



## CQA<sup>®</sup> Food Safety Program for Canadian Hog Producers Receives CFIA Letter of Completion for Technical Review

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Ottawa, ON) – At its recent Annual General Meeting, held on July 8 and 9 in Abbotsford, BC, the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) received its Letter of Completion for the technical review phase of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) on-farm food safety recognition program for its CQA<sup>®</sup> program for hog producers .

Newly elected CPC President Clare Schlegel says the completion of this review marks an important milestone in the Canadian hog industry. "This letter shows that the content of the CQA<sup>®</sup> program is sound, and is a recognition of the hard work of the industry," he explains.

Mr. Schlegel adds that the governments of Canada are to be praised for having the vision to create such a mechanism. "This process brought together experts from federal provincial and territorial governments to review to content of our program. This effort is to be commended," he notes.

CQA<sup>®</sup> was introduced in 1998, following several years of work by a Technical Working Group to develop the program. Its purpose is to help producers demonstrate food safety practices that are being followed on-farm, through a documented program. CQA<sup>®</sup> is based on the principles of HACCP (hazard analysis critical control point), an internationally recognized approach to food safety.

Today, there are over 10,000 farms enrolled in the CQA<sup>®</sup> program. Of this, 6,650 farms are fully validated. More than 70% of hogs marketed in Canada come from CQA<sup>®</sup>-validated farms.

CQA<sup>®</sup> Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group Chair Liz Samis recognizes that the review of the program's technical soundness will give it extra credibility with customers who seek assurances about the pork they purchase. "Our government is very well respected in matters of food safety, both in Canada and in our international markets. Our customers, at home and abroad, buy our product with the knowledge that it comes from people who truly care about the safety and quality of food they produce."

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