



## News Release

### **Canada says no more gestation crates as of 2024 – a significant milestone to improving farm animal welfare says Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals**

**March 10, 2014 – Toronto** – The new Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs released on March 6, 2014 and developed by the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) has mandated that existing sow stalls cannot be used to house pregnant pigs as of 2024. The Code also states that facilities built or renovated after July 1st, 2014 must use group housing systems for pregnant sows.

“This is a significant victory for farm animal welfare in Canada,” said Lynn Kavanagh, Director with the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals (CCFA). “Breeding pigs will now be able to move around in pens and socialize with other pigs rather than being confined in a stall barely larger than themselves for their entire lives.”

Sow stalls (also called “gestation crates”) are steel and concrete pens that have been used by the pork industry for the past several decades as the predominant housing system for breeding sows. Scientific evidence and many experts, including farmers, animal welfare scientists and veterinarians, confirm what most of us know intuitively, that keeping sows confined to a tiny space for months or years on end seriously compromises their well-being and causes both physical and mental suffering.

Sow stalls are already banned in the European Union and are being phased out or are banned in other jurisdictions, including a number of U.S. States. In April 2013, the Retail Council of Canada, among whose members comprise eight of Canada’s largest retailers, including Loblaw and Costco, committed to sourcing fresh pork products from group housing systems by 2022.

#### **About Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals**

CCFA is dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals raised for food in Canada through public education, legislative change and consumer choice. CCFA supporters are animal protection organizations across Canada representing over 120,000 Canadians.

#### **For more information, contact:**

Lynn Kavanagh, Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals, 416.893.4505, [lynnk@rogers.com](mailto:lynnk@rogers.com)