

# Sow Housing solutions workshops II

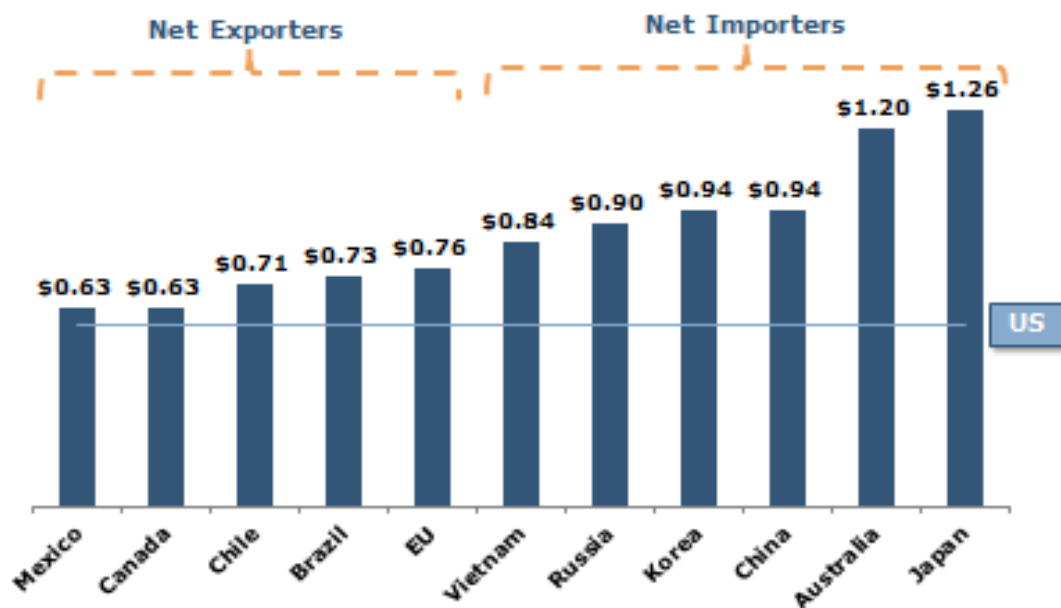
## Where we are at?

- Lot of industry has changed from stalls to groups -APL industry surveys
- Based on Pork CRC Benchmarking participants - the change has been more recent for most and full implications yet to be seen
- Why are we doing this?

# The Reason to Differentiate - shaping your future

## Bolstered by a Low Cost Position

2013 live cost of production, USD per CWT



Source: Rabobank estimates, Smithfield Foods

# Opinions and experiences do differ

- ❑ Some Pork CRC participants experiencing more problems or longer time to return to *normal* performance than others
- ❑ One - believes group housing of sows is a done deal and time to move on -they have it working

# What have we learned about group housing gestating sows?

- Stress and aggression at mixing is affected by space.
- Based on cortisol and aggression (wounds) sows adapt quickly to mixing and space.
- The type and level of feed can reduce aggression at mixing - may have implications on space.
- Higher feeding levels after mixing and mating reduce aggression and appear to improve reproduction.
- Feeding practice affects welfare.
- Grouping based on parity /size(?) affects welfare and reproduction.

## Pork CRC and APL R&D

- ❑ We are lucky to have some of the world's best behaviourists/welfare scientists and reproductive experts working for us
  - Paul Hemsworth and team at AWSC
  - Teams at Adelaide University and SARDI
  - Teams at Rivalea ,APFG and CHM
  - Sydney University
- ❑ Lots of international collaboration

# Research Projects of major Importance

- Large APL floor space study -completed
- Pork CRC floor space study (1C-105) -PHH
- Pork CRC grouping at weaning or 5 days after mating (1C-111) - Jean-Loup Rault
- Review of group housing sows -PHH and others
- Maximising the performance and welfare of group housed sows (Paul Hughes and students)

# *Looking for*

- Your thoughts and experiences on group housed sows - how did you make it work?
- Where you see need for further R&D?

