

## SECTION 1: SWINE LEGISLATION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This section aims to inform you about the British Columbia Premises ID program, the national PigTRACE program, national animal care requirements, new Federal transport regulations, British Columbia provincial legislation on possessing and raising pigs, and the Canadian Pork Excellence program for licensed commercial producers.

**In summary, the most important things for you to do:**

1. Get a B.C. **Premises Identification (Premises ID)** number.
2. Register with **PigTRACE**.
3. Follow the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC's) **Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs** guidelines and requirements to ensure you meet animal welfare standards. Ensure you are meeting all land use, environmental or other regulated requirements.
4. Adhere to land use, environmental and other regulated requirements including new Federal animal transport regulations.

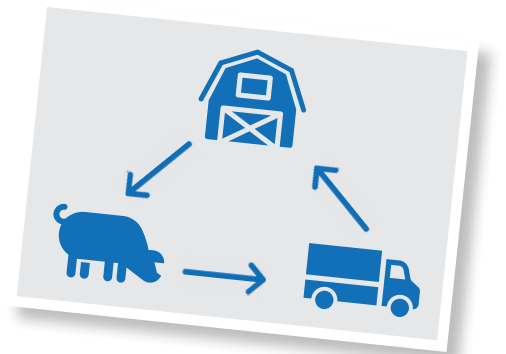
### 1.2 PIGTRACE

#### KEY POINT CHECKLIST

**Anyone raising pigs in Canada MUST register with PigTRACE.** Every shipment of pigs between two separate properties (i.e., premises) must be reported to the **PigTRACE** program within 7 days (after) the movement.<sup>(1)</sup>

There are three components of PigTRACE that make up Canada's traceability program:

1. PREMISES IDENTIFICATION (PREMISES ID)
  - **LOCATION**
  - This is a number that ties animals to a specific location
2. MOVEMENT DECLARATION
  - **MOVEMENT**
  - This tracks movement of pigs between Premises ID sites
3. ANIMAL ID
  - **IDENTIFICATION**
  - This gives the pig a unique ID



## 1.2 PIGTRACE

**PIGTRACE**

## 1. WHAT IS IT?

- A program **mandated by federal law** to track all pig movements in Canada.
- Anyone who possesses a pig **MUST** register with **PigTRACE**.
- An industry-led, live animal traceability initiative designed to ensure protection, prosperity and peace of mind for the Canadian pork industry and its customers.

## 2. WHY DO WE NEED IT?

- To identify and trace animals for emergency planning, preparedness, and response.
- To improve food safety and disease control and prevention.

## 3. WHO NEEDS TO REGISTER WITH PIGTRACE?

- Anyone who has possession of a pig in Canada.

## 4. DO I NEED TO REGISTER WITH PIGTRACE?

- If you are in possession of a pig, yes!

## 5. HOW MUCH DOES REGISTRATION COST?

- It is FREE.

## 6. HOW DO I REGISTER?

- **Get a B.C. Premises ID number (LOCATION)**
  - Premises identification is managed by provincial governments in Canada – here in B.C., the program is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture.
  - Register online with the B.C. Premises Identification Program<sup>(2)</sup> at the following website: <http://gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram>.
    - i. Online registration takes about **10 minutes** and if you have all the required information you will receive a Premises ID number immediately.*



- You can also download, fill out, and e-mail or fax in the registration form to the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (See APPENDIX I).
- You will need to provide the following info: B.C. parcel identifier (from your B.C. tax assessment), contact information, operation type, and your animal information.
- See Appendix I for a sample Premises ID registration form.

▪ **Register with PigTRACE (MOVEMENT)**

- Go to [www.pigtrace.ca](http://www.pigtrace.ca), then select “Request a PigTRACE Account” and complete the form, or
- Contact PigTRACE customer service at 1-866-300-1825 (contact new registration), or
- If you have a Premises Identification Number (Premises ID), please share it with PigTRACE when you register. If you do not have a Premises ID, follow the above steps to get one.

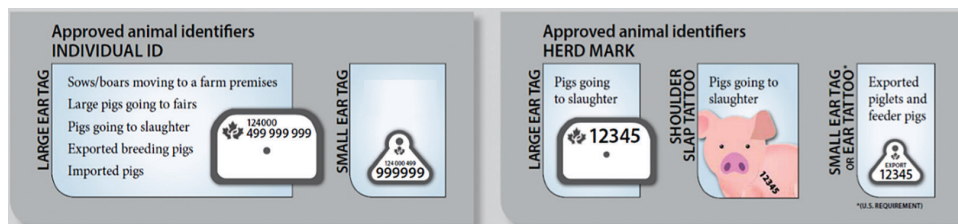


▪ **Get Identification for your Pigs (IDENTIFICATION)**

- Pigs are either identified as an INDIVIDUAL or as a HERD
  - i. **The INDIVIDUAL ID is a unique 15-digit number that is specific to every pig.** This can be used to identify pigs going anywhere (e.g., to slaughter, exports, imports, to fairs/exhibitions/auctions, or when moving breeding sows or boars from one farm to another farm).
  - ii. **The HERD MARK is a 5-digit number assigned to a farm.** It can only be used to identify pig movements to slaughter or export, as it must identify the *last farm* of residence before slaughter or export. Un-weaned piglets accompanied by their sow moved for educational purposes to a site (e.g., to a fair or exhibition), can be marked with herd mark ear tattoos.



*Note: Pigs going to slaughter can be given a HERD MARK of non-toxic livestock spray paint and homemade stencil **instead** of tagging or tattooing (\*check with abattoir)*



- Feeder pigs that are moved from **one farm to another farm** DO NOT require animal ID (tattoo or tags), but, the movement of these pigs requires reporting to PigTRACE.
- Breeding pigs (sows and boars) that are moved from **one farm to another farm** DO require the 15-digit PigTRACE individual ID tag (shown above), and the movement of these pigs requires reporting to PigTRACE.

## 1.2 PIGTRACE

- Order tags through **PigTRACE**:
    - i. Order online by logging into PigTRACE with your secure username and password.
    - ii. Call 1-866-300-1825; you must be registered with PigTRACE to order.
  - **Report all incoming or outgoing pig movements within 7 days (after movement)**
    - Internet: login to [www.pigtrace.ca](http://www.pigtrace.ca) (computer or mobile browser).
    - Fax: 1-877-301-6710 (manifest sheets are available; any format may be used).
    - Phone: 1-866-300-1825.
    - Information to report: origin and destination locations, date and time of departure or reception, licence plate of vehicle or trailer (if tandem unit), number of pigs, animal identification where applicable (see previous page).
7. WHAT IF I BUY FROM OR SELL TO AN UNKNOWN/UNREGISTERED LOCATION?
- When reporting movements to PigTRACE, you must enter a valid Premises ID number for the locations.
  - You can contact PigTRACE staff at any time to ask if a Premises ID has been entered into their system for the location you are shipping to/receiving from (e-mail [pigtracevm@cpc-ccp.com](mailto:pigtracevm@cpc-ccp.com) or call 1-866-300-1825 with any requests for assistance).
  - You can use the B.C. Premises ID Lookup Tool to find a Premises ID number for all registered abattoirs, fairgrounds/exhibitions, and livestock markets/auctions.
  - If your supplier is not registered with the B.C. Premises ID program, you can enter the other location with the province code followed by “unknown” (e.g., ONunknown, BCunknown, etc.). Enter any additional information about the location in the “note” box (e.g., contact name, contact info).
8. HELPFUL TIPS:
- If you are selling piglets to customers for further growing, you can voluntarily apply the **15-digit individual ID tags (small piglet tag)** to the pigs before shipping/selling them to customers.
  - Customers would then have pig identification for eventual slaughter (they would be using the INDIVIDUAL ID tag instead of the HERD MARK tag for slaughter – this is alright).
  - Report the tag numbers involved in these movements so they are no longer associated with the originating sow farm.

## 1.3 NATIONAL INDUSTRY LED PROGRAM – CANADIAN PORK EXCELLENCE

Licensed commercial pork producers are registered with our national program: **Canadian Pork Excellence**.



### CANADIAN PORK EXCELLENCE<sup>(3)</sup>

- This is the newest version of a national program that covers three major on-farm components: Traceability (**PigTRACE**), Food Safety (**PigSAFE**), and Animal Care (**PigCARE**).
- This program is mandatory for all *licensed commercial pork producers* slaughtering pigs at a *federally inspected slaughter plant*.
- **This program does not apply to Small Lot Pork Producers.**
- Please visit the Canadian Pork Council website for more information.<sup>(4)</sup>

## 1.4 NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL (NFACC) CODES OF PRACTICE

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) led the development of the **Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs**. This Code of Practice applies to ALL pig producers under provincial legislation in B.C. (Section 1.6). *All producers should follow the requirements outlined in this document: Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs.*<sup>(5)</sup>



### CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE & HANDLING OF PIGS

#### 1. WHAT IS IT?

- Nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of pigs.
- Developed by a broad panel of experts and diverse stakeholders.

### 1.4 NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL (NFACC) CODES OF PRACTICE

- Considers and includes the most updated and best available knowledge and scientific literature.
  - Promotes sound management and welfare practices for housing, care, transportation and other animal husbandry practices.
2. WHY DO WE NEED IT?
- To have properly researched requirements and recommendations about pig welfare available for producers.
  - To act as industry leaders in promoting good animal welfare.
3. WHO NEEDS TO USE THE CODE OF PRACTICE?
- Anyone raising pigs in Canada should follow the Code of Practice.
  - **This applies to all Small Lot Pork Producers.**
4. DO I NEED TO USE THE CODE OF PRACTICE?
- **If you are raising pigs in Canada, you should follow the Code of Practice.**
5. IS THE CODE OF PRACTICE LEGALLY ENFORCED?
- The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture references the NFACC Code of Practice under regulation and recognizes it as a part of reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management.
  - While failure to abide by the Code is not an offence under provincial legislation, following the Code would be a defense from prosecution of animal distress as per the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act)*.
  - The Code reflects industry supported standards that promote animal health and well-being.
6. HOW DO I GET A COPY OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE?
- Free copies are available online from the following National Farm Animal Care Council's website. [https://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/pig\\_code\\_of\\_practice.pdf](https://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/pig_code_of_practice.pdf)

## 1.5 FEDERAL TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

Transportation of animals is regulated federally under the *Health of Animals Act*, and its *Health of Animals Regulations: Part XII Transport of Animals*.<sup>(6)</sup>

These regulations apply to anyone transporting animals or who is involved directly or indirectly in selecting, loading, confining, transporting or unloading animals (See Section 11.4 FEDERAL TRANSPORT REGULATIONS).

Prior to loading and transporting animals, they must be assessed for “fitness”. Federal law (Part XII of the *Health of Animals Regulations* prohibits loading, confining, and transporting unfit animals (See Section 11.3 FIT TO TRANSPORT).

## 1.6 PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

There are a few Acts that must be followed by all pig producers in B.C.:

### **PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT (PCA ACT)<sup>(7)</sup>**

Animal welfare in British Columbia is regulated under the provincial government’s *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*. The **B.C. SPCA** has a legislative role that is mandated by the B.C. Government under the *PCA Act* to respond to animals in distress. Under the *PCA Act*, an animal is in distress if it is:

- (a) *deprived of adequate food, water, shelter, ventilation, light, space, exercise, care or veterinary treatment,*
  - (a.1) *kept in conditions that are unsanitary,*
  - (a.2) *not protected from excessive heat or cold,*
- (b) *injured, sick, in pain or suffering, or*
- (c) *abused or neglected.*

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

### **B.C. SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS<sup>(8)</sup>**

#### 1. WHAT IS IT?

- The B.C. SPCA has two very different roles:
  - **Legislative Role:** The only animal welfare organization in B.C. *with the authority to enforce* the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act)*.

## 1.6 PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- **Animal Advocacy and Community Service Role:** Separate from its legislative role, the B.C. SPCA engages in a variety of other activities including, for example, the provision of shelter and veterinary services, wildlife rehabilitation, a pet identification registry, and animal care and welfare education.
2. WHY DO WE NEED THE LEGISLATIVE ROLE OF THE B.C. SPCA?
    - In the event of possible animal distress, the **B.C. SPCA** has the authority to investigate. As part of the investigation, the B.C. SPCA can refer to the Canadian Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs as a guide for assessing distress. While failure to abide by the Code would not necessarily be an offence, following the Codes would be a defence from prosecution of animal distress.
  3. WHY ARE THE CODES REFERENCED IN B.C. REGULATIONS?
    - Referencing the NFACC Codes in regulation ensures a better understanding of what is meant by “reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management” under the *PCA Act*, and protects farmers and ranchers when these practices are misperceived or challenged. Following the NFACC's **Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs** is a good way to legally demonstrate you are following generally accepted practices.
    - The B.C. SPCA's investigations team can recommend charges for Crown Counsel for the prosecution of individuals who inflict suffering on animals under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
  4. WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PENALTIES UNDER THE *PCA ACT*?
    - The maximum penalties that can be levied under the *PCA Act* against a person who is convicted of causing distress to an animal are: fines up to \$75,000, up to 24 months imprisonment, or both. A judge may also limit or ban an individual from having animals for a certain period of time.

**FOOD SAFETY ACT<sup>(9)</sup>**

- B.C. slaughter and meat processing are regulated under the *Food Safety Act: Meat Inspection Regulations*.
- This *Act* ensures that animals are humanely handled and slaughtered, that carcasses are processed in a clean environment, and that meat is packaged and stored in ways that reduces contamination risks.
- There are different types and classes of slaughter establishments in B.C. (See Section 10.3 SLAUGHTER PLANT CLASSES/LICENCES).



**WATER SUSTAINABILITY & WATER PROTECTION ACTS**<sup>(10)</sup>

- Groundwater is a vital resource for farmers throughout B.C. On February 29, 2016, the Province implemented the *Water Sustainability Act (WSA)*, enabling the government to manage groundwater and surface water as one resource and help ensure the resource's long-term sustainability.
- If you use, or plan to use, groundwater for your farm, you are required to have a water licence.
- If you were using groundwater on or before February 29, 2016, **you now have until March 1, 2022 to apply for an existing use groundwater licence.**
- Submitting a completed water licence application by this deadline allows you, the water user, to secure water rights for your farm, and continue to use water as you have in the past until a decision regarding the water licence has been made.
- Doing so also enables your historic water-use to be recognized and used to establish your first-in-time, first-in-right priority date. This priority date provides you with precedence over newer users during times of water scarcity. This means that newer users will need to cease diverting water before you do during those times.
- For existing users who apply after March 1, 2022, the priority date will be the date the application was submitted.
- Another benefit for existing users of applying by March 1, 2022 is that you will not have to pay the one-time application fee of \$250. Applicants can expect to pay water rentals backdated to February 29, 2016, which can be estimated by visiting the **Water Rent and Application Fee Estimator** (<https://portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca/web/client/-/existing-use-groundwater-licence-application>).
- To submit an application, please visit **Existing Use Groundwater Licence Application** (<https://portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca/web/client/-/existing-use-groundwater-licence-application>).
- If you have questions, please contact FrontCounter BC: [FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca), toll free: 1-877-855-3222.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT**<sup>(10)</sup>

- On February 28, 2019, B.C. introduced the Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice (AEMCoP) as a replacement for the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR).
- Depending on the farm enterprise, herd size, land base, and proximity to watercourses and neighbouring properties, there may be components of the new AEMCoP that may apply.

## 1.6 PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Whether planning to raise hogs, own an existing operation, or planning an expansion of an existing farm, recommend contacting either B.C. Ministry of Environment (ENV) or B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) staff about your enterprise. Staff will assess your operation and advise whether any aspects of the new AEMCoP apply, and if so, what actions you need to take.

**FARM PRACTICES PROTECTION (RIGHT TO FARM) ACT (FPPA)<sup>(11)</sup>**

- Under the *FPPA*, farmers are not liable for nuisance to any person for noise, dust, odour or any other disturbance, provided they are following normal farm practices. Farmers also receive protection from local government nuisance and animal control bylaws where an operation is being conducted in accordance with normal farm practices.
- The B.C. Farm Industry Review Board (B.C. FIRB) adjudicates complaints from individuals who feel that they are aggrieved by farm practices and makes a determination of what constitutes normal farm practices. In order to be considered as within normal farm practices, an operation must not be in contravention of the *Environmental Management Act*, the *Public Health Act*, the *Integrated Pest Management Act*, and any regulations under those Acts.
- For more information please visit the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture web page on **Farm Practices Protection** at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/farm-practices-protection>.
- More information on the complaints process can be found on the B.C. FIRB web page at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/boards-commissions-tribunals/bc-farm-industry-review-board>.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (LGA)<sup>(12)</sup>**

- The *LGA* provides local governments in B.C. with the authority to regulate land use through Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws and other types of bylaws.
- Certain provisions in the *LGA* address agriculture such as those covering community planning, zoning, nuisance regulations, the removal and deposit of soil, weed and pest control and water use and drainage.
- However, there are also provisions to ensure that local governments are not regulating agriculture in such a way as to be detrimental to agriculture. Section 555, in particular, allows intensive agriculture, including livestock production, in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) despite a zoning bylaw attempting to prohibit this use.
- More information on *LGA* provisions that affect agriculture can be found on B.C. Ministry of Agriculture's web page under the Strengthening Farming Program at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/legislation-for-strengthening-farming>.

## ANIMAL UNITS (A.U.)

- Several factors influence the total number of animals that may be raised on an acreage (e.g., soil type/nutrient analysis, topography, distance from water sources, housing, government regulations, and the ages, weights and species of animals).
- Most small lot enterprises in B.C. raise multiple animal species. This presents challenges to authorities when asked how many animals an acreage will support. One strategy used by some is to calculate the number of **Animal Units (A.U.)** that a farm currently has or intends to have.
- Regardless of animal types, ages and weights on a farm, the concept of an A.U. is to generate a number that can be compared to provincial regulations and local bylaws. How governments calculate an A.U. and present A.U. standards vary widely across provincial and state jurisdictions. Some A.U. calculations are based on annual manure nutrient excretions per year (e.g., nitrogen, phosphorus) while others are based on animal weights and feed consumption.
- Become familiar with this term and its intention to assist in determining total animals that an acreage can handle. Check with authorities for standards they follow, regardless if expressed in A.U. or otherwise, when seeking advice on the animal carrying capacity of an acreage.

## SECTION 1 REFERENCE LIST

1. Canadian Pork Council. Canadian Pork Excellence. PigTRACE (2020)
2. British Columbia. B.C. Premises ID Program (2020)
3. Canadian Pork Council. Canadian Pork Excellence (2020)
4. Canadian Pork Council. About Us (2020)
5. National Farm Animal Care Council. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs (2014)
6. Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Animal Health. Health of Animals Regulations: Part XII: Transport of Animals – Regulatory Amendment. Interpretative Guidance for Regulated Parties (2020)
7. *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* [RSBC] Chapter 372 (2020)
8. BCSPCA. Programs and Services. Farm Animal Programs (2020)
9. British Columbia. Food Safety Legislation. *Food Safety Act* (2020)
10. British Columbia. Laws and Rules. Provincial Acts and Regulations (2020)
11. British Columbia. Farm Practices Guide (2020)
12. British Columbia. Local Government Legislative Framework. *Local Government Act* (2020)

**APPENDIX I: Premises ID registration form**

**B.C. Premises ID Registration of Livestock and Poultry Premises**

Online registration available at [www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram)

I am:	<input type="checkbox"/> Registering a premises for the first time Please complete all sections.	<input type="checkbox"/> Updating an existing registration for Premises ID: BC _ _ _ _ _ Please enter only data that has changed.
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**Primary Premises Location:** The Primary Premises is the parcel of land defined as the main ranch or home site of an operation. Please complete ONLY ONE of the three boxes below.

BC Land Titles PID: _ _ _ - _ _ _ - _ _ _ (PID = Parcel Identifier. It is 9 digits and is listed on Property Assessments)	<input type="checkbox"/> See attached copy of Property Assessment Notice (Feel free to black out confidential PIN numbers and valuation data)
Alternate identifying Information (e.g. legal land description, Crown Land PIN, coordinates, First Nations' Reserve, physical address, map):	

**Linked Premises:** Linked Premises are additional parcels of land within an operation where livestock may be present. Linked premises information will enable emergency responders to more quickly address a livestock disease outbreak. However, only the Primary Premises ID will be required for livestock movement reporting. If applicable, please provide information identifying linked premises on attached sheets or below.

**Registrant Information:** Person who will be notified of the Premises ID. Please complete only the fields that are applicable.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (2): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Email (2): \_\_\_\_\_

**(Optional) CCIA ACCOUNT ID\*:** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \*Issued by the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA); ex. A1234567 (not a Premises ID)

**Emergency Contacts:** Persons responsible for care and control of animals in an animal health or natural disaster emergency.

**Primary Contact**  Same as Registrant **OR** First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (2): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Email (2): \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact**  Same as Registrant **OR** First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (2): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Email (2): \_\_\_\_\_



