



MACHINERY AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS

Robotic Bung Cutter

New MAR Technology Development for Small Stock processing

Features & Benefits

- **Labour** – 1 to 2 operators per working shift
- **Species** – Lamb, Sheep & Goat
- **OH&S** – reduced injuries and accidents
- **Productivity /Efficiencies** – consistent, repeatable bung freeing operations with reduced rework
- **Increased Yield** – minimise faecal and urine contamination requiring rework
- **Hygiene** – reduced contamination compared to manual operations

Background

MAR conducted trials to assess suitability of a standard pig de-bunging tool for small stock processing by testing in two Australian lamb/sheep processing plants.

Trials proved successful for bung cutting (ringing) and possible bung evacuation of lamb and sheep.

MAR is progressing with the development and installation of a fully automated Bung Cutter system that may incorporate bung evacuation should further trials prove successful.

Similar robotic cutting technologies have been installed by MAR in the red meat industry to replace manual processing tasks.

System Overview

The Robotic Bung Cutter will replace manual ringing operations where a slaughterman uses a hook to pull the bung up slightly to put tension on the tissue around the rectum and then make a circular cut around the rectum to free pelvic attachments allowing the bung to drop down into the anal cavity.

Should further tool development be successful the system will also replace bung evacuation or bunging operations employed to eliminate faecal spill or contamination.

The system will use a newly developed de-bunging tool (*current MAR development*) interfaced to a robot system with sensing to detect and define bung location.

Where To Next?

With the 1st fully automated Robotic Bung Cutter System now in development and due for completion in 2010, MAR is currently seeking interest from processors to participate in the project by being a technology adoption site in this MLA/AMPC funded development project.



CONTACT

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