



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture



Group Demonstration Award – Delivery of Four (4) ProHand Training Courses in SA

Final Report APL Project 2009/2321.03

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1. Project Summary

ProHand is a stockperson training program designed to modify & reinforce the beliefs of farm staff about the sensitivity of pigs to their handling and the productivity & welfare consequences of routine adverse handling.

Graeme Pope, Rural Solutions SA livestock consultant has been delivering the latest version of ProHand within SA since its release in early 2009, on a cost-share basis with APL and the SA-based Pig Industry Fund.

Courses are offered at regional sites each quarter and only proceed subject to attracting adequate trainee numbers (> 8/course).

Four (4) courses were delivered within this Project in February, March, May and June, 2010 using regional TAFESA Campus computing facilities located at Nuriootpa, Murray Bridge (2) and Mt Gambier for Day #1 sessions and PIRSA regional offices and/or Roseworthy Campus for completion of Day #2 sessions.

A total of 49 trainees completed Day #1 sessions and 47 Day #2 sessions.

Courses were advertised to industry via a monthly PIRSA industry fax stream service and by email or phone direct by G Pope to some farms.

Main findings generated from completion of APL Project 2009/2330 “*Benchmarking On-farm Benefits of Adoption of ProHand Principles*” were integrated into the course during Day #1 sessions, to add further value in this training to attendees.

2. Background

Changes to the most recent *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs* and a general increase in public focus on pig welfare has renewed interest in ProHand training within the SA industry.

ProHand courses offered quarterly by G Pope throughout 2009 have been well supported by industry and this Project continues to provide an important training opportunity for farm staff. Recent pressure from a major pork retailer has further heightened the importance of applying ProHand pig handling principles as routine practice on all farms.

Over 150 SA trainees have now completed the latest version of ProHand, with several farms are now providing the opportunity for staff having completed the original version several years ago to complete this newer version.

3. Objectives

This Project seeks to encourage the uptake of ProHand training and the routine adoption of ProHand pig handling practices within SA piggeries.

4. Activities Undertaken

ProHand facilitator Graeme Pope delivered four (4) ProHand training courses between February – June, 2010.

February 12th – Day #1 session delivered at Nuriootpa TAFESA (13 trainees)

March 19th - Day #2 session delivered at Roseworthy Campus (13 trainees)

February 19th – Day #1 session delivered at Murray Bridge TAFESA (10 trainees)

March 19th & March 26th – Day #2 sessions delivered at PIRSA, Murray Bridge (15 trainees)

May 28th – Day #1 session delivered at Murray Bridge TAFESA (12 trainees)

June 26th – Day #2 session delivered at PIRSA, Murray Bridge (10 trainees)

June 22nd – Day #1 session delivered at Mt Gambier TAFESA (9 trainees)

July 7th – Day #2 session delivered at PIRSA Mt Gambier (9 trainees)

5. Results

Four (4) ProHand courses were delivered in SA during the Project period 28/01/10 – 28/08/10.

Trainees names and ProHand questionnaire data were provided by APL to AWSC.

Certificates of Completion were provided to all trainees after their completion of a Day #2 session by APL.

The delivery of further ProHand training courses within SA by facilitator Graeme Pope is planned for August – June, 2010.

6. Implications & Recommendations

The new version of ProHand has enjoyed strong uptake in SA since its release in March, 2009 due to active promotion & facilitation by Graeme Pope, Rural Solutions SA., regional access to suitable training facilities at times best suited to farm owners/trainees and the Project co-funding provided by APL & the SA Pig Industry Fund to reduce the direct costs of industry participation.

Further, APL Project 2009/2330 (completed March, 2010) has provided ProHand facilitators with additional data to build into their course delivery, to convince trainees of the benefits to be gained through routine adoption of ProHand pig handling practices on-farm.