

## **Pioneering Technology to Combat PRRSv**

Earlier today, *Nature Biotechnology* - a leading peer-reviewed scientific journal - published results from a long-term study on the use of precise gene editing to develop the first pigs resistant to Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus (PRRSv). This study was conducted by the University of Missouri, in close collaboration with our colleagues in Genus R&D, and involved new technology designed to eliminate the impact of PRRSv on animals. Benefits of this include improving animal well-being, enhancing the availability of animal protein for consumers and improving yields for our customers. In a related development, Genus has signed an exclusive global licence to the intellectual property developed through this collaboration.

As some of you will know, PRRSv is a devastating virus that can cause severe disease, persistent infection and often premature death in pigs. There is no cure and it has a serious impact on global pork production (and, by association, the supply of animal protein around the world). Pork producers have been seeking ways of safeguarding their animals against the impact of this disease for many years. This is early-stage technology, and commercially available disease-resistant animals are at least five years away, but today's news is a potential 'game changer' for producers.

It is also a major moment for our company. In recent months, you've heard me speak about our journey to becoming a pioneering agricultural biotechnology company built around truly differentiated products and a relentless commitment to serving customers. Our work on PRRSv is a fantastic example of what we can achieve. We have explored scientific possibilities, developed new technology and then applied it to deliver clear benefits for livestock, consumers and our customers. We have also protected the intellectual property that we have created through this process. This move will help us combat the disease, build our business and pursue our vision of pioneering animal genetic improvement to help nourish the world.

As we celebrate the progress and further potential of this innovation, I also want to be clear on its scope. We are embarking on becoming an agricultural biotechnology pioneer in animal genetics and are committed to the responsible exploration of new technologies that benefit the well-being of livestock, consumers and customers. The word 'responsible' is important here. The team involved in this project edited genes which naturally occur in pigs, enabling them to breed without producing the specific protein needed to spread PRRSv. We have not been – and will not be – looking to add in new genetic material or to transfer genes from one species to another to create some new capability. I want us all to understand how important 'responsible' R&D is to us.