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## **Canadian Pork Council Receives Funding as Part of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's African Swine Fever Industry Preparedness Program**

**May 17, 2024 (Ottawa, Ont.)** - The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) is pleased to announce that it has been selected to receive funding under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) African Swine Fever Industry Preparedness Program (ASFIPP). The CPC's ASFIPP initiative, titled "Development of a low-cost pen-side assay for rapid detection of African Swine Fever Virus," is a crucial step in enhancing the swine industry's readiness against the threat of African Swine Fever (ASF).

The primary objective of the CPC's ASFIPP is to develop an ASFMeter, a portable and low-cost tool, for rapidly diagnosing ASF in the field. This innovative program, in collaboration with McMaster University, aims to revolutionize ASF detection by providing a convenient and effective solution for on-site testing.

"The support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is instrumental in advancing our efforts to combat African Swine Fever," said Canadian Pork Council chair René Roy. "Our focus on developing a low-cost pen-side assay aligns with our commitment to proactive and innovative solutions for the swine industry."

"This program represents a significant step forward in safeguarding Canadian swine herds and strengthening our industry's resilience against ASF," added Roy. "The collaboration with AAFC and McMaster University brings together expertise in research and technology, ensuring that the ASFMeter meets the rigorous standards required for rapid and accurate ASF detection."

"Animal diseases, including African swine fever, are a serious threat to Canada's pork sector, and it's vitally important that all orders of government and industry take steps to prevent and prepare," said the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "These projects are a key part of Canada's efforts to prevent an ASF outbreak while ensuring our pork sector is ready to respond."

The ASFIPP funding underscores the importance of research and development in enhancing biosecurity measures within the swine industry. The program itself is a testament to the joint industry/government proactive approach to preparing for potential challenges and ensuring the sustainability of Canadian pork production.

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The CPC remains dedicated to its ongoing efforts to protect the Canadian pork industry through industry-wide cooperation, innovation, and resilience in the face of emerging challenges. These efforts underscore a commitment to ensuring the long-term success and viability of Canada's pork sector while protecting swine producers and their livelihoods.

For more information about the ASFIPP, please visit: [www.agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/african-swine-fever-industry-preparedness-prevention-stream](http://www.agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/african-swine-fever-industry-preparedness-prevention-stream)

### **About the Canadian Pork Council:**

The CPC is the national voice for pork producers in Canada. A federation of nine provincial pork organizations representing more than 7,000 farms, the organization plays a leadership role in achieving and maintaining a dynamic and prosperous Canadian pork sector. The CPC serves its membership through national and international advocacy efforts as well as through the development and implementation of initiatives, such as food safety, animal care and health, traceability, environment and sustainability, international trade and nutrition.

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### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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