



PIG WELFARE AND PORK PROVENANCE

PARTNERS



BEANSTALK



IN SHORT

This Food Agility CRC project developed a system where information from tags on individual pigs can be used to quickly identify and respond to animal health issues in commercial piggeries and create a digital record to share information through the supply chain.

“Beyond individual animal care, this project demonstrated opportunities to expand data insights to herd-level management. For sow herds in particular, the desktop findings suggest potential benefits for health, welfare, and reproductive performance, while also pointing to possible pathways for improved ROI.”

Dr Megan Trezona, Craig Mostyn Group

THE CHALLENGE

Maintaining good on-farm health and welfare of pigs is a key focus for the Australian pork industry, as these factors impact productivity and profitability. Early treatment of animals needing individual health care or attention is crucial, but it can be difficult to identify issues in large group settings, like those found in commercial production cycles. There is a growing demand for enhanced animal welfare management by customers, but a limited ability to accurately trace products to the end-user remains a hurdle.

OUR APPROACH

An Xsights IoT Tags (XIoT) coupled with a cost-effective wafer retrofitted to a standard button ear tag was used to report temperature, movement, and location of pigs in real-time. This research helped to unlock the value of the data collected by correlating it with biological measures from pigs in a commercial setting and using machine learning to predict animal health and welfare outcomes. The project developed a model that could trigger alerts related to health status in real-time allowing the early detection and treatment of animals needing attention.

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