



# FSA Update

**FSA Consulting**  
**FSA Environmental**  
**FSA Irrigation**  
Feedlot Services Australia

**FSA Update**

**Oct-Dec 2002**

## Season's Greetings!

Our entire organisation joins in wishing you a happy and safe Christmas and a successful and prosperous New Year.



It's time to send those Christmas messages. **How does SMS work!!**

Lets also hope that next year, the rains tumble down in July (.. and January and February and March....)..

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## NEW CONSULTING ALLIANCE - SAA & FSA CONSULTING

**Stafford Adamson & Associates (SAA)** is a Toowoomba-based group of Professional Civil, Structural and Mechanical Engineers specialising in the Design and Project Management of Agricultural and Industrial facilities.

The majority of SAA's work is in the areas of:-

- ◆ Grain storage and conveying systems for On-Farm and commercial operations.
- ◆ Low cost bunker storage of grain.
- ◆ Drying and aeration of grain.
- ◆ Silo sealing for Fumigation of Grain.
- ◆ Feed Milling.
- ◆ Fertiliser storage.

However, more recently Stafford Adamson & Associates has gained experience in the Design and Construction Management of **large-scale pig buildings** in Queensland. Stafford Adamson & Associates has developed structurally efficient and cost effective designs for buildings and site layouts for intensive piggeries (farrow to finish, breeding and dry sow buildings) and are currently working on large-scale dairy barns.

After having worked closely on several projects in the last few years, Stafford Adamson & Associates are pleased to form an alliance with **FSA Consulting**. Our respective skills compliment each other and collectively the alliance can offer Clients a 'one stop' professional, unbiased and independent service from "Preliminary concept through to Project completion".

Contact: **Ross Stafford**

Stafford Adamson & Associates Pty Ltd  
Email: ross.stafford@staffadam.com.au  
Phone: (07) 4639 6600  
Fax: (07) 4639 6300



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## PIGGERY ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS COMING IN 2002

Australian Pork Limited (APL) has recently released the **“Environmental Management Plans for Piggeries”** training course to the Australian industry. This course follows on from the very successful **“Environmental Principles for Piggeries”** training course.

Developed by FSA Consulting staff, **“Environmental Management Plan’s for Piggeries”** is designed to equip piggery managers to develop and implement an EMP for their piggery. An EMP is a formal commitment that all reasonable efforts will be made to operate the piggery in an environmentally sustainable manner. This course follows the exact process you will use in developing your own EMP and provides the skills to complete this task. The EMP should meet the minimum requirements in states where an EMP is compulsory for licensed piggeries. It provides a system for evaluating and documenting the environmental risks of a piggery, means for minimising these risks through design or management, measurement of the effectiveness of these strategies by targeted monitoring and reporting of monitoring results.

The training is delivered over two days by APL-accredited facilitators with technical expertise in environmental management for piggeries and the capacity to deliver the material in a way that directly relates to your business. On completion of the **“Environmental Management Plans for Piggeries”** workshop, you will have developed a good draft of an EMP, specifically tailored to your piggery.

FSA Consulting APL-accredited facilitators include:

<b>Robyn Tucker</b>	<b>0419 787 137</b>
<b>Pieter Deinum</b>	<b>0427 328 010</b>
<b>Eugene McGahan</b>	<b>0428 328 233</b>
<b>Peter Nicholas</b>	<b>0427 328 233</b>



If you are interested in participating in two-day workshop for **“Environmental Management Plans for Piggeries”** or **“Environmental Principles for Piggeries”**, Australian Pork Limited is offering groups these workshops at the special rate of \$110 per person for the remainder of the 2002-2003 year. Workshops are planned for the following localities:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Workshop</b>
5-6 March 2003	Warwick	Eugene McGahan	Environmental Principles
20-21 March 2003	Roseworthy	Graeme Pope	EMP's for Piggeries
March 2003	Casino	Ian Kruger	EMP's for Piggeries
March 2003	Toowoomba	Alan Skerman	Environmental Principles
October 2003	WA	Hugh Payne	Environmental Principles

## PIG FARMING IN THE INFORMATION AGE

The competitiveness of piggeries depends on production efficiency, production costs and product quality. To build and maintain a competitive advantage, it is necessary to identify inefficiencies and to continually improve production and marketing. **Precision farming** can help to identify inefficiencies and to build this competitive advantage.

**Precision farming** uses advanced technology to improve production efficiency through more targeted resource application. For instance, the nutritional regime can be tailored more specifically to animal needs through ongoing monitoring and

interpretation of shed environment changes and subsequent dietary adjustments. Computer technology has made the collection of large amounts of data commercially viable. Systems are available for the continuous monitoring of shed temperature, air speed and humidity.

**FSA Consulting** has a keen interest in seeing the Australian pig industry progress. Consequently, we have an interest in the benefits that **precision farming** could offer the industry. We are currently investigating the role we could play in the implementation of precision farming for piggeries.



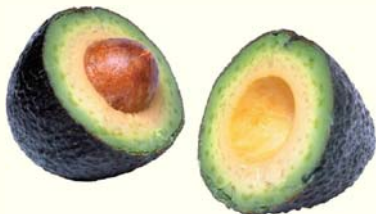
## GROUP LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN—HAMPTON

Hampton Irrigators are a group of about 20 farmers in the Hampton area (35 km north of Toowoomba). They have banded together with the aim of obtaining more irrigation water and with the objective of improving their irrigation efficiency and environmental sustainability. Many of the members grow avocados but other crops range from blueberries to hydroponic capsicums to flowers such as Geraldton wax and lavender. Irrigation methods also vary, ranging from T-tape trickle to under tree micro sprinklers to underground drip to sprinklers.



FSA Consulting has been contracted to prepare a **Group Land & Water Management Plan**. This was arranged through the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA) with National Heritage Trust funding. The Group plan will include:

- Detailed plans of the farms including soil, vegetation, topographic and other features.
- Each growers farming practices and methods.
- The goals of the Hampton Irrigators.
- An Environmental Risk Assessment for the scheme.
- Water use modelling to determine optimum storage and pipeline capacities.



For more information, contact:  
Ainsley Smith  
07-46328 230  
Ainsley.Smith@fsaconsulting.net



## FSA CONSULTING HITS BUNYA MOUNTAINS

The FSA Consulting technical staff recently spent two days team-building at the Bunya Mountains. The objectives of the exercise were to sharpen problem-solving skills and to improve communication. We left the Bunyas with a better understanding of ourselves, enabling us to work more effectively as a team.

A highlight of the exercise was our Christmas Dinner party. Staff were divided into three groups for cooking and fancy dress. The “Reindeers” made a very attractive fruit and cheese platter and a delicious turkey and mango salad entrée, accompanied by champagne cocktails. “Santa’s Little Helpers” showed their gourmet skills in preparing a mouth-watering cold smorgasbord. The “Angels” prepared a delectable ice cream Christmas pudding and cointreau balls served with port. We all agreed that the cooking and dress-up process was a team building exercise in itself, requiring trust, teamwork and, most importantly, a sense of humour!



The “Reindeers” included Dave Williamson, Ainsley Smith, Peter Watts and Pieter Deinum. The “flawed angels” include Rohan Sutton, Eugene “hot legs” McGahan, Robyn Tucker and Megan Howard (with Robyn’s daughter Gaby). “Santa’s Little Helpers” included Justin Galloway and Simon Barker (pictured) and Peter Nicholas (we’re not sure if Pete is camera shy or just smarter than the rest of us!).



## Staff Profile—Peter Nicholas

**Peter Nicholas** is an Agricultural Engineer with experience in odour generation and modelling, by-product management and effluent management. After completing his Engineering degree, Peter returned to the family sheep property, including a 9 month stint at a piggery located nearby. After the family property was sold, Peter started work with the DPI Intensive Livestock group. His initial work involved reviewing piggery housing systems and piggery AI procedures before transferring into an odour research position where he was responsible for designing and installing a network of weather recording stations as well as upgrading odour measurement equipment.

After a couple of years, Peter departed DPI for a trip around the world, stopping in Nepal, Jordan and the USA before returning home to explore

Queensland. The imminent arrival of a daughter drove Peter back to work, starting with FSA Consulting in September 2000. Since then, his work has focussed on the estimation and management of odour, effluent and solid by-products for intensive livestock industries and abattoirs. A significant amount of his time is spent in researching better methods of managing piggery by-products.

**Position:**  
Project Engineer

**Special Work interests:**  
practical by-product management, odours, effluent treatment systems.

**Real interests:**  
spending time with family/friends,

### Peter Nicholas

07-4632 8230

0427 328 233

Peter.Nicholas@fsaconsulting.



## Staff News

**Peter and Julia Nicholas** welcomed the arrival of baby Jonathan Cameron on 9 November 2002. Weighing in at a healthy 9 lb 4 oz, Jonathan is a brother for Mary. Congratulations to Peter, Julia and Mary.



*Mary & Jonathan*

For the past 7 months, FSA has had the pleasure of employing a Canadian engineering student—**Jill Roos**. Sadly, Jill has now returned to Canada but not after coming to terms with Australian culture and icons.



# FSA Consulting

### Toowoomba Office

PO Box 2175  
(11 Clifford St)  
Toowoomba Qld 4350

Ph: 07-4632 8230  
FAX: 07-4632 8057  
Email:  
fsa@fsaconsulting.net

### Horsham Office

2 Lewis St  
Horsham Vic 3400

Ph: 03-5381 0709  
FAX: 03-5381 0719  
Email:  
Robyn.Tucker@fsaconsulting.net

### Gawler Office

28 Ward Terrace  
Gawler East SA 5118

Ph: 08-8522 3965  
FAX: 08-8522 3926  
Email:  
Pieter.Deinum@fsaconsulting.net