

BC Pork Producers Association Election of Directors

Chad Goertzen and Jack Dewit were nominated and elected by acclamation to the board of the BC Pork Producers Association at the March 20, 2012 Annual General Meeting. Thank you to Jack and Chad for their continued commitment to the BC Pork industry.

Thank you Dianne & Jack!

As I hurry to write this newsletter I am immediately reminded of the wonderful precedent of communication with producers that has been set by Jack Wessel and Dianne Driessen.

You were indeed fortunate to have Jack & Dianne as your management team over the last three years. They are a true pleasure to work with!

I am very aware that they have set a high standard and Sandy and I are going to do our very best to maintain those same standards.

I would say they have left big shoes to fill, but I

am not sure I want to wear, much less fill, Jack's shoes! Sandy and I will bring our own style to

working with you and we are very much looking forward to the opportunity.

I wish Jack and Dianne all the very best in their new roles and hope they don't stray too far in the early days as I am sure I will be making a call or two to them.

I want to go over the communication changes that you will need to know.

Sandy Dunn comes with a great wealth of administration and organizational talents. I am very glad she has agreed to work with me for BC Pork. You will receive regular emails from Sandy (much like from Dianne) and they will come from her email address—sandyg@uniserve.com. Over time she hopes to get to meet all of you.

Many of you already know of me through my role at the BC Farm Animal Care Council, as well as through my work on the BC Pork brand and market development projects. You will be able to reach me directly through our new phone number 604-287-HOGS (4647) or by email at gauston@shaw.ca.

We will have a generic email—info@bcpork.ca—you can also send messages to this address.

Please feel free to contact us at anytime. We are looking forward to working with all of you.

~Geraldine



Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meetings of the BC Hog Marketing Commission and the BC Pork Producers Association were held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in Chilliwack.

Audited financial reports were provided for both organizations and an overview of activities was presented. If you were unable to attend this meeting and would like a copy of the annual reports please contact the BC Pork office.

Your industry representatives:

BC Hog Marketing Commission

Chair	George Leroux
Vice Chair	Ron Boes
Members	Scott Doerksen Mike Soth

BC Pork Producers Association

Chair	Jack DeWit
Directors	Chad Goertzen Rolf Soth

PIGTRACE CANADA AND AGRI-TRACABILITY QUEBEC SIGN CONTRACT

PigTrace Canada is thrilled to announce the signing of a contractual package with Agri-Tracability Quebec (ATQ), the national swine traceability service provider.

The Canadian Pork Council has been working with ATQ since 2009 on the creation of a database necessary for swine traceability across Canada. There have been many substantial hurdles but PigTrace Canada is confident in the contract package which meets the needs of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, ATQ, the CFIA and most importantly, all stakeholders in the Canadian swine industry.

Functionalities of the PigTrace System include:

Database able to capture, verify and reproduce data about swine, and to follow their movements, whether individually or in groups;

Available in both English and French;

Allows 'Stakeholders' (i.e., producers, abattoirs, assembly yards, etc) to view and share any of the information they have entered into the PigTrace system;

Able to record ear tags sales and list tag inventories for a stakeholder;

Provides an online tag ordering interface;

Generates 'traceback' and 'traceforward' reports in the event of disease outbreak or simulation;

Will allow ATQ and CPC to add future functionalities that will further simply the reporting of swine movements; and

Will optionally allow PPOs and/or producers to view and edit premises information (e.g., premises identification number, tattoo numbers, inventory, contact information, etc).

PigTrace Canada is eager to resume the implementation of a Canadian swine traceability program that will be a major benefit to all Canadians.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the BC Pork office or contact Jeff Clark, Manager of PigTrace Canada at 204-237-7447 or via email at clark@cpc-ccp.com.

This project was made possible by funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through its Canadian Integrated Food Safety Initiative (CIFS) Program.



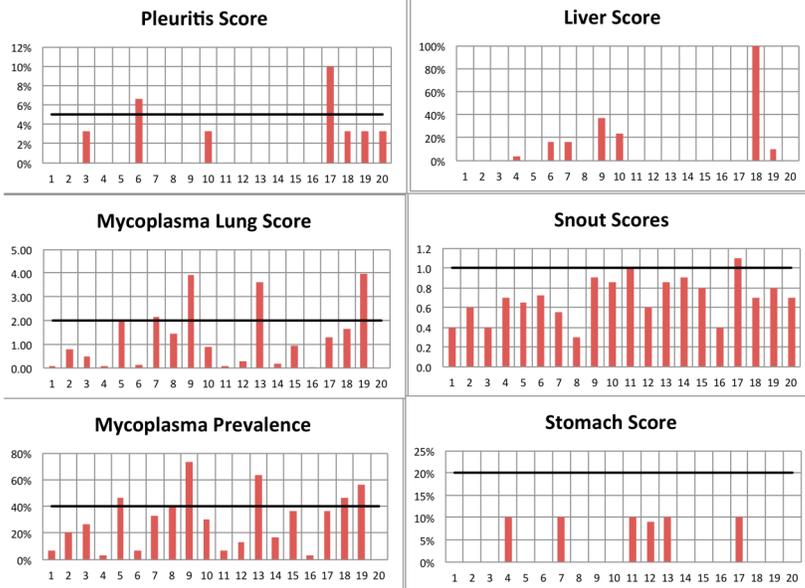
National Biosecurity Program to be implemented in BC through spring and summer—Dr. Chris Byra

The Canadian Swine Health Board is in the process of implementing the National Biosecurity Program throughout Canada as a part of the mandate from the CPC to improve the health of the Canadian herd. Considering that we recently instituted a BC provincial program, it has been decided to implement this new federal program as an update targeting areas that could use improvement as identified in general on the BC benchmarking data collected in 2010. More specifically it will be aimed at areas that each individual farm identifies as specific areas for their improvement. To this end a self-assessment form and a binder will be sent to each farm. Producers will be compensated for filling out the form and for time spent during a subsequent mandatory farm visit. Either Dr. Chris Byra or Dr. Josh Waddington will come out and present a short program outlining the new program, especially where it differs from the BC Program. This includes a number of videos on best management practices. During the visit, two key areas will be identified for the farm to focus their efforts to improve biosecurity. Once the paperwork is completed and submitted, funds will be released by CSHB to participating farms.

Second Slaughter Check Completed—Dr. Chris Byra

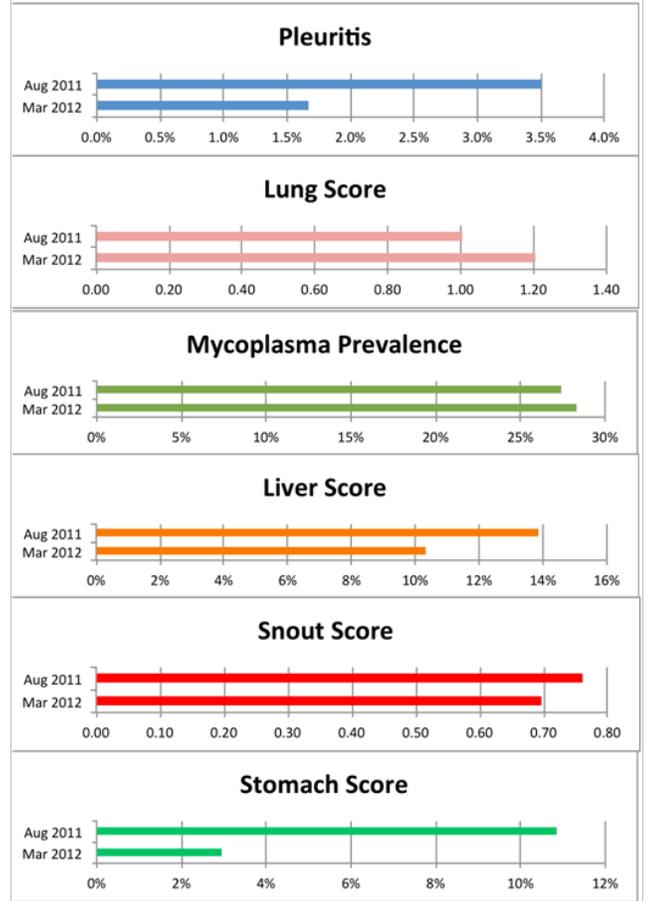
All of you should have received the results of your slaughter check from late March or early April. The farm comparison report is below (your farm number was emailed to you). The charts in the letter explaining your results shows how the status of your herd has changed over time.

Slaughter Check Charts



A second set of graphs shows changes for the overall swine herd from last summer. Surprisingly, the air quality measure (snout score) has improved as has the number of pleuritis cases. Commonly these become worse in the winter.

BC Pork - Slaughter Check Comparisons



BC Hog Marketing Commission BC Pork Producers Association

PO Box 8000—280
Abbotsford, BC
V2S 6H1

Tel: 604-287-HOGS (4647)
Fax: 604-820-6647
E-mail: info@bcpork.ca

Geraldine Auston—gauston@shaw.ca
Sandy Dunn—sandyg@uniserve.com
Chris Byra—cbyra@shaw.ca



www.bcpork.ca

Do you have any questions
or comments for us? Ideas
for our next newsletter?

We would love to hear from
you!

Give us a ring or send us an
email.