

PORK



NEWS

ONTARIO PORK

January 2008

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SAFETY NETS

AgrilInvest - Kickstart Applications

AgrilInvest Kickstart benefits will be automatically calculated if you participated in the CAIS program for 2004 or the COP program. The benefits will be based on the average Allowable Net Sales (ANS) for the 2000-2004 tax years (or the number of years available if less than 5). Producers should have received information in the mail. If you started farming from 2005 - 2007 and you reported sales or purchases of eligible commodities, you are eligible for KickStart but will need to submit an application form. The deadline to submit the application is March 31, 2008. Benefits will be based on the information submitted. Example: if you started farming after 2004, your AgrilInvest KickStart payment will be based on the average ANS for 2005 and 2006 tax years, if you farmed in both years, or the 2006 or 2007 tax year only, if either year was the first year of farming. More information at www.agr.gc.ca/agriinvest or 1-866-367-8506.

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization

Participants in the CAIS program are encouraged to contact Agricorp to:

- Request that Agricorp process their 2007 CAIS files on a priority basis;
- Apply for an interim CAIS payment for the 2008 program year.

To explore these options, participants

can call Agricorp at 1-877-838-5144.

The 2007 CAIS program provides coverage when a participant's production margin decline is greater than 15 percent of the reference margin. Participants are reminded to send in their 2007 CAIS forms as soon as possible

after completing their fiscal year-end.

More details about CAIS can be found at www.agricorp.com.

Agricorp recognizes that this has been a challenging year for many producers, and is working hard to maintain a high level of customer service.

Ontario Cattle, Hog & Horticulture Payment

OCHHP information regarding eligibility and payment is available to producers by calling Agricorp at 1-877-838-5144 or going on the Agricorp website www.agricorp.com.

Canadian Pork Council

The actions of the Federal Government to date have been extremely disappointing to the industry.

- Announcements have focused on re-announcing already existing programs with minor adjustments;
- New Federal dollars have not been announced;
- Existing programming will not help our sector through current crisis - this has been demonstrated to the Federal Minister

Producers are still encouraged to **contact their local MPs**. Phone or write your MPs regarding the immediate need for a short term loan program.

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SAFETY NETS

Circovirus Inoculation Program

Who can apply? If pigs were owned, or managed between March 1, 2006 and December 31, 2008.

What is funded? Fifty percent of diagnostic testing done after March 1, 2006 to a maximum of \$150 per test, \$2000/fiscal year, and \$4000 over the life of the program. Also, fifty percent of eligible expenses for vaccination to a maximum of \$1.00/piglet and \$7.00/gilt, sow and/or boar. The maximum amount of assistance per applicant is \$500,000.

How do you prove you have PCVAD?
There must have been a certified,

laboratory validated positive PCV₂ test in the herd. (Note: Lab testing could have been done prior to March 1, 2006, but this lab testing would not be eligible for funding. Testing can also be done to find PCV₂ in the herd.) The licensed circovirus vaccine must have been used after March 1, 2006.

Contact your veterinarian to locate lab results, obtain documentation of vaccine purchases or for advice on appropriate samples that can be taken to prove PCV₂ is present in the herd.

How do I apply? Agri-Food Canada is currently revising applications and they will be mailed out upon completion. Slight changes to the eligibility criteria are being made. For more information or to request a program application call Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Ltd. at 1-800-667-8567 or go to the website

www.agr.gc.ca/CDHI .

The deadline to apply is December 31, 2008, and payments should be processed within 70 days.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Delivery Management

Ontario Pork has been working on a new Delivery Management Project. This project has several stages.

The first stage of this project is forecasting and commitments. In 2005, Ontario Pork surveyed producers and determined that the majority of producers (67%) were in favour of an industry driven full booking system initiative.

Research and data collection on the full booking system is on-going.

Producers were selected to provide scheduled forecasting and commitment information. This information is being used to determine the implications of various timelines for scheduling.

Another component of this initial stage was the December 15, 2007 release of the enhanced Hog Allocations Management System (HAMS). These enhancements included upgrading the software of the previous

system as well as adding in new components such as the premises application, the new tattoo system and the forecast and commitment sections of the delivery management project.

The hope is that this project will enhance accountability for all stakeholders. It is also anticipated that it will assist with short and long term planning, as well as communications.

National Hog Identification & Traceability System

The producer premises database for market hogs is in the final stages of completion. Some producers are still being contacted to fill in the last gaps. All producers should now have received and be utilizing their new tattoos that end in 5 or 7.

If you have not obtained the new tattoo please contact Ontario Pork. Each tattoo is specific to one farm location not a producer number. Premises locations are registered in the national database. Non market hog producer premises information is still being

verified, primarily as part of their CQA. Ontario Pork will be monitoring and contacting these producers as well. This work is on-going and assisting in the development of a future farm to farm traceability system.

ONLINE INFORMATION

OINK Changes

- Producers will now be required to login with their nine digit ID regardless if they are owners or not. If the user is an owner, they will have the option to view their own individual data or the data for all the owned producers.
- The Forum section has been removed.
- Users can now access OINK from any number of computers without having to call Ontario Pork for multiple computer initialization.

RESEARCH CORNER

Ahead By A Nose

New development in electronic nose further measures odour levels across farms By Ashley McCarl

The electronic nose developed by University of Guelph researchers to detect rising levels of pig manure odour made headlines across the country when it was unveiled in 2006. And now, there's a new twist: it's able to smell the whole barnyard, not just one location.

Prof. Simon Yang in the School of Engineering and his research team have been working on the electronic nose for the past three years, and say it can do the work of up to 20 trained human odour detectors. The current electronic nose is highly effective in detecting odour levels; much like the human nose it can detect what's classified as "strong" to "slight" odours. But it's more sensitive than humans to the slightest changes in the odours surrounding it. Yang and his team are now changing the focus for very successful prototype, to expand the sensors' range across the entire farm.

To do so, he and his team are using wireless sensor network technology to bring together multiple "noses" or groups of sensors. The team simpli-

fied the original nose to reduce costs, complexity and size. Now, members are gathering data from its 10-nose configuration in a computer located centrally on the farm, which analyzes the incoming data and calculates the intensity levels across the entire farm.

There's a lot to consider -- odour is made up of about 200 components. The intensity and persistence of the odour "cloud" or plume is affected greatly by temperature, humidity, wind, physical geography of the earth below and the surrounding environment. The program Yang and his colleagues developed will be able to calculate the odour levels which can be then compared to known environmental factors. This new nose will further help farmers determine when and where their odour-limiting techniques are effective.

The data is collected and calculated by the intelligent software in a computer where the levels of high and low odours, or plume, can be seen online. This data will be used to develop mathematical models which will give greater insight to the plumes and their movement.

"The odour plume patterns allow us to

see typical behaviour," said Yang. "This will also help farmers evaluate how effecting their control and management techniques are."

Farms also run into issues with neighbours, sometimes with little to no odour present on the actual farm itself. Yang's hope is to install these multiple nose systems onto farms so that farmers can be alerted when odour is a lurking, and becomes a problem. He is currently looking into a patent for his work as well as discussing future commercialization of his project with the business development office at the University of Guelph.

The project was made possible through funding from Ontario Pork and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. Yang believes the project has advanced because of its multidisciplinary approach. He collaborated with Profs. Roger Hacker and Ming Fan of the Animal and Nutritional Sciences department at the University of Guelph.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs also funded the design and development phase of the original electronic nose.

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DIETITIANS TIDBIT

Health Check Update

Recently, the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Health Check™ program has come under some criticism from an Ottawa obesity expert in both the print media and on a recent episode of CBC Marketplace.

Dr. Yoni Freedhoff, medical director of the Bariatric Medical Institute, has raised concerns about sugar and sodium levels on some of the food products that carry the Health Check™ symbol, and believes that red meat should not be promoted. Dr. Freedhoff's views are not shared by most health professionals, and he has also challenged *Canada's Food Guide* in the past. He argues that Health Check™ is leading consumers astray by promoting products that are merely "less unhealthy" than others in its category. His views were aired on a recent CBC Marketplace episode, which many felt was biased. Health Check™ director, Terry Dean, contacted the CBC Ombudsman regarding biases in

their coverage, and is taking this situation "very seriously".

Ontario Pork stands by the Health Check™ program as well as Canada's Food Guide, both of which are consistent with the most up-to-date and rigorous nutritional research and science.

The "Health Check" criteria were updated to become more stringent earlier this month, and they continue to identify lean pork as a healthy food choice. *Canada's Food Guide* suggests 1-3 servings of lean meat and alternatives daily.

Lean pork, as part of a balanced diet, contains many nutrients recommended by Health Canada for the maintenance of good health. Besides being naturally low in fat and sodium, trimmed fresh pork is nutrient-dense, being rich in vitamins and minerals such as thiamine, riboflavin, vitamins B6 and B12, iron, zinc and magnesium. Eaten according to guidelines, pork contributes to a healthy, well-balanced diet.

MEETINGS

County Annuals

It's that time of year again! County annual meetings will be taking place in January and February.

A complete listing of meetings can be found on the Ontario Pork website.

www.ontariopork.on.ca

AGM

ONTARIO PORK PRODUCERS ANNUAL MEETING

LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE,

LONDON, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

**Family Day - Ontario Pork will be observing the new statutory holiday that will take place on February 18th, 2008. However the Pork Logistics department will be open .
Call 1-800-873-0363 .**