

# porkresearch



ONTARIO PORK

## Working for the betterment of our industry

**W**elcome to the fifth issue of Pigs, Pork and Progress highlighting some of the research to which your service fee dollars contribute. Even during these troubled times,

our continued investment in strategic research is important to our industry's health and future. In this issue, you will find articles on topics ranging from swine health and diseases to animal nutrition, handling, meat quality and safety.

Research and development are cornerstones for any industry. Without research investments, the halothane gene would still be affecting meat quality, we would be without many vaccines, and feeding and reproduction advancements would not have been possible.

Research projects have addressed key issues and questions concerning responsible production, environmental integrity, and animal health and welfare to ensure the marketing of safe quality pork products.

Ontario Pork has created a team of producers and industry representatives who thoroughly evaluate research

proposals and recommend funding to those that will best benefit the industry. In 2007, more than \$1 million was committed to research in the swine industry.

This was made possible by significant funding from the Canada-Ontario Research and Development (CORD) program, an initiative of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agricultural Policy Framework designed to position Canada's agri-food sector as a world leader. In Ontario, the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) administers the CORD program on behalf of the province.

Research takes a dedicated team. We are fortunate to have progressive research organizations and swine researchers working for the betterment of our industry and the whole of the agri-food sector. Take the time to read the work that is being done on your behalf.

Curtiss Littlejohn  
Chair, Ontario Pork



MARTIN SCHWALBE

## A continued commitment to pork research

**T**he 2008 issue of Pigs, Pork and Progress illustrates the high level of activity in swine and pork research in Ontario. Some of the research highlighted in this publication is

applied in nature and is aimed at reducing production costs and improving reproductive efficiency, while other research is directed at improving food safety and pork meat quality or addresses regulatory and environmental issues.

Ontario pork producers should be complimented for their continued commitment to research, in spite of the current financial crisis in the Ontario pork industry. As outlined in one of the articles in this magazine, ("Investment in swine research is money well spent," page 6) the financial return on investment in research is very high. Moreover, largely because of the support from Ontario Pork, researchers are able to obtain additional funding from other organizations, such as the provincial

and federal governments, in order to maintain a critical pork and swine research infrastructure and to train people.

During the last year, key researchers have worked with individual pork producers and the research committee from Ontario Pork to ensure that research funds are used effectively and to address some of the immediate challenges in the Ontario pork industry. Specific examples of on-farm studies are highlighted in these pages.

It is hoped that this issue will yield some ideas or suggestions that can be applied quickly in the industry. If you have questions about specific research projects, please contact the lead researchers or me. Your feedback to this publication is appreciated.

Kees de Lange,  
Co-ordinator, pork research, University of Guelph

*Pigs, Pork and Progress* is a special supplement to *Better Pork* written, produced and published by AgMedia Inc.

Editor - Robert Irwin

Executive Editor - Dr. Kees de Lange

Project Coordination - Jean Howden, Keith Robbins

Visit Ontario Pork's website: [www.ontariopork.on.ca](http://www.ontariopork.on.ca)

Address correspondence to:

Jean Howden, Research Coordinator

Ontario Pork

655 Southgate Drive, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 5G6

Phone: 519-767-4600 Fax: 519-829-1769

E-mail: [jean.howden@ontariopork.on.ca](mailto:jean.howden@ontariopork.on.ca)