



The Australian Chicken Meat Industry – toward carbon neutrality

Many growers will be aware that in August last year the National Farmers' Federation announced a policy supporting an economy-wide aspiration of net zero emissions by 2050, stating that:

Australian agriculture has a role to play in meeting climate responsibilities and moving towards an economy-wide climate neutral goal by 2050 whilst maintaining productivity and profitability.

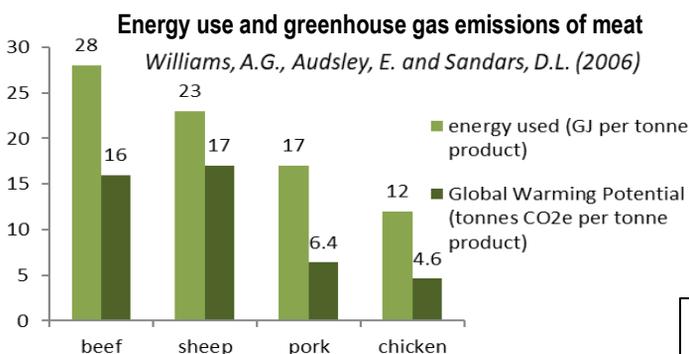
Many of Australia's agricultural industries have aligned with this target, with some setting more ambitious goals, such as the red meat industries looking to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Last year ACGC raised this matter with the Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF), and as a result two groups have been formed, both involving ACGC:

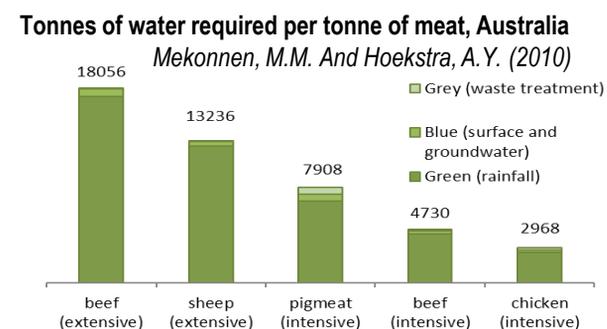
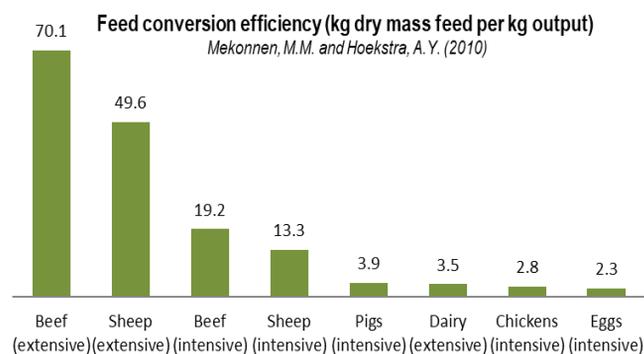
1. The Carbon Neutral Steering committee involves ACMF, ACGC and AgriFutures and has the purpose of determining how carbon neutrality may be achieved.
2. The Chicken Industry Environmental Stewardship Roadmap Working Group includes ACMF, ACGC and the processor members of APIA (Australian Poultry Industries Association), and will help align the industry into practical action.

In order to measure improvement in environmental impact, ACMF will provide an objective idea of where the industry sits now, but it looks like we already compare well with other meats, as demonstrated in the figures below.

These graphs are based upon data that precede the introduction of lower-density/drier-litter RSPCA Approved Farming, which would have reduced anaerobic litter decomposition, so the story now may even be more positive.



Accurate environmental mapping of the industry will require data from industry, and both growers and processors will soon be asked to complete a short survey that will help researchers work out the carbon impact of chicken meat. The information requested will be treated with complete confidentiality and no grower will be identified in reporting, so ACGC urges that you complete the survey when it becomes available.



LAST CHANCE: NFF Leadership and Capability Development Programme

Are you a young person involved in the chicken meat industry and interested in learning how to play a stronger part for your fellow growers? This year, the National Farmers' Federation is running a leadership programme, that will focus on building policy and advocacy experience within the agriculture sector.

NFF is now looking for up to two candidates from the chicken meat growing industry, with their applications to be submitted via ACGC.

If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible, as NFF has asked for names to be submitted within the next week: ie. by 11th May.