



Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc

December 8, 2017

To Canadian Pork Producers:

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on **proposed changes to the Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA – on farm food safety) and Animal Care Assessment (ACA) components of Canadian Pork Excellence**. Once complete, the revised programs will be referred to as “PigSAFE” (formerly CQA) and “PigCARE” (formerly ACA).

Updates to the CQA and ACA programs have focused on:

- a single producer manual integrating the food safety and animal care programs;
- templates to aid in drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP);
- easier-to-use, web-based access to validation reports;
- inclusion of the 2014 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs in PigCARE; and
- new resources to aid in barn staff training.

In spring 2017, a draft version **PigSAFE/PigCARE was piloted on 73 farms across Canada**. These producers and 14 validators assessed the revised program and their feedback was used to improve this program. In October 2017, the Canadian Pork Council’s Board of Directors accepted a final proposed draft of the Producer Manual.

Once translated, the **producer manual will be shared with the producer members of the Peer Review Committee**. The Committee is expected to report its recommendations to the CPC Board in February 2018. Interested producers who wish to review the manual and provide feedback may request a copy through their provincial association.

Once any necessary changes are made and provincial associations have indicated their support, the process of launching PigSAFE and PigCARE will begin. The goal is for **all producers to have access to the revised programs by January 1, 2019**. Full implementation is expected to take three years.

These revisions would not have been possible without the direct involvement of pork producers. This collaboration has produced a credible program that recognizes the differences in Canadian farms, respects the Code of Practice, and provides template SOPs and training materials to assist producers with on-farm implementation.

Going forward, the Canadian Pork Council and its provincial partners will continue to review the Canadian Pork Excellence programs to ensure they meet the needs of producers.

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