

## Dates announced for next PIX / AMC

The next PIX (Poultry Information Exchange) conference, leading into the Australasian Milling Conference, will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, by which time it is hoped that COVID vaccination programmes will have made travel to and within Australia easier.

More information will follow as it becomes available, but in the meantime if you would like to register to receive information and updates from the conference organisers, visit [Expression of Interest – PIX AMC 2022](#)



## Litter management in cold weather: webinar links now available

Last week AgriFutures hosted a couple of timely online presentations on litter management in cold weather. The presentations are now available to watch online. Each presentation runs for about half an hour, and can be seen using these links:

1. [Drying litter before chick placement](#), Mark Dunlop
2. [Controlling broiler house litter moisture... the early weeks](#), Michael Czarick

All AgriFutures Chicken Meat Programme webinar presentations are available [here](#).



## Survey: Farmer decision-making for reporting suspected disease outbreaks

An honours student in the Research School of Psychology at the Australian National University is conducting a project looking at factors influencing decisions by farmers to report suspected emergency or exotic diseases in livestock.

It has been explained to the student that chicken growers are usually contractually bound to report any emerging disease problems to the processor that owns the birds, following which government authorities may be informed.

Growers willing to participate in an online survey involving a hypothetical disease outbreak are assured that their answers will be anonymous and aggregated at a national level, with no sector or state identified.

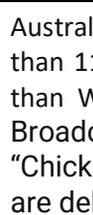
The survey should take 10-20 minutes and can be found using [this link](#).

## AgriFutures-supported project will play recorded hen calls to broiler chicks

Researchers at the University of New England have commenced an interesting project investigating how broiler behaviour may be influenced by the playing of recorded hen calls. A hen's feeding call is a short, high frequency, repetitive sound that attracts chicks to food and helps them develop foraging skills. Roosting calls are long, low frequency, purring sounds, usually given by hens just before nightfall, that encourage chicks to rest underneath the hen.

There could be benefits to both welfare and production, both of which will be measured during the trial. Hearing the feeding call may result in young birds spending more time at feeders, and the roosting call may be useful for bringing free range birds into their sheds in the afternoon. If the concept is proven, there may be applications in other sectors such as the layer industry, perhaps to address floor eggs and feather-pecking problems.

For more on the project, visit [here](#)



Australia's oldest-ever man has included eating chicken brains among his secrets to living more than 111 years. On 17<sup>th</sup> May Dexter Kruger marked 124 days since he turned 111, a day older than World War I veteran Jack Lockett was when he died in 2002. Kruger told Australian Broadcasting Corp. that a weekly poultry delicacy had contributed to his longevity. "Chicken brains. You know, chickens have a head. And in there, there's a brain. And they are delicious little things," Kruger said. "There's only one little bite."

(Thanks to ABC for this item)