

BC Pork *Newsletter*

BC Pork Congress November 3 2011

Reserve that date - BC Pork is planning its first annual BC Pork Congress, an informative and educational day for BC producers.

The day will feature presenters discussing herd health issues, nutrition, and approaches to maximize market opportunities and other topics. There will be time for questions and time for discussion of the issues important to you.

There will be no attendance charge to BC producers, families and employees. Costs for the day are covered in part by a generous grant from the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

Further details will be made available shortly.



2011 - 2012 Advance Payment Program for Hogs

Agriculture Canada has announced the details of the 2011 2012 APP program. Administration will continue to be handled by the Manitoba Pork Credit Corporation.

An application for an advance can be made anytime before March 31 2012. The maximum advance is \$400,000 with the first \$100,000 interest free. To participate in the program, producers must be registered with Agristability (CAIS).

For more information contact Manitoba Pork Credit Corporation toll free at 1 866 557 5452.

Back to the PST

With the passage of the HST "Extinction" referendum, the Provincial Government says we will return to the GST / PST system on April 1 2013. The Premier also announced that the PST system in 2013 will be the same as it was prior to the implementation of the HST. For farmers it probably means a return to the PST exemption list with tax due at the time of purchase for all items not on the list.

The GST claim back will work as it did previously with tax due and payable at the time of purchase, and will represent tax credits when filing the periodic GST claim.

The BC Agriculture Council may need to re-instate the farmer identity card - the BCPPA is a BCAC member so pork producers would automatically qualify for the card.

US Corn Supplies

The USDA has decreased its predicted 2011 corn crop, mainly by lowering the yield outlook due to current weather conditions. It now estimates that total supplies may not meet traditional requirements, meaning some reductions may take place in one or more of feed use, ethanol production or exports.

The USDA also said that at this stage it is still possible that good growing conditions could result in better than predicted yields.

BC Pork Extension Services - Slaughter Checks

Slaughter checks were carried out during August at both Johnston's and Britco on slaughter hogs from all BC shippers. The individual results and a letter discussing them have been emailed to each farm.

In order to have an understanding of the relevance of the results, a summary with all farms identified by a number only has also been sent. This allows the producer to compare themselves to the group and recognize potential problems.

Mycoplasma pneumonia in positive herds has been fairly well controlled by vaccine programs with a couple of exceptions. Compared to industry slaughter checks in years

past, the disease no longer costs the \$3 to \$4 per hog that it used to. Although pleuritis cases are a problem in a few herds the incidence remains low compared to herds in other areas.

Only a couple of herds had significant ascarid burdens, where the primary loss is to the plant as the livers are condemned.

This slaughter check did identify stomach irritation and ulcers early enough to be able to avert a costly disease problem. Adjustments made to feed have already improved the scores. Another slaughter check will be done mid-winter.

BC Pork Participates in Canadian Pork Promotion

BC Pork will provide funding for retail outlets. The initiatives, including identity labeling, in store demo's and recipe cards, are

developed and delivered by Pork Marketing Canada. Partial funding is being provided by the Hog Industry Development Fund (HIDF).

US Government Buys Chicken

The United States government is helping to bail out chicken farmers. It says that chicken producers are struggling with higher costs at the same time that consumers are buying less meat. Consequently, retail prices for chicken product have dipped.

The US Department of Agriculture, will make a special purchase of up to \$40 million of chicken products, which the government will then donate to federal food assistance programs such as soup kitchens and its national Feeding America programs. It says its actions are intended to shrink the glut of product, raise retail prices and support producers struggling to cover their costs of production.

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