

**February 12, 2014**

**Hot dates for pig production course students**

Despite the hottest of hot conditions in South Australia during last month's annual two week Pork CRC supported 'The Science and Practice of Pig Production' course at the Roseworthy campus of University of Adelaide, it once again attracted plenty of interest from pork industry workers and students.

According to SARDI's Professor Paul Hughes, who successfully put it together, the 2014 course covered all aspects of pork production, from genetics and reproduction to nutrition, housing, welfare, health and pig meat.

"Course attendees recognise that there's a wide diversity of background knowledge among them and they appreciate that no background knowledge is assumed and everything is taught from scratch," he said.

"Even so, both the science behind pork production and its practical application on-farm are encompassed in the two weeks.

"Perhaps the most appreciated course components are the visits and practicals, ranging from hands-on learning at the Roseworthy piggery and in the post-mortem laboratory, to visits to commercial piggeries, an AI station, feed mill and abattoir.

"At the end of the day, university students assimilate some of the practical knowledge held by those from the pork industry, while the pork industry people bulk up their overall knowledge and increase their understanding of the science underlying and underpinning pork production.

"If that's not enough, the group also get to positively socialise and network, make new friends and even visit a few wineries in what was at the time a very hot Barossa Valley," Professor Hughes said.

According to Pork CRC Research Manager, Graeme Crook, the students endured a five day heatwave during their first week, with temperatures rising to 46.4 degrees Celsius on a day when Roseworthy recorded the highest temperature in the state.

All, however, survived and relished the relatively cooler weather in the second week, while undertaking field trips to piggeries and other facilities associated with the pig production industry and classroom and practical sessions with Paul Hughes, Assoc Prof Roy Kirkwood of University of Adelaide, Tony Edwards of Ace Livestock Consulting and Dr Roger Campbell, CEO of Pork CRC.

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Authorised by Pork CRC and issued on its behalf by  
Brendon Cant, Mob 0417 930 536.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Dr Roger Campbell, Pork CRC CEO, Mob 0407 774 714.



More than 30 of the 40 who enrolled in the Pork CRC supported *The Science and Practice of Pig Production* course at Roseworthy are pictured here with course coordinator, Professor Paul Hughes.