

Our Business Plan Priorities

Alberta Pork is guided by the goals of providing services that give the best value to producers, improving relationships and trust, and being proactive in our focus on the three main business areas for producers:



Our Sustainability Priorities

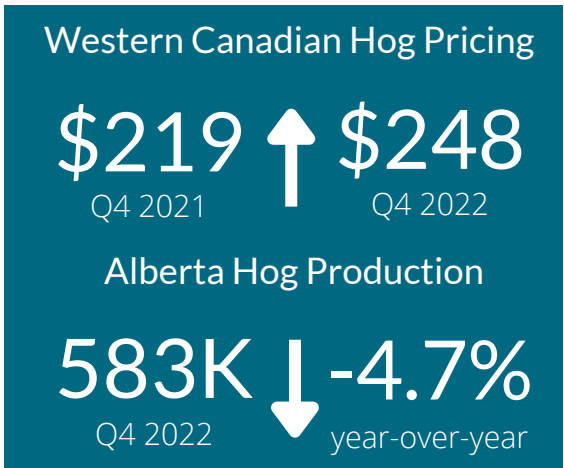
The Alberta pork industry is measured on how we are currently and will be addressing the 4-Ps of sustainability:



Market Trends



- Western Canadian hog prices increased by \$29 per hog, compared to Q4 2021
- Feed costs were \$189 per hog, up 8%, compared to Q4 2021
- In 2021, cost of production (COP) for Alberta producers was estimated at \$202 per hog, which increased to \$241 in 2022.



Quality Assurance



- Throughout Q4 2022, Alberta Pork’s Quality Assurance and Production Team hosted in-person quality assurance training sessions in Red Deer and Lethbridge for producers.
- In December, Results-Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) approved more than \$400,000 for Phase 2 of Alberta Pork’s antimicrobial use (AMU) study.
 - Phase 1, a five-year benchmarking study, was finalized in Q2 2022, showing improvements over time.
 - Phase 1 results suggest a 13% decrease in AMU on Alberta hog farms between 2016 and 2020. Low-AMU farms saved between \$5.54 and \$7.29 per hog, on average.



PigSAFE | PigCARE

PRODUCER MANUAL
MANUEL DE L'ÉLEVEUR

PorcSALUBRITÉ | PorcBIEN-ÊTRE

Environmental Footprint



- In December, Canada’s Pork Promotion and Research Agency (PPRA) approved more than \$400,000 of funding for a Swine Innovation Porc (SIP) research project to study the environmental footprint of hog operations across Canada.



Traceability



- Throughout Q4 2022, Alberta Pork continued to work on cross-referencing Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's premise identification database with our own, to confirm which farms currently hold pigs.
 - Accurate, up-to-date premise IDs are a fundamental part of traceability compliance.
 - All registered small-scale producers in the province have now been contacted, and Alberta Pork is now beginning to focus on commercial farms. All producers are asked to please respond when contacted by Sarah Masters.

Wild Boar



- In October, Alberta Pork met with Dr. Mathieu Pruvot from the University of Calgary, to evaluate next steps as part of a \$400,000 RDAR-supported wild boar surveillance project.
- In November, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA) published an article in its magazine, *Conservation Education*, submitted by Alberta Pork, to promote caution around wild boar bounty hunting.

Media



- In Q4 2022, news media articles mentioning Alberta Pork or reflecting our work included:
 - "Report outlines plan to tackle labour shortage" (*The Western Producer*)
 - "Alberta Livestock Expo sheds light on industry innovation, changes" (*Global News*)
 - "Foot-and-mouth a ticking time bomb: Is Canada prepared?" (*Alberta Farmer Express*)

Producer Support



- In October, the Red Deer Swine Technology Workshop took place for more than 200 guests, in-person for the first time since 2019.
- In November, Alberta Pork held two meetings with groups of producers as a way to solicit feedback on our work to promote the positive side of the hog industry.
- In November, Alberta Pork's annual general meeting (AGM) took place in Calgary for more than 150 guests, in-person for the first time since 2019.
 - Two resolutions brought forth at the AGM and approved by producers were presented to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC).
 - Presentations included industry experts such as Brett Stuart of Global AgriTrends and Jim Long, President & CEO, Genesis.
- In December, Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council approved the appointment of Jonathan Klok as Director-at-Large on Alberta Pork's Board of Directors. Jonathan replaced Ard Bonthuis, who stepped down.



"Like all pigs, wild boar are very smart. Their sounders can number upwards of 20 individuals, but removing only one or a handful of these individuals ends up sparking and educating the rest."

Boar Bounties Do More Harm Than Good

By Andrew Fleck
Conservation Program Coordinator
AHEIA

The Government of Alberta recently introduced a bounty on wild boar in large-ly, highly destructive invasive species that has been spreading rapidly in our province and in various parts of North America. The species was introduced when European wild boars were brought to Canada to be hunted for meat or for controlled hunts in the 1800s, but since then individuals and entire herds have either escaped or been deliberately released for various unfortunate reasons.

There are many damaging consequences of having wild boar present in Alberta. They trample crops and destroy native species in the bush. In many of the same parts of the province where hunters pursue deer, moose and other game, it should then come as no surprise that wild boar owners and hunters are best situated to come across wild boar, and now, there is a bounty or cash reward for killing them. The problem is we are not and will not work to address the issue.

Michael Bouchard is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) leading wildlife biologist on field work in Idaho. Prior to taking on that role many years ago, he was a hunting outfitter for more than a decade, and he was a tenderheart to the day. During his outfitting days, he served as editor of an international hunting newsletter and is well-versed on the concerns of hunters and their ability to be misled in the heat of conservation. To say he knows his stuff would be an understatement. Like all hunters, he has the thrill of tracking down elusive prey, and there is probably no better example of that than he does a hunt over on wild boar populations. "Anyone who kills a pig is a friend of mine," said Bouchard. "But you have to understand that they're not helping control the population. The cost of this species is enormous, and the social expense to sustain the economic benefits to hunters."

Pigs first arrived in North in the early 1800 century in Spanish settlement took place in the region. At that time, they were treated as quarry animals and a source of subsistence meat for settlers. They would be turned out onto the open range in the spring and trapped in the fall, when it finally became cold enough to safely process meat prior to the onset of refrigeration.

"Remnant populations of these animals were supplemented with Eurasian wild boar in the 1800s, as a way to encourage a commercial hunting industry from them, it became a fiasco."

Like all pigs, wild boar are very smart. Their sounders can number upwards of 20 individuals, but removing only one or a handful of these individuals from the sounder ends up sparking and educating the rest, and they hope to see areas that were not previously visited.

"They compare well with wolves for natural range, occupying the same riparian corridors where other game species go to drink water. It's a big fan of hunting turkeys and quail, but they eat the turkey eggs and the quail, as an example."

Apart from the obvious environmental damage from wild boar, these animals are perfect reservoirs for disease.

"Salmonella, brucella, E. coli, brucella, leptospirosis, you name it. We've detected these diseases extensively, and most are actively shedding various kind of harmful pathogens. The fact that we can't get any way out of the problem."

Bouchard mentioned one particular instance of hunters from Wyoming making the trip to Idaho to capture one of the prized specimens that have become the topic of conversation for many hunters who dream of heading south. The car that they brought back home was filled with hard-boiled pasteurized bacteria, which can cause fatal pneumonia in humans, prior to introducing the boar, the processor to whom it was brought presumed washed the carcass, just to be safe. Unfortunately, the very act of handling and out-



Wild boar evaluation specialist pose with a deceased pig. Whole sounder removal involves trapping and killing entire groups, not individuals.



- Where we will be heading next:
 - Alberta Pork semi-annual meetings:
 - Mon., Mar. 13 (Grande Prairie)
 - Tues., Mar. 14 (Red Deer)
 - Wed., Mar. 15 (Drumheller)
 - Thurs., Mar. 16 (Lethbridge)
 - Alberta Pork Congress (Red Deer):
 - Wed., June 14 & Thurs., June 15