

BC Pork *Newsletter*

New Management for BC Pork

Association President Jack DeWit and Commission Chair George Leroux are pleased to announce they have reached an agreement with Geraldine Auston to manage the Association and the Commission.

Geraldine is well known to Pork Producers having managed the Market Development initiatives for the groups.

Recently Ms Auston managed the Farm Animal Care Council and leaves that post at the end of February.

Geraldine will be assisted by Sandy Dunn who will be providing some of the day to day administrative services.

The transition to the new team will be completed by the end of March.



Notice of Annual Meetings

BC Hog Marketing Commission BC Pork Producers Association

Date : Tuesday March 20 2012

Time : 7:00 PM

Place : Best Western Rainbow Country Inn - Chilliwack

The meeting will receive reports, including financial statements, and there will be an election for two Directors of the Association.

New Livestock Trucking Regulations

Regulations covering the trucking and off-loading of injured animals have been changed as follows:

1. Subject animals (lame, injured or stressed animals) cannot legally be loaded and transported except to a veterinary clinic that has facilities for handling sick or injured pigs. In any case the pig would have to be segregated and made comfortable (with bedding).
2. If, on arrival at the slaughter plant, a pig cannot be off loaded by moving on its own (without any assistance), it must NOT be moved. Other pigs are to be directed around the immobile pig. Emergency slaughter can be conducted by the plant employees on the truck if the pig passes veterinary inspection (antemortem inspection) and there are people available to conduct the process. If no one is available, the trucker must have the means to euthanize the pig (a captive bolt). Pigs that cannot walk off the truck by themselves cannot be unloaded. They also cannot be trucked elsewhere.
3. When pigs are having difficulty (stressed or lame for example) but can get off by themselves, they must not be put with the general population of pigs. They must be separated (in a separate pen) so that they can recover.

These regulations will be enforced by both the CFIA and the processors and reflect the level of animal welfare that the industry (pig producers and processors) consider the standard.

Dr Byra has been encouraged by Johnston's to point out the changes, as animal welfare of their suppliers' pigs is of utmost concern to their customers.

McDonalds (USA) - Sow Stalls

McDonald's Corporation announced that it will require its U.S. pork suppliers to outline their plans to phase out the use of sow gestation stalls.

"McDonald's believes gestation stalls are not a sustainable production system for the future. There are alternatives that we think are better for the welfare of sows," said Dan Gorsky, senior vice president of McDonald's North America Supply Chain Management. "McDonald's wants to see the end of sow confinement in gestation stalls in our supply chain. We are beginning an assessment with our U.S. suppliers to determine how to build on the

work already underway to reach that goal. In May, after receiving our suppliers' plans, we'll share results from the assessment and our next steps."

BC Producers are reminded that a new program has funds available to assist BC producers with the costs to change to loose sow housing.

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.

FIRB

Representatives of the Commission and the Association met with the Farm Industry Review Board (FIRB) to review current operations and outline plans for the future. FIRB was told of the Association's recommendations that both organizations be continued with the Commission primarily acting as a vehicle to secure equitable program funding and the Association acting as the program delivery agent.

FIRB said that although many challenges still lie ahead, they were pleased with progress and will now review the the industry's operating recommendations and prepare its response.

Westcoast Reduction

In response to complaints from the Association concerning the estimated pick up weights on dead animals, Westcoast Reduction has installed a weigh scale system installed on its

newest rear fork bin truck. Westcoast will be testing it shortly and once it is calibrated, will do a Wednesday hog pick up and show Producers how it works.

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

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