



A regular bulletin for ACGC chicken growers

ACGC NEWS

Australian Chicken Growers' Council



Issue 2021:14 - July 2021

AgriFutures Chicken Meat Program Webinar: Litter management

All interested people are invited to hear AgriFutures presentations on litter management from Mark Dunlop of Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Connie Mou of Jones-Hamilton Co., a USA chemical and compound manufacturer providing litter treatment products to poultry farmers.



Mark and Connie will cover ventilating to dry litter, using circulation fans to keep the litter dry and how you can do this without chilling your chicks.

Date: Wednesday July 28th

Time: 11:00 am – 12 noon AEST (Qld, NSW, Vic., Tas.)

10:30am – 11:30am ACST (SA)

9:00am – 10:00am AWST (WA)

To register, click on the link [here](#). Please forward this invitation to anyone else you think may be interested in attending. The webinar will be recorded, and a link sent to everyone that registers.



Australian farmers are urged to complete the Agricultural Census

Farmers across Australia are being urged to complete the Agricultural Census when they receive it from this month. Data collected in the survey provides insights on the role of agriculture in Australia and will be used to inform policies on Australia's agriculture industry and decisions on infrastructure, service delivery and investment. Further information about the Agricultural Census can be found [here](#).

President Biden commences USA chicken meat industry reform process

On Friday last week, USA President Joe Biden released his [Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#), with wide-ranging aims including the restoration of fairness in the American chicken meat industry. The President has recognized that *'...a whole-of-government approach is necessary to address overconcentration, monopolization, and unfair competition in the American economy'* and *'combat the excessive concentration of industry, the abuses of market power, and the harmful effects of monopoly and monopsony.'*

A key part of the Order is the creation of the White House Competition Council, which will include the USA's Secretary of Agriculture, who will be responsible for strengthening *'...the Department of Agriculture's regulations concerning unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive practices and undue or unreasonable preferences, advantages, prejudices, or disadvantages.'* The Secretary will consider approaches including the following:

- a) providing clear rules that identify recurrent practices in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries that are unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive and therefore violate the Packers and Stockyards Act;
- b) reinforcing the long-standing Department of Agriculture interpretation that it is unnecessary under the Packers and Stockyards Act to demonstrate industry-wide harm to establish a violation of the Act and that the "unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive" treatment of one farmer, the giving to one farmer of an "undue or unreasonable preference or advantage," or the subjection of one farmer to an "undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect" violates the Act;
- c) prohibiting unfair practices related to grower ranking systems — systems in which the poultry companies, contractors, or dealers exercise extraordinary control over numerous inputs that determine the amount farmers are paid and require farmers to assume the risk of factors outside their control, leaving them more economically vulnerable;
- d) updating the appropriate definitions or set of criteria, or application thereof, for undue or unreasonable preferences, advantages, prejudices, or disadvantages under the Packers and Stockyards Act; and
- e) adopting, to the greatest extent possible and as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, appropriate anti-retaliation protections, so that farmers may assert their rights without fear of retribution.

The ACCC brought this Executive Order to the attention of the NFF, and developments will be watched with interest.

More information: Michael Moore, Executive Officer ACGC, australian.chicken@gmail.com, 0401 122 096