



## *Communiqué*

### **AGRICULTURE MINISTER ANNOUNCES LIVESTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE**

*For Immediate Release.*

**OTTAWA, December 13, 1999 – “ We are delighted with the announcement by Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief of a two million dollar partnership fund for environmental advancements in the livestock sector said Edouard Asnong, President of the Canadian Pork Council. This joint project will see one million federal dollars to be matched by one million dollars from industry towards the funding of environmental research projects.**

**The announcement was made at the CPC’s Hog Environmental Management Strategy (HEMS) symposium. Minister Vanclief announced that HEMS is being expanded into all areas of animal agriculture as the Livestock Environmental Initiative.**

**The minister indicated that a lot can be done when industry and government work in partnership, and he complimented the Canadian hog industry with regard to the major environmental research that CPC and its provincial members have accomplished under HEMS.**

**A second federally supported initiative will go towards building upon the HEMS experience, with \$300,000 targeted for the hog industry to explore a national environmental certification program.**

**“It is very gratifying to have the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food recognize Canadian hog producers in their efforts to address the industry’s environmental challenges”, added Mr. Asnong. “The programs which Mr. Vanclief announced today will be of great assistance in helping us in our ongoing commitment to ensuring environmentally sound hog production in Canada.”**

**-30-**

**Information:**

**Edouard Asnong, President (450) 248-2375**

**Martin Rice (613) 236-9239**