



Ag & Vet Weekly

Monday September 2 – Friday September 6, 2019

All the news on ASX-listed agriculture and veterinary companies

- * SEP 6: ASX UP, AV-40 EVEN: OCEAN GROWN UP 11.5%; PHARMAUST DOWN 11%
- * DR BOREHAM'S CRUCIBLE: ANATARA LIFESCIENCES
- * FEDERAL \$240k YOUNG AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHER GRANTS
- * S&P DOW JONES PROMOTES BUBS & SYNLAIT MILK, DEMOTES RIDLEY
- * GLOBAL TABLE TALKS FOOD DISRUPTION
- * SUNFED'S SHAMA LEE TOUTS YELLOW PEA CHICKEN ALTERNATIVE
- * FOOD REVOLUTION REVENUE DOWN 12% TO \$29m, \$16m LOSS
- * SEAFARMS GROUP DOWN 6% TO \$24m, LOSS UP 55% TO \$31m
- * PHARMAUST REVENUE UP 32.5% TO \$4.4m, LOSS DOWN 36% TO \$1.6m
- * APIAM ACQUIRES ACE LABORATORY FOR UP TO \$16m
- * NATIONAL VETERINARY COMPLETES \$5m VETCENTRIC DEAL
- * WATTLE HEALTH SECURES FUNDING FOR BLEND & PACK
- * FOOD REVOLUTION PAYS \$1.25m FOR ORIGINAL JUICE CO BLACK LABEL
- * CARELINE PAYS FOOD REVOLUTION \$5.4m
- * MEMPHASYS RECEIVES \$1.1m FEDERAL R&D TAX INCENTIVE
- * CANN GLOBAL: EPCO TO DISTRIBUTE CHIA SEEDS IN VIETNAM
- * THC RENTS 18ha BUNDABERG LAND, 6.6ha FACILITY FOR MARIJUANA
- * PERPETUAL TAKES 13.45% OF BEGA
- * ETHICAL PARTNERS TAKES 8% OF BEGA
- * FOOD REVOLUTION CHAIRMAN DR TAO LI, CARELINE TAKE 36%
- * ECP, EC POHL TAKE 5% OF COSTA
- * GRANDEUR PEAK TAKES 6% OF NATIONAL VETERINARY CARE
- * GABOR TAKES 24% OF SEAFARMS
- * CRESO TO RELEASE 2.4m VOLUNTARY ESCROW SHARES
- * AGRIFUTURES' EVOKE AG 2020 - APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY
- * AUSCANN APPOINTS DR MARCEL BONN-MILLER DIRECTOR
- * NANOLLOSE EXECUTIVES TAKE PAY CUT FOR PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market was up 0.52 percent on Friday September 6, with the ASX200 up 34.1 points to 6,647.3 points. Fourteen of the Ag & Vet 40 stocks were up, fourteen fell, seven traded unchanged and five were untraded.

Ocean Grown was the best, up 1.5 cents or 11.54 percent to 14.5 cents with 105,000 shares traded. Apiam climbed 5.15 percent; Memphasys was up 4.65 percent; Nufarm, Synlait and Tassal rose more than two percent; A2 Milk, Auscann, Bega, Clover and THC were up more than one percent; with Costa, Elders and Huon up less than one percent.

Pharmaust led the falls, down 1.5 cents or 10.71 percent to 12.5 cents with 2,603,569 shares traded. Cann Global lost 8.9 percent; Ecofibre, Elixinol and Roots fell more than seven percent; Food Revolution, Nanollose and Ridley Corp shed more than three percent; Bubs and Wattle Health lost more than two cents; with Cann Group, Fonterra, Seafarms and Select Harvests down more than one percent.

DR BOREHAM'S CRUCIBLE: ANATARA LIFESCIENCES

By TIM BOREHAM

ASX code: ANR

Share price: 20 cents; **Shares on issue:** 49,413,236; **Market cap:** \$9.9 million

Chief executive officer: Steve Lydeamore

Board: Sue MacLeman (chair), Dr Jane Ryan, Dr Tracie Ramsdale, Dr David Brookes

Financials (year to June 30, 2019): customer revenue (licencing fees) \$663,405 (previously \$6,467), other income* \$877,573 (\$1.34m), loss of \$2.87 million (previous loss of \$3.6 million), cash balance \$5.4 million (\$7.65 million).

* mainly \$840,932 Federal R&D Tax Incentive

Identifiable holders: Parma Corp (Mel Bridges) 11.95%, RTL Group (Lederer family) 10.07%, Myeng Pty Ltd (Dr Tracey Mynott) 8.89%, Tiga Trading (Thorney Investments) 5.64%.

Logically, shares in the two-legged and four-legged gut health play should have surged after animal health giant Zoetis walked away from a partnering deal in June this year for "portfolio reasons".

At the time of the May 2018 partnership, Anatara said it could not have had a better partner in the US-based Zoetis, which assumed the rights for all livestock and equine applications.

But after that supposed feel-good event, Anatara shares tumbled 40 percent because the terms weren't as lucrative as investors expected.

Having now regained its rights to Detach, in theory the company can execute a better deal with one of the other potential partners. Instead, investors were spooked by Zoetis's lack of interest and excised a further 43 percent from the share price.

Anatara maintains its faith in its lead product Detach, which is approved locally as a treatment for scour (diarrhoea) in piglets. And no, it's not an oink-ment, but an oral drench.

"It came as a surprise and a disappointment," Anatara CEO Steve Lydeamore says of Zoetis's brusque termination. "But in some ways, it presents an opportunity."

Anatara's greater prospects lie with human health, as a remedy for the common but difficult-to-treat afflictions of irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease).

Mr Lydeamore notes that gut health is "very topical", which is an understatement given the range of digestion-related 'wellness' products purveyed by the likes of Blackmores and Suisse.

"If you do a Google search on the topic you will get more than 400 million hits," he says.

He's right: your columnist's rigorous cross-checking of this claim reveals 530 million online references.

The problem bugging all of us

Detach is an alternative for antibiotics which are being banned from the food chain as microbial resistance builds. The active ingredient, bromelain, is derived from the stems of pineapples, of all things.

Describing antimicrobial resistance as "one of the most urgent health issues of our time", the World Health Organisation projects up to 10 million people will die annually by 2050 if nothing is done.

Mr Lydeamore says 70 percent of bacteria are resistant in one form or another to antibiotics.

Across the world, 70 percent of antibiotics are used in meat production but the Europeans have set the trend by banning them from the food chain. A soil pollutant, zinc oxide will also be outlawed on the Continent from 2022.

Mr Lydeamore says US surveys also show that US consumers think antibiotic-free meat is better for their health - although they have no problem with guns which also tend to be injurious to their wellbeing. "So there is a push from consumers - not just governments and regulators - to reduce the use of antibiotics," he says.

Anatara's evolving story

Like a trots-afflicted traveller, Anatara has undergone a board room, management and strategic purge since we last covered the stock in August last year.

In December Mr Lydeamore became CEO, with interim CEO Dr Tracie Ramsdale returning to non-executive director duties. Mr Lydeamore has 26 years of global healthcare experience, mainly at Apotex (Canada's biggest drug company) and FH Faulding (now Mayne Pharma).

Anatara chairman and industry legend Mel Bridges retired in May last year, to be replaced by Sue MacLeman (who is also on the boards of Palla Pharma, Novita Healthcare, Oventus Medical and industry body MTP Connect).

Anatara's advisory board includes Monash University gastro-enterologist Prof Peter Gibson, who shares fame with Messrs Atkins and Pritikin and Ms Paltrow for inventing a diet: FODMAP.

More of an anti-FODMAP regimen, FODMAP seeks to avoid fermentable carbohydrates that are thought to exacerbate irritable bowel diseases. (For those remotely interested, FODMAP stands for fermentable oligosaccharides, disaccharides, monosaccharides and polyols).

Steering clear of diarrhoea

An enzyme extract, bromelain blocks the receptor sites in the gut that the parasites attach to (thus causing diarrhoea). But Anatara has veered away from its original idea of treating diarrhoea alone, after deciding the market is not that attractive.

Mr Lydeamore notes that sales of the two key travellers' diarrhoea products - including the ASX-listed Immuron's Travelan - have been modest.

"It turns out people aren't willing to take a product prophylactically for what you may or may not get on holiday," he says. "They tend to deal with it after the fact with products such as Imodium [loperamide]." And close proximity to a bathroom at all times.

A three-pronged approach to bug busting

Management's focus has turned from developing Detach as a diarrhoea treatment to a three-pronged curative for irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease. With symptoms similar to overindulging at a Christmas lunch, irritable bowel syndrome afflicts 11 percent of the population and one in five at any one time.

While irritable bowel syndrome is a collection of symptoms, inflammatory bowel disease is a more specific disorder causing elevated white cell counts, bleeding, fever pain and diarrhoea. Between 30 to 50 percent of sufferers of both afflictions turn to dietary supplements or complementary healthcare.

With its prospective GAstrointestinal Repositioning Product, or Garp, Anatara's remedy aims to restore normal microbial functions, treat inflammation and repair mucosal damage. (It has nothing to do with dying ball-turret gunners, unfortunate accidents in driveways or John Irving.)

In its natural state, the body has trillions of microbiomes, which outnumber human cells by about 100 to one. About 95 percent of these desirous bugs are in the gut, which is also the source of about 90 percent of diseases.

Microbiome therapeutics is a trendy field of research but it was perfected about 1,700 years ago by the Chinese with a treatment called “yellow soup” - not a hearty pumpkin broth but a serve of watered-down faeces donated by a healthy patient to boost the immunity of a sick one.

Anatara’s more palatable curative is expected to be developed as an over-the-counter alternative to existing treatments such as probiotics, which are largely unproven. The over-the-counter approach presents fewer regulatory barriers and faster speed to market.

“Because the products are natural and safe, we could put a product on the market now as a dietary supplement,” Mr Lydeamore says. “But we would like a product to have evidence that it actually works.” Can’t argue with that.

Detach clings through the ages

Detach has a long - but interrupted - history with animal health, having been marketed in Australia in the 1990s under a different name.

The product achieved a 40 percent market share, despite there being no imperative at the time to remove antibiotics from the food chain. However, then owner Ciba-Geigy was taken over by Novartis, which preferred to focus on human health.

One of the co-inventors of the original Detach, Dr Tracey Mynott worked on a reformulation and Anatara listed in October 2014 after raising \$7 million at 50 cents apiece.

(In 2006, Dr Bridges, Dr Ramsdale and Dr Mynott launched Incitive on the ASX to develop bromelain as a cancer treatment, but it was not to be.)

Ms Mynott resigned as Anatara’s chief scientific officer in August last year, but has retained the rights to develop Detach as a diarrhoea treatment for the third world.

In 2017, the US Food and Drug Administration confirmed bromelain’s ‘generally regarded as safe’ status. In October last year, the Australian Pesticides and Medical Veterinary Authority granted Detach approval as a scour treatment.

The local assent paves the way for Detach to be approved in South East Asia, which is not exactly short of piggeries and poultry farms.

What’s next?

The company is conducting preclinical (proof-of-concept) trials for inflammatory bowel disease, with data expected later this year. Preclinical activity is also underway for a human irritable bowel syndrome trial, expected to start recruiting early next year.

The trial is likely to involve 100 patients. “We shouldn’t have too much trouble recruiting them,” Mr Lydeamore says.

The company also expects partnering discussions for the human program to continue next year, with animal health discussions underway.

Mr Lydeamore says that rather than handing the rights to one party holus bolus - an approach that proved unpopular with investors with Zoetis - the rights could go to multiples partners based on species or geographies (or both).

Finances and performance

As of June 30, Anatara had \$5.4 million in the kitty - enough to fund the irritable bowel syndrome trial. This dosh includes a \$US2.5 million (\$3.7 million) upfront payment from Zoetis, which Anatara pocketed as a consolation prize.

Anatara shares soared from 50 cents at listing to a December 2017 peak of \$1.80, ascribing a \$90 million market valuation.

The current price - close to the record low of 20c a share after Zoetis walked away - values the company at \$11 million.

Despite its re-emphasis on the two-legged species, Anatara still boasts the Lederer family (owner of Primo Smallgoods) as a 10 percent shareholder.

Although he’s left the building, Dr Bridges remains the biggest holder on just under 12 percent.

Dr Boreham’s diagnosis:

Anatara is setting itself up to play in the expansive market for over-the-counter gastro-intestinal and digestive products, estimated to be worth \$US25 billion (\$37 billion) and growing to \$US36 billion by 2021.

There’s a lot of snake oil out there, so a product with genuine clinical claims should enjoy a key advantage in the global market.

Between 15 and 20 percent of piglets die before weaning because of conditions such as scour.

Despite the Zoetis setback, the animal health market still looks worthwhile, but investors need to re-set expectations about the dollar rewards a partnership could bring.

With human health Anatara needs to firm up its clinical evidence and sign some decent partnerships, or else its proposals will be little more than - dare we say it - loose motions.

Disclosure: Dr Boreham is not a qualified medical practitioner and does not possess a doctorate of any sort. But he likes to think he has the runs on the board.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government says it will offer \$242,000 in grants of up to \$22,000 each for “young agricultural innovators, scientists, researchers and others active in the sector”.

A media release from the Department of Agriculture said the 2020 Science and Innovation Awards for young people in agriculture, fisheries and forestry was open to agricultural innovators, between 18 and 35 years of age.

The Government said 11 award categories would be available to applicants for a total of up to \$240,000 in grants.

Department of Agriculture acting chief scientist Dr Robyn Cleland said that the range of projects received each year “impress me with their innovative research and approaches to a wide range of industry issues”.

“We receive applications from producers, researchers and others active in the agriculture sector from around Australia,” Dr Cleland said.

“The contribution from our industry partners in supporting each of the 11 award categories is an essential part of the success of the grant program,” Dr Cleland said.

The Department of Agriculture said that since the Science and Innovation Awards began in 2001, 250 young researchers, innovators and scientists had shared more than \$4 million in grant funding for their projects.

For further information on the awards, the application form and on how to apply, visit www.agriculture.gov.au/scienceawards or email scienceawards@agriculture.gov.au.

The media release said grant applications close at 5pm on October 4, 2019.

S&P DOW JONES INDICES, BUBS, SYNLAIT, RIDLEY CORP

Standard & Poor’s Dow Jones Indices say they have promoted Bubs Australia and Synlait Milk to the S&P ASX300 and removed Ridley Corp from the same index.

Standard & Poor’s said that the changes would take effect from the open of trading on September 23, 2019.

Bubs fell 2.5 cents or two percent to \$1.205 with 5.4 million shares traded.

Synlait was up 18 cents or 2.1 percent to \$8.82.

Ridley fell 3.5 cents or three percent to \$1.115.

GLOBAL TABLE

Global Table says the industry conference in Melbourne last week discussed the future of, and disruption to, food, agricultural science, technology and medicine.

Global Table said event aimed to highlight products “with the potential to disrupt food and agricultural systems, which will come under increasing pressure as the world population rises to 10 billion people in the next three decades, including a growing middle-class”.

A media release from the conference said that “rising meat consumption, dwindling water resources, drought, pollution and extreme weather due to climate change are just some of the challenges on the horizon”.

Global Table said it was created in partnership with the Milan, Italy-based Seeds & Chips and Global Food Innovation Summit and discussed the alternative protein market, future applications of hemp, regenerative agriculture and action against food waste.

Global Table said speakers included former US Secretary of State John Kerry, Mars Incorporated chief agricultural officer Dr Howard-Yana Shapiro and Sunfed chief executive officer Shama Lee.

SUNFED

Sunfed chief executive officer Shama Sukul Lee says her company's plant-based substitute for chicken contains twice the protein of real chicken.

The Auckland, New Zealand-based Sunfed produces chicken substitute derived from yellow peas.

Speaking at the Global Table industry conference on September 5, 2019, Ms Lee said that "animal systems are damaging our fundamental resources - soil, water and air".

"It's important to look at food as an energy problem," Ms Lee said.

"Food is just another form of energy that we consume on this planet and actually, the largest form of energy with the biggest footprint," Ms Lee said.

"Animal proteins make up a really large chunk of that food footprint," Ms Lee said.

Ms Lee said animals were "fundamentally inefficient manufacturers of protein" as they always produced less than they consumed, "creating a negative, unsustainable system".

"Animal systems are damaging our fundamental resources, soil, water and air," Ms Lee said.

"It is now the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, the key polluter of waterways, and the number one reason for the deforestation of the Amazon," Ms Lee said.

Ms Lee said the system was not selective, "with livestock disease outbreaks like avian flu, food safety risks, public health issues and scarcity of water presenting commercial risks for the meat and dairy industry".

A Sunfed media release said its product "cooks, feels and tastes just like the real thing, offering the mainstream consumer a true meaty experience without the ethical and health issues associated with meat".

"Plants are fundamentally more cost-efficient and cost-effective," Ms Lee said.

"You don't have all the costs of raising an animal and managing animal risks," Ms Lee said.

"We are continuously iterating and improving our products, so the meaty experience will only just keep getting better and better and at a rapid pace," Ms Lee said. "This is why it's a game changer."

Sunfed is a private company.

FOOD REVOLUTION GROUP

Food Revolution says revenue for the year to June 30, 2019 was down 11.6 percent to \$29,271,328, with last year's net profit after tax turned to a \$15,752,701 loss.

Food Revolution said the revenue was mainly from the sale of juices, fibres, infused fruits and fruit waters as branded products or ingredients locally and overseas.

The company said it expected revenue growth of about 25 percent or more than \$40 million next financial year with the launch of new products and a dry room facility being completed.

Food Revolution said it had "undertaken a cost review" to reduce expenditure on labor, materials and services that was expected to save up to \$1.8 million per year.

The company said that diluted earnings per share of 0.51 cents at June 30, 2018 was turned to a diluted loss per share of 3.25 cents at June 30, 2019.

Food Revolution said that net tangible asset backing per share was down 37.1 percent from 2.56 cents at June 30, 2018 to 1.61 cents at June 30, 2019.

The company said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$3,045,578 at June 30, 2019, compared to \$1,856,475 at June 30, 2018.

Food Revolution fell 0.2 cents or 3.23 percent to six cents.

SEAFARMS GROUP

Seafarms says revenue for the year to June 30, 2019 was down 5.8 percent to \$24,394,803, with net loss after tax up 55.1 percent to \$30,944,301.

Seafarms said the revenue was mainly derived from the sale of its prawn products.

The company said the reported loss included all direct costs relating to the development of 'Project Sea Dragon', a prawn aquaculture project throughout northern Australia.

The company said that diluted loss per share was up 46.2 percent from 1.3 cents in the previous year to 1.9 cents for the year to June 30, 2019.

Seafarms said that net tangible asset backing per share was up 100.0 percent from 1.0 cents at June 30, 2018 to 2.0 cents at June 30, 2019.

The company said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$16,302,589 at June 30, 2019, compared to \$4,139,603 at June 30, 2018.

Seafarms fell 0.1 cents or 1.28 percent to 7.7 cents.

PHARMAUST

Pharmaust said that revenue for the year to June 30, 2019 was up 32.5 percent to \$4,365,000, with net loss after tax down 35.9 percent to \$1,617,000.

Pharmaust director Sam Wright told Biotech Daily that the revenue primarily came from its Epichem synthetic and medicinal chemistry subsidiary, which increased its revenue by 74 percent to \$3.8 million for the year to June 30, 2019.

Mr Wright said that net tangible assets per share was 1.53 cents, down 24.6 percent from last year's 2.03 cents.

The company said that diluted loss per share was down 57.0 percent to 0.74 cents compared to 1.72 cents at June 30, 2018.

Pharmaust said it had cash and cash equivalents of \$2,090,625 at June 30, 2019 compared to \$1,875,431 at June 30, 2019.

Pharmaust fell 1.5 cents or 10.71 percent to 12.5 cents with 2.6 million shares traded.

APIAM ANIMAL HEALTH

Apiam says it will pay up to \$16 million to acquire Ace Laboratory Services for its autogenous vaccine and diagnostics laboratory services.

Apiam said the Bendigo, Victoria-based Ace Laboratory Services was "a highly specialised autogenous [or custom] vaccine and diagnostics laboratory service provider to large production animal producers".

Apiam said that Ace would provide it with a highly specialized product and service extension that could be sold as an alternative when commercial vaccines were not available or effective, as autogenous vaccines were increasingly used against antimicrobial resistance.

The company said it would pay Ace Laboratory Services an initial payment of \$12,375,000, with a second component capped at \$3,625,000 payable in 12 months.

Apiam managing director Dr Chris Richards said "the track record of Ace Laboratory Services in terms of performance and innovation is world class and we believe there are many growth opportunities as trends in farming evolve, especially with demand for alternatives to antimicrobials growing rapidly."

Apiam said the target completion date for the acquisition was September 30, 2019.

Apiam was up 2.5 cents or 5.15 percent to 51 cents.

NATIONAL VETERINARY CARE

National Veterinary Care says it has settled its \$5 million acquisition of the Vetcentric veterinary procurement business and the group purchasing order company.

National Veterinary Care said the Melbourne-based Vetcentric was “one of the main competitors to [its] management services business United Vets Group” and worked with about 80 veterinary clinics in Australia.

The company said the acquisition would expand both businesses services to include additional marketing and human resources, as well as training, practice management support and leadership development.

National Veterinary Care said it was the largest Australian veterinary industry buying group, and that this purchase brought its total number of integrated veterinary services to 100.

National Veterinary Care was unchanged at \$2.52.

WATTLE HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Wattle Health says it is completing a debt funding facility for its acquisition of Melbourne, Victoria-based dairy processor Blend & Pack.

Wattle Health said Blend & Pack was a dairy processing and packing business with certification and accreditation from the People’s Republic of China.

The company said with negotiations completed it would sign a debt facility by September 6, 2019 and have three weeks to finalize the acquisition.

In February 2019, Wattle Health agreed to purchase 46 percent of Blend & Pack for \$46 million, taking its total holdings to 51 percent of the company.

Wattle Health fell one cent or 2.5 percent to 39 cents.

FOOD REVOLUTION GROUP

Food Revolution says it will acquire the Original Juice Co Black Label fruit juice brand from US-based Kraft Heinz subsidiary Golden Circle for \$1.25 million.

The Food Revolution said it would pay \$1.0 million for the brand, trademarks and intellectual property and \$250,000 for inventory, effective immediately.

The company said the Original Juice Co Black Label brand, founded in Melbourne in 1988, was trademarked for sales in Australia and export markets in Asia and New Zealand and it would use its distribution networks in Southeast Asia, including China, Hong Kong and Singapore, to increase sales.

FOOD REVOLUTION GROUP

Food Revolution says it has received \$5.4 million from the Sydney-based Careline Australia, the fourth tranche of its \$20.3 million investment agreement.

Food Revolution said it would issue 100 million shares to Careline and its nominees as agreed under the share subscription deed, which was approved by shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting on June 14, 2019.

The company said the fifth tranche for \$5.94 million was expected by March 5, 2020.

The company said that Careline chief executive officer Dr Tao Li was appointed Food Revolution chairman in November, 2018.

Food Revolution said the funds would go to upgrades of its Melbourne Mill Park facility and development of the Original Juice Co Black Label fruit juice brand acquired from US-based Kraft Heinz subsidiary Golden Circle for \$1.25 million.

MEMPHASYS

Memphasys says it has received \$1,103,264 from the Australian Tax Office under the Federal Government Research and Development Tax Incentive program.

Memphasys said that the funds related to expenditure for the year to June 30, 2019.

The company said that the funds would be used to further develop its Felix sperm separation device for in-vitro fertilization, and for working capital.

Memphasys was up 0.2 cents or 4.65 percent to 4.5 cents with 2.3 shares traded.

CANN GLOBAL

Cann Global says it the Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam-based Epco Foods will import 20 tonnes of "Australian grown natural" chia seeds per month.

Cann Global said its T12 food division signed the deal with Epco for its 250g, 500g and 1kg satchels and bottles.

According to multiple sources including Wiley On-line Library and Wikipedia, chia is the seed of the mint-related *Salvia hispanica* and contains omega-3 fatty acids, dietary fibre, with "a high concentration of proteins and essential amino acids".

The company said it would supply 26 tonnes in the first order to be processed and shipped in September and October.

Cann Global said that Epco's distribution network accessed Vietnamese-based grocery stores including the Korean chain Lotte Supermarkets, French chain Big C Supermarkets, Eco Fruits and their own EPCO stores.

Cann Global fell 0.4 cents or 8.89 percent to 4.1 cents with 29.8 million shares traded.

THC GLOBAL (FORMERLY THE HYDROPONICS GROUP)

THC says it will lease 18 hectares of cultivation land and 6.6-hectares of existing greenhouses in Bundaberg, Queensland from Eden Farms.

THC said it would use the property to produce an initial 80 tonnes of dried cannabis flower from the existing hydroponic greenhouses.

The company said it would increase the property's capacity through open-field cultivation of marijuana and hemp, which would allow it to enter the food additive, cosmetic and food markets.

THC said m marijuana cultivated at the property would be processed at its Southport facility, on Queensland's southern Gold Coast.

The company said it would submit a request to the Australian Office of Drug Control within 14 days to make the property an additional cultivation site under its Canndeo cultivation licence.

THC said the lease terms would be based on the cannabis volume produced.

THC was up 0.5 cents or 1.06 percent to 47.5 cents.

BEGA CHEESE

Perpetual says it and its related bodies have increased their substantial holding in Bega from 23,232,092 shares (10.90%) to 28,740,482 shares (13.45%).

The Sydney-based Perpetual said it bought and sold shares between April 16, 2019 and August 29, 2019, with the single largest purchase on July 19 of 1,193,342 shares for \$5,378,295, or \$4.51 a share.

Bega was up six cents or 1.45 percent to \$4.21.

BEGA CHEESE

Ethical Partners Funds Management says it has increased its shareholding in Bega from 13,119,943 shares (6.14%) to 16,993,677 shares (7.95%).

The Sydney-based Ethical Partners said that between July 19 and August 30, 2019 it acquired 3,340,231 shares for \$13,776,315 or \$4.12 cents a share and transferred in 533,503 shares.

FOOD REVOLUTION GROUP

Food Revolution chair Dr Tao Li says he and Careline have increased their holding from 165,000,001 shares (27.37%) to 262,000,001 shares (36.2%).

A substantial shareholder notice signed by the Sydney-based Dr Li said that on September 5, 2019 he acquired 100,000,000 shares for \$5,400,000, or 5.4 cents a share, which were held by Pacific International Fund Management, Careline Australia and Y&L Family Investments, approved at the company's extraordinary general meeting in June. The shareholder notice said Careline also sold 3,000,000 shares for \$162,000, or 5.4 cents a share, on the same day.

COSTA GROUP HOLDINGS

ECP Asset Management and EC Pohl & Co say they have become substantial shareholders in Costa with 16,042,157 shares or 5.0 percent of the company.

In a substantial shareholder notice signed by director Jared Pohl, the Sydney-based ECP and Gold Coast, Queensland-based EC Pohl said that it bought and sold shares between May 10 and September 3, 2019, with the single largest purchase 12,407,415 shares for \$54,191,499 or \$4.37 a share.

Costa was up three cents or 0.85 percent to \$3.55.

NATIONAL VETERINARY CARE

Grandeur Peak Global Advisors says it has increased its shareholding in National Veterinary Care from 3,612,991 shares (5.39%) to 4,161,333 shares (6.21%).

The Salt Lake City, Utah-based Grandeur Peak said that between October 29, 2018 and September 2, 2019 it acquired 548,342 shares for \$1,209,771.35 or \$2.21 a share.

SEAFARMS GROUP

The Perth-based Gabor Holdings says it has increased its holding in Seafarms from 453,391,277 shares (24.0%) to 487,891,222 shares (24.3%).

A Seafarms spokesperson told Ag & Vet Weekly the shares were acquired as part of the \$20 million placement and \$4.4 million share plan at nine cents a share.

CRESO PHARMA

Creso says that 2,053,027 shares and 303,027 performance shares issued to Kunna Canada will be released from voluntary escrow on September 20 (BD: Dec 21, 2018). Creso's most recent Appendix 3B new issue announcement said it had 151,544,332 shares available for trading on the ASX, including the voluntary escrow shares. Creso was unchanged 36 cents.

AGRIFUTURES, EVOK AG 2020

Agrifutures says applications are now open for next year's Evoke AG conference to be held at Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building, from February 18 to 19, 2020.

Agrifutures said the conference would showcase technology and start-ups within the agriculture and food industries, giving companies a platform to "showcase their ideas to an international audience, build their customer base and help solve today's global agricultural challenges".

The organization said this year's conference had more than 1,100 delegates from different industries across the world and was the Asia Pacific's largest agriculture and food technology event.

Agrifutures said there would be four new opportunities for local and international start-ups at the 2020 conference, ranging from exhibitions to pitches.

Agrifutures managing director John Harvey, said the new start-up program would "complement the wider event program ... [and had] a renewed focus on exposing start-ups to an international audience".

"This is an opportunity to network, build relationships and take your business to the next level." Mr Harvey said,

The organization said the first two programs called 'The Startup Showcase' would provide a platform for start-ups to present their ideas to an audience, with a local showcase followed by an international one.

Agrifutures said the third event, 'Startup Alley', would provide up to 40 agriculture and food start-ups a place to exhibit their products at the conference.

The organization said the final program would be an investor pitch, in which start-ups would pitch directly to an invitation-only investor audience over dinner.

For more information about the conference go to: <https://evokeag.com/> and for information on the programs go to: <https://evokeag.com/2020-startup-program/>.

Applications close on Friday, September 13, 2019.

AUSCANN GROUP HOLDINGS

Auscann says it has appointed Dr Marcel Bonn-Miller as a non-executive director as Canopy Growth's nominee director, replacing Bruce Linton, effective from September 5. Auscann said that alternate director for Mr Linton, David Pryce had resigned.

The company said Dr Bonn-Miller was currently the global clinical scientific director of Canopy Growth's cannabis medical division, Spectrum Therapeutics.

The company said Dr Bonn-Miller was a researcher and pharmaceutical executive with more than 18 years' experience in clinical research in cannabinoid products for medical use, had received funding for 27 research grants, published 140 peer-reviewed academic papers and led or contributed to 19 clinical trials.

Auscann said Dr Bonn-Miller was previously the director of cannabinoid research at Zynerva Pharmaceuticals.

Auscann was up 0.5 cents or 1.39 percent to 36.5 cents.

NANOLLOSE

Nanollose says executive chairman Dr Wayne Best, managing-director Alfie Germano and chief scientific officer Gary Class have taken pay cuts for extra performance rights.

Nanollose said Dr Best and Mr Germano had reduced their annual salaries from \$225,000 to \$165,000 each, while Mr Cass had reduced his salary from \$160,000 to \$130,000 a year.

The company said shareholders will vote at the company's annual general meeting to issue 2,000,000 performance rights each to Dr Best and Mr Germano, and 1,000,000 for Mr Cass.

Nanollose said the principal vesting conditions of the performance rights had conditions relating to the commercial exploitation of their intellectual property or a takeover event.

Nanollose fell 0.3 cents or 3.66 percent to 7.9 cents.