

# BC Hog Industry Snapshot

## Industry Facts

- BC hog production is regulated at the provincial level.
- There are 15 producers registered in BC, who produce a minimum of 300 hogs a year for processing. There are about 640 additional unregistered producers, who grow less than 300 hogs a year.
- In 2015, BC's registered producers raised an estimated 136,000 hogs.
- The BC hog industry farm gate revenue is valued at just under \$32M.
- Most registered hog farms are in the Fraser Valley, with 2 in the Peace River region and 1 producer on Vancouver Island.
- The average registered BC hog producer manages 350 sows (farrow-to-finish) and markets about 7,000 hogs annually.
- BC's industry produces both market hogs (85% of production) and round hogs (whole hogs for BBQ and Asian market).
- All hogs are processed in the province. There are 2 main processors and about 12 small abattoirs.
- The BC industry produces only about 10% of pork consumed by British Columbians. Production is focused on specialty markets, such as local butchers, independent grocers, and restaurants.
- Producer interests are represented by the BC Pork Producers Association.

## Industry Overview

### Trade

- In 2014, there were 7,020 hog farms in Canada and the industry exported over 1.1M tonnes of pork and pork products to 92 countries.
- BC exported pork products worth \$92M in 2015, which accounted for a 33% share of BC's total animal and animal product exports. Key export markets were Japan, China, and Taiwan.

### Competitiveness

- BC hog production, while important to BC agriculture, is a very small market nationally and internationally. It is expensive to produce hogs at a large scale in BC compared to other provinces (due to cost of land and feed). Overall, BC large-scale hog production continues to decline.
- The BC hog industry is refocusing its marketing and production towards local, ethnic, and specialty markets. For example, producers adopted a new brand: "BC Pork—Proudly grown close to home."

### Number of hogs by province (2011)

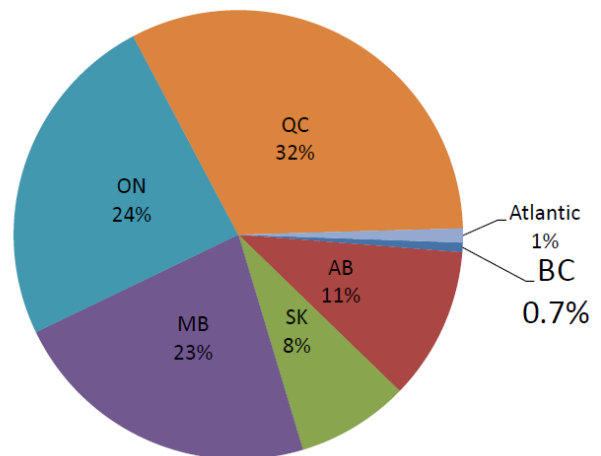


Photo: BC Hog Marketing Commission

**Typical BC hog farm**  
([www.bcpork.ca](http://www.bcpork.ca))



### Animal Care and Biosecurity

- Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA) is a mandatory animal care assessment tool, which incorporates the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs. BC was the first province to make CQA mandatory.
- As part of evolving animal care standards, BC hog producers are rebuilding their barns to meet these standards (e.g. new housing for sows and their litters). This is a significant capital investment for producers in a small market with prices that may or may not cover their cost of production.
- BC has a biosecurity program in place to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED), which is a very serious disease for piglets, represents a risk to the industry. PED is already present in some eastern provinces, so BC works closely with the other western provinces to track the disease. The BC Pork Producers Association increased the province's surveillance program and developed containment strategies.
- While many small, non-commercial pork producers are not registered with the BC Hog Marketing Commission, they are required, by law, to register their Premise ID with PigTrace — a national traceability program designed to ensure protection for the Canadian pork industry and its customers.

### **Industry Governance**

- BC's hog marketing sector is regulated under provincial legislation.
- The BC Hog Marketing Commission is the first instance regulator under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* and the British Columbia Hog Marketing Scheme.
- The Commission regulates all registered producers. It is responsible for orderly production and marketing through promoting and regulating the production, transportation, packaging, storage, and marketing of hogs. For example, the Commission collects levies and plays a marketing role.
- The BC Farm Industry Review Board is responsible for ensuring the Commission meets its responsibilities in an effective, strategic, and accountable manner that results in sound marketing policy.

### Sources:

- \* Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Statistics Canada
- \* BC Hog Marketing Commission
- \* BC Ministry of Agriculture. "Fast Stats: 2015"
- \* BC Pork Producers Association
- \* Canadian Pork Council. (2015). "Priority Areas for Strengthening the Canadian Industry".
- \* Ministry of Agriculture. (2014). "Strengthening Farming — Pork".
- \* Statistics Canada. (2015). "The Changing Face of the Canadian Hog Industry".



**BC Farm Industry Review Board**

[www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard](http://www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard)

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