



Distinguished Visitor Award - Claire Penniceard to Visit Tasmania to Speak on Environmentally Sustainable Production

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Tasmanian Island Pork Alliance

Cowan M.

Claire Penniceard of The Pig Pen Pty Ltd visited Tasmania to speak to producers on her experiences with environmentally sustainable production.

Twelve producers attended a dinner meeting on 25 March 2009 where Claire made two presentations, one on the 'big picture' view of world demand for food and the potential for pork on a world scale, and the other on her grow out operation.

Producers were particularly interested in practical details of shed design and fittings, such as feeder design and space and the use of drafting gates for the selecting market weight pigs. Claire also discussed her decision to enter their pork industry which was based on resource efficiency and the potential for the business to meet her financial requirements.

Claire included two days of farm visits where she held discussions with owners on managing growers on deep litter, issues surrounding welfare, such as the Model Code, industry training, promotion of the industry to consumers etc, pig behaviour in shelters and consequent feeder/drinker configuration, and the use of grape marc as bedding.

Comments and feedback from meeting and farm visit participants indicated that Claire's visit had improved their understanding of the role of the pork industry in the global food chain and prospects for the future of the industry, and that Claire's practical, experienced-based advice was most beneficial.