



## NPA Pig Industry Group

Congratulations to our very own Gemma Thwaites on being re-elected to the National Pig Association Pig Industry Group as health representative. A crucial role which Gemma has now held for a number of years.



## AHDB Levy Rate Increases

From April 2024 the levy rate for Pork will increase as follows:

**Pig Producer - £0.85 to £1.02.**

**Pig Processor - £0.20 to £0.24.**

***AHDB announcement, 7<sup>th</sup> February is copied below:***

“Levy rate increases proposed by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development

Board (AHDB) for the Beef and Lamb, Cereals and Oilseeds, Dairy and Pork sectors have received approval from Ministers in Defra and the Devolved Administrations.

The new rates will be implemented from April 2024 and allow AHDB to maintain its focus on delivering the objectives set out in the Sector Plans, published in November 2022.

With no increase to the levy in the Beef & Lamb and Cereals & Oilseeds sectors for more than 10 years and no change in over 20 years for Dairy and Pork, the spending power of levy funds over the past decade has been reduced by up to 40%.

AHDB Chair Nicholas Saphir said: “We are pleased Ministers have approved the proposals, which will ensure the levy continues to support the work AHDB has committed to prioritising for farmers and processors across all the sectors we serve.

“The new rates will allow us to enhance our key activity whether, for example, that involves growing export opportunities or exploring further marketing campaigns in the Beef and Lamb, Dairy and Pork sectors as well as increasing our research offering to Cereals and Oilseeds producers.

"Levy payers can be assured that our commitment to helping them navigate through an unprecedented

period of change for the industry is secure and we will continue to listen to their feedback to ensure we are delivering real value for money."

### **Porcine Reproductive & Respiratory Syndrome & Biosecurity Measures on Farm. A questionnaire request.**

Toni Bagguley is a final-year agriculture student at Harper Adams University who is hoping to pursue a career within the pig industry after she graduates.

Please find below her request for assistance with her dissertation.

"I have chosen to complete my dissertation on PRRS and biosecurity as PRRS is an endemic disease that can affect any pig farmer across England.

In my future career, I hope to work alongside farmers to help ease the day-to-day pressures that come with working within the pig industry. This paired with my passion for high welfare, is the reason I have chosen to investigate farmers' level of knowledge on PRRS for my dissertation. Through completing my research I hope to see if there are varying levels of knowledge among owners, managers, and stock persons and whether this affects biosecurity measures implemented on farms. As well as, finding out farmers' opinions on how the

industry can help people gain a better understanding of PRRS.

Therefore, if any farmers could please take the time to complete my questionnaire below it would be greatly appreciated. All answers are anonymous. To complete the questionnaire participants need to either own pigs or work on a pig farm in England, and be over the age of 18. Thank you.

The link:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/harper-adams/an-investigation-into-farmers-awareness-of-porcine-reproductive>

If you have any questions, please email me at [20063900@live.harper.ac.uk](mailto:20063900@live.harper.ac.uk) "

#### **A TOP TIP FROM BRIAN:**

### **Slap Marking – Let's Be Clear!**

After a recent visit to an abattoir, I was shocked by the quality of some slap-marking.

The slap mark must be legible before and after slaughter. This identifies your pigs through the system providing traceability – and ultimately *payment!!* So, it is important to do it correctly.

Before use, check it is clean and replace any damaged digits. Check that the digits are in the correct way round and test the slap mark on a piece of cardboard to ensure legible.

Ink up the slap marker and slap each pig firmly and evenly, making contact squarely on both shoulders. Keep the inkpad topped up and reapply after every other pig, constantly checking readability. Stop immediately if damage is found and repair.

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