



Western Canadian Hog Farmers Wounded in Corn Crossfire

November 9, Ottawa — The imposition this week of countervailing and antidumping duties by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) on corn imported from the United States will more than double the cost of an important feed ingredient for hog producers from British Columbia to Manitoba.

“We do not deny that western Canadian corn farmers are suffering from low prices” said Edouard Asnong, President of the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), “but this does not justify forcing their customers, including pork producers, to pay much more for corn than do their competitors in the United States and elsewhere.” Mr. Asnong added: “Hog producers will have to look at using less desirable feed alternatives or to truck corn over much longer distances from eastern Canada.”

Canada is one of the world’s leading pork exporters and the western provinces are a major contributor to this status. However, corn, a leading feed grain for hogs, is not produced in sufficient quantities in western Canada to satisfy local needs and thus is also imported from the United States.

“Alternatives, such as safety net programs, must be considered to address western Canadian corn growers’ grievances and which don’t penalize innocent bystanders like hog growers in that region”, concluded Mr. Asnong.

The CPC, the national federation of provincial hog producer organizations, will continue to actively participate in the corn trade investigation, to seek relief for western hog farmers that have no ability to pass along to their customers the higher costs imposed on them by these preliminary duties.

- 30 -

For information:

Martin Rice
Catherine Scovil
(613) 236-9239

Edouard Asnong
President
(450) 248-2375