

## Ontario Pork votes to end sow stalls in 2025

Ontario Pork Council delegates voted during a September “policy day” to recommend loose housing for pregnant sows in the upcoming pig code of practice revision, and to provide “sufficient” time (thirteen years, or 2025), for retrofitting existing facilities, according to *Ontario Farmer*, a weekly newspaper.

“Societal pressures have made the issue important” is the reason for Council’s recommendation, said Ontario Pork Council spokesperson Mary Jane Quinn. The group advocates allowing sow stalls for 30 + 7 days after breeding. (CCFA does not support keeping sows in crates for 42 days.)



## Pig code of practice delayed

The previous issue of *News in a flash* reported the **revised pig code of practice** would be released in late 2012. The release date has now been moved to early 2013. Following its release, comments about the code will be invited from the public. CCFA will keep you informed about *when* and *how* to comment.

The revised pig code is important because **housing systems for pregnant pigs** will be addressed. Will the code require an end to sow stalls? If so, when? Will there be consequences for producers who continue to use cruel sow stalls when alternatives exist? We will know in a few months.

## Thank you so much!

A big thank you to **Animal Alliance of Canada (AAC)** for helping CCFA process credit card donations. This is the reason CCFA’s monthly-donors see Animal Alliance’s name on their monthly bank statement. Without the assistance from AAC, we would need costly software to process these important donations.

Speaking of **donors**...CCFA would like to extend a **big thank you** to the many generous donors who supported our recent mail appeal to fund more airings of our sow stalls TV ad. Without your help, we couldn’t continue our work on behalf of farmed animals in Canada!

**Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals** is a *non-profit* coalition of 28 organizations dedicated to the welfare of animals raised for food in Canada.

**Our work is only possible through donations from individuals such as yourself.**

Contact us: [info@humanefood.ca](mailto:info@humanefood.ca) Our website: [www.humanefood.ca](http://www.humanefood.ca).

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## Innovations in the pig industry

*Note: CCFA reports on the following issues, not because we are proponents of the industry, but because we support industry improvements which make life better for pigs.*

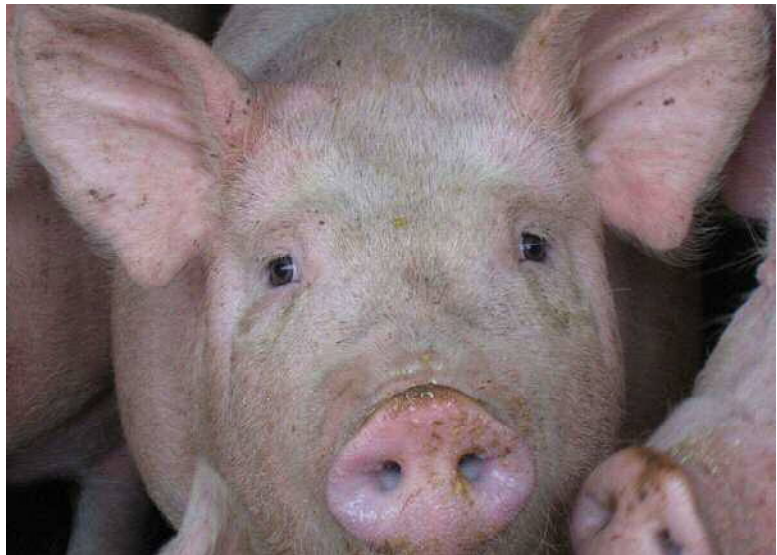
***Pork Production 2013: Staying afloat in the troubled waters ahead*** was the title of the annual Shakespeare (Ontario) pig seminar. Representatives from CCFA attended the September seminar sponsored by OMAFRA, Ontario Pork and several federal agricultural funding agencies.

A full slate of speakers addressed issues relevant to the pig industry including use of fans to cool overheated pigs in trucks, waiting in line for slaughter at kill plants. (This issue has been an on-going concern for many observers at Quality Meat Packers in downtown Toronto where overheated, panting pigs have been repeatedly seen and documented this summer).

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## 1300 piglets shot by order of Manitoba's Chief Veterinarian

In August, the Office of the Chief Veterinarian of Manitoba (CVM) determined that 1300 piglets in a facility in Austin, Manitoba, were in such severe distress they required euthanasia. Officials from the CVM shot the piglets, with some piglets requiring multiple shots before they died.



An Ontario producer reported on innovative farrowing pens instituted at the family farm. The pens replace currently used farrowing crates, where the mother sow is intensively confined, unable to turn around or escape her nursing piglets. Farrowing crates are the standard housing system in Canada, used after the mother sow is removed from a confining sow stall, to give birth.

A speaker from Gray Ridge Farms reported on the egg industry's concerns about changes coming to that industry as a result of pressure from farm animal protection organizations.

An Ontario producer and animal transport trucker reported on an innovative hydraulic system to transport pigs to slaughter. The special trucks, commonly used in Europe, provide "elevators" inside the trucks which eliminate need for pigs to climb steep inclines into trucks, which is so difficult and frightening for pigs.