

# BC Pork *Newsletter*

## Rolf Soth Re-elected

Rolf Soth, who operates SwineShine Acres with wife Patricia, was re-elected as a Director of the BC Pork Producers Association. Directors are elected for two year terms.

## New BC Agriculture Minister

Don McRae is BC's new Minister of Agriculture. Don is the MLA for the riding of Comox Valley on Vancouver Island.

Don was born and raised in the Comox Valley. He taught at GP Vanier Secondary School in Courtenay and is a former Courtenay City Councillor.

He has also served as the Convener of the Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and was a member of the Select Standing Committee on Health and Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.



## New BC Pork Program

The BC Pork Producers Association unveiled a new service for Producers at the recent AGM.

Dr Chris Byra will be contracted to the Association to work with producers individually: assisting with the evaluation of benchmark data and establishing performance and productivity goals; maximizing health management and disease control; assisting with measures to improve meat quality and price points; confirming premise ID and meeting the requirements of the new traceability regulations; providing liaison with packers; and performing all CQA and ACA checks. Dr Byra will also organize and present an annual educational day for BC Pork producers.

The program begins on May 3rd 2011 and is voluntary to those who wish to use it.

Funding for the program is granted to the Association by the Commission and there are no direct charges to producers.

## CQA to Include Animal Care

Effective January 1, 2012, completion of the Animal Care Assessment (ACA) requirements will become an integral component of the Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA) program.

This means that as of the first of the year, producers will need to meet the requirements of the ACA to maintain their CQA status. After January 1, 2012, producers must submit completed ACA documentation to their CQA provincial delivery agent (Dr Chris Byra) as part of their CQA renewal. The CQA and ACA renewal and validation process will be fully integrated.

When the validator is scheduled to complete a three-year on-farm validation for CQA, he will complete the ACA validation simultaneously. Farms that are scheduled for a full CQA validation in 2012 will also be subject to a full validation of their ACA. Farms that are scheduled for a partial CQA validation in 2012 will be able to use a self-declaration to confirm compliance with ACA.

In announcing the program, CPC said changes were being made because Canadian consumers want to know that pork farmers are responsible stewards of the animals in their care and this program provides that assurance.

## Funding Assistance for Traceability

There are two new funding programs to assist producers to implement traceability systems.

Beginning March 30th, ARDCORP will accept applications from individual Producers to provide partial funding for the requisite equipment and software to implement all of the proposed traceability parameters. This is an excellent opportunity for BC pork producers and we urge all to apply at the earliest opportunity. The "PigKnows" software program, in conjunction with a handheld RFID reader will facilitate the recording, storing, and analysis of herd activities including pig movement, production, performance, treatment and health information. Developments are currently being made to interface with PigTrace to automatically upload movement reports to that database.

Dr Chris Byra will assist producers with the application process and assistance with setting up the system.

In a complementary program the Federal Government has granted approximately \$3.7 million (for Canada) towards the implementation of the federal traceability program. The funding will cover some of the costs related to program extension for producers for PigTrace, and will focus on producers ensuring that movement reporting, as will be required by federal law, is as straightforward and simple as possible.

Funding is guaranteed until March, 2013. BC Pork will be working with the CPC and PigTrace Canada to secure funding to provide services to BC producers.

### Level 3 PPEP Deadline

A reminder that applications for level 3 PPEP must be made by **April 30 2011**. There will be no eligibility for partial payments after that date.

To date, 13 Producers have qualified

for Level 3 payments for a total of \$246,842 and a further \$52,917 has been reserved for 4 other Producers who may be eligible for Level 3 PPEP payments if they re-enter the industry after the HFTP "exit" period.

### AGM's

The Association and the Commission held their AGM's on March 30th. Dr Chris Byra outlined the new Association program that he will be leading and producers approved new Bylaws for the Association. Reports on CPC, and HIDF activities were received along with the audited financial statements. Commission Chair, George Leroux summarized the year's activities and advised the meeting that a process is getting underway, looking at the role and function of the Commission.

Product samples, being marketed with the assistance of the Market Development Fund, were provided by Verard Farms and Gelderman Farms.

## BC HOG MARKETING COMMISSION

Chair George Leroux  
Vice Chair Ron Boes  
Members

Scott Doerksen  
Mike Soth

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## BC PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Jack DeWit

Directors  
Chad Goertzen  
Rolf Soth

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## BCHMC / BCPPA Offices

PO Box 8000 - 280  
Abbotsford BC V2S 6H1

Phone 604 897 9252  
FAX 1 604 677 6058

email

dianned@bcpork.ca  
jackw@bcpork.ca