

# BC Pork Newsletter

## BC Pork Congress

The BC Pork Producer's Association is planning an educational day for BC producers this fall. (exact date not yet confirmed).

The day will feature presentations on production, specialty marketing and other interesting subjects.

An application for funding, to cover the costs of the speakers, is being made to the BC Farm Business Management Program. It is intended there will be no costs to producers and their staff, to attend.

## Peace River Region

There 5 licensed producers in the Peace River region shipping 3 to 500 pigs a week.

Twenty five to fifty percent of that production is now moving south in BC to be processed in the Lower Mainland.



## BC Pork Extension Services Report

The new Association service being delivered by Dr Chris Byra is off and running. The following is a brief summary of some of the recent activities:

Producers were helped to complete applications for the EIT program resulting in funding for all applicants. Over 80% of the sows in the lower mainland will be on PigKnows, the farm management program.

The database for producers with slaughter information from Johnston's and Britco, has been initiated.

A training session was held to introduce and begin data entry in PigKnows.

We are receiving an average of 10 phone calls a week (and a number of emails) from producers relating to barn issues, lab results, and recommendations.

A questionnaire has been developed to be filled out during the first visit – it addresses multiple areas of production and is then loaded onto a database to establish a baseline.

## The China Effect on Pork Markets

China currently has 450 million hogs (and increasing) - more than the next 43 pork-producing countries combined - and consumes 50% of the world's pork feed supply each year. China imports 80% of its soybean needs, with 98% used for hog feed. A small increase or decrease in China's domestic production can have dramatic effects on North American prices of hogs and feed.

There are differing views on China's future import corn needs. Their planted acreage is similar to North America but production per acre is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the US average. They are currently importing about 1 million tonnes of corn per year but are aggressively pursuing

means to increase their own productivity. There are also some predictions that China may need to substantially increase its corn imports.

Current stocks-to-use ratios of both corn and soybeans - a measure of inventory-to-consumption - are well below their long-term averages. The USDA recently cut its 2011 corn production forecast to reflect the pace of seeding, slowed by flooding in the US Midwest.

Corn supplies currently are at the lowest level since the mid-1990s. As a result, the futures market is "inverted," meaning near-month contracts trade at a premium to deferred months.

## Who Eats Pork

More pork is consumed than any other meat in the world. Pork represents about 40% of the world's total meat consumption compared to 26 % for beef and 28% for poultry.

World pork consumption increased from 35 to 90 million tonnes over a recent 20 year span. World population expansion undoubtedly contributed to a substantial portion of this, but average per capita intake also increased from 10 to 15 kg/year.

Pork consumption varies widely among countries and regions with per capita intake ranging from 2 kg/year in many African countries to 60 kg/year in Germany and Spain. Consumption in the US is just under 25 kg/year, China is now over 40, Brazil just over 9, and in Australia its almost 19 kg/year. Pork consumption is negligible in India.

Canadian pork consumption is about 22 kgs per year.

## BC Pork Producers Association Membership

The Association is a Society registered under the Societies Act of BC. Membership in the Association, like all Societies, is voluntary. Membership is open to all producers licensed by the BC Hog Marketing Commission and to persons who were previously licensed by the Commission for a minimum of 10 years.

Invoices for the \$25 annual Association membership fee were

mailed recently. The deadline date for the 2011 membership payment is July 31, eligible persons who have not paid the fee by that date, are assumed not to wish to be members.

The Association provides a number of services to producers, holds membership in the BC Agriculture Council and the Canadian Pork Council and advocates policies to governments and others that benefit the hog industry.

## CPC News & Notes

Final payments under the HFTP have been made.

A COOL panel decision is not expected until summer 2012, but a draft panel report might be available in early summer this year. Given that Canada is not interested in retaliation, but in ways to get US into compliance (implement changes in the Farm bill that is expected to pass in 2012) the CPC has decided to renew lobby work in Washington.

The CPC Board received a detailed national check-off development timeline with budget estimates for each step. A draft working paper will be soon distributed to the provincial pork organizations. Federal assistance funds for the development of a formal National Check-off proposal haven't been received yet.

## 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

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