



CPC Revamps On-Farm Programs

February 29, 2016 (Ottawa, ON) Following its commitment of continuous improvement to industry on-farm programs, the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) is introducing enhanced Food Safety/Biosecurity and Animal Care programs.

“Canadian hog farmers are dedicated to the highest quality standards and can demonstrate their compliance with national standards for food safety, biosecurity and animal care through the revamped Canadian Pork Excellence platform,” stated CPC Chair of the On farm Program Committee Teresa VanRaay.

Captured under the brand name Canadian Pork Excellence, the revised programs present the same proven content that has garnered respect and benefited the Canadian pork industry in gaining market access internationally and domestically. However, the programs now have a brand new structure to provide additional transparency and to simplify program comprehension and completion on-farm.

The Food Safety Program presents requirements and good production practices based on the internationally recognized Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) model. It is the basis for maintaining and accessing new international markets, as well as hosting the Ractopamine-Free Certification Program. It is an auditable program with objective questions and precise Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

The Animal Care Program now reflects the 2014 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs requirements, which take into account the best science available as well as the practical requirements for the care and handling of pigs. It is an auditable program that examines the environment, comfort, nutrition, health and housing of pigs to ensure the highest standards of animal care are maintained, and demonstrates to the value chain how producers care for their animals.

“The Pork Excellence platform is a source of tremendous pride,” said CPC Chair Rick Bergmann. “It represents our commitment to consumers and the animals in our care, the sustainability of our industry and the leadership we provide to a global industry.”

The Canadian Pork Excellence programs will be introduced over three years, allowing all Canadian pork producers to join the revised program. In 2016, the programs will be pilot tested on Canadian Pork farms in every province to evaluate the administration, completion and validation processes on-farm. Upon completion of the pilot testing, the programs will be reviewed and revised then, in 2017, implemented on farms via provincial pork organizations.

In 2018, Canadian pork farms ready for full validation will complete the Food Safety and Animal Care Programs and officially join the Canadian Pork Excellence programs.

A document about the revamped programs can be found on the CPC website.

The CPC serves as the national voice for hog producers in Canada. It represents nine provincial pork industry associations and approximately 7,000 hog farms, producing 25.5 million animals a year and generating over \$13 billion in economic activity. The 31,000 farm jobs they create contribute to the total direct, indirect and induced \$23.8 billion and 103,000 jobs across the country. The organization's purpose is to play a leadership role in achieving and maintaining a dynamic and prosperous Canadian pork sector.

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