



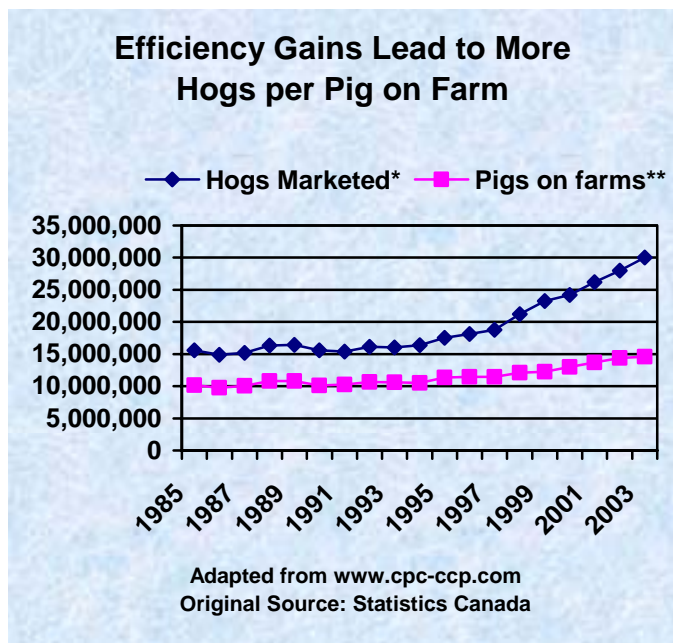
❖ **Canadian hog producers have good reasons to be proud!**

Efficiency gains are just one of many reasons Canadian hog producers should be proud. These gains are a big part of the economic success of the Canadian industry. Efficiency also makes hog farming more environmentally friendly and sustainable. This chart shows the number of hogs marketed per year compared to estimated number of pigs on farms on April 1 of each year. The diverging trend is partly a result of increased exports of feeder pigs to the US in recent years. Nevertheless, adjusting for feeder pig exports, there are approximately 1.8 hogs raised in Canada for every pig on farms today, compared to about 1.5 hogs per pig on farms 10 to 15 years earlier. Genetic and management improvements have combined to result in more hogs produced from each breeding sow and boar, and faster growth rates mean hogs take fewer days to reach market weight.

❖ **What's new at www.canswine.ca?**

Have you visited the CSBA web site lately? The site now includes a list of active CSBA members, based on information received from CLRC. Each member's contact information is listed. You can also have email and web addresses shown. Please visit the web site to verify that your information is accurate and complete. For changes, you should contact Jane Davy at (613) 731-7110 Ext. 315, or simply make corrections on the enclosed membership renewal form. Corrections made at CLRC will automatically be transferred to the CSBA web site.

The site now includes a search facility to make it easier to find documents based on key words. You can find electronic copies of the newsletters, a list of AI centres with registered sires available, a list of swine exporters, links to other useful sites, and much more. New developments are continuing, and your comments would be most welcome. Check out the "What's new?" page for the latest developments.



* Hogs marketed includes feeder pigs exported to the US.
 ** Pigs on farms is estimated total on April 1 of each year, and includes both breeding animals and market hogs of all ages.

❖ **Cheaper, easier electronic registration**

A quick, easy, Internet based registration system is now available to CSBA members who are also using CCSI services. You can save between seven and fourteen dollars a litter, there are no paper forms to fill out and if some of a litter's great, great, great, grandparents need registering too... ..it's all looked after.

The CSBA Executive lowered the cost of electronic registration this year to about ½, with the objective of encouraging breeders to keep their herds up to date with registrations. The Executive decided that no penalties would be applied to register older generations at this time. This means you can bring your herd up to date for only \$5.50 per litter. The Executive will review charges in the New Year. Why not register now, while the fees are so low! Visit www.canswine.ca or contact Jim Groves at (613) 233-8872 Ext. 25 for more information.



❖ It's time to renew your CSBA membership

Information on membership renewal is enclosed with this newsletter, and is also available on the CSBA web site. Membership provides substantial discounts on registration and other fees. It will also allow us to keep you up to date on CSBA activities and important issues of interest to all Canadian swine breeders. Your participation and support of CSBA is important in order for the Association to be as effective as possible.

❖ CLRC staff pitch in during difficult times

CSBA director Don Dietrich attended the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) directors meeting in October. CLRC is pleased that swine registrations are up significantly this year. Swine registrations to the end of September were up about 25% from the previous year. Overall, it has been another challenging year with lower activity for cattle, sheep and goats, which have been directly affected by the US border closure due to BSE. The staff members at CLRC have been on reduced work schedules and accepted some temporary layoffs in order to reduce expenses in line with reduced revenue. As this continues, please plan for slightly longer turn-around times. We thank Ron Black and his staff at CLRC for helping deal with the financial challenge while continuing to provide very good service. We look forward to better times ahead for our counterparts in the other species groups.

❖ CCSI receives \$1.3 million in Federal support

Some very exciting developments have taken place this year at CCSI, most recently with the approval of two large research projects. One project is a two year national effort to examine the effect of heavier carcass weights on pork quality. The other is a three and a half year project to look at the use of molecular information to address current and emerging issues for the quality of Canadian pork. These projects will see Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada investing about \$1.3 million along with considerable matching industry contribution.

❖ CMC interested in pork quality research

Canadian Meat Council (CMC) members have identified pork quality as a high priority research area, in particular with regard to maintaining and optimizing levels of intramuscular fat.

CMC recently relocated their office to:

955 Green Valley Crescent, Suite 305
Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3V4
Tel: (613) 729-3911 Fax: (613) 729-4997
Web site: www.cmc-cvc.com

❖ Clare Schlegel Elected CPC President

Clare Schlegel of Tavistock, Ontario has been elected CPC President. He previously served as 1st Vice President, and takes over the position from outgoing president Edouard Asnong of Quebec. Schlegel has been a member of Ontario Pork's Board since 1995, and served as Chair of the organization from 2000-2003.

Bernard Dion attended the Council's Annual Meeting as CSBA's representative. He reported to CPC that the last two years have been a period of renewal for CSBA. The Association has reviewed the role it plays for the Canadian industry and he emphasized how critical it is for CSBA to focus on maintenance and development of the Canadian breeds for the benefit of the entire Canadian industry. This will be CSBA's first and primary area of focus. The strength of our Canadian genetics is the foundation of strength for all other links in the pork production chain. Members of CPC were pleased to see CSBA and CCSI working closer together. There seems to be a growing recognition of the important role of genetics in the quality and reputation of Canadian pork.

❖ Season's greetings

The Board of Directors and Management of CSBA wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

