



*Long-Term Thinking
for Today's Issues*

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Canadian Pork Council
900-220 Laurier Ave. W
Ottawa, ON
Canada, K1P 5Z9

Re: Issues Surrounding CQA

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario would like to take this time to bring forth the concerns of our Pork Producers Committee regarding the Canadian Quality Assurance Program. The CFFO does not endorse any change that would compromise Canadian Agriculture's commitment to food safety. In principle, the CFFO believes that CQA offers potential benefits to hog producers and consumers. However, at the present time, it is felt that these benefits are not sufficient to ensure long-term participation in the program.

The current time interval requirement for audits and validations is viewed as onerous. The CFFO recommends that partial validations be dropped from the program. The current process involves repetitive actions in a situation where there is little change in production practices from year to year. Furthermore, there are current regulations outside of CQA that ensure that certain aspects of proper care of livestock and food safety are resolved properly, such as withdrawal times for animal medications.

CQA should have tangible benefits, such as cost-share incentives similar to the environmental farm plan. Providing a carrot for participation will increase the overall effectiveness of the program.

Finally, our producers would like to see CQA advertised in a manner that results in consumers recognizing the value of these food safety efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important matters.

Regards,

Henry Stevens, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

C.C. Ontario Pork