

PORK



NEWS

ONTARIO PORK

APRIL 2008

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SAFETY NETS

Federal Cull Breeding Swine Program

On February 25th, 2008 the Government of Canada announced the Cull Breeding Swine Program to help the industry to restructure by facilitating the reduction of the breeding herd. The \$50 million program is to be delivered through the Canadian Pork Council. The Cull Breeding Swine Program is being delivered by the Canadian Pork Council.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have funded this \$50 million program and applications have been available as of April 14, 2008. These applications can be found on the CPC website and Ontario Pork's website or by calling these organizations.

The Cull Breeding Swine Program will help the industry restructure by facilitating the reduction of Canada's swine breeding herd (sows, boars and pregnant gilts) by approximately 10 per cent.

Qualifying producers, subject to application approval, will receive \$225 per breeding swine culled after April 14th. Reimbursement will be made for costs of slaughter and carcass disposal. A payment of \$225 per breeding swine less the selling price will be available for approved producers that sold animals from November 1, 2007 until April 13th, 2008 (receipts and supporting documents required).

To participate in the program, approved producers must not sell potentially eligible breeding stock through commercial channels after April 14th, agree to depopulate an entire breeding barn and commit to not housing swine breeding stock in the same barn for three years. Options for disposal of breeding stock through this program will be outlined on the application.

Application for the Cull Breeding Swine Program (and all required supporting documents) will be available at

CPC - website: www.cpc-ccp.com or phone: 1-877-655-2567

Ontario Pork - website: www.ontariopork.on.ca or phone: 1-877-668-7675

PRODUCER RESOURCES

A Farm Business can experience financial and emotional pressures. Dealing with these pressures is a challenge. Ontario Pork has can assist in directing producers to valuable resources:

Animal Care Helpline (OFAC) - (519) 837-1326,

The Farm Line Support Service - 1-888-451-2903

Farm Debt Mediation Service- 1-866-452-5556

For additional resources and information such as: **Guidelines for transporting pigs, the On-farm Euthanasia of Swine Booklet, Recommended Codes of Practices, etc.**

Call Industry and Producers Relations Customer Service 1-877-668-7675 ext. 233 or visit www.ontariopork.on.ca

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2008 Emergency Advance Payments Program for Livestock

The Emergency Advance Payments Program was announced in March 2008 to assist with the severe economic hardship in the livestock sector. The program administered by ACC Farmers Financial includes up to \$100 000 in interest-free loans. An additional \$300 000 may be available to those who qualify at prime -1/4%. In order to qualify for the emergency program producers must participate in CAIS/AGRISTABILITY.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada guarantee AAC Farmers' Financial 100%. For that reason there is no 2% holdback, but only a \$500 administration fee.

Emergency advances may be issued between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009. However, the repayment deadline for all advances is September 15, 2009. Therefore, the program allows for an advance to be issued on swine produced and sold over a 12 month period from the date of application, but advances issued after October 1, 2008 will not have the full 12 months. Advances are repaid at the end of a 12 month period by 2 installments. The first payment is due 15 days following the 12 month period from the date of issue. The second payment is due 30 days after the first installment. All advances must be fully repaid by September 15, 2009 regardless of the date the advance was issued.

Priority agreements with other lenders and creditors are not required. The federal government takes secondary security to liens for loans already registered.

Application forms must be completed by February 28, 2009. Applications forms should be mailed to producers who are participating in the 2007-2008 program. New applicants or those seeking more information can call ACC Farmers' Financial at 1-888-278-8807 or obtain application forms at www.accfarmersfinancial.ca.

Important Deadlines

AgriInvest/ AgriInvest Kickstart Deadlines:

- AgriInvest *Kickstart* application deadline - **PASSED - April 14, 2008**
- Deadline to respond to AgriInvest Kickstart letter – **DATE ON YOUR LETTER**
- 2007 AgriInvest deadline – **September 30, 2008**
- 2007 AgriInvest late filing deadline – **December 31, 2008**

For more information call Agriculture and Agri-food Canada at 1-866-367-8506.

AgriStability Deadlines:

- 2007 AgriStability fee deadline – **April 30, 2008**
- 2007 AgriStability application deadline – **June 30, 2008**
- 2007 AgriStability late application deadline without penalty – **September 30, 2008**
- 2007 AgriStability application submission with penalty – **December 31, 2008**

Note: if you didn't participate in 2007 AgriStability, contact the program administration to request a New Participant Package.

For more information call AGRICORP at 1-877-838-5144.

CONSUMER RELATIONS

President's Council

The new consumer-directed TV and web campaign "Farming Grows Ontario's Future" will be launched this month. The campaign includes four 30-second TV spots, each focusing on a different theme identified by the research (Economic importance, Food Independence, Environmental Responsibility and Family Farms and Values).

A website and other marketing materials are also being developed in conjunction with the campaign. "Farming Grows Ontario's Future" is the result of a three-year effort by the Presidents' Council – of which Ontario Pork is a member – to identify the issues and opportunities that are central to agriculture's future in Ontario and the role consumers play.

The Presidents' Council is a collaborative initiative by 27 of Ontario's major commodity marketing boards, academia and government agricultural groups. The Chairs and Presidents of these organizations participate in the Council with a common goal of identifying issues and opportunities that affect the long-term sustainability of the industry in the province.

COMING EVENTS

Pork for a Cause

THE PORK FOR A CAUSE HOG JOG

The Pork for a Cause annual 'Hog Jog' will be held on Wednesday, June 18th at the Ontario Pork Congress in Stratford.

This 5 km walk/run and 10km run is organized annually by the Ontario Pork Industry. The goal is to recognize the contributions of a member of the pork industry, and at the same time, to bring awareness and financial assistance to a cause within rural Ontario.

OPIC selects a new cause and a new Honourary Chair each year from submissions received. This year all pledges will be donated to the Alzheimer Society of Perth County. OPIC is proud to have Jeff Timmermans as the Honourary Chairperson for the 2008 Hog Jog. Jeff is a retired Perth County pork producer with family who continue to be involved in the industry. Jeff and his family have brought much-needed awareness to the impact that Alzheimer's has on individuals, their families, and their communities. Jeff was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal and the Ontario Senior of the Year Award in recognition of his 2002 Miles for Memories bicycle tour across Canada, raising national public awareness of Alzheimer's. He and his family continue to dedicate many volunteer hours to this cause.

Date: Wednesday June 18th, 2008

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Stratford Rotary Complex

Register on-line: <http://www.onlineregistrations.ca/hogjog/>

Contact: Joanne Selves at foxglove@wightman.ca or John Alderman at jjalderm@quadro.net.

To volunteer contact: Kevin Simpson at kevin.simpson@rbc.com.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

London Swine

ANNUAL LONDON SWINE CONFERENCE

Facing the New Reality was the theme of the annual London Swine Conference, to be held April 1-2 at the London Convention Centre.

The two-day program includes four major topic sessions covering The New Reality, Optimizing Reproduction in a New Environment, What Does the Future Hold?, and Dealing with Old and New Disease Challenges. Both days also included concurrent break-Out sessions dealing with production and management issues.

The London Swine Conference is organized by a coalition made up of Ontario Pork, the University of Guelph and OMA-FRA. Organizers work to:

- Provide a platform to accelerate the implementation of new technologies in commercial pork production in Ontario.
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas within the swine industry.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Swine Career Recruitment

THE OPIC CAREERS PROJECT

(From the Ontario Pork Industry Council)

OPIC has always made an effort to identify issues which are at the forefront of the swine industry and work towards addressing those issues. One issue which is currently affecting many pork producers is that of labour for their pig barns. Finding and keeping good barn workers is becoming an increasingly difficult task.

OPIC noticed this area of concern and the Careers Committee moved forward to address it. Nearly \$250,000.00 in funding was secured from Human Resource and Skills Development Canada through the Labour Market Partnerships Program and a plan was developed to work towards a solution.

The 24 month project will lead to the development of a comprehensive

needs assessment report on human resource needs in the pork industry.

The recommendations from this report will serve as the framework for moving forward on developing solutions for human resource management within the pork industry.

There are three main components to the project. It starts with conducting a needs assessment and generating a comprehensive report which will include the impact of current demographic trends on the available labour pool. The second activity involves the development of a career promotion campaign to help increase public awareness about the rewarding careers available in the pork industry and what modern day pork production is really like. The third activity involves the development and delivery of a pilot management training program. The modules developed from this activity will focus on building HR

management capacity of managers within the industry.

By embarking on this project, OPIC envisions that some concrete recommendations will be generated that will help develop workable solutions to the challenges of recruiting and maintaining employees in the pork industry. Development and implementation of these solutions will be the next steps after the LMP project has been completed.

Project Update: March 2008

- Data from all surveys has been analyzed.
- The Promotional Video is not complete and will be being used to encourage young people to consider the pork Industry when making their career choices.
- The HR Training Pilot Project is now underway and will finish by months end.

DIETITIANS TIDBIT

Health and Nutrition Update

April 2008 - Kimberly Green, Dietitian

With Pork Marketing Canada (PMC), Ontario Pork has sponsored a "Walk About Lunch" at the annual Dietitians of Canada conference. Pork will be featured on the lunch menu, and PMC will be given a sponsor display, and mailing information for Dietitians who attended. Susan Riese (Man.) and Kimberly Green (Ont.) have been extended complimentary invitations.

A poster based on the new *Canada's*

Food Guide (highlighting Pork in the Meats & Alternatives group) has been developed and will be distributed to 5700 members of the Dietitians of Canada. The poster is titled *Healthy Choices, Lean Choices*; additional copies are available for other educational events.

Ontario Pork, with PMC partners, has received a CanAdvance grant from the Federal Agricultural Adaptation Council to complete a research study

on key influencers of Registered Dietitians and other nutrition professionals. The project will perform a research study of the opinions and recommendation practices for pork made by these experts. Results will be used to develop a communications campaign, to increase their promotion of pork by these health experts to their clients/patients and the general public, increasing the overall profile of pork as a healthy food choice.

HEALTH & SAFETY

CQA Notice

Regulatory Change Eliminates Edible Residual Material (ERM) Permits

On February 20, 2008, a regulatory amendment to the Health of Animals Regulations came into force prohibiting the feeding of meat and meat by-products to swine and poultry. This amendment eliminates ERM permits.

Edible residual materials are those products that remain after or are not used in the manufacture or processing of food. The Health of Animals Regulations had included a section that allowed for a permitting system when meat or meat products were being fed to swine and poultry. In 2001, following the foot and mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom, the ERM permit prohibited the feeding of meat or related materials or products that had come in to contact with meat as an ERM. At that time, CFIA continued to issue ERM permits for non-meat products.

With the implementation of these changes, any ingredient including those previously considered ERM, that is sold for use as a livestock feed or used in the manufacture of a medicated livestock feed on farm must be an approved feed ingredient (Feeds Regulations, Schedules IV and V). Some by-products of food processing are already identified in Schedule IV.

The intended purpose of the ERM permit was as a disease control measure, with particular attention to feed products which can be an important source of pathogens i.e. meat. The current regulatory change places the prohibition to feed meat and meat byproducts directly in regulation, thereby eliminating the need for ERM permits. This amendment eliminates an unnecessary permitting system. The Feeds Act and Regulations are concerned with the import, manufacture and sale of feeds, as well as feed safety issues. Some alternative feed options may therefore be regulated under the Feeds Act and Regulations.

ERM permits are no longer being issued and those permits that were in effect have been terminated.

As a result, question 8 of the On-Farm Quality Assessment Form is no longer applicable. Please note that in the course of CQA validations, this question will no longer be evaluated and will be indicated as N/A on the Validation Report.

The CQA Technical Working Group will review the regulatory amendment and determine how or if question 8 will be replaced. Producers and validators will be notified of any further changes.

Please contact your provincial CQA coordinator if you have any questions related to this change.

ENVIRONMENT

Performance Based Nutrient Management Inspections

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is taking a new approach to completing nutrient management inspections. The Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition was greatly involved in helping the MOE in planning this process.

The MOE is focusing on compliance assistance rather than enforcement, and they are using a scoring system rather than a pass/fail procedure.

The inspection protocol uses a modular approach – breaks a farm into modules or control points and each module is scored separately. Some examples of control points are: primary storage (in-barn), Transfer to storage, Secondary storage. Field application, In-field storage, Outdoor confinement.

Environmental Performance is rated as follows:



In 2007, they inspected the following numbers and types of farms.

Commodity Group	Inspections	Percentage
Beef	16	23%
Dairy	22	31%
Hog	26	37%
Chicken	5	7%
Turkey	6	9%
Egg	10	14%
Other (duck, horse)	3	4%

52 out of 70 Farms received over 70%

Score	Number of Farmers	Percent of Farmers
Excellent (90+)	3	4%
Very Good (80 – 89%)	15	21%
Good (70 – 79%)	34	49%
Fair (50 – 69%)	14	20%
Poor (< 50%)	4	6%

Non-compliance Rates and Issues

Abbreviations: 1) NMS (Nutrient Management Strategy), 2) NMP (Nutrient Management Plan)

82% had some level of administrative requirements needed in order to achieve full compliance including: required updates of NMS/P, obtaining necessary approvals, having required records available on farm.

56% had non-administrative compliance issues to address including: improvements needed to buffers, not managing in accordance with their NMS/P, runoff control structures for solid manure storages not in place, field tiles not removed, issues with foundation drains, engineering requirements, well upgrades, 6 had not prepared a NMP.

14% had discharges or evidence of discharges that had some potential to cause an adverse effect including: not managing wash water properly, allowing runoff from solid manure storages to reach surface water or tiles, not managing silo seepage, one manure storage had over flowed onto adjacent ground, one operation had high nutrient discharge occurring from field tiles due to manure application during wet fall conditions.

Non-Compliance Issues

The two control points most commonly associated with non-compliance are solid manure storages and field application.

Issues are typically related to runoff control, vegetated buffers and not managing in accordance with a NMP.

Overall Results

Farmers did generally well with 74% of farms having an inspection score that exceeded provincial expectations

Almost one half of all farms were fully compliant or had only administrative non-compliance issues.

Relatively few farms (14%) had significant non-compliance with direct potential for environmental impairment.

A key non-compliance issue is developing and managing in accordance with a NMS/P.

Current Year

Inspections to double from 70 – 144.

Will focus inspections on more serious issues identified in 2006/7.

Typically only operations with serious unresolved issues will be re-inspected.

Federal Tax Incentive SR&ED Program

The Scientific Research and Experimental Development program is a federal tax incentive to encourage Canadian businesses to conduct research and development that will lead to new, improved, or technologically advanced products or processes in Canada.

You can apply for tax credits for expenditures such as wages, materials, machinery, equipment, some overhead, and SR&ED contracts. Canadian-controlled private corporation can earn an investment tax credit of 35% up to the first \$2 million of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada, and 20% on any excess amount. Canadian corporations, proprietorships, partnerships, and trusts can earn an ITC of 20% of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada. Organizations of all forms and sizes and in all sectors are entitled to this tax credit if they have incurred *qualifying* research and development expenditures that meet the SR&ED program's Criteria.

Basic criteria:

- Scientific or technological advancement
- Scientific or technological uncertainty
- Scientific and technological content

Types of activities, projects or programs:

- New product, packages and/or process development
- Technical procedure development product improvement, technology advancement, productivity improvement and product line extension.

The Canada Revenue Agency has advisers assigned to geographic areas in Ontario, and it is suggested that you invite "your" adviser to meet with you to discuss your business and project ideas. Claims are submitted with your corporation or individual income tax return, or within 12 months of your income tax return's filing due date for the year in which you spent money on the SR&ED project. In most cases, your accountant will file the claim along with your income tax return.

The Canada Revenue Agency's website for the tax credit program is: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/taxcredit/sred/menu-e.html>.
For more information: Email: food.omafra@ontario.ca.

Take Measures to Reduce Animal Stress

PIG COMFORT DURING LOADING & TRANSPORT AFFECTS SURVIVAL

By Arthur Churchyard

The journey for pigs on the way to market can be hot and humid. That's why it's important to keep conditions as comfortable as possible, before and after shipping.

Over the past three years, Prof. Cate Dewey, Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, has led a team of researchers in the study of pig transport. She found that roughly 0.17 per cent of pigs die between the farm and processing at the plant. Still, significant quality can be lost through improper transport, so she's urging producers to be prudent during shipping.

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Her study shows how certain loading procedures, such as using prods and steep chutes, may cause quality to suffer. "I know that if producers follow specific guidelines, they will be able to reduce in-transit losses," says Dewey.

Researchers observed loading procedures at 48 farms. These farms were divided into high and low loss categories, and compared farms of similar sizes.

The study found several practices that would reduce animal stress. For example, pigs are afraid of shadows, so minimizing shadows can help that problem. As well, pigs like to get to know each other and travel with those familiar to them. So, Dewey encourages farmers to transport pigs in the groups that lived in the same pig pen. And finally, loading and offloading onto trucks causes a lot of stress for animals, so assembly yard use should be minimized where possible.

Transport stress is a particular problem in the summer. When combined with motion sickness and high temperatures, stress can be fatal, or cause meat that's likely to be too pale and soft, or too dry and firm. The problem begins when pigs are moved out of barns or pens. Dewey recommends minimizing the use of electric prods, which despite promoting stress, are still used by 60 per cent of people loading pigs.

Other measures that can be taken to reduce stress include eliminating narrow hallways and right-angled corners which lead to jams (which frustrates pigs), and lessening the ramp incline for loading. Ramps should be no steeper than 25 degrees; anything more than that is perceived as a straight wall, in a pig's mind.

Dewey says the benefits of this study could be widespread, if its recommendations are followed. Producers could experience fewer losses and packers and consumers end up with better products. "It all comes down to improving transport for pigs," she says.

Other researchers involved in this project are Prof. Tina Widowski, Animal and Poultry Science; Prof. Robert Friendship and Dr. Charles Haley, Population Medicine.

Funding was supplied by Ontario Pork, as part of the In-Transit Loss Committee of producers, transporters and packers and by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.