

BC Pork *Newsletter*

New CPC Chair

Jean-Guy Vincent has been elected Chair of the Canadian Pork Council.

Mr. Vincent, a hog producer from Sainte-Séraphine, Quebec, expressed his gratitude for being chosen to represent the industry, a sector which in 2011, accounted for over \$3.3 billion in farm cash receipts. "The Canadian hog industry is a vital contributor to the country's economy. I am honoured to have been chosen to help shape the future of our industry, and look forward to working with my colleagues to address the many challenges and opportunities we will meet over the next year," he says.

Mr. Vincent is joined by two other newly elected executive officers, consisting of 1st Vice-President, Rick Bergmann from Manitoba Pork Council and 2nd Vice-President, Florian Fossberg from Saskatchewan Pork.



Cold Weather Hauling

There were several problems with frostbite in hogs hauled in January. These were all in pigs from the Fraser Valley.

This is an Animal Welfare issue taken seriously by our industry, the processors, the public and the CFIA.

Recommendations for hauling during cold weather, even for short hauls:

1. Pigs and trailer must be dry at the time of loading. Wet pigs lose heat rapidly and skin can stick to metal walls and floors.
2. Use more bedding on the floors both for warmth but also protection from the metal floor. Bedding must be from an approved source free of toxic chemicals.
3. Overloading to crowd pigs and keep them warm actually increases the risk of frostbite as they can not easily change position to rearrange which body area is cold. They also can not get away from cold areas and can not easily lay down in the bedding.
4. Board up the sides of truck, but not entirely. If there is a crosswind, board up, say 70% on the windy side and 30% on the opposite side. As temperatures get around 10°C sides some wind protection is needed.
5. If you have nose vents close them off.
6. Schedule delivery so that you do not have to wait after loading or before unloading. If you must park, park where pigs will be out of the wind.
7. Remove bedding immediately to avoid it freezing in the trailer.

These transportation guidelines should help prevent frost bite in the pigs.

New HIDF Producer Program

A new program has funds available to assist BC producers with the costs associated to re-orient current facilities to provide for loose sow housing.

Consumers, advocates, and groups are showing more concern about animal care and housing. Confinement stalls for sows are being targeted with emphasis on providing more room for movement. Australia's two major food chains have already banned pork products raised from sow stalls and it appears such action may be forthcoming in Canada.

Changing to loose sow housing presents some difficulties for producers and may require a re-engineering of current facilities. The Association wishes to encourage producer to begin to take these steps to enhance the marketability of BC pork products.

The new program provides partial funding to engage expertise to advise on the facility re-orientation to achieve the new standards. Maximum funding per farm is \$5,000 and prior approval from the Association is required before any related expenditures are committed.

And I'll take my change in...

Samoa's rugby team ex-manager has been fined for drinking and socializing too much during the Rugby World Cup. According to the chief of his local village, Mathew Vaea would go out drinking every single day and his actions have tarnished the team and the village.

A case was brought against Vaea and the judge found in favor of the prosecution. Vaea was fined 100 sows which he must provide for the village.

Expansion of the "Sharps" Removal Program

The "Sharps" removal program has been expanded to now include medicine bottles.

Greenbelt Veterinary Services Ltd. will continue to be the central pick-up and drop-off location. Disposal containers are dispensed from, and dropped off at Greenbelt.

BC Pork encourages the safe disposal of needles and related materials and has arranged funds from the HIDF program to cover 50% of the costs.

To participate in the program call Greenbelt at 604-792-1501.

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