



# Changes to Federal Feed (ERM) Regulations

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) administers a national livestock feed program to verify that feeds manufactured and sold in Canada are safe, effective and are labeled appropriately. All feed ingredients for livestock (including cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, horses, rabbits, fish, mink, and fox) must be listed in the federal Feeds Regulations. Using the authority of the Feeds Act and Regulations, the CFIA approves and controls livestock feeds and feed ingredients through a comprehensive assessment and registration process.

As an exception to this requirement, feed ingredients for poultry and swine not listed in the Feeds Regulations have been permitted as Edible Residual Material (ERM) under a permit issued by the CFIA per the Health of Animals Act (HofA) and Regulations. The term "ERM", as defined in the regulations, refers to "edible material that remains after, or is not used in, the processing, manufacturing, preparing, serving or sale of food". Examples of ERM include bread, vegetables, cookies, ice cream and milk.

With the objective of making disease control measures more effective, the feeding of ERM containing meat and meat by-products was prohibited in 2001. In keeping with that process, the CFIA now intends to discontinue the provision for ERM permits under the HofA Regulations. On June 16, 2007, the CFIA published an updated version of the regulations to the Canada Gazette that will no longer allow feeding material that has not been approved by the Feeds Regulations.

When the ERM provision in the HofA regulations is rescinded, all feeds and feed ingredients used on swine and poultry premises will have to be approved/registered as a feed under the Feeds Act or listed in Part I or Part II of Schedule IV or V of the Feeds Regulations. This proposed amendment to the Health of Animals Regulations will, in effect, cancel any existing annual permits to feed ERM to swine and poultry.

Anyone interested in making a submission concerning the proposed Regulations has 30 days after the date of publication of the notice. All submissions must cite the Canada Gazette, Part I, and the date of publication of the notice, and be addressed to Dr. Carolyn Inch, National Manager, Disease Control, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Camelot Court, Room 2515 W, 59 Camelot Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9 (tel.: 613-221-4757; fax: 613-228-6144; e-mail: cinch@inspection.gc.ca).

For further information on federal feed regulations, including the up-to-date lists of approved feed ingredients or an application form for feed registration, refer to the feed section of the CFIA website at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/feebet/feebete.shtml>

For the details on the proposed changes to the ERM regulations, refer to the Canada Gazette website at:

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partI/2007/20070616/html/regle2-e.html>

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# Comments from the Research Chair

## Omega 3 Pork

Part of the strategy that the Canadian Pork Industry is looking in its current restructuring is to find new markets and demand for our pork.

One area of interest is to enter the 'functional' food market. Functional foods are things we can eat that have specific human health benefits. The most advanced pork product on the market currently is an omega 3 enhanced pork. In Canada, if there are 0.3 grams of omega 3 fatty acids per serving it can be labeled as a source of 'omega 3'.

There are a number of omega 3 foods on the market ranging from eggs to bread, now bacon and other pork products can be added to the list. As a bit of a background, here is some information on omega 3s...

Essential fatty acids are just what they are named "essentials"; human bodies cannot make them, so it is 'essential' we get them from our diets. Without these fatty acids we can not function; our bodies need them for good immune system function and normal brain development, Without them we are at increased risk of depression, cancer, premature ageing, arthritis, and a host of other illnesses. Fatty acids are essential for maintaining healthy cell membranes especially in our brain which is contains about 40% fats and lipids and needs to be maintained properly.

Our bodies need both omega 6 and omega 3 fats to meet our needs, but if we get too much of one or the other our bodies cannot effectively use the fats we eat. Our current diets, with an abundance of vegetable oils such as corn and canola has an over supply of omega 6 fats, and we don't consume enough omega 3 unless we specifically eat omega 3 rich foods, such as walnuts, flax or fish oils.

The typical North American diet contains an omega 6 to omega 3 ratio of anywhere from 15:1 up to 50:1 and research indicates that a healthy balance of omega 6 to omega 3 should be only 4 to 5 parts omega 6 for every 1 part omega 3. The bottom line for our health is we should significantly increase our intake of omega 3 fatty acids. Without them we run an increased risk of disease.

There are a number of omega 3 pork products from our region in the marketplace and a num-

ber of producers growing omega 3 pigs. So far the market reception of the pork has been excellent. Omega 3 sausages are selling well in Quebec, and Costco.com has placed PEI Omega 3 pork for its US shoppers. As demand increases, we may well see these products in our regional supermarkets.

The ASRP has evaluated some pig feed products that have the potential to increase omega 3 content of pork and will continue to test some of these products if Maritime producers want to continue this line of research.

## Recent Developments that May Impact Pork Production (*more on page 4*)

### US Farmers Plant Largest Corn Crop in 63 Years

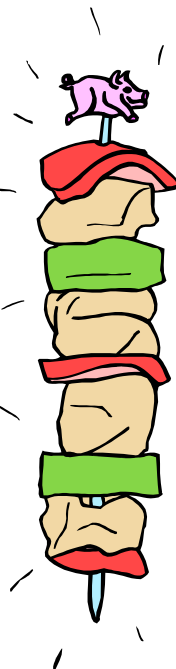
"FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ellen Dougherty, (202) 690-8122 or Jeff Geuder, (202) 720-2127

Washington, June 29, 2007 – U.S. farmers planted 92.9 million acres of corn in 2007, exceeding last year's planted area by 19 percent and surpassing the March projection by 3 percent, according to the Acreage report released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The actual planted acreage is the highest since 1944, when farmers planted 95.5 million corn acres. Driven by favorable prices, growing ethanol demand and strong export sales, farmers in nearly all states increased their corn acreage. They set state records in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota, while Iowa continued to lead all states in total corn acres. The increase in corn is offset mainly by fewer acres of soybeans in the Corn Belt and Great Plains, and fewer acres of cotton in the Delta and Southeast. NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)."

What this will do to corn prices in the fall is not clear. If corn is used as projected for ethanol prices will remain strong, creating an abundance of distillers byproducts for livestock feeding. We just finished a small trial with feeding dried distillers grains at the ASRP barn and will have the results later this summer. On the other hand, if corn supply exceeds ethanol demands and/or fuel prices drop, it may change current corn price dynamics.

Dan Hurnik (Hurnik@upe.ca)



# Maritime Shelterbelt Program Looking for Additional Demonstration Sites

The Maritime Shelterbelt Program is aiming to help hog, and other livestock producers, to better understand the benefits of planting shelterbelts around livestock barns. Shelterbelts can serve a number of purposes, benefiting producers, their neighbors and the environment.

## Shelterbelt Benefits

- Reduced energy costs
- Improved snow distribution
- Increased crop yields
- Reduced GHG emissions
- Increased biodiversity
- Reduced odour, dust and noise from farm

The Atlantic Swine Research Partnership and the Canadian Pork Council have been working to provide shelterbelt training in the Maritimes. Over the course of the program, a number of workshops have been held instructing participants on all aspects involved in establishing and maintaining shelterbelts. As part of the training, participants have designed six demonstration shelterbelts; two in Nova Scotia, two in New Brunswick and two in Prince Edward Island, with one additional site to be installed at the Atlantic Swine Research Partnership research barn in the spring of 2007. To date over 5500 m of shelterbelt consisting of over 1800 trees have been planted as part of this program.

To facilitate future activities, a plastic mulch applicator, plastic mulch, brush mower and basic soil preparation and tree maintenance equipment have been purchased and are available for use by interested producers and agronomists.

**Trained professionals throughout the Maritimes are available to design and assist with establishing your shelterbelt for FREE!**



Photo: Yves Perrault (MAPAQ)

The program is now providing support for establishing shelterbelts throughout the Maritimes. Farmers who are interested in shelterbelts for their farm properties can access funds through the National Farm Stewardship and Greencover Canada Programs, which will provide 50 per cent of the establishment costs up to a maximum of \$10,000.

To access funding or to obtain assistance in planning a shelterbelt, please contact Sabrina Ellsworth at (902) 890-7637.

## ASRP Staff Profile

Sabrina Ellsworth was born and raised in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and moved to Nova Scotia in 1999 to attend the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). She completed a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and went on to pursue a Masters degree which she completed in 2005.

In September 2004, Sabrina started with the Soil & Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) as a demonstration coordinator for the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program. In this position, she conducts farm level research for the betterment of the Nova Scotia farming community by demonstrating the benefits of beneficial management practices (BMP).

In April 2005, Sabrina joined ASRP with the Shelterbelt Establishment for Livestock Facilities Program where she is responsible for the design and implementation of shelterbelts around farm buildings throughout the Maritimes. In September 2006, after a short maternity leave, Sabrina resumed her position with ASRP and SCIANS where she currently coordinates both programs out of NSAC.



# Recent Developments in Pork Production

## US Hog Inventory Up 2 Percent

June 29, 2007

“U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2007 was 62.8 million head. This was up 2 percent from both June 1, 2006 and March 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 6.12 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and 2 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 56.6 million head, was up 2 percent from both last year and last quarter”.

US pork production has remained strong as the US dollar has weakened. The Canadian dollar now stands at 93 cents compared to the US, a far cry from the 60 cent dollar which we had earlier. In our context, the new exchange rate should be viewed as a weaker US currency rather than a strong Canadian dollar. A weaker United States currency increases the value of US pork, corn and soybeans on the international market. The bottom line is we get less for our pigs and pork when we sell into the US, and their pork is strong competition for Canada in the world market. This has challenged both Canadian producers and packers leading to the current restructuring of our industry.

The full report is available on the USDA website at: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1086>.



## UK: Fear for MRSA Infection through Pigs

[http://www.pigprogress.net/home/id1602-21005/uk\\_fear\\_for\\_mrsa\\_infection\\_through\\_pigs.html](http://www.pigprogress.net/home/id1602-21005/uk_fear_for_mrsa_infection_through_pigs.html)

“Research by the British Soil Association into MRSA problems in e.g. the Netherlands, has triggered concerns about the status of the UK herd.

The study reveals that the potentially dangerous Methicillin-resistant ... (MRSA) bacteria could already [be] present in British pig herds. MRSA is already a high-profile, persistent problem in many UK hospitals. Now a new strain of MRSA has developed amongst intensively farmed pigs, chickens and other livestock on the continent....”

This article refers to a strain of Staphylococcus bacteria that is resistant to many antimicrobials and can be shared among pigs and people, meaning pork producers may be at increased risk of carrying the bacteria. This relationship was discovered in 2005 in the Netherlands and has spurred further research around the world. This discovery will lead to continued examination into the use of antimicrobials in food production and may impact producers two ways. It may increase regulations over antimicrobial use as it has in Europe, and it may increase the demand for pork that has been raised with less or without antimicrobials.



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*Putting research into practice.*

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*Our mission is to empower Maritime swine producers to participate in the research and innovation needed to face present and future challenges. Our key research priorities are:*

- Reducing cost of production
- Nutrition with a key emphasis on reducing feed cost
- Herd health
- Environmental management

**Want more information?**

**<http://www.asrp.ca>**