



Message from the President

Hello to all members

I'm finding it a challenge to write this message as I would like to remain positive, but there is no denying Canadian hog farmers and swine breeders are in financial crisis. Consecutive years of losses have eaten into our equity and optimism.

We have had to deal with:

- H1N1 and loss of export markets
- High value of the Canadian dollar
- High feed prices
- C.O.O.L.
- Relatively inefficient packing industry compared to U.S.
- Imports of U.S. pork into our grocery stores

Nevertheless, we do have some key strengths:

1. A worldwide reputation for producing high quality pork products;
2. Cost of production among the lowest in the world;
3. Smart dedicated professional farmers; and
4. World class genetics and health status.

The challenge is to leverage our industry strengths and remain world leaders in pork production.

CSBA Business

For the year to date, volume has been quite good with a level of activity close to our 5 year average. Some of our volume was due to our June 30 deadline which allowed breeders to register pigs over 18 months of age at a reduced price. This incentive will not be available in the 2nd half of the year.

Exporters are reporting quite a few pending orders. Import restrictions, health certificates and payment ability are challenges facing breeders when completing these orders. The CSBA relies on these orders to contribute to our financial well being.

PigGen Canada

PigGen Canada was incorporated on June 23, 2009. As a CSBA or CCSI member, you are part of this new exciting swine genetics research initiative. Research projects will require \$50,000 - \$500,000 / project in industry contributions. This funding will have to come from the 11 founding members.

The 11 founding member organizations in PigGen Canada are: CSBA, CCSI, Alliance Genetics, Designed Genetics, Fast Genetics, Genesis, Génétiporc, Hypor Canada, La Coop fédérée, PIC Canada, and Topigs Canada.

We need to be prepared to support the call for research funds. Jean Lévesque is our capable representative to PigGen Canada and sits on the Scientific Committee. PigGen Canada has come a long way in a very short time under the leadership of Dr. Bob Kemp as the interim Chairman. Watch for news of our first project.

Passing of Don Dietrich

I would like to offer condolences to the family of Don Dietrich who passed away July 30, 2009. Don was a long time CSBA and CLRC director. I had the opportunity to attend the funeral visitation. Don was surrounded by family and friends, and I know he was well liked and respected in his community. I had the privilege to work and travel with Don on CLRC and CSBA business. He was always prepared, knowledgeable and a pleasure to be with. As his brother Ray said "Anybody could work with Don".

Greetings to All,

Scott Robinson, President

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation

The CLRC AGM was held in Toronto, Ontario on April 25, 2009. CLRC had a good year in 2008 and will be revamping their website in 2009. Watch for new features at www.clrc.ca during the year. We were honoured that CSBA's Don Dietrich was recognized by the CLRC for his many years of contributions. Don was not able to be present but Scott Robinson was pleased to receive the award on his behalf and deliver it to Don.



CSBA President Scott Robinson (on right) accepting award from CLRC President Mr. Bob Airth on behalf of Don Dietrich

Beginning Farmer Group Rallies

The Beginning Farmer Group was founded in response to the crisis lived by farmers in horticultural, cattle, and swine sectors that were relatively new to their industry. The outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus severely affected the swine industry and as a result, the group's focus has shifted to highlighting the plight of pork producers. To date, four rallies have been held. The first rally took place in Belleville, Ontario on June 22, 2009, a pork producers rally was held on July 3, 2009 at Queen's Park in Toronto and another one on July 8, 2009 in Niagara on the lake. A tractor/feed truck rally took place on July 24, 2009 in Stratford, Ontario. Please visit www.beginningfarmer.ca for more information.



Swine Rally at Queen's Park in Toronto
(source: www.beginningfarmer.ca)

New initiatives announced by the Federal government to help the pork industry

On Saturday August 15, 2009, new initiatives were announced by the Federal government to help the pork industry. These initiatives include:

- Long-term loans for swine producers to restructure their business;
- A hog transition program which will invest 75 million dollars for producers to tender bids to exit the industry; and
- A 17 million dollars pork marketing fund to promote Canadian pork internationally.

The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) is pleased with the announcement of these initiatives. The CPC and their provincial members have worked closely with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and continue to do so as details are finalized.

Please visit the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website at www.agr.gc.ca for more information.

CCSI Seminar - Focus on Health and Genomics

A seminar organized by CCSI was held on June 16, 2009 in Wendake, Quebec in conjunction with the CCSI AGM. Invited speakers from various organizations in the swine industry and researchers spoke on the topics of health and genomics. Dr. Mohsen Jafarikia, molecular geneticist at CCSI gave a presentation on SNP panels and the potential benefits of this new technology to the swine industry. Dr. Dan Hurnik from Atlantic Veterinary College presented some promising preliminary results on a disease resistance study that was completed in Canada. Dr. Joan Lunney from the USDA in Maryland gave a presentation on the PRRS Host Genetics Consortium and how Canadian breeders could participate in the consortium. Dr. François Cardinal gave a presentation on the Canadian Swine Health Board. Mr. Daniel Godbout gave a presentation on PigGen Canada.

New genomic technologies will allow for rapid benefits to swine health and many other important areas. With the recent creation of the Canadian Swine Health Board and PigGen Canada along side other key industry organizations. Canada is well positioned to be a world leader in the application of this technology.



Dr. Lunney presenting on the PRRS Host Genetics Consortium

Canadian Swine Health Forum

The Canadian Swine Health Board hosted a swine health forum on July 7-8, 2009 in Saskatoon. Over 140 stakeholders in the swine industry attended this meeting. The objectives of the forum were to bring together swine breeders, producers, researchers, veterinarians and other experts from government and industry, to introduce the Canadian Swine Health Board and to discuss the current and emerging issues facing the Canadian swine industry with regards to swine health. This new organization is funded by AAFC and will focus on biosecurity, surveillance and research. Please visit www.swinehealth.ca for more information.