

R&D Snapshot

Nutrient mapping of Free Range pork production using electromagnetic (EM) technology

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Purpose:

- Determine the long-term environmental impact, in terms of soil nutrient levels and nutrient distribution, in outdoor piggery systems and identify possible management strategies to better manage those nutrients.

Take home messages:

- Results indicate that nutrients are elevated and not evenly distributed in the free-range areas and suggest that nutrients accumulate around sheds, wallows and feeding areas. These should be moved regularly to promote more even nutrient distribution
- Rotation lengths are generally not sufficient to utilise all accumulated nutrients. Rotations should be planned such that pigs are not continuously stocked on an area for longer than two years
- Regular soil monitoring or a nutrient management plan will assist in planning rotations and managing nutrients
- Findings have been used to develop APIQ Free Range Standards, fact sheets and Free Range Workshops being held in October/November 2012.

Additional information:

- Click [here](#) to view fact sheets and Free Range Workshop flyers
- Contact Janine Price at janine.price@australianpork.com.au or 02 6270 8827.

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