



AgriFutures Chicken Meat Program Webinar:

Bird behaviour with Dr Peta Taylor

AgriFutures invites you to a webinar presentation from Dr Peta Taylor, Research Scientist at the University of New England. Peta will be talking about her research into meat chicken behaviour, specifically:

1. Optimising range use through the rearing environment
2. Maternal calls to alter chicken behaviour, productivity and welfare

Wednesday 13th October 2021 10:00 AM (Qld)
 11:00 AM (NSW, ACT, Vic., Tas.)
 10:30 AM (SA)
 8:00 AM (WA)

Click here to register

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vauFgEU5Sv6LxPxPFtkE2A

The webinar will also be recorded and a link sent to everyone that registers.



Dr Peta Taylor

Are rainfall patterns associated with AI outbreaks in S.E. Australia?

ACMF's Dr Kylie Hewson has pointed out a recent Australian paper looking at how rainfall patterns might influence the prevalence and transmission of avian influenza virus within wild bird populations associated with AI outbreaks in South Eastern Australian commercial poultry. Here is Kylie's summary:

Extreme weather events in Australia such as above average high rainfall followed by extensive dry periods drive avian influenza dynamics in wild birds. This happens over long period of time with an increased risk for spillover of bird flu from wild birds occurring around 1.5 to two years after the onset of a high (above average) rainfall period.

Whilst further work is required to further investigate these dynamics, the underlying theory may be useful in informing biosecurity considerations on farm.

The theory is that lots of rain leads to lots of wild bird breeding, which produces lots of new birds that haven't built immunity to bird flu, meaning that when they do get infected they produce lots more virus, then when the landscape dries out wild birds aggregate and become concentrated on the remaining natural or man-made waterbodies (e.g dams etc) which leads to increased transmission between and amplification of the risk of spread through wild bird populations which in turn increases the risk of an outbreak in commercial poultry. The full paper can be downloaded [here](#).

Fill in a survey to receive a \$20 gift card voucher

Back in June the ACGC News passed on a request from a team at the University of Western Australia, asking chicken growers to complete a 20 minute survey as part of their *Socio-economic costs and benefits of insect farming and waste treatments* project. The project is focused on the potential for Black Soldier fly larvae to be used in livestock waste management systems.

At the time survey respondents could win a \$100 voucher of their choice, but this has now changed, and ALL respondents can now receive a \$20 voucher, redeemable at a retailer selected by the respondent from a long list of options. If you're a grower who is interested in helping with this project, and wouldn't mind receiving a \$20 voucher, click [here](#) by 30th October.



RSPCA Australia reports on 25 years of its Approved Farming Scheme

To mark 25 years of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme, RSPCA Australia has published a report summarising the Scheme and giving data on its adoption in various industries. According to the report, between 1996 and 2020 more than 3.17 billion animals were raised under Approved Farming Scheme accreditation, with 99.5% of them being meat chickens and turkeys. You can download the report [here](#).