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Livestock Issues Resource Centre – An Information Resource for the Pork Industry
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Objective: To assist pork industry professionals and pork producers in their requirement for new information. To address practical production challenges that have impact on economic as well as sustainability issues at the farm unit and industry levels.

Motivation: Knowledge on key issues facing the livestock industry is being produced and disseminated around the world with increasing volume and speed, and yet, the ability of the industry, or governments to access this information has not increased at the same rate.

Deliverables:

- ❖ Concise reviews of the state of our knowledge in Environment and Welfare Issues (Summary Papers)
- ❖ A simplified search tool using an on-line database with access to 3,000 entries
- ❖ A review or summary (250-500 words) of research and best management practices provides a concise summation of research results
- ❖ Public, free access ensures issues of relevance to the general public are accessible from a credible source
- ❖ Issues and information are reviewed for their application to the North American production system

On-Line Information Resource: Beginning in 1998 Ontario Pork commissioned the building of the on-line Environmental Issues Resource Centre to increase accessibility to the growing body of environmental information impacting the growing pork industry. This project included a world-wide search of research and best management practices in 14 areas including:

- ❖ Barn siting
- ❖ Odors
- ❖ Gas Emissions
- ❖ Manure & Nutrient Management
- ❖ Soils & Water
- ❖ Dust in livestock buildings & Human Health
- ❖ Sociology
- ❖ Noise

- ❖ Dead Animal Management
- ❖ Traffic
- ❖ Legislation & Regulation

Based on the success of this strategy to provide access to information for a wide range of stakeholders, the same protocol was developed for Animal Welfare Issues. This project covered:

- ❖ Welfare vs Rights
- ❖ Welfare of the Animal
- ❖ Modern Production Systems
- ❖ Space Allowance
- ❖ Comfort
- ❖ Vices
- ❖ Injury & Disease
- ❖ Pain & Distress
- ❖ Handling, Transport & Slaughter
- ❖ Codes & Legislation

Since 2001, Energy Efficiency, Greenhouse gas production and production efficiencies research modules have been added to the on-line database. There are now nearly 3,000 research summaries in the database and two complete reports on the Environment and Animal Welfare.

Accessing Information: Via the website search function www.Prairieswine.ca using keyword, publication, author or date search.

Conclusions: The collection, review, summation and publication of concise summaries of research papers, conference proceedings and popular press articles relevant to the pork industry has been developed. This information resource reduces time spent by the industry to access information relevant to practical pork production.

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