Snapshot Report

Automated Beef Splitting

Automated Beef Slaughter Splitting Translation Project - Cleaning Validation Trials

Project Code
2022-1033

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Project Description

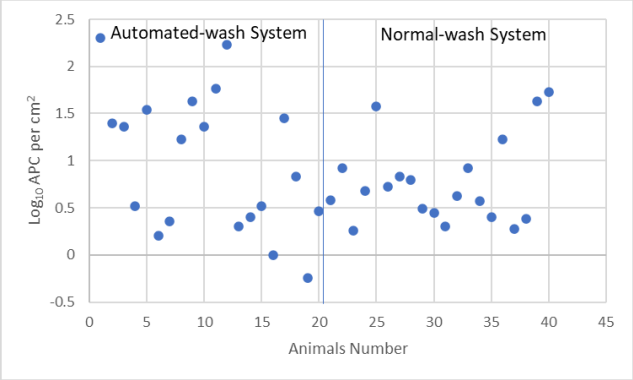
Before installing a robotic splitting saw in an Australian beef plant, a trial was undertaken to evaluate the impact on carcase hygienic of the automated cleaning system utilised in the Jarvis robotic splitter.

Project Content

A review of current regulatory requirements in Australia and in major markets was undertaken to identify possible impediments to the adoption of automated wash systems in Australian establishments. To examine any effect on carcase hygiene a manual beef carcase splitting saw was retrofitted with an automated cleaning system and installed at an Australian export beef establishment. Carcase swabs were collected immediately after splitting with and without the automated wash system. Swabs were analysed at an independent laboratory for aerobic plate count, *E. coli* and coliforms using Petrifilm™. Results were statistically analysed to determine if there was a measurable effect of automated washing on carcase hygiene.

Project Outcome

Australia and the EU regulations require equipment to be sanitised between carcases when contact occurs before final disposition. This requirement is based on a perceived risk of cross-contamination. While in the US, equipment need only be sanitized when necessary. An analysis of carcase hygiene following splitting with and without automated washing found no significant difference in the microbiological load on carcases (see figure).



Benefit for Industry

This data can be used to support an application by industry to trial robotic splitting saws in Australian establishments.