

B.C. Hog Industry 2019

2018 QUICK FACTS

- In B.C., hog production is regulated at the provincial level. Farmers producing 300 or more hogs per year must be registered with the BC Hog Marketing Commission (the Commission).
- In 2018, 15 provincially registered producers raised an estimated 113,928 hogs. In 2017, farm cash receipts totalled \$32.4 million.
- There are 10 registered hog farms in the Fraser Valley, two in the Peace River region, two on Vancouver Island, and one in the Kootenays.
- B.C. produces market hogs (traditional pork products) and round hogs (whole hogs for BBQ and Asian market).
- The average registered hog farm in B.C. manages 350 sows and markets about 7,000 hogs annually.
- There are at least 1,000 hog farms in B.C. with only 15 producing more than 300 hogs per year. There were about 214,000 hogs in B.C. in 2017.
- B.C. ranks 6th among hog-producing provinces.

Canadian Hog Production (2017)

| Prov. | 1000s head | % |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
| MB | 7,998 | 28% |
| QC | 7,222 | 26% |
| ON | 7,119 | 25% |
| AB | 3,016 | 11% |
| SK | 2,273 | 8% |
| BC | 214 | 1% |
| NB | 190 | 1% |
| PEI | 76 | 0% |
| Can | 28,135 | 100% |

Source: Canadian Pork Council

MARKET TRENDS

The B.C. hog industry produces about 10% 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 “BC Pork—Proudly grown close to home” branding.

It is expensive to produce hogs in B.C. at a large commercial scale, due to higher costs for land and feed when compared to other provinces. Overall, B.C. large-scale hog production continues to decline.

TRADE & SUPPLY

Canada is the third largest exporter of pork in the world. In 2018, the sector exported over 1.26 million tonnes of pork and pork products, for a total value of \$3.8 billion. The top five markets were the United States (U.S.), Japan, China, Mexico, and South Korea. The recent Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade deal is expected to lead to an increase in Canadian pork exports.

B.C. exports totalled 40,000 tonnes worth \$105 million in 2018.

The price Canadian producers are paid is based on the price American producers receive. Trade disagreements between the U.S. and China resulted in a decrease in U.S. producer prices in the last half on 2018 that pushed down the Canadian price as a result.

The world market for pork has been impacted by the 2018 outbreak of Asian Swine Fever in China. The outbreak has producers and governments around the world on high alert, as the disease can spread rapidly and decimate hog populations.



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 pigs 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.

All regulated hogs are processed in B.C. There are 2 main processors and about 12 small processing plants.

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.

The Commission regulates registered producers (300+ hogs). It is responsible for the promotion, control and regulation in any respect the marketing of hogs.

The BC Pork Producers Association represents producer interests.

The BC 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 Quality Assurance (CQA) is a mandatory animal care assessment tool that incorporates food safety and animal care. The national Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs is the foundation of the program.

In 2019, the Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) program will replace CQA. The new mandatory program will include:

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

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

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BC Farm Industry Review Board

www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard

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