

Title: Report on workshops for development of *Salmonella* control strategies in egg industry

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Summary

In Australia, numerous egg-related human *Salmonella* Typhimurium outbreaks have prompted significant interest amongst public health authorities and the egg industry and highlighted the need to jointly address this human health concern.

A series of nationwide workshops on *Salmonella* and eggs were conducted in 2015 with egg producers and regulatory authorities. These workshops were seen as a first step towards improvement of communication between industry and regulatory authorities. More than 80 commercial egg producers and independent veterinary consultants attended the workshop. More than 75 individuals attended sister workshops conducted for regulators, including State and National regulators representing Primary Production, Communicable Disease Control, Public Health and Food Safety and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ). All attendees participated in discussions aimed at evaluating current knowledge, issues related to quality egg production and how to ensure safe eggs in the supply chain, following which research gaps and practical recommendations were identified.

This report documents the perceptions from egg producers and regulatory authorities (from various states) that were recorded during the workshops.

The response from both egg producers and regulators indicated that the current workshops were highly successful and majority of attendees would attend such workshops if conducted in the future. This highlights the importance of communication between industry and regulatory bodies and that regular communication is essential for controlling food borne human illness.

Recommendations placed emphasis on future research needs, communication between industry and regulatory authorities and education of food handlers. Specifically, there was a general agreement amongst the producers and regulators that although several on-farm *Salmonella* interventions are available their efficacy is either limited or poorly understood. Future research should be directed at understanding such interventions under controlled or field environment, as well as to study the surveillance and the extent of virulence of *Salmonella* spp. along the supply chain.

The issues debated and discussed during the workshop were helpful to obtain information from regulators and producers about their understanding of issues in order to help the egg industry funding body (AECL) to focus on priority R&D areas in food safety.

Key words: *Salmonella*, food safety, workshop