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Pork CRC Backs Autistic Employment Approach to Improving Pig Welfare

Pork CRC and the South Australian government have contributed \$150,000 towards a world first initiative by Autism CRC and SunPork Farms to employ autistic adults in animal care positions in the Australian pork industry.

Pilot projects in SA and Queensland will employ a minimum of four autistic adults in animal care positions within SunPork Farms operations in each state.

Collectively, development and assessment of the program represents a financial commitment by SunPork Farms, Autism CRC and Specialisterne exceeding \$800,000.

Program goals include:

- Identifying and employing diverse skills and talents of autistic adults in animal care
- Developing innovative solutions that continue to provide optimal welfare for livestock
- Building capacity within the agricultural sector to employ autistic adults.

The projects offers life-changing opportunities for people on the spectrum and further improvement in the welfare of livestock.

Pork CRC CEO, Roger Campbell, said the CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork was proud to be involved with such a game changing project and encouraged everyone to make the opportunity known to those who might be eligible to apply.

“It’s the most exciting project we’ve been involved with and I congratulate Autism CRC and SunPork Farms for coming up with something so innovative,” Dr Campbell said.

“This initiative will open up a whole new world to autistic people and those on the autism spectrum and with Australia’s pork industry needing to boost its pool of dedicated animal carers to maintain and, indeed, improve our existing high welfare standards, this is a win-win for all parties.

“World leading Pork CRC supported science and research and development has clearly demonstrated the very real link between good stockmanship and good productivity.

“With this in mind, I believe we can continue to improve welfare and productivity outcomes by embracing a new group of enthusiastic, incentivised piggery workers.”

SunPork Farms seeks eight motivated individuals to fill Pig Care positions, with four to be based in the Wasleys and Sheoak Log regions of South Australia and four based one hour outside Dalby on the Queensland Darling Downs. Queensland applications close at 5pm, October 30 and SA applications at 5pm, December 18.

Potential applicants and interested parties should visit
<http://au.specialisterne.com/autism-and-agriculture/> or email
jay.hobbs@specialisterne.com



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CRC for High Integrity Australian Pork

www.porkcrc.com.au

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