

Pork industry better equipped to prevent and respond to disease

April 24, 2014

Enhancing [biosecurity](#) and education to help combat the spread of pig diseases will help Alberta's hog producers maintain a healthy pork industry.

Through [Growing Forward 2](#) (GF2), the governments of Canada and Alberta are providing \$1.35 million to [Alberta Pork](#) to help address the threat of pig diseases, such as [porcine epidemic diarrhea \(PED\)](#), to the swine industry. The funding is in addition to existing GF2 grants that are available to pork producers and farm service providers to enhance biosecurity measures in their operations.

"This funding for the pork sector is a proactive step to help the industry fight pig diseases and improve biosecurity measures across the province. Through Alberta's Budget 2014, we are continuing our commitment to make significant *Growing Forward 2* investments that will strengthen our province's agriculture industry."

- Verlyn Olson, Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

"Our Government recognizes the importance of the Canadian hog industry in creating jobs and economic growth. This investment provides Alberta Pork with the tools and resources it needs to support producers and processors in improving biosecurity."

- Blaine Calkins, Member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin

"The funding will help our industry respond to current disease threats as well as prepare for and help prevent future threats to the industry. Biosecurity continues to be our best defence to keep disease off the farm, and we must all continue to be vigilant – from farmers to truckers and processors."

- Frank Novak, Chairman of Alberta Pork

Actions supported by the Alberta Pork grant:

- Updating Alberta Pork's swine risk assessment
- Training veterinarians to perform on-farm biosecurity audits, and conducting those audits
- Developing a system for farm service providers to have their biosecurity processes assessed
- Developing education and information materials for producers

Growing Forward 2 is a joint federal-provincial-territorial agreement that is investing \$400 million in strategic programs to support the

Related information

[Audio clip of Minister Olson](#)
[Growing Forward 2 in Canada](#)
[Growing Forward 2 in Alberta](#)
[Biosecurity information – Canadian Swine Health Board](#)

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long-term competitiveness and sustainability of Alberta's agriculture sector.

Backgrounder

There are about 380 pork producers in Alberta, and Alberta produces 2.3 million market hogs annually.

About *Growing Forward 2*

Alberta agriculture and agri-food producers can apply to 24 [Growing Forward 2](#) (GF2) programs to enhance their operations.

GF2 is in the second year of a \$400 million, five-year commitment by the federal and Alberta governments. This is a 50 per cent increase from the previous Growing Forward agreement. GF2 programs are cost-shared 60:40 between the Canada and Alberta governments.

Programs under GF2 include support for environmental stewardship, food safety, biosecurity, business management, market development, water management, farm safety, research and agri-business innovation. The majority of [Alberta programs](#) are open for applications in April 2014. The 2014-15 programs include an expanded agricultural watershed enhancement program and a new livestock welfare program for producers.