



Professor Ruth Nettle



Addressing the challenges of pork industry and wider rural workforce development

Professor Ruth Nettle is a social scientist and leads the Rural Innovation Research Group (RIRG) at the University of Melbourne. Ruth's team of social scientists are recognised nationally and internationally for their engaged-research practices directed toward the critical issues of innovation and change in farming systems, rural communities and in human and natural resources management. Ruth's research expertise includes rural workforce development (employment, advisory services, social organisation of farming, collective action); the role of extension in rural change (learning systems, adaptation); trans-disciplinary research methods including co-innovation; and farming systems change (decision-making, technology and change). She also provides input into the strategic issues facing rural industries in Australia and internationally, including National agricultural workforce strategy, and Agricultural innovation and extension systems.

In addition to her research, Ruth delivers education programs including Micro-credentials in agricultural extension, and courses within the Master of Agriculture (Agricultural innovation and extension specialisation): Human Resource Management, Managing Innovation and Change, Agricultural Extension, Agricultural advisory practice and theory. Ruth is Deputy President of the International Association of Work in Agriculture and is co-Editor-in-chief of the Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension.