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PORK CRC EXCEEDS ITS TARGETS

Three years of innovative research has seen Pork CRC cutting the cost of pork production and enhancing the global competitiveness of Australia's pork industry, according to Pork CRC Chairman, Dr John Keniry.

Marking Pork CRC's Third Year Review, Dr Keniry said Pork CRC had met and, in some cases, exceeded, the targets set out for it in its Commonwealth Agreement.

"Pork CRC enjoys strong support from the pork industry, which has significant influence on its strategic direction, ensuring its research is relevant and valued," Dr Keniry said.

"Some industry leaders have estimated that Pork CRC is now responsible for 80 per cent of Australia's current pork research.

"So, perhaps it's little wonder that we're seeing more industry participants in the work of the CRC, including one overseas company – Nutreco Nederland NV," he said.

In a highly competitive industry with strong cost pressures, Pork CRC research has reduced the cost of production for Australian growers by an average 30–35 cents/kg carcass weight.

Pork CRC's three research programs aim for better feed, better pigs and better pork.

Three new grain varieties will be released for planting in 2009 and another in 2010 as a result of Pork CRC research to secure more reliable and consistent supplies of protein and energy for pig diets.

Robust Near Infrared Spectrometry (NIRS) calibration to estimate the nutritive value of grains has recently been made available to the industry across the supply chain and a new novel ingredient, glycerol, has also been introduced.

A number of Pork CRC projects conducted in its first three years will ensure improved whole herd efficiency.

Professor Chris Hudson, who chaired Pork CRC's Third Year Review Panel, said it was most pleasing to see, at first hand, the strong commitment and support for Pork CRC shown by the pork industry's stakeholders.

"These stakeholders endorsed the role Pork CRC has played in raising industry's commitment to investment in science and technology in the sector and they also noted that several of Pork CRC's projects were already delivering significant benefits to the industry," Professor Hudson said.

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Other members of the Review Panel were Melville Charles, pork producer of Western Plains Pork, Professor Elizabeth Deane of Australian National University and Professor Tony Peacock of Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research attended as an observer.

Dr Keniry concluded by saying that many industry leaders, including those from the pork production, processing and retailing sectors, were keen to see a sustainable future for Pork CRC and looked forward to its continued contribution to the pork industry.

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