



AgriFutures' Producer Technology Uptake Programme

Following a successful pilot programme last year, AgriFutures Australia is once more offering the **Producer Technology Uptake Programme** to support eligible producer groups to increase adoption of technology.

The programme is designed for producers that are interested and willing to research and innovate and adopt technology, but may lack the knowledge, skills or experience to achieve it.

Applications close 12pm (AEST) on Friday 8 April 2022, or unless funding is exhausted, so applicants are encouraged to make their submission prior to the closing date.

[Click here for more information and application forms.](#)

Recent Research Highlights

Effect of light intensity on growth performance and bone development of tibia in broilers

In this Chinese study, 462 Ross male broilers were divided into seven treatment groups with 6 replicates (11 birds per replicate), and then were subjected to different light intensity levels (0.5, 2, 5, 7, 9, 13 or 19 Lx) for 42 days. In summary, the data indicated that lower light intensity promoted the growth performance and the bone development of broilers. Application of lower light intensity at the starter phase might be a management strategy for broiler industries.

For more, see [here](#).

Environmental complexity: Additional human visual contact reduced meat chickens' fear of humans and physical items altered pecking behavior

In this Australian study birds were provided with either various physical items that posed no biosecurity risk and were inexpensive (such as balls, chains, a perch and rope) to alter behavioral time budgets and interactions with the environment, or additional visual contact with humans (10 min daily) with the aim to reduce fearfulness. Additional human contact reduced fear of humans at 35 days of age, but did not affect general fearfulness. Overall, there was little evidence that physical items improved the chickens' behavioral time budget, fear, physiological stress or production. The benefits of additional visual contact with humans should be investigated on larger groups to ensure that such effects are practical and effective to reduce fear of humans on farm. Click [here](#) for more.

Automatic scoring system for monitoring foot pad dermatitis in broilers

German researchers designed and tested a camera-based method to automatically score footpad dermatitis as part of welfare assessment. In the first phase 200 feet of broilers and in the second phase 500 feet were collected at slaughter, assessed visually, hung back into the evisceration line, and assessed by an automatic system. The results showed that, in particular, Macro Scores 0, 2, and 3 could be identified with sufficiently high sensitivity. For Macro Score 1, the sensitivity of diagnosis was not sufficiently high in the two evaluated software versions. The current automatic assessment systems at slaughter could be adjusted to the cut-off values in order to classify foot pad dermatitis lesions.

See [here](#) for more.

Opportunity to enrol in Company Directors' Course

AgriFutures Australia invites applications for the Australian Institute of Company Directors - *Company Directors Course™*.

Who should apply?

1. Experienced directors, new directors, business owners and senior executives reporting to boards. It is best suited to participants who are comfortable with online learning and are keen to build connections with their fellow online learners.
2. Members of AgriFutures Australia Advisory Panels.
3. Individuals on committees and/or boards representing one of AgriFutures 13 Levied Industries, including Chicken Meat.
4. Individuals on committees and/or boards representing an emerging industry.

Applications are now open and close **Tuesday, 12 April 2022**. More information is available [here](#).

