

Sow stall campaign update: Manitoba election

Each **MLA candidate** in the recent Manitoba provincial election was polled by CCFA for their position on phasing out sows stalls, their support for a legislated phase-out and provincial funding for producers to transition their barns to open housing for pregnant mother pigs.

CCFA and CETFA also contacted the four main political parties (NDP, Liberal, Conservatives and Greens) in advance of the October 4 election, requesting their policy platform on a sow stall phase-out in the province by 2017.

The Conservatives and Liberals both stated they prefer to work with the agriculture industry on a sow stall phase-out plan. The NDP's position statement was stronger, and an **NDP government was re-elected**. The NDP acknowledged animal care in the agriculture industry needs to be improved and stated they would like to see opposing groups (activists and industry) engage in an open dialogue to improve animal treatment within the industry. The Greens did not respond, surprisingly.

To read the **NDP, Liberal and PC party platforms on sow stalls**, visit www.helpthepigs.ca, and click the left navigation bar on the home page.

If you live in Manitoba, please contact your MLA to request support for a sow stall phase-out by 2017 and provincial funding for producers to transition their barns to open housing. Please print a copy of our **House petition**, collect signatures, then ask your MLA to read the petition in the Legislative Assembly.



photo: Twyla Francois

Go here to find your MLA:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/>

Go here to download a copy of the House petition:
<http://www.helpthepigs.com/documents/petition.pdf>

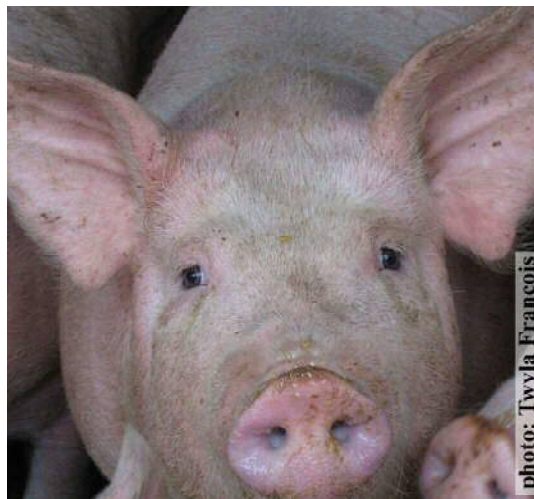
Campaign **brochures and postcards** are available by emailing info@humanefood.ca.

Ending pig castration

It is common practice in Canada for pig producers to **surgically castrate without pain relief**. This needs to change in Canada, as it is in the European Union, where a recent Declaration calls for an end to all pig castration by 2018.

CCFA has written a follow-up letter to major Canadian grocers about ending surgical pig castration. Canadian retailers should stop selling meat from castrated pigs.

If you, too, would like to contact grocers, go to <http://tinyurl.com/3p3fj8m> for grocers' contact info.



Conference looks at codes

CCFA representatives attended the National Farm Animal Care Council conference in Ottawa in early October, where a major focus was the voluntary codes of practice. NFACC is a federally-funded agency responsible for developing the industry codes. There are revisions underway to several very outdated codes, including beef, pigs, horses. (For instance, the existing pig code allows sows stalls and castration without pain relief).

A lingering question is whether the Canadian animal agriculture industry will buy-in and comply with the revised codes. The federal government is paying for the revision of the codes, perhaps because international trade is at risk from outdated and inhumane animal care practices still happening in Canada.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency vs. Maple Lodge Farms court case

Six full days of court hearings are scheduled for two charges brought by the CFIA against Maple Lodge Farms (MLF), a huge poultry slaughter company based in Brampton, Ontario. Court hearings are taking place at the Brampton Court House. A total of 60 infractions against MLF were in question, but the Crown charged MLF with two transport infractions under Section XII of the Regulations under the federal *Health of*

Animals Act. The cases involve the deaths of large numbers of broiler chickens and spent hens transported to MLF for slaughter in bad weather.



CCFA has been observing court procedures and is encouraged the CFIA is acting on the charges in court, and not simply applying monetary fines which seem to be considered by industry as little more than a cost of doing business.

Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals is a *non-profit* coalition of 25 organizations dedicated to the welfare of animals raised for food in Canada.

Our work is only possible through donations from individuals such as yourself.

Contact us: info@humanefood.ca Our website: www.humanefood.ca

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