

Disease prep protects
Canadian pigs and pork

PigLEARN supports
skills and productivity

Porc Show's new format
enhances experience

CANADIAN HOG JOURNAL

Canada's National Hog Magazine • Winter 2026



**Strong hog margins
predicted again this year**

“

“Since we started feeding Hybrid Rye, we have noticed a significant drop in tail biting in our grow-finish barn, and calmer pigs.”

Egbert Deetman, Deetman Farms

CANADIAN HOG JOURNAL

Canada's national hog magazine

Canada's top producer-focused swine industry publication since 1972. Covering news, commentary, events, and research in four editions annually.

Winter 2026

Date of Issue: February 2026

Published by Alberta Pork with cooperation from producers and partners across Canada.

Publisher
Darcy Fitzgerald

Editor
Andrew Heck

Advertising
For all inquiries
Email: andrewheck@gmail.com
Phone: 780-782-5620

Subscriptions
For any new, updated or cancelled subscriptions
Email: rawya.selby@albertapork.com
Phone: 780-474-8288
Publications Mail Agreement
No. 40062769

Return undeliverable addresses to:
Alberta Pork
4828-89 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 5K1



Cover photo: – Weaners in an Alberta hog barn

Winter 2026

HOT ISSUES



2 Strong hog margins predicted again this year



5 Disease prep protects Canadian pigs and pork

FEATURES

PigLEARN supports skills and productivity **9**

Porc Show's new format enhances experience **12**

Staying PED-free with better biosecurity **17**

Putting pork on more fast food menus **19**

NEWS & VIEWS



25

AAFC Next Policy Framework discussions held

Canadian meat advocacy continues

26

Farmed wild boar to be phased out in Alberta

PRRS-resistant pig approved in Canada

27

Olymel names next CEO

Canada Packers welcomes new leaders



29 Fibre and fat: a complex dietary interaction

31 Evaluating manure's environmental impact

RESEARCH & INNOVATION



KWS Hybrid Rye

Contains consistent, high-quality protein with an excellent amino acid profile suitable for all stages of pig production.



www.kws.com/ca

SEEDING
THE FUTURE
SINCE 1856



Strong hog margins predicted again this year

Justin Shepherd

Editor's note: Justin Shepherd is Senior Economist, Farm Credit Canada (FCC). This article has been used with permission from FCC. For more information, contact 'mediarelations@fcc-fac.ca' or visit the 'Knowledge – Economics' section on FCC's website.

After an unexpectedly strong 2025, things continue to look positive for the Canadian hog sector starting off 2026. Hog futures prices are near five-year highs and are well supported. After several years of weaker demand and oversupply globally, the hog market has become more balanced. With lower feed costs relative to a few years ago, margins look to remain well supported for producers.

Disease continues to be a concern for producers all over the world, with many pork-producing regions dealing with outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF), Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED), and Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). If Canada can continue to keep PED and PRRS under control, and keep ASF out of the country, producers can feel optimistic given strong hog prices and manageable feed costs. In this outlook, we examine what margins are expected to look like for the year ahead, and what domestic and international demand looks like for Canadian pork.

Hog prices supported by cattle markets

For 2026, our forecasts for cash hog prices across the country are slightly above 2025 and well above their five-year averages (Table 1). With cattle futures near record levels, this provides support for the hog market as a substitute protein. Demand for hogs is being fueled in part by domestic hog slaughter that increased in 2025 after multiple years of consolidation and is expected to be up slightly again this year.



After weathering the storm of the past several years, producers are now in a good position to achieve solid profitability.

Livestock prices	2025 (actual)	2026 (forecast)	5-Year Average
Ontario market hog \$/kg	2.65	2.80	2.45
Ontario feeder hog \$/head	110	115	100
Manitoba market hog \$/kg	2.55	2.70	2.35
Manitoba feeder hog \$/head	105	110	95
Isowean \$/head	70	65	60

Table 1: Hog prices are expected to be above five-year averages heading into 2026. Source: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, CME Futures, FCC calculations.

While live hog exports look to remain steady to the U.S. this year, there is risk on the horizon as the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) is up for review, and as voluntary country-of-origin labelling (vCOOL) came into effect at the start of January. For now, these risks are being outweighed by the demand for Canadian hogs.

Hog margins benefit from lower feed costs

Record Canadian crop production last fall is pushing grains and oilseeds down. Feed grain prices – including wheat, barley and corn – are expected to be steady or slightly lower, while oilseed prices are projected to decline due to high global stocks.

Large domestic supplies and market access restrictions on Canadian pulses to India are likely to result in additional peas diverted to the feed market and utilized in hog rations. This drop means cheaper peas, soybean and canola meals for feed, with ample supplies expected to hold feed prices below the five-year average throughout 2026. When we add in strong hog prices, it suggests Manitoba and Ontario farrow-to-finish hog margins could reach their highest levels in five years (Figure 1).

After weathering the storm of the past several years, producers are now in a good position to achieve solid profitability.

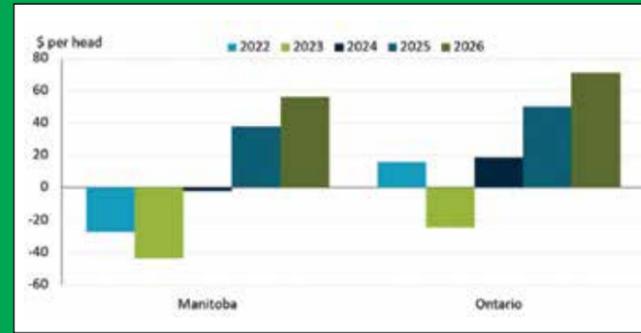


Figure 1: Manitoba and Ontario farrow-to-finish returns look strong for the year ahead. Source: Statistics Canada, CanFax, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, FCC Economics.

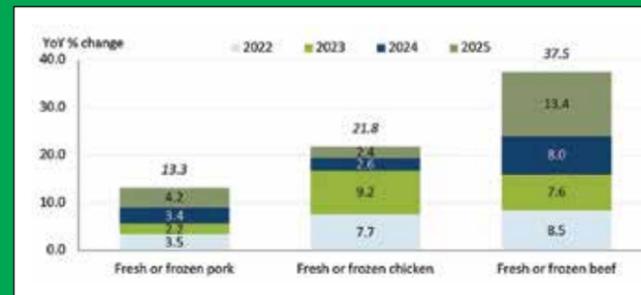


Figure 2: Canadians started to increase their quarterly pork consumption in 2025.

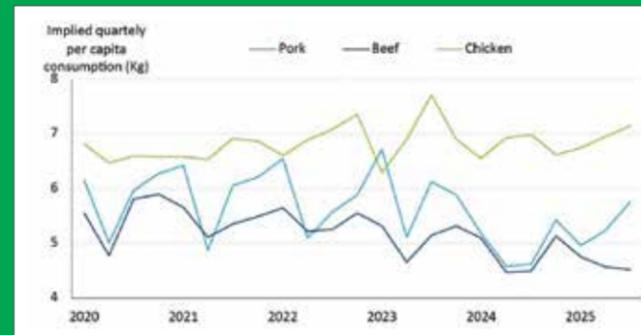


Figure 3: Pork prices at Canadian grocers give consumers a reason to think twice. Source: FCC Economics.

tonnes	5-Year Average (2020-24)	2025 relative to 5-Year Average
U.S.	232	-4%
Japan	171	43%
Mexico	103	44%
China	209	-80%
Philippines	77	-29%
South Korea	42	39%
Rest of world	94	9%
Total	928	-6%

Table 2: Canadian pork exports are down slightly in 2025 relative to five-year average.

Canadian pork prices encourage consumers

The price of pork at grocery stores is just one aspect to consider; it's important to compare how it performs against alternative meats like beef and chicken. Since 2022, pork prices in grocery stores have increased by more than 13 per cent, but this rise pales in comparison to chicken and beef, whose prices went up nearly 22 per cent and 38 per cent respectively (Figure 2). Because pork prices have risen more moderately, that meat has become a more affordable protein choice for Canadian shoppers.

That at least partially explains the uptick in pork consumption last year – an encouraging development for the Canadian pork industry (Figure 3). Provided pork prices continue increasing less than other proteins, it is reasonable to assume continued consumption.

Canadian pork exports down through most of 2025

The Canadian pork industry is heavily reliant on exports, as more than 60 per cent of our pork production is exported. Through October 2025, Canadian processors exported six per cent less than the five-year average of 928 thousand metric tonnes (Table 2). This is highlighted by the large drop in shipments to China, part of which can be attributed to that country's decision to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian pork. Despite recent announcements of tariff relief for other Canadian agricultural products, pork has not yet been granted a reprieve.

Continued success is being found, however, in Japan, Mexico and South Korea, where Canada's pork exports continue to grow at a solid pace. Trade to the U.S. continues to be strong and stable year-to-year, but as mentioned earlier, it remains a watch item for the second half of this year, as CUSMA discussions start.

Market access continues to be important

Unlike last year where trade concerns were an immediate issue that could potentially impact margins, this year we are expecting relatively smooth sailing through the first half of the year. Canadian hog production remains closely tied to exports to the U.S., and with disease impacts slowing herd growth stateside as well as restrained feed costs, it is creating strong margin opportunities.

The Canadian pork industry continues to make strides in growing export markets, while remaining hopeful for changes in the relationship with China. In other words, after weathering the storm of the past several years, producers are now in a good position to achieve solid profitability. 🐷



Disease prep protects Canadian pigs and pork

Egan Brockhoff

Editor's note: Egan Brockhoff is Chief Veterinary Officer, Canadian Pork Council (CPC). He can be contacted at 'brockhoff@cpc-ccp.com.'

The recent discovery of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Spain – and the virus' continual spread throughout hot spots in Europe and Asia – highlights the ongoing important of preparing for foreign animal diseases (FADs). Canadian livestock face ongoing threats not only from ASF but also Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Since 2019, the Canadian pork industry has significantly stepped up its FAD preparedness. These efforts have generated valuable knowledge and practical tools for producers. It's also important for producers to know how they fit into the picture, along with what's happening behind the scenes, at a higher level. Together, producers, veterinarians and the broader industry are working hard to ensure herds stay healthy, and to maintain market access to critical global destinations for Canadian pigs and pork.

How are FADs identified?

The response to a suspected FAD begins with the identification of lesions or unexpected animal health events. The first step is to immediately contact a veterinarian, who



Egan Brockhoff spoke about the Canadian pork industry's foreign animal disease (FAD) preparedness efforts during the 2026 Banff Pork Seminar.

then reports to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the provincial Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). From there, a structured process unfolds: investigation, epidemiological surveillance, laboratory confirmation, and, if required, the establishment of Primary Control Zones with movement restrictions. These steps are critical for containing disease spread and preserving Canada's disease-free status in global trade.

When a premises is declared infected, quarantine measures come into effect, often with 10-kilometre control zones. CFIA formalizes this using official documentation (such as Form 4204). Producers must work closely with federal and provincial authorities to manage these zones and comply with movement restrictions to prevent further disease spread.

Who is involved during an FAD response?

Effective FAD response requires collaboration among federal, provincial and municipal governments; livestock organizations; and producers. Each entity has a distinct role, from issuing destruction orders to managing disease containment and recovery operations. An effective FAD response includes a combination of technical, logistical and communication efforts:

- Initial detection and reporting
- Outbreak surveillance
- Communications and financial support
- Disease control and eradication
- Depopulation and welfare culls
- Carcass disposal and transport management
- Worker protection and mental health support
- Permitting and vaccination
- Surveillance in wild pigs



Your provincial pork organization is an excellent resource when it comes to prevention, preparedness and potential response during an FAD outbreak.

Leading Edge Nutrition & In-Barn Service.

Take advantage of our swine nutrition products and advanced in-barn services to:



Optimize sow and nursery production



Maintain consistent growth performance



Save time with dependable service support



Advanced Animal Nutrition for Improved Human Health

Canadian Family Owned

1-877-625-4400
grandvalley.com

AB/SK: 1-866-610-5770

MB: 1-866-626-3933

fortifiednutritionltd.com





Cleaning and disinfection (C&D), while a vital part of FAD response, is unfortunately not covered by CFIA.

What happens during an FAD response?

Under the *Health of Animals Act*, CFIA can order the destruction of animals or contaminated materials to prevent disease spread. However, the actual destruction is carried out by producers, with support from provincial organizations and CFIA. While compensation is available for animals and property that are destroyed, costs related to cleaning and disinfection (C&D) are not covered.

C&D is a mandatory and carefully monitored process for infected sites. It involves removing contaminated materials, conducting both dry and wet cleaning, and applying approved disinfectants. CFIA conducts multiple inspections, and quarantine is lifted only after successful C&D and a minimum 14-day controlled downtime.

Rapid containment and transparent communication are essential for maintaining Canada's reputation as a trusted trading partner. The swine sector's ability to respond quickly and confidently underpins international market access and strengthens long-term relationships with trading partners.

What can producers do to protect against FADs?

Producers can greatly improve response outcomes by staying focused on six key areas:

- Biosecurity
- Traceability
- Surveillance
- Record-keeping
- Preparedness
- Collaboration

Both national and provincial resources – including ASF and FMD response plans – are available to support producers. Lessons learned from past outbreaks of diseases like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED), Porcine Reproductive and

Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and other diseases continue to shape preparedness strategies. The greatest risks remain lapses in biosecurity and improper traceability. Thankfully, the industry's ongoing disease surveillance confirms that cooperation across the value chain has helped keep our sector free of FADs to date.

We're all in this together

Producers are encouraged to continue working closely with their provincial pork organization on FAD planning and emergency preparedness. Producers can further strengthen biosecurity and disease prevention by working closely with their herd veterinarians.

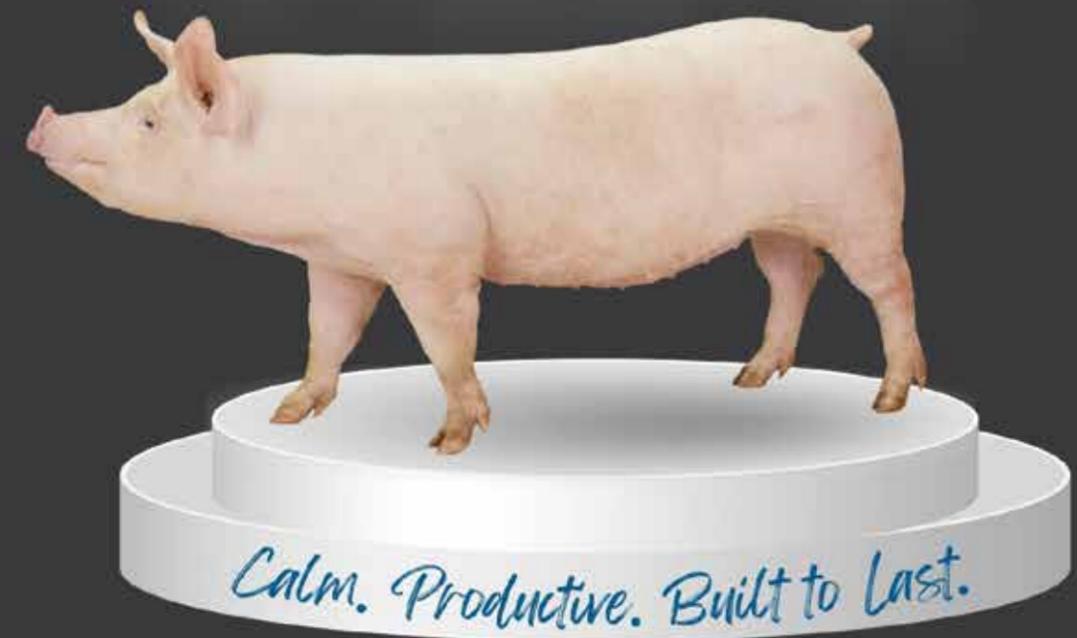
Canada's swine industry is well-equipped to respond to FAD threats through coordination, strong biosecurity and effective partnerships. Producers remain at the centre of this effort, supported by clear frameworks, technical expertise and shared resources. Vigilance and collaboration will continue to be the foundation for safeguarding animal health and protecting market access for Canadian pigs and pork. 🐷



Contact your provincial pork organization if you'd like to know more.

Introducing THE NEXT-GEN 241

She's bred not just to farrow but to perform. Backed by more than 10 years of dedicated innovation and technological advancements, the DNA Line 241 is more than a gilt – she's your next-generation sow. With maternal strength and superior grow-finish value, the Next-Gen 241 is redefining what sow performance looks like today and into the future.



Next-Gen Performance. Today.
Learn more at dnaswinegenetics.com.





FOR INDIVIDUAL USERS



PigLEARN supports skills and productivity

Mark Fynn

Editor's note: Mark Fynn is Training Resources Coordinator, Canadian Pork Council (CPC). He can be contacted at 'fynn@cpc-ccp.com.'

After nearly a decade of work involving more than 200 contributors, the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) has introduced PigLEARN: an online training platform designed to enhance skills and boost productivity in the Canadian pork industry. It offers a flexible, self-paced learning experience with a wide range of educational content, training modules and valuable resources.

The PigLEARN story is a proud example of how the sector came together to build something meant to last. Its platform and training are a culmination of efforts to develop the content that is now housed within PigLEARN. Thanks to input from across the sector, PigLEARN is now available to producers and industry partners all over Canada!

What does PigLEARN offer learners?

With PigLEARN, learners can track their progress and receive recognition for their achievements, empowering them to stay current and excel in their roles. The platform offers an administrative portal for organizations and companies to manage their own trainees, as well as a simplified portal for workers to log in and complete their assigned training.

The platform currently hosts 96 training modules developed by producers and other pork sector experts on a wide range of topics, including:

- Animal-based measures
- Biosecurity
- Enhanced biosecurity for disease outbreaks
- Euthanasia
- General farm tasks
- Group sow housing
- Growing pigs
- Pig handling
- Preparing to transport pigs
- Sow barn tasks
- Veterinary products

The full, detailed catalog of 96 modules can be found on the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) website at cpc-ccp.com/piglearn. Another 20 modules on worker health and safety are planned for release in early 2027.

The training modules aren't just videos either; they feature advanced simulations and real-world scenarios to prepare



Thanks to input from across the sector, PigLEARN is now available to producers and industry partners across Canada.

workers for the barn. These come in the form of visual and interactive knowledge checks, which use a variety of question formats and approaches.

To ensure the platform was accessible for the sector's diverse workforce, PigLEARN features narration in English with Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino) and Ukrainian subtitles, and narration in French with Spanish subtitles.

Learners can track their progress and receive recognition for their achievements, empowering them to stay current and excel in their roles.



PigLEARN is designed to be accessible, including narration and subtitles in multiple languages. Tagalog (Filipino) subtitles are shown in this example.

WHAT IS THE PigLEARN PLATFORM

PigLEARN is an online training platform designed to enhance skills and boost productivity in the swine industry. It offers a flexible, self-paced learning experience with a wide range of educational content, training modules, and valuable resources. Learners can track their progress and receive recognition for their achievements, empowering them to stay current and excel in their roles.

PigLEARN CATALOG

PigLEARN CATALOG Offers:

- ▶ 96 + training modules on swine production
- ▶ Interactive quiz questions
- ▶ The modules are available in English narration, as well as Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino), or Ukrainian subtitles
- ▶ New material will be developed yearly

PigLEARN PLATFORM Includes:

- ▶ Tracking user progress and accomplishments
- ▶ Competing with other users through leaderboards
- ▶ Access through web browser
- ▶ Offline friendly mobile app coming soon

SUBSCRIPTION TYPES

24 MONTH FULL ACCESS
\$51.25/person + tax

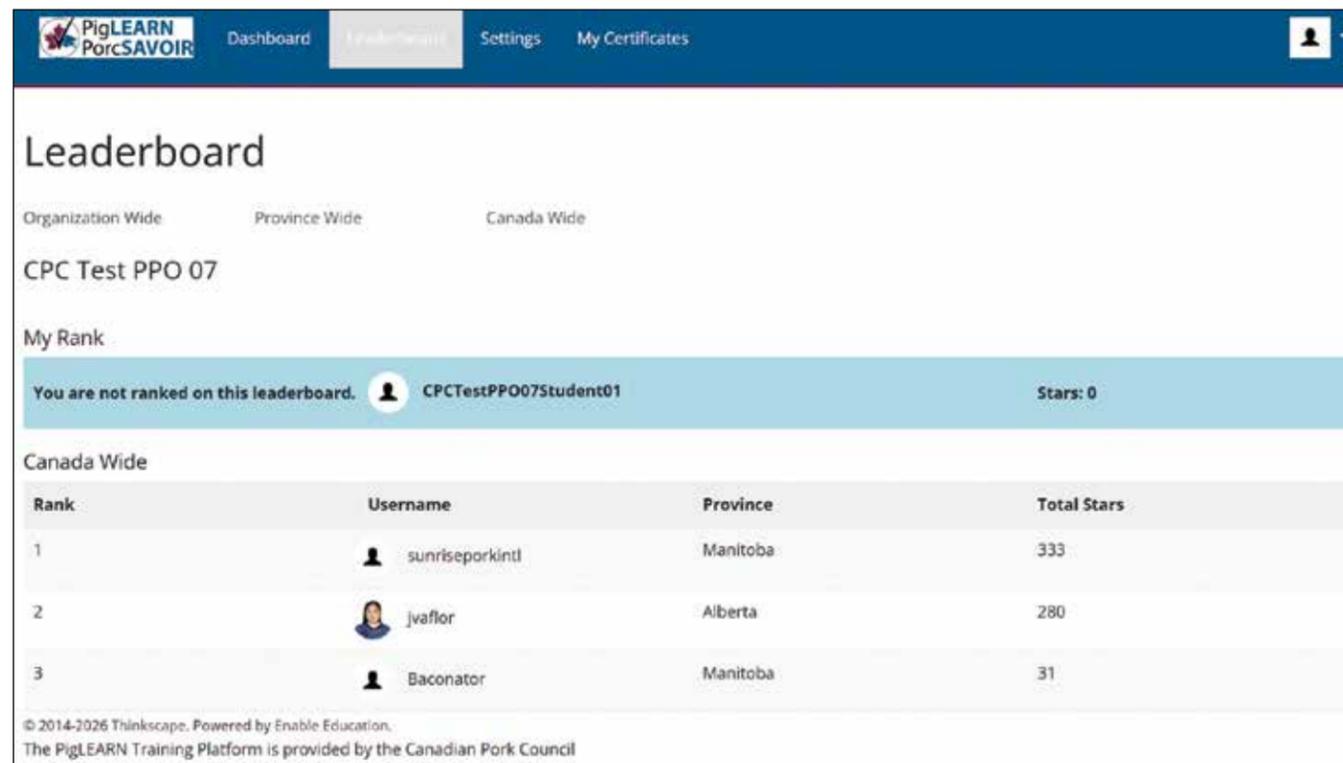
Full access to the PigLEARN platform, all training modules, and administrative functionality.

24 MONTH LIMITED ACCESS
\$15.38/person + tax

Access to the PigLEARN platform for companies wishing to host and administer their own training.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ALBERTA PORK

☎ (780) 440-8458 ✉ cristina.neva@albertapork.com 🌐 albertapork.com 📍 4828 89 Street, Edmonton, AB T6E 5K1



A fun optional feature for companies using PigLEARN is the leaderboard function.

What does PigLEARN offer companies?

Beyond the many training modules, PigLEARN offers administrative abilities for companies to manage, track and incentivize the training progress of their workers. Company administrators can:

- **Brand the platform** with their company's logo and colour scheme to truly make it their own.
- **Create their own custom training content** through the platform's module builder, including drafting their own text and quizzes, and uploading their own videos, PDFs and presentations.
- **Build and assign their own custom learning pathways**, which can compile any combination of their own custom modules and PigLEARN pre-built modules.
- **Register and manage their own workers**, grouping them by work area or any other attribute and assigning them customized learning individually or by group.
- **Track training progress** of individuals within the platform or by exporting a CSV spreadsheet for potential integration with other software.
- **Generate customized certificates** with specific completion criteria that will be automatically granted to learners when they complete lessons.

- **Promote healthy competition** through the leaderboard function (optional), which allows users to decide whether to share their achievements with other learners in the company, their province or the whole country.

How was PigLEARN training developed?

Historically, pork producer training resources were developed independently in each respective province; however, in the late 2010s, provincial pork organizations noticed a fair amount of redundancy between what each province was developing. On top of that, it was hard for each province to devote much staff time to training development. Collectively with CPC, the sector discussed the possibility of pooling time, talent and funding nationally to develop high-quality training resources informed by expertise from across Canada.

In 2019, CPC received federal funding for a multi-year training development project. The project began with a steering committee meeting of pork producers, veterinarians and other pork sector experts, whose task it was to decide which training topics to prioritize first. Year one of the project focused on biosecurity, humane transport and euthanasia. Each topic area required its own working group of five to 10 people from across Canada with expertise in that specific area. The first three working groups were established by early 2020.



The Canadian Pork Council (CPC), including Mark Fynn, along with provincial pork organizations, worked collaboratively with Canadian swine research facilities and a third-party to develop the platform.

Although the idea of a PigLEARN training platform was floating around since the beginning of the project, it wasn't decided on until 2022. CPC partnered with Enable Education from Milton, Ontario to develop and host the platform, using training videos previously developed collaboratively with Prairie Swine Centre (PSC), *Centre de développement du porc du Québec* (CDPQ), and *Équipe québécoise de santé porcine* (EQSP). The contributions of PSC, CDPQ and EQSP were foundational to developing the platform, which was officially launched in March 2025.

Since launching, another seven working groups started and completed work on different topics, bringing the total number of PigLEARN training modules to 96 and counting.

Kudos to the working group members who have devoted and continue to devote time and effort above and beyond their already full-time schedules. They are involved from conception to completion, including reviewing content outlines, scripts, videos, knowledge checks and finalized modules.

How can learners register on PigLEARN?

To register on PigLEARN, or to find out more information, contact your provincial pork organization. Although CPC would love to offer the platform to producers for free, it is important the platform be sustainable.

The intent of PigLEARN is not to make a profit but to build and maintain a safe and skilled workforce today and into the future. Subscriptions are priced so the platform runs cost-neutral, ensuring it can be maintained, and that new or updated modules can be added regularly.

The main subscription option is a 12-month subscription that gives someone full access to complete all PigLEARN training modules (and any company-uploaded modules) for \$51.25 plus tax. Another option for companies who want to use the platform to provide company-uploaded training only to certain workers is a 12-month subscription for \$15.38 plus tax,

but these workers will not have access to any of the PigLEARN training modules. Subscriptions are only required when someone tries to view the training content. Companies can still log into the platform for free to complete administrative tasks, and learners can log in for free to see what is available as well as their past training achievements if their subscription expires.



To register on PigLEARN, contact your provincial pork organization.

PigLEARN is a testament to industry collaboration

The strength of the Canadian pork industry shines when we work together – no turfiness, no ego. PigLEARN is a proud example of how the sector can come together and build something to last.

PigLEARN's platform and high-quality training involved the efforts of many people and years to see it come to fruition. Thanks to input from across the sector, PigLEARN is now available to producers and industry partners across Canada.

PROVIDING A FULL RANGE OF VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Bacteriology/Mycology	Necropsy
Clinical Pathology	NIR Feed and Forages
Dermatopathology	Parasitology
Endocrinology	PCR
Genomics	Serology
Histopathology	Surgical Pathology
Immunohistochemistry	Toxicology
Immunology	Virology

(306) 966-7316 | www.pdsinc.ca

Accredited by American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), Standards Council of Canada, and CFIA for specific tests.



Porc Show's new format enhances experience

Andrew Heck



Visitors flock from far and wide every year to take in eastern Canada's premier pork conference.

The 12th annual Porc Show took place at the Quebec City Convention Centre on December 9 & 10, inviting hundreds of Canadian and international guests to hear keynote speeches looking at market dynamics, public perceptions and the future of the pork sector, along with workshop presentations in the areas of animal health, farm management and consumer marketing.

This year, a new format debuted, which included more balanced presentation delivery between the two days, the evening reception on the first day instead of the second, and a novel approach to real-time language translation, using a phone-based app. All three decisions resulted in a more well-rounded and action-packed conference, which was appreciated by guests.

Enhanced nutrition, management reduces mortality

Zhenbin Zhang, Swine Nutritionist, Cargill Animal Nutrition & Health raised an important question: should we shift our focus on weaned pigs? Post-weaning mortality

remains a significant problem for many producers, and the impacts should not be underestimated.

Among the main causes of post-weaning mortality, Zhang suggested that increasingly lower birth rates, due to increasingly larger litter sizes, may account for much of the problem, alongside sow farm health status.

"A reduction of 200 grams in birth weight can easily lead to 400 grams of reduction in post-weaning weight," said Zhang.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) is another significant issue, along with Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). Zhang also pointed out that PRRS-positive unstable herds are likely to have *Strep. suis*, for which he offers two possible solutions: reduce cumulative physiologic stress, and incorporate anti-inflammatory or anti-oxidative phenolic compounds in diets.

With the incoming ban on zinc oxide in 2027, this will create challenges for immune system health, as there is no effective, non-anti-microbial alternative. The shift will also increase costs for producers.

"Unlike high-zinc diets, it is hard to chase gut health and performance simultaneously from nutrients alone," said Zhang.



Zhenbin Zhang offered solutions for producers to overcome issues related to pre-weaning mortality.

Diarrhea caused by *E. Coli* is another concern. Zhang indicated that water acidification is an important consideration, since acidified water reduces *E. Coli* shedding, decreases feed consumption and has no impact on performance.

About three-quarters of the pig population has a post-weaning mortality rate between one and five per cent, with the remaining quarter sitting at above five per cent. This latter category, which is usually not targeted by nutritionists, could benefit from a nutrition program.

Research by Cargill has shown that decreasing gut fermentable protein can help control diarrhea, as fermentable gut protein intake is correlated to mortality. Provisoy by Cargill has a lot less fermentable gut protein than bone meal, corn, or similar products, relying on structural carbohydrates to support gut health. Additional research by Cargill has shown that an increase in structural carbs can decrease mortality by at least half.

Alongside nutritional approaches, Zhang also recommends enhancing production management practices.

"Look for the four elements: air, water, space and feed," said Zhang.

The right air temperature and humidity, along with low ammonia and carbon dioxide, provide an optimal barn atmosphere. Water should be made available at a rate of 10 to 12 pigs per drinker, adjusted to an appropriate height and flow rate.

Taken together, Zhang believes a combination of these approaches can make a big difference in reducing post-weaning mortality.



Jean-Philippe Gervais is optimistic about the pork sector this year, despite ongoing challenges.

Lower sow slaughter could indicate expansion

Jean-Philippe Gervais, Executive Vice-President, Strategy & Impact, Chief Economist, Farm Credit Canada provided a timely update about the state of the Canadian economy.

Gervais suggested that inflation currently seems to be well anchored around two per cent, and Statistics Canada's latest projections look optimistic, to the point that we could expect interest rate cuts in the second half of 2026.

"In the short term, we should see some interest rate cuts in 2026," said Gervais. "In the long term, they could continue to rise due to what's happening between Canada and the U.S. I would say there's a greater chance we'll see them rise than see them fall."

The Canadian economy continues to grow but is under pressure. Population growth seen in recent years has cooled off, which has caused some economic slowdown, including in agri-food. Speaking about pork markets, Gervais believes Canadian pork exports overall are showing resilience, thanks to market diversification in the face of falling demand in China. Chinese demand for Canadian pork is falling, but Japanese demand is growing, as Canada recently surpassed the U.S. as the country's main pork supplier.

However, the impacts of looming potential threats – such as the introduction to voluntary country-of-origin labeling (vCOOL) – remain to be seen. When the U.S. introduced mandatory country-of-origin labelling (mCOOL) in 2014, Canadian pig production and live exports were at an all-time high. Not long after mCOOL, production and exports dropped and have yet to recover to similar levels, though they are trending in that direction.

"Sow slaughter right now is lower relative to total slaughter, which usually indicates expansion," said Gervais. "When I put it all together, record cattle prices from the small herd in Northern America may lead to some support for hog prices."



Christian Grenier and Stéphanie Taylor are balancing economy and ecology on the farm.

On the feed side, Gervais mentioned record U.S. corn production, coupled with above-average production in Argentina, which should lead to stable prices in the coming year. Soybean demand in the U.S. demand for biofuel, however, has created a demand surge and could lead to higher feed prices.

On a more sobering note, Gervais dug into consumer trends. Pork remains competitively priced for consumers, which is good; however, if you could eliminate all the economic factors that affect consumption, Statistics Canada research indicates that pork demand would fall, beef would stay the same, and chicken would increase. Whether domestically or internationally, Canadian pork has plenty of opportunities.

Looking ahead, Gervais offered his vision for how Canadian agriculture can remain competitive in a changing world, including increased efficiency, scale-up and innovation to sustain and de-risk technology adoption.

“It’s true we have a major productivity challenge in Canada,” said Gervais. “We need to rethink agriculture productivity, which won’t look the same as 20 years ago.”

To help illustrate his point, Gervais compared Canada and the U.S., as our main competitor in the pork market. With the U.S. having eight times more people than Canada, it’s easy to see how we are naturally disadvantaged in scale; yet, the

U.S. agri-food sector is considered only six times larger than Canada’s, with agri-food exports only five times larger.

Looking at the situation through an optimistic yet pragmatic lens, Gervais is confident that the Canadian agri-food industry can maintain a larger proportional impact on global markets, if the industry continues to adapt.

Regenerative agriculture pays off

Christian Grenier, President, *Grenier Gardengeois* & Stéphanie Taylor, CEO, *Grenier Gardengeois* explored their unique approach to regenerative agriculture.

Trained as an agricultural economist, Grenier worked for more than a decade in the banking sector before returning to his roots by taking over the family farm, representing the fourth generation at the helm. With a bachelor’s degree in business administration, Taylor first spent a decade working in marketing and then four years in the environmental sector before giving new meaning to her career.

Three years ago, Taylor took the leap into agriculture by taking over, alongside her husband.

“I say she’s my wife, but she’s my manager,” said Grenier. “She oversees different things and makes sure sufficient resources are available to move projects forward.”

Grenier Gardengeois’s business umbrella connects the farm, *Fermes Grenier*, with its incoming biogas generation component, known as *GPK Bioenergie*. The farm’s multi-purpose facility includes a pig barn with an upstairs greenhouse, and on the land, they have a composter, cover crops and biodiversity islands to showcase the natural beauty of the landscape. Currently, 22 staff help run the various business elements, which has grown from only eight staff in recent years.

Biomethanization uses inputs like manure, biosolids from secondary sludge, food waste and other organics in an anaerobic digester to produce biogas and digestate, which can include fertilizer, animal bedding and even construction materials. The primary product, biogas, represents renewable energy and a revenue stream. *GPK Bioenergie* recently entered a 20-year partnership with Quebec-based natural gas provider, *Énergir*, and received provincial government financial support to construct the facility.

“Agriculture must play its part in Quebec’s energy independence,” said Grenier. “Heating a condo block in Montreal using existing sources is fine, but we can’t simply keep doing this to heat pig or poultry barns.”

Once fully operational, *GPK Bioenergie* will use *Fermes Grenier’s* hog slurry, along with manure from local dairy operations. For biosecurity reasons, *GPK Bioenergie* will not accept hog manure from other farms, and an on-farm truck wash will be part of their protocols.

“These projects make us who we are,” said Taylor.

The new plant is based off tried-and-tested technology used in France, which is expected to be able to process 100,000 tonnes



An evening stroll through the Petit Champlain zone in Quebec City provides ample opportunity for Porc Show guests to take in some incredible and historical experiences.

of feedstock, resulting in the production of more than three million cubic metres of biogas – enough to heat the equivalent of more than 1,000 homes.

On the consumer-facing side, *Grenier Gardengeois* also operates a boutique shop selling their pork, chicken and other local artisanal products.

“It’s important that social acceptability is there,” said Taylor. “We take time to tell our neighbours about our processes.”

The underlying philosophy of *Grenier Gardengeois* is simple: change starts at home, and through intentional growth, change can influence others.

“People want to get on board,” said Grenier. “People want to believe.”

Quebec’s charm continues to attract interest

The Porc Show’s attractive mix of timely and important subject matter, networking opportunities and hospitality continues to draw guests from far and wide every year.

The second day of the event featured a plated lunch – the outcome of a culinary student contest that comes with a cash prize for those involved, along with the prestige of having their dish showcased for guests. This year’s lunch began with a tribute to David Boissonneault, former President, *Éleveurs de porcs du Québec*, who served in the role from 2011 to 2017. Boissonneault sadly passed away in 2025, but his legacy endures across the Canadian pork industry and beyond.

The show’s organizers, sponsors and presenters routinely churn out a high-calibre event, and Quebec City’s French-Canadian history and charm remain an enjoyable bonus for visitors.



Have Your Say on the Green Certificate Program

The Green Certificate Program is being updated – including the **Swine Production Technician** specialty – to better reflect today’s production practices. Inside Education, working with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, is looking for Alberta producers who’ve been involved as trainers, testers, or participants to review materials and share feedback.

Interested?

Contact **Steve Mclsaac**: steve@larixstrategies.ca

METAL ROOFING METAL SIDING

COMMERCIAL

RESIDENTIAL

AGRICULTURAL

LOCATIONS ACROSS WESTERN CANADA

NORTHERN ALBERTA		SOUTHERN ALBERTA	
HEAD OFFICE (Nisku, AB) (780) 979 0325	WESTLOCK, AB (780) 350 8916	WANHAM, AB (780) 653 0281	TORRINGTON, AB (403) 559 6059
HOLDEN, AB (780) 385 8803	ST PAUL, AB (780) 787 0129	HYTHE, AB (780) 512 4705	ROSEBUD, AB (403) 361 0490
SASKATCHEWAN		BRITISH COLUMBIA	
LEASK, SK (306) 448 7921	BIGGAR, SK (306) 948 3776	PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB (204) 871 5251	FORT ST. JOHN, BC (250) 754 6619
WIMSDEN, SK (306) 731 2666	DECKER, MB (204) 412 0234		

**AS SOLID AS
THE PRODUCTS
WE SELL.**

VERSAFRAME.CA
1-877-463-8256

**ROLLFORMED TO CUSTOM LENGTHS
MANUFACTURER DIRECT**

Staying PED-free with better biosecurity

Joey Dearborn

Editor's note: Joey Dearborn is Communications Manager, Manitoba Pork. He can be contacted at 'jdearborn@manitobapork.com.'



At HyLife, biosecurity has taken centre stage to address the ongoing threat of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED).

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we all learned some new terms that we likely hadn't previously been exposed to – terms like 'herd immunity' and 'contact tracing,' for example. There was an increased focus on where we had been, who we may have met, and how viruses travel – all of which dominated our discussions for the last several years.

In the hog sector, a different coronavirus has dominated conversations while using much of the same terminology. Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) is a very contagious virus, which, when found in a hog-dense area, can be incredibly difficult to mitigate and eliminate. While the disease does not pose any risk to food safety, it remains a major concern when it comes to maintaining herd health. On average, Manitoba's hog sector has been dealing with PED outbreaks every two years since 2014.

The virus is typically spread through direct contact between infected and non-infected pigs, but also by common movements through facilities, and being tracked in on clothing, boots, vehicle tires, equipment and any other item that may have become contaminated while at an infected facility.

HyLife – a fully integrated pork producer based in Manitoba – has invested substantial time, funds and energy into training all employees on how to take biosecurity seriously and how to implement steps to keep their animals healthy.

"It's a continuous improvement challenge, and it would be the same for a small producer and a large producer, just the scale is different," said Karine Talbot, Senior Director of Animal Health, Nutrition, and R&D, HyLife. "One thing I like to remind people is with biosecurity, if you do it well every single day, the reward is nothing, but that's not how the human brain works. We constantly must find different ways of sharing our message and doing audits of our protocols."

A key part of this continuous improvement is finding creative ways to keep the conversation and protocols front-of-mind. HyLife's 'That's BS' campaign (short for biosecurity), invited employees to share a short video on their internal platform highlighting a measure they take every day. The campaign included prizes employees could win, and at the end of each month free of PED, a team would film a dance video to share as a celebration.



2026 Regional Meetings



March 16, 2026



March 17, 2026



March 18, 2026



March 19, 2026

Register online at albertapork.com



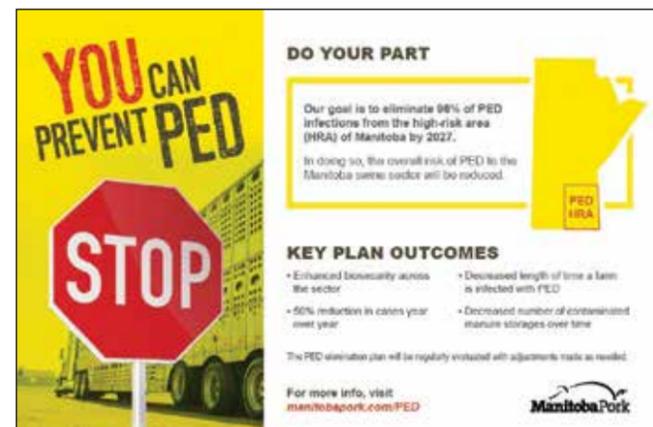


Karine Talbot has been leading the biosecurity efforts at HyLife.

“What’s been encouraging about this process is that the entire Manitoba hog sector, including all our stakeholders and the provincial government, have been involved in developing this path forward,” said Jenelle Hamblin, Director of Swine Health, Manitoba Pork. “This plan is recognized across North America as being at the forefront of how to prevent and manage PED. Our producers and stakeholders prioritize biosecurity, and we have seen the result of this effort first-hand.”

Getting buy-in from across the industry also translates down to the farm level as well, as employees working with animals every day are on the frontlines of ensuring that disease stays out of barns. While conversations about biosecurity may be dry or hard to share creatively, it’s important that everybody is on board with what must happen to keep the animals safe.

“Don’t take for granted that people who work in your barns know what proper biosecurity should look like,” said Talbot. “It’s important to really have those discussions with your employees, while also challenging protocols to ensure that things are being done properly and that there is still room for continuous improvement. You want to have a discussion about it, and you want people to be proud of it too.”



Manitoba Pork’s PED working group has established the PED Elimination Plan.

Another tool used in barns to show how disease can spread is Glo Germ, a white powder that will glow under black light. This allows everyone that works in the barn to see how disease can spread without knowledge or intent.

“It’s always nice to see the ‘a-ha’ moment in people’s eyes when they finally understand what we’re teaching, and why they have to do things like Danish entry or shower in,” said Talbot. “You can actually visualize what that disease spread looks like without spreading it.”

Recognizing the challenge PED poses to the industry, Manitoba Pork formed a working group comprised of producers, veterinarians, sector stakeholders and the provincial government, to focus on the future of the virus, which led to the release of Manitoba’s PED Elimination Plan. The plan called for eliminating 96 per cent of PED infections in the high-risk area of Manitoba by 2027, which would be accomplished by enhancing biosecurity throughout the sector, reducing cases by 50 per cent year-over-year, decreasing the length of time a farm is infected, and decreasing the number of contaminated manure storages over time.

Putting pork on more fast food menus

Treena Hein

A big bacon cheeseburger or a take-out sub with lots of ham and mustard – these are treats many Canadians enjoy. But is demand for pork in fast food staying strong right now or trending downwards, and why? Where should the industry put its focus?

First, let’s touch on current challenges. As we all know, inflation is making household expenses higher, including food. For many, fast food is therefore being seen as a less attractive option, as menu prices rise. Canada also has some demographic trends working against more purchase of fast food, and pork at all. Many non-pork-eaters are coming to Canada, and the overall Canadian population is aging. Older adults eat less meat.

In addition, medications like Ozempic are curbing snacking and fast food cravings. Sylvain Charlebois, Senior Director, Agri-Food Analytics Lab, Dalhousie University suggests one-in-five Canadians uses GLP-1 drugs. He also reports that, very soon, generic versions of GLP-1 drugs are coming onto the market early at about one-third of the current price, making them increasingly affordable for those with or even without a drug plan, easily paid for if users are already saving money by not purchasing fast food and snacks.

However, people still love pork.

The pork fast food landscape

Looking at overall popularity, Manuel Juarez, Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) notes that pork in fast food is more common than people think.



Cured classics like bacon, ham and salami are staples of the submarine sandwich counter, but most other food categories tend to pass on pork.

“The breakfast is egg and sausage or bacon, or a wrap with a sausage patty,” said Jaurez. “The main lunch is a hamburger or cheeseburger, and you can get bacon added, and there can be ham options on the menu too. I’ve seen pork belly increasing in popularity as well, at Asian quick service restaurants, in rice bowls. And while, yes, there is part of our population that doesn’t eat pork, in certain communities, it is very popular. For example, there are 20 types of pork products in Filipino restaurants.”

McDonald’s has marketed multiple pork sandwiches over the years, mainly the McRib (and the McRib Jr. for the value side of the menu). Decades ago, Burger King and Wendy’s also tried a pulled pork sandwich. But none of them ever lasted. They just weren’t popular enough. (Note that Canadian Hog Journal tried to get insights from McDonald’s, Burger King, Wendys, Yum Brands (Taco Bell, KFC, Harvey’s, Pizza Hut), Subway and A&W, but there was no response.)

At the same time, McDonald’s Canada recently froze prices for an entire year on its \$5 Value Meals and \$1 menu items. Other fast food chains are already responding with similar permanent or temporary discounts. As Charlebois noted recently, “Price wars of this scale do not stop at the drive-thru window. They ripple through the entire food supply chain, all the way back to Canadian farms.” When McDonald’s freezes prices, restaurants absorb shrinking margins, and processors also get squeezed. “Farmers feel it last — but they often feel it hardest. A sustained price war tightens margins upstream at a time when producers are already grappling with higher fuel, fertilizer, labour and financing costs.”



McDonald’s Sausage ‘N Egg McMuffin is one of many popular fast food breakfast sandwiches. Unfortunately, pork products in fast food are mostly confined to this meal.

drySTART
READY-TO-USE DRYING POWDER FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION
HELPS ABSORB MOISTURE & CONTROL ODORS
theSTARTline. Tel 1-866-810-1286 • Fax 519-228-6560
 info@drystart.com • www.drystart.com

Advertise with us!

 Scan QR code for rates.



When it comes to burgers, why not pork?

Getting more pork on the menu

Why not a ground pork burger at fast food chains? Many beloved diners across North America already serve one and customers love it (while many people like Juarez also make pork burgers at home regularly as well).

The reasons why lie in a report from a few years back, 'Fast Food Pork in North America,' published by Jon Meadus, a former colleague of Juarez at AAFC. Meadus noted that ground pork is relatively cheap when compared to ground beef, but pork burgers still remain absent from fast menus in North America.

"Maybe it is the amount or type of fat?" Meadus asked. "Fat is assumed to be the main influence on flavour and beef has much less polyunsaturated fat (PUFA) than pork." He also noted that PUFAs have a greater susceptibility to oxidation (undesirable warmed-over-flavours) and rancidity. Attempts to get the lipid profile in pork to mirror the profile of beef have been tried, he noted, but none have been successful. There can also of course be an odor called 'boar taint' in pork from intact boars.

Juarez also points to the simple fact that beef burgers are traditional in fast food (and at summer home BBQs in Canada). They sell well, and the big chains don't want to touch a goldmine like that. Juarez also notes that the guarantee of 100 per cent beef burgers is important to consumers. Some attribute these guarantees to the talk of fillers in burger patties many years ago, but whatever the reason, these promises have stayed. It's also hard to change consumer habits, said Juarez. It would be better, in his view, to create a different pork product than to present a ground pork burger, or a half-and-half pork and beef burger.

Other insights

Juarez also touched on the fact that most commercial pork is not bred for flavour, but for leanness and profit. While heritage pork brands aim for better marbling and more flavour, this pork is too expensive for most people's household food shopping and certainly too expensive for fast food.

"The choice of pig breeds and the genetic selection within those breeds have focused on efficient, lean growth in commercial pigs," said Juarez. "When farmers ship pigs for slaughter, they are paid based on two parameters. One is the weight of the carcass and the other is the grading of the pig. If your carcass has too much fat, then you are going to get less money. So the entire industry has moved to create a leaner pig with less back fat."

Juarez further explained that, genetically, fat tissues on the pig are correlated, and if you reduce back fat, you are going to have less fat everywhere.

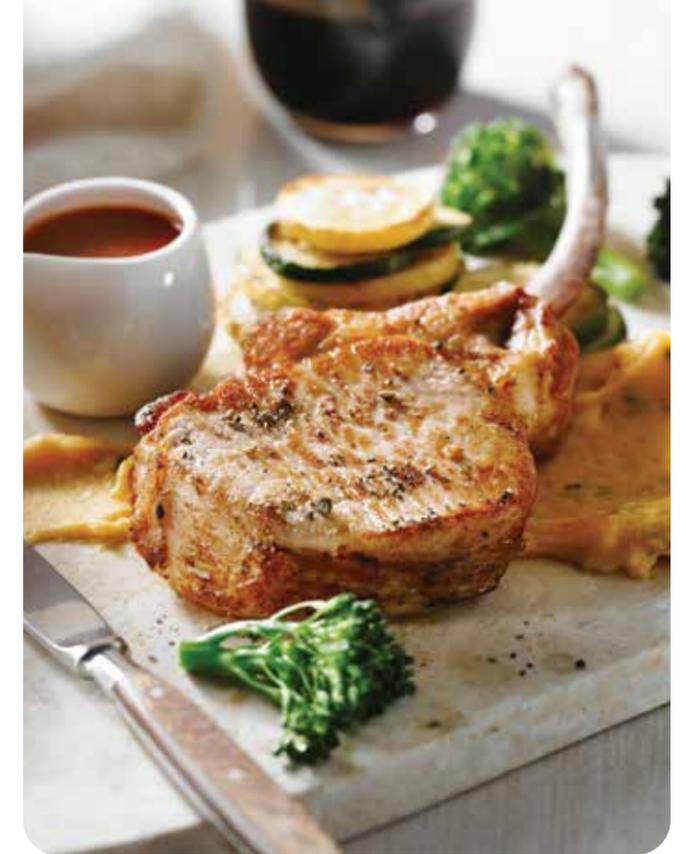
"On the pork chop, we have therefore seen a decrease in intramuscular fat, in marbling," said Juarez. "I come from Spain originally, and in Spain, we have the commercial pig like here, but then we also have another breed called Iberian pigs that have a lot of intramuscular fat. When you have more intramuscular fat, the flavour usually is better for any meat. This is true with beef as well. You want a marbled steak, not a very lean steak for your barbecue."

Juarez also pointed to the marketing campaign from many years ago – 'Pork, the other white meat' – that is still conditioning consumers to look for light-coloured pork chops with little fat on the edge.

"So you have consumers selecting pork chops that look pale and usually they are going to be dry to start with because they are made of lean muscle tissue that loses moisture," said Juarez. "So the flavour is mostly gone; it's on the dry side, and then consumers overcook it too, and then it's tough. There is actually a project right now trying to bring down the recommended cooking times for pork in Canada. They already did this in the U.S. a few years ago for the same reason, because most people overcook their pork."

Juarez believes the entire pork sector should perhaps focus on the pork chop, to try to find the balance of producing a more-flavourful chop without losing production efficiency.

"At the same time, we also need to educate the consumer that pale and lean is not the correct way to select a pork chop," said Juarez. "There are many, many studies of that – you give people the choice visually, and they are going to choose the pork chop with no fat and very pale. But then when you cook it for them, the one that they like is the one that, when it was raw, it was a bit darker and with more marbling. And then let's change the cooking recommendations for pork so people don't overcook it. If people can have more enjoyment from their pork chop experience at home, this will lead to higher grocery store sales and maybe some new ideas in the fast food and restaurant sector too." 🌱



According to Juarez, well marbled, colourful pork chops deserve more appreciation.



FANCOM
CHIMNEY / ATM



GLASS-PAC
FANS



FANCOM
CONTROLS



GLASS-PAC
AIR INLET



OPTIMUM
DRY FEEDERS



LIQUID FEEDING
SYSTEMS



ELECTRONIC
SOW FEEDING



NUTRIX
PIGLET FEEDING

"At Glass-Pac we know that leading equipment technology, superior service and our years of experience are why our customers have been putting their trust in us since 1984. When you succeed, we succeed."

Glass-Pac
Ontario
Phone: (519) 664-2277



Glass-Pac
Alberta
Phone: (403) 337-3767

Family Owned Canadian Company 🇨🇦



Stainless Steel Hog Feeders

“The Industry’s Newest Leading Wet/Dry Feeding Technology”

New innovative feeder design. (Easy to assemble)

The hog feeder that does it all, saves time & money leaving more profit for your pocket.

- Less Feed Wastage
- Less Feed Dust
- Less Clean Up Time
- Easy, Precise Adjustment

Grower/Finisher Feeder



Adjuster



Basic incremental feed adjuster

Weanling Feeder



- Comes in 15", 30", 45", 60", 75" & 90" lengths
- 30" has two feed spaces per side, 15 animals per feed space
- 45" has three spaces per side, 15 animals per feed space
- Feeder designs for management simplicity

- Comes in 30", 40", 50" & 60" lengths
- 30" has three feed spaces per side, 10 animals per feed space
- 40" has four spaces per side, 10 animals per feed space
- Handles crushed feed or pellets with high moisture or high fat feeds.

Adjustable

Weanling/Finisher Water Stands



Extension Hopper



Optional add-on for all feeder sizes

One Way Gate



Box 10 Oakville, MB

PH: 204.267.2196 F: 204.267.2458

garry@grandmfg.com www.grandmfg.com



Ham & Cheese Muffins

ingredients

- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup diced ham
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- ⅓ cup canola oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- ¼ cup chives, minced

instructions

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a muffin tin with silicone or paper liners.
2. Combine flour, baking powder, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Mix to combine. Fold the cheddar and ham into the flour mixture.
3. In a separate mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, oil, garlic, and Dijon. Add the wet ingredients to the bowl with the flour mixture, along with the chives, and gently stir to combine.
4. Fill muffin tins ¾ full with the batter.
5. Bake for 5 minutes at 425°F, and then lower the heat to 375°F and bake for another 15 minutes, or until muffins spring back when lightly pressed. Allow to cool for 5 minutes before removing from the muffin tin.

Makes 15 muffins | Prep Time: 20 minutes | Cook Time: 20 minutes

Discover delicious pork recipes, helpful cooking tips, and more at PickPorkAB.com

REMOTE DOOR OPENER FOR LOADING





ATTENTION PIG FARMERS

6' x 40' CONTINUOUS COMPOSTER • CAPACITY OF 1,450 LBS PER DAY

sales@county-line.ca • 519-291-5012 • www.omnivorecomposter.com



CountyLine

Made in Canada

One Step Ahead

Redefining the boundaries of possible.

Never Stop Improving Performance.

Your success isn't by chance. Neither is our innovation. It takes groundbreaking advancements and continuously improving genetics to produce measurable on-farm results. Our steps forward amplify your success now and in the future.

pic.com



News & Views —

AAFC Next Policy Framework discussions held

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) launched consultations for the Next Policy Framework (NPF) in late January, inviting Canadian agriculture industry leaders to provide their thoughts during a roundtable discussion.

René Roy, Chair, Canadian Pork Council (CPC) participated in a roundtable hosted by Heath MacDonald, Minister, AAFC, marking the launch of consultations for the framework, which will succeed the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP).

CPC noted the importance of early engagement as discussions begin on the future policy environment that will support a competitive, resilient and sustainable sector. These consultations provide an important opportunity for sector partners to assess the current and emerging challenges facing Canadian agri-food.



The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) will be a key contributor to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Next Policy Framework (NPF)

Minister MacDonald will continue to host engagement sessions ahead of the next Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Agriculture meeting in July in Halifax. Online consultations are also taking place. 🗨️

Canadian meat advocacy continues

The Canadian Meat Council (CMC) announced Kyle Larkin as its next CEO in early December, following an extensive national search. Larkin officially assumed the role in mid-January.

Larkin brings more than a decade of leadership experience in public affairs, government relations and association management. Most recently, he served as Grain Growers of Canada's Executive Director, where he led major policy initiatives, strengthened government engagement and delivered outcomes that directly benefited producers across the country.



The Canadian Meat Council (CMC) and its allies continue to ramp up advocacy efforts.

This transition comes at a critical time for CMC and the broader meat industry, as growing regulatory, labour, trade and competitiveness pressures impact the value chain. Larkin's appointment follows the departure of Chris White, former CEO, who is now President & CEO, Canadian Meat Advocacy Office (CMAO) in Beijing & Canada Pork.

Canadian meat industry delegates visited Washington, D.C. in mid-December, where productive meetings were held with several influential members of Congress and the Senate, encouraging continued support for the Canada-U.S.-Mexico (CUSMA) agreement and cross-border trade.

Russ Mallard, Chair & Claire Citeau, Vice President, CMC joined Stephen Heckbert, Executive Director, Canadian Pork Council (CPC) and Thor Eiriksson, Executive Director of Operations, HyLife Foods to highlight the importance of the integrated North American agri-food supply chain to both our countries. They received a positive reception and look forward to more constructive discussions ahead.

In late January, Chris White & Stephanie Ramirez, Director of Strategic Operations and Global Tradeshow, Canada Pork visited with officials from the Mexican Meat Council, in Mexico City and Monterrey, to share valuable industry insights and market trends.

The U.S., China and Mexico have represented three of Canada's four most-valuable pork export markets in recent years, along with Japan, where Canadian pork exports overtook U.S. exports in 2024 for the first time. 🗨️

Farmed wild boar to be phased out in Alberta

In early December, wild boar in Alberta were declared a pest in all circumstances, not just when 'at large' – including farmed wild boar. Alberta currently has 12 known wild boar producers, who will be offered \$590 per head from the Government of Alberta to exit the industry or be required to abide by stricter conditions.

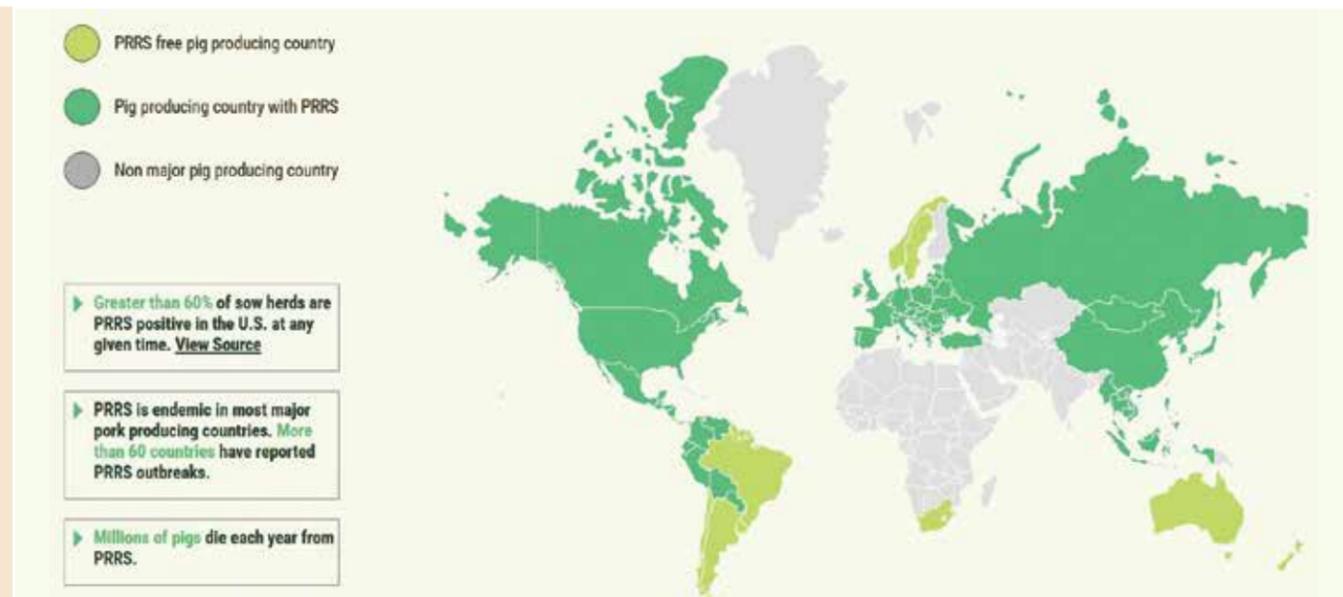
"Wild boar producers are also producers for Alberta Pork, too, so it's a difficult position to be in," said Charlotte Shipp, Industry Programs Manager, Alberta Pork. "I think our government has had a challenging line to walk in balancing risk to the broader pork industry while respecting wild boar producers."

Alberta joins Ontario, which banned wild boar in 2023. Across the country, efforts to eradicate wild boar and



Whether 'at large' or farmed, wild boar pose risks to the commercial pig herd.

discourage wild boar farming have received widespread support from the Canadian pork industry, as their presence on the landscape harms livestock, crops and the environment. 🗨️



Technologies like gene-editing are at the forefront of new approaches to disease management.

PRRS-resistant pig approved in Canada

Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced the completion of independent, comprehensive safety assessments on pigs resistant to Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) in late January, following an application from PIC Canada. Health Canada has concluded that pork from these pigs is safe to eat.

"We have spent years conducting extensive research, validating our findings and working with the Canadian government to gain approval," said Matt Culbertson, Chief Operating Officer, PIC. "Today marks a major milestone

for consumers, farmers, and the entire pork industry who have hoped for relief from PRRS for decades."

Canada joins a growing list of countries that have deemed the gene edit safe. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the gene edit in April 2025, while Colombia, Brazil, Dominican Republic and Argentina have issued positive determinations for PRRS-resistant pigs, meaning those countries have recognized that the pigs are not genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and should be treated the same as any other pigs. 🗨️

Olymel names next CEO

Olymel announced in mid-January that Daniel Rivest will succeed Yanick Gervais as the company's next CEO in July.

"Yanick Gervais has been an outstanding leader," said Richard Ferland, Chair, Olymel. "He steered a major transformation of our business model with vision, diligence and care, strengthening Olymel's resilience and performance. His tenure at the helm of Olymel has left a lasting impact, and we're deeply grateful to him."

Gervais steps down after a decade with Olymel, including five years as President before becoming CEO in 2019.

"Leading Olymel has been a tremendous privilege," said Gervais. "I informed the board of my intentions over a year ago to ensure an orderly transition. Today, I'm announcing my decision to step down with peace of mind. I've been fortunate to enjoy an exciting 25-year career in the agri-food industry."

Rivest joined Olymel in 2016 and previously served as Senior VP of Sales and Marketing. In recent years, he has played a key role in achieving breakthrough results for



Daniel Rivest is set to become Olymel's new CEO.

the company by leveraging his keen understanding of its business needs and challenges.

"I'm honoured to be appointed CEO of Olymel," said Rivest. "I'm taking on this responsibility with a clear focus on ensuring continuity in our strategic plan and preparing the company for future opportunities in our industry." 🗨️

Canada Packers welcomes new leaders

Canada Packers announced in early January that the company is strengthening its management team, as it executes its vision to be the global standard in sustainable pork.

Anthony Wu has been named Senior Vice President, Sales, Marketing and Optimization. Wu brings 17 years of global commercial leadership from Cargill and will drive the company's commercial strategy across all markets.

Suzanne Hathaway has been named Interim Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary. Hathaway led the legal and governance work for the Canada Packers spin-off from Maple Leaf Foods and brings deep expertise in law, governance and corporate affairs.

Andrew Scuccato has been named Senior Vice President, Supply Chain. Scuccato brings more than 20 years of global operations and supply chain leadership from Ferrero, L'Oréal, Mars and Michelin. 🗨️



Three new managers have been appointed at Canada Packers, as the organization continues its transition from Maple Leaf Foods.



PARKS LIVESTOCK

A Member of The Parks Companies

With over 45 years of experience in the livestock industry, we continue to provide today's producers with
The Best Full Service Marketing in North America



Feeder Pigs

S.E.W.s



Call today to talk to our team ~ Toll Free: 1-800-821-7418 ~ Email: chris.gehl@parkslivestock.com

AGRIBUTION
Trusted Knowledge | Connecting Opportunities



www.agribution.com

Agribution is a Canadian company that connects the livestock industry with quality products from our trusted global supply partners.



OptiCell[®]

Fibre concentrate from insoluble, fermentable lignocellulose

Fxp-G

A functional protein suitable as a plasma replacement ingredient

Lumin[®]

A complexed technology containing key components in one single feed additive

PurePro[®]

Enhance growth with high-protein soy protein concentrates

REINVENTING SWINE FEED FORMULATION

POWERED BY KINETIO

Every ingredient counts – that's why we're redefining the boundaries of feed formulation for all our swine feeds.

Kinetio technology accounts for the kinetics of nutrient degradation. This enables precision and flexibility in feed formulation, leading to optimized and consistent animal performance.



trouwnutrition.ca



trouw nutrition
a Nutreco company

Fibre and fat: a complex dietary interaction

Saymore Ndou

Editor's note: Saymore Ndou is Monogastric Nutritionist, Trouw Nutrition. For more information, contact 'lauren.dawson@trouwnutrition.com.'

Supplementation with the right levels of dietary fibre (DF) in swine diets is crucial for boosting normal physiological functions, promoting gut health and subsequently enhancing pig performance. As DF passes through the gut, it interacts with other elements in the feed, including dietary lipids. Lipids can be supplemented in swine diets in the form of animal fat or vegetative oils. Dietary lipids can boost the energy levels of high-fibre diets, improve palatability, support biological functions and reduce inflammation and stress. While both fibre and fats are well-studied on their own, their interactive effects are scantily documented. Beyond inclusion levels, how they interact depends on the solubility of DF components in conjunction with the degree of saturation of the fatty acids within either the animal fat or the vegetable oil in use.

Animal feed companies strongly recommend that DF be incorporated into swine rations, but the choice of fat source used alongside it is important. Research has shown that animal fat (beef tallow or choice white grease) generally depresses DF fermentation and short-chain fatty acid (SCFA) production. When making decisions about swine diets, nutritionists may also consider the nutrient kinetics and fermentation kinetics of DF components of the ingredients. Nutrient kinetics refers to the rate at which ingredients are digested into nutrients that can be absorbed and used by the animal. Fermentation kinetics can be defined as the rate at which dietary components undergo microbial degradation. Some ingredients are digested or degraded quickly, whereas others are slow or non-digestible.

Research conducted by Trouw Nutrition has investigated soluble, insoluble and fermentable fibre to quantify how quickly each segment ferments. Soluble fibre like pectin and inulin are fast and highly fermentable, whereas insoluble fibres like the cellulose and lignin found in oats hulls are slow and resist microbial degradation. Interestingly, soluble DF reduces fat digestion more when formulated with saturated fat sources, such as beef tallow, compared to high insoluble fibre. This information allows nutritionists to better predict and understand how it will behave in the pig's gut, and in turn, their effects on microbial balance, SCFA production and gut development. As such, if the goal is to promote fermentation via a natural source of DF, the choice of fat source becomes important, whether it is beef tallow, poultry fat or vegetable oil such as soy oil, corn oil or palm oil. To tweak a nursery pig diet to reduce protein fermentation, which may cause scouring, nutritionists can strategically incorporate low resistant protein



Producers, in consultation with their nutritionists, should pay close attention to the fibre solubility and fatty acid profiles of feed ingredients.

and insoluble or resistant fibre with dietary lipids that slow down or reduce gastrointestinal fermentation. Conversely, diets for sows and grower-finisher pigs can be formulated with a fatty acid profile that promotes gut fermentation.

The nutrient kinetics approach simplifies the complexity of feeding fibre to pigs and improves consistency and performance.

In summary, the interaction between DF and supplemental lipids in swine diets cannot be ignored. It influences energy availability, gut microbiota composition and activity, and SCFA production. Producers, in consultation with their nutritionists, should pay close attention to the fibre solubility and fatty acid profiles of feed ingredients, together with an understanding of the fermentation and nutrients' kinetics. Choosing the right combination can help optimize energy utilization, gut health and overall pig performance. When in doubt, reach out to your nutritionist for guidance – you do not need to solve this puzzle alone. 🐷



SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH



DO A HAZARD CHECK

Take five minutes to identify hazards and review safety procedures with your team.

Keep your people safe!

EXPLORE FREE FARMERS CARE ONLINE COURSES



Evaluating manure's environmental impact

Swine Innovation Porc

Editor's note: This article is a summary prepared for Swine Innovation Porc. For more information, contact 'cchristensen@swineinnovationporc.ca.'

Producers are well aware of the benefits of using manure as fertilizer; however, manure management is responsible for nearly one-third of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from hog farms. Working to reduce that number, science is seeking to optimize manure use in fertilization. Backed by funding from Swine Innovation Porc (SIP), researchers are making strides with the project, 'Strategies to optimize phosphorus and nitrogen utilization to reduce the environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) of Canadian pig production.'

For the layperson, a product composed of pig excrement, urine, and leftover feed and water might be hard to embrace. For farmers and scientists, however, slurry holds much promise in addressing emissions.

"Slurry has long been recognized as a great fertilizer with a proven ability to maintain production levels on-farm. Unfortunately, too much application in regions of dense animal production has given slurry some bad press," said Marie-Pierre Létourneau Montminy, Canada Research Chair in sustainable animal protein production and assistant professor at Laval University.

Using four feeding regimens with various ratios of nitrogen and phosphorus, the study is generating four types of pig manure and applying them to crops as fertilizer.

A pig trial was performed using twelve environmentally controlled stalls housing four pigs per dietary treatment to test the interaction between nitrogen and phosphorus. Over four weeks, the treatments were evaluated for growth performance, water intake, body composition, gas emissions and slurry volume, including its concentration in nitrogen and phosphorus, and its pH. Nitrogen and phosphorus have an environmental impact when applied in excess, while high pH increases ammonia losses.

As a result of these trials, four slurry types have been produced and sent to the University of Manitoba, where soil scientists are evaluating them for leaching and runoff potential, as well as GHG emissions. Also at Laval University, researcher Lofti Kiari is gauging the fertilizer potential of the samples compared to chemical products and determining which slurry would be most effective in that regard. Additional work at Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Sherbrooke Research and Development Centre is assessing the slurry samples for biogas production.



While the benefits of using manure for fertilizer are widely known, its environmental footprint continues to be studied.

"Thus far, we have confirmed that we can alter nitrogen-to-phosphorus ratios without impacting growth performance," said Létourneau Montminy. "Using a simulation model, we predicted the retention and excretion of nitrogen and phosphorus by pigs and compared that to what occurred on farm."

This is notable for producers, as it means that science can design diets and accurately predict the nitrogen to P ratio in the resulting slurry.

Starting in February 2026, a second phase of the study began, focused on fibre- and protein-digesting enzymes in swine diets.

"In general, the more fibre is digested by an animal, the less it can be emitted as methane," said Létourneau Montminy. "Protease [a type of enzyme needed to digest protein] is also of interest. It is produced naturally by the body but can also be supplemented in animal feed. If we can further degrade proteins, we may be able to reduce emissions. Combine that with better digestion of fibre, and there should be a marked benefit to the environment."

Though manure science may lack glamour, it highlights the Canadian pork industry's desire to become more ecologically sound.

Subscribe to our weekly producer newsletter

SCAN HERE

METAL ROOFING METAL SIDING

COMMERCIAL

RESIDENTIAL

AGRICULTURAL

LOCATIONS ACROSS WESTERN CANADA

NORTHERN ALBERTA			SOUTHERN ALBERTA	
HEAD OFFICE (Nisku, AB) (780) 979 0925	WESTLOCK, AB (780) 350 8916	WAINHAM, AB (780) 653 0281	TORRINGTON, AB (403) 559 6055	ROSEBUD, AB (403) 361 0490
HOLDEN, AB (780) 385 8803	ST PAUL, AB (780) 787 0129	HYTHE, AB (780) 512 4705	MAGRATH, AB (403) 758 3147	WALSH, AB (403) 525 4247
SASKATCHEWAN		MANITOBA		BRITISH COLUMBIA
LEASK, SK (306) 466 7921	BIGGAR, SK (306) 948 3776	MORRIS, MB (204) 803 5852	PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB (204) 871 5251	FORT ST. JOHN, BC (250) 794 6618
LUMSDEN, SK (306) 731 2066		DECKER, MB (204) 412 0234		

AS SOLID AS THE PRODUCTS WE SELL.

VERSAFRAME.CA 1-877-463-8256

ROLLFORMED TO CUSTOM LENGTHS MANUFACTURER DIRECT

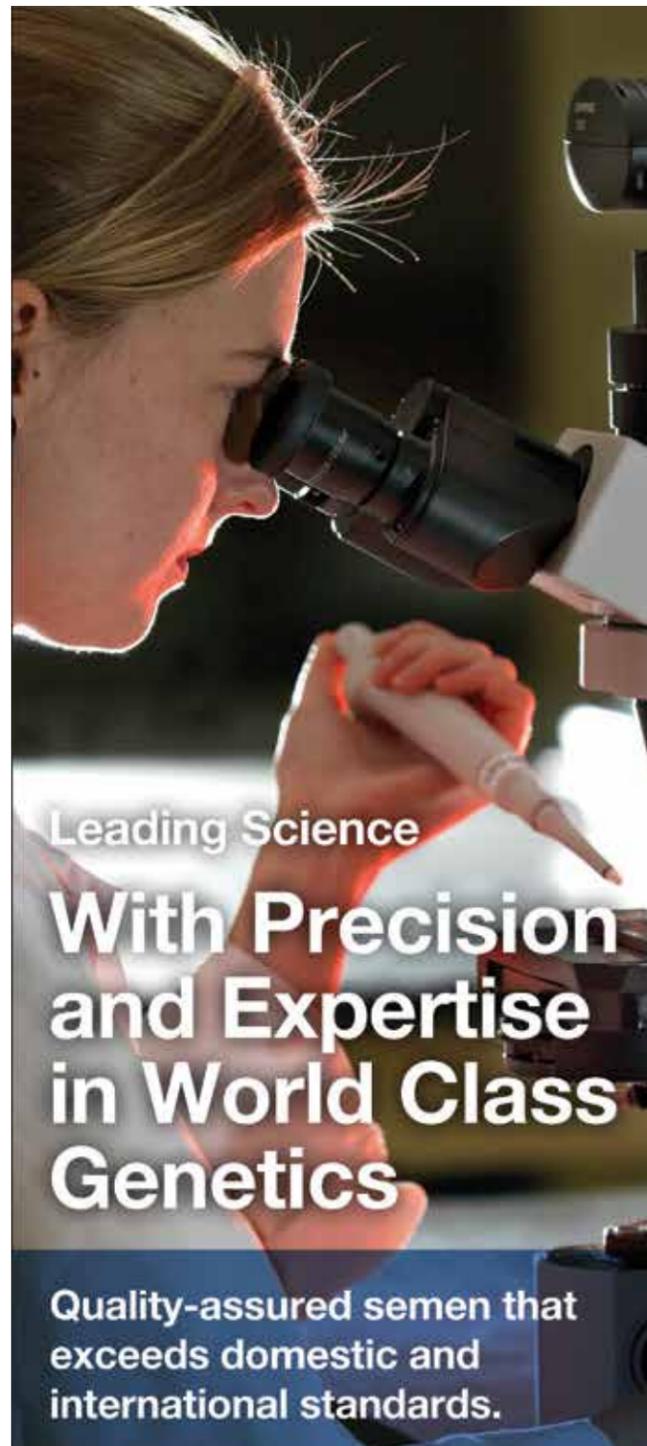
"When you consider the environmental impact of swine production, it is due largely to manure and manure's use as fertilizer," said Létourneau Montminy. "For that reason, we have made manure a priority in our project. While we have already developed some strategies to lower emissions with feed, crop production is also a factor, as chemical fertilizers affect both feed and manure. By producing manures with a better balance of nitrogen and phosphorus, we could reduce the need for chemical fertilizers going forward."

To further aid the planet, this study is also crafting strategies to lower methane emissions during the storage of slurry. In the months ahead, work will continue on two fronts, which include modelling in the lab and applying on-farm strategies under real-world conditions. The latter includes testing various methods of using manure for biogas production to find the most efficient option.

The end goal of this project mirrors the linchpin of SIP's agenda: finding practical solutions that address industry issues and aid the bottom line.

"We want to identify the best strategies for producers, but if those approaches are too costly, no one will implement them, so we really need producer input and involvement along the way," said Létourneau Montminy.

Apart from supporting a greener planet, this study positions pork production as efficient, conscientious, and committed to a brighter future. Plus, if there is a carbon tax to contend with, or a premium paid for sustainability, the results could save producers money or strengthen competitiveness by reducing their environmental footprint. 🌱



Leading Science
With Precision and Expertise in World Class Genetics

Quality-assured semen that exceeds domestic and international standards.

Carlo Genetics
 Leaders in Science for Swine Genetics

www.carlogenetics.com
 Toll-free: 1-866-355-4017



Looking to **BOOST** your pork production on **EFFICIENCY?**

BioTag+

The ear tag that always monitors your sows, learns in real time, and keeps you prepared.





www.bigdutchmanusa.com

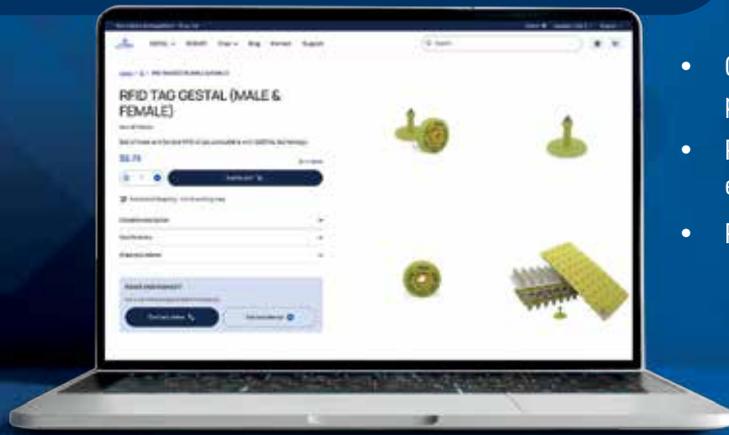


GESTAL Feeding Systems:
Knowledge, Control, Performance

NOW EVEN CLOSER TO YOU



NEW! CUSTOMER PORTAL



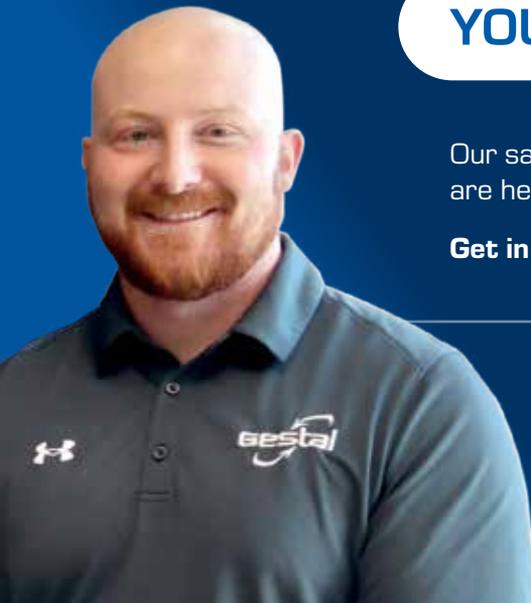
- Order GESTAL replacement parts
- Purchase livestock equipment
- Renew software licences



YOUR LOCAL GESTAL EXPERTS

Our sale representatives **Dillon Foust** and **Ben Robinson** are here to help you and answer any questions you may have.

Get in touch with them now:



Dillon Foust
 Western Canada &
 North Western USA
 1-479-225-2756
 dfoust@jygatech.com



Ben Robinson
 Ontario
 1-519-276-8409
 brobinson@jygatech.com

GET IN TOUCH

1-866-333-7853

jygatech.com