



Canadian Pork Council Continues Work on Animal Care Assessment Tool

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Ottawa, ON) – Work continues on the development on an assessment tool to address animal care in the Canadian hog industry.

Members of the industry, government and the research community have been working on the initiative for the past year as part of a larger action plan. The working group's goal is to promote animal care on Canadian hog farms and develop a mechanism to demonstrate these practices are being followed.

“We are very pleased about our progress thus far. We look forward to continuing our efforts to ensure that the approach will be workable for producers and meaningful for our customers,” says CPC President Edouard Asnong.

The draft program consists of an educational resource and a set of measurable points that will provide a mechanism to demonstrate that the animal care practices are being followed. These points will be clear, science-based, transparent, and easy for external assessors to measure. This program will complement the CQA[®] program, which is the pork industry's on-farm food safety program.

The next step will be the expansion of the working group to ensure that key stakeholders are part of the development process. The invited groups will include representatives from veterinary, processing, retail, and foodservice associations, as well as the humane movement, and will include the Canadian Meat Council, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, and the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, among other organizations.

“Canadian hog producers are committed to providing excellent care for their animals and are always striving to improve,” adds Mr. Asnong. “We want and need to have mechanisms in place to demonstrate to our customers what we are doing on-farm. This assessment tool will be an excellent way to achieve this goal.”

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