

B.C. Hog Industry 2021

2021 QUICK FACTS

- In B.C., hog production is regulated at the provincial level. Farmers producing 300 or more hogs per year must be licensed by the B.C. Hog Marketing Commission (the Commission).
- In 2021, 10 provincially licensed producers had 5,090 breeder sows and raised an estimated 121,981 hogs. The same year, farm cash receipts totaled \$20 million.
- There are 5 registered hog farms in the Lower Mainland, 2 on Vancouver Island, 1 in the Interior and 2 in the North.
- B.C. produces market hogs (traditional pork products) and round hogs (whole hogs for BBQ and Asian market).
- B.C. ranks 6th among hog-producing provinces.

Canadian Hog Production (2021)

Prov.	1000s head	%(rounded)
QC	5,911	33%
ON	4,421	24%
MB	4,173	23%
AB	1,919	11%
SK	1,411	8%
BC	149	0.8%
PEI	51	0.1%
NB	21	0.1%
Can	18,056	100%

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

MARKET TRENDS

The B.C. hog industry produces about 5% of pork consumed by British Columbians. Production is focused on specialty markets, including local butchers, independent grocers, and restaurants. The B.C. hog industry is concentrating its marketing and production efforts towards local, ethnic, and specialty markets through its “B.C. Pork—Proudly grown close to home” branding.

B.C. hog producers have some of the highest costs of production in Canada due to higher land, labour and feed costs. Plus, B.C.’s relatively smaller herd size as compared to other provinces means B.C. producers do not benefit from the same economies of scale as those farms with significantly larger herd sizes. Overall, B.C. commercial hog production continues to slowly decline.

TRADE & SUPPLY

Canada is the third largest pork exporter in the world and 70% of Canada’s pork is exported. In 2021, Canada exported over 1.3 million tonnes of pork and pork products, for a value of \$4.5 billion. The top five markets were the United States, China, Japan, Mexico, and Philippines. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade deal offers potential for growth in Canadian pork exports.

In the first half of 2021, BC’s exports totaled 118 tonnes worth approximately \$5.2 million.

The price B.C. producers received is based on the U.S. spot market’s lowest price.



Updated: October 2023

Photo: BC Pork

INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN

There are 2 stages involved in hog production:

- 1) farrowing (raising piglets from birth to weaning)
- 2) growing-finishing (growing weaners through to market weight)

Many B.C. farmers raise hogs from farrow-to-finish. Other farmers manage a farrowing operation, where hogs are raised from birth to weaning. Then, another farmer grows and finishes them to market weight. Typically, it takes between 5 and 6 months to raise a hog from farrow-to-finish.

In B.C. there are 25 Provincially licensed processors and 1 Federally licensed processor.

GOVERNANCE

B.C.'s hog marketing sector is regulated under provincial legislation.

The Commission is the first instance regulator of the hog industry, under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* and the British Columbia Hog Marketing Scheme (1980).

The Commission regulates licensed producers (300+ hogs). The Commission has responsibility to initiate, support or conduct programs for promoting, stimulating, increasing and improving the economic well-being of persons engaged in the production, processing and marketing of the hogs. The Commission does not set price.

The B.C. Pork Producers Association (1929) represents producer interests.

The B.C. Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is responsible for ensuring the Commission meets its responsibilities in an effective, strategic, and accountable manner that results in sound marketing policy.



Typical B.C. hog barn.

Photo: BC Pork

BIOSECURITY & ANIMAL CARE

Canadian Pork Council (CPC) along with provincial pork organizations have developed a national, validated program - Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA).

By January 1, 2024, all pork producers must demonstrate compliance with a new program (Pig Safe|Pig Care). The new mandatory on-farm programs will include:

- Personnel training
- Food safety (PigSafe)
- Animal welfare (PigCare)
- Biosecurity
- Transportation
- Outdoor access
- Group sow housing

All hog operations including small lot producers are required to register their Premise ID with PigTrace, a traceability system that enables rapid response to disease outbreaks.

The single biggest threat facing hog producers in North America is African Swine Fever (ASF). ASF is a federally notifiable disease that will result in border closures and the loss of most export markets. Canada is very export dependent so if this disease was found in Canada, it would be devastating.

SOURCES

BCFIRB. (2021) "B.C. Hog Marketing Commission Public Accountability and Reporting Project (PARP) Summary Reports for 2021" Retrieved from www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfirb

Canadian Pork Council. (no date). "Foreign Trade" Retrieved from www.cpc-ccp.com

Canadian Pork Council. (2021) "Trade Report". Retrieved from www.cpc-ccp.com

Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0160-01 Hog statistics, number of hogs on farms at end of semi-annual period (x 1,000).



**BC Farm Industry
Review Board**

www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfarministryreviewboard

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