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Hog Production in Manitoba: Assessing Economic and Environmental Sustainability

Guelph, ON (September 24, 2007) A recently released George Morris Centre (GMC) report, commissioned by the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC), provides an independent assessment of the prospects for the Manitoba hog industry.

Kevin Grier, Senior Market Analyst at the Centre and lead author of the report notes that “producers and packers in Manitoba face significant competitive challenges. Pressures like feed grain costs, Canadian dollar appreciation, labour shortages, and the lack of economies of scale in packing plants create significant issues that must be overcome.”

With upcoming changes to environmental regulations, decisions that deal with competitive challenges will require a balance between economic success and environmental stewardship. Manitoba producers have already taken major steps to reduce environmental risks by implementing beneficial management practices and proceeding as responsible stewards of their land.

The GMC report includes data on existing environmental risks associated with hog production, current environmental legislation in Manitoba and other jurisdictions, and the likely impacts of increased restrictiveness from future legislation on the Manitoba hog industry.

In light of these pending legislative changes, there is good news according to the report. Manitoba’s industry is in a strong economic position overall, based on production capability for feed grains and hogs. Although there are significant challenges to face, the industry is positioned to succeed in the long term.

The complete report is available on the George Morris Centre website:

www.georgemorris.org

The George Morris Centre is Canada’s independent agri-food think tank, dedicated to provoking informed dialogue on policies and issues and fostering excellence in the agri-food sector.

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