



## Media Release

# CANADIAN PORK COUNCIL REACTS TO U.S. FARM BILL, URGES ACTION

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2002

(Ottawa) – The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) has joined a growing chorus of displeasure, both within and outside the United States, with elements of the new U.S. Farm Bill.

The CPC, representing Canada's hog producers, is particularly upset with the country-of-origin labelling provisions which, if they become mandatory in two years, will impose significant and wholly unnecessary compliance costs on all suppliers of meat, whether of U.S. or foreign origin, U.S. food stores and, likely, consumers.

“We believe mandatory country-of-origin labelling will place the United States in violation of its commitments under trade liberalization agreements, such as NAFTA, to ensure fair and equitable treatment between imported and domestic products,” said Edouard Asnong, President of the Pork Council. “This is a step backward and provides an unfortunate example for other countries, many of which are important importers of U.S. meat and other agricultural products, to follow.”

The CPC has communicated with the Canadian federal government, urging joint action with affected Canadian parties to examine alternatives for dealing with these completely unjustified measures, including challenges under NAFTA and the WTO.

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