACTICE OF PIG PRODUCTION, 2ND ED](#)

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