



Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc

*Press Release
For immediate release*

Pork producers welcome \$45.3 million government investment in preventing African swine fever

August 26, 2022, QUÉBEC - The Canadian Pork Council (CPC), representing 7000 pork producers across Canada, today joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Minister, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, as she announced an investment of \$45.3 million that will go towards preventing and preparing for the potential impacts of deadly African swine fever (ASF).

While ASF has not been found in Canada, the impacts would be catastrophic to an industry that provides \$24 Billion annually to the economy and supports tens of thousands of jobs. A single, positive case would result in the immediate suspension of pork and pig exports valued at over \$5 billion in 2021.

"We are pleased to see the government taking the dangers of African swine fever seriously," said Rick Bergmann, Chair of CPC and a pork producer in Steinbach, MB. "It is only through close collaboration between government and industry that we will continue to keep this deadly disease out of our borders and off our farms."

This investment is a direct response to calls made by CPC during the 2021 election and will be delivered in three parts:

1. \$23.4 million to support to the pork industry's already robust prevention and mitigation efforts including biosecurity assessments, wild pig management, retrofits for existing abattoirs, as well as research and sector analysis;
2. \$19.8 million to be invested in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) prevention and preparedness efforts. This will support work such as increased surveillance and laboratory testing capacity, planning and preparedness, supporting international partners in the development of an ASF vaccine, and establishing ASF zoning arrangements with key trading partners; and
3. \$2.1 to enhance the Canadian Border Services Agency's (CBSA) border control activities which include innovative measures such as sniffer dogs to detect pork products.

Full details of these programs are being developed and CPC will work closely with government to ensure that funds go to help producers on their farms.

Although ASF poses no health risk to humans, other animals, or the food system, an outbreak of the disease in Canada could devastate the Canadian pig herd, placing farm families and tens of thousands of jobs along the entire value chain at risk. ASF has been spreading throughout pork-producing countries in Europe and Asia and in 2021 it was discovered in the Dominican Republic; the first time it had reached the western hemisphere in 40 years.

"Pork producers work tirelessly to ensure that every possible protection is in place for their herds," added Mr. Bergmann. "The funding and programs announced today will go a long way towards enhancing the preparedness and vigilance needed to prepare for a worst-case scenario and secure our sector as a safe global supplier of pork far into the future."

The Canadian Pork Council is the national voice for hog producers in Canada. A federation of nine provincial pork industry associations representing 7,000 farms, the organization plays a leadership role in achieving and maintaining a dynamic and prosperous Canadian pork sector.

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