R&D Snapshot

APL 2013/14 R&D Priorities
Genetics, Reproduction & Welfare

Purpose:

- This portfolio addresses industry challenges outlined in APL's 2010–2015 Strategic Plan under Core Objective 2 *Viable Productive Farms* and Core Objective 4 *Leadership, Preparedness, Stewardship,* particularly, improving process efficiency, and addressing changing expectations and standards for food production.

R&D Priorities:

- *Maintaining favourable parity distribution (70% retention of mated gilts to parity 3)*
  Identifying risk factors and influences impacting gilt retention and developing protocols for improving young sow robustness will reduce premature culling

- *Production in lactation*
  Identifying risk factors and influences impacting milk production and developing protocols for optimising milk production will lead to larger heavier litters

- *Validation of on-farm protocols for welfare assessment*
  Validation of welfare metric tools will provide a robust and defensible system to benchmark welfare

- *Validation of on-farm protocols for benchmarking stockhandling*
  Validation of stockhandling metrics will provide a robust and defensible system to benchmark stockhandling

- *Intervention strategies for key management practices to maximise welfare outcomes*
  Identification of protocols that will achieve the same outcomes as current practices and/or demonstrate that negative outcomes may be addressed using other strategies

- *Updating the 'Is It Fit-to-Load?' Guide*
  Transforming the 'Is It Fit-to-Load?' Guide into a training manual will shift the focus from a ready-reckoner for questionable cases to a training support tool.

Additional information:

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