

# R&D Snapshot

## Demonstrating the Utilisation of Spent Eco-shelter bedding in Broadacre Cropping Systems

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### **Purpose:**

- To examine the nutrient value of piggery spent bedding and its potential utilisation as a broadacre crop fertiliser and soil improvement agent.

### **Take home messages:**

- Spent bedding proved to be a very good source of macronutrients, was comparable to other organic by-products
- Most batches had very low level of heavy metals
- “Starter” applications of fertiliser in the seed row in conjunction with spent bedding overcame crop vigour issues but increasing spent bedding application from 5t/ha to 10t/ha also appeared to overcome crop vigour reduction
- High rates of application (10–20t/ha ) have achieved good results in improving problem soils
- Applying high rates of spent bedding (up to 20t/ha) significantly increased grain yield & crop vigour and was sustained for two successive years.

### **Additional information:**

- Click here to view the full report
- Organic by-product value calculator – evaluates the economics of utilising manure based products compared to conventional fertilizers after taking purchase price, transport and spreading into account: [www.ruraldirections.com/pages/farm-and-regional-business/agronomic-services/resources.php](http://www.ruraldirections.com/pages/farm-and-regional-business/agronomic-services/resources.php)
- For a copy of the *Spent Bedding From Pork: An alternative source of nutrients for broadacre crops* fact sheet and case studies, and for further information, contact Janine Price at [janine.price@australianpork.com.au](mailto:janine.price@australianpork.com.au) or 02 6270 8827.

