NEWS

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Pork producers need Government's support

The NSW Farmers' Association is calling for the Federal Government to support the Australian Pork Industry against trade distortions and cheap foreign products flooding the market.

NSW Farmer' Association Business Ecconomics and Trade Committee Chair Tom Smith says the industry is really struggling againts foreign producers who are heavily subsidised, such as Denmark, Canada and the US.

"According to Australian Pork Limited, the total local pig meat industry is now hemorrhaging $2.59 million a week. Domestic processed pork production dropped 26% last financial year," Mr Smith said.

"We need to Federal Government to identify trade distortions created by imported pork and its products and apply World Trade Organisation trade rules to these," he said.

"Farmers and consumers also want to see the introduction of a strict requirement for country of origin labelling for pork to include date of manufacture for all imported and domestic product.

"At this stage we would also like to have the recommendations from the Productivity Commission reports reassessed.

"We have record levels of imports, those levels have increased by 40 per cent over the past 12 months, we have the lowest price in 5 years for pigs as a result of the oversupply, but the Commission suggests that our problems are the result of high feed grain prices – it doesn't make sense.

"The situation is very serious, our local industry is under serious threat and we need the Government on board to assisting our local producers," Mr Smith concluded.

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