



A regular bulletin for ACGC chicken growers

# ACGC NEWS

Australian Chicken Growers' Council

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## AgriFutures webinar: Litter management in cold weather

Now that the cooler and more humid months have arrived, for many growers it's time to keep a closer eye on litter condition, with particular attention to moisture content. AgriFutures has arranged a free webinar on litter management under cool Australian conditions, featuring two widely recognised experts on the environmental management of poultry housing.

### Preheating litter in cold weather

#### Dr Mark Dunlop

*Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland.*

Mark is an environmental researcher who has focused on several aspects of poultry production, including litter management, litter amendments, energy efficiency, animal welfare, odour and environmental impacts for over 15 years.



### Minimising caking issues in the first 3–4 weeks of the grow-out in cold weather

#### Dr. Mike Czarick,

*Poultry extension specialist, University of Georgia, USA.*

Mike's work focuses on poultry house environmental control and energy conservation, poultry house emissions, poultry house construction, poultry house data collection systems and poultry processing plant holding sheds.



**When: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.00 – 11.00 am AEST (Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas); 9.30 – 10.30am ACST (SA); 8.00 – 9.00am AWST (WA)**

To register click [here](#).

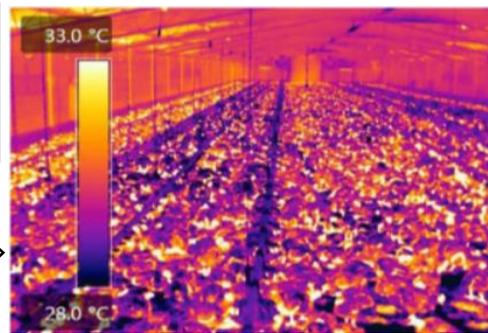
Mark Dunlop has recently published a paper with his DAFQ colleague Jim McAuley looking at the potential for overhead sprinkler systems to be used in conjunction with evaporative cooling systems. Mark and Jim found that, in general, houses with combined sprinkler and evaporative cooling pad systems used less water, while having similar litter moisture content, live market weight, and mortality compared with control houses that were fitted with conventional evaporative cooling pads. You can find out more about the project at this link:

[Direct surface wetting sprinkler system to reduce the use of evaporative cooling pads in meat chicken production: indoor thermal environment, water usage, litter moisture content, live market weights, and mortalities.](#)



Thermal image of chicken shed prior to operation of three-row sprinkler system

Thermal image of chicken shed following operation of three-row sprinkler system



## Shape the future of Australian agriculture

Annual Stakeholder Survey



AgriFutures Australia is the chief research and development organisation for a variety of Australian agricultural industries, including chicken meat. It's inviting feedback on how it can improve its business, and shape its next Strategic Plan (2022-2027). If you would like to participate in a 15 minute survey to help with this, click [here](#) and enter your details, and a link to the survey will be emailed to you within the next two weeks.

More information: Michael Moore, Executive Officer ACGC, [australian.chicken@gmail.com](mailto:australian.chicken@gmail.com), 0401 122 096