

COMMODITY

PORK

Description

British Columbia's pork industry is centered in the Fraser Valley but there is also production in the Peace River and other regions.

There are two stages involved in hog production: farrowing (raising piglets) and finishing (growing hogs to market weight). Many producers raise hogs from farrow to finish. In other cases, one farmer will look after the hogs from the time they are born until they are weaned and start on solid or liquid food, and then another farmer will finish them until they reach market weight.

It takes five to six months to raise a hog from farrow to finish. The majority of hogs produced in British Columbia are raised indoors in heated, ventilated barns. Some hogs are raised outdoors on pasture or on bedded earthen floors under shelters. During the growing and finishing stage, hogs are fed high energy rations. Feed for hogs is supplied by feed companies or prepared in an on-farm feed mill. Manure is collected and stored or composted until it can be applied to crop land as a fertilizer.

Farm Practices of Particular Interest

Practices for specific farm activities can be found in the Farm Practice section of this reference guide. Farm practices that are of particular interest to pork production include:

Animal Husbandry

Recommended animal husbandry practices for hogs are detailed in the Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals (Pigs). The code provides guidelines on the humane care, feeding and management of pigs. As researchers learn more about pork production it is expected these recommendations will change.

See Farm Practice: [Animal Care and Handling](#)

Farm Buildings

Pork producers require buildings to house livestock, protect equipment and store feed and pesticides. Some amount of odour may be generated from pork production buildings.

See Farm Practice: [Storage of Hazardous Material](#)
[Storage of Farm Supplies and Products](#)
[Structures](#)
[Ventilation](#)

Feeding

Feed may be handled, prepared and mixed on the farm or purchased off the farm.

See Farm Practice: [Feeding and Watering](#)
[Storage of Farm Supplies and Products](#)

Transportation

Pork producers may have vehicles making deliveries and transport products away any time of day or night. Producers must supply adequate areas on the farm property to handle the volume, movement, and parking of trucks and other traffic related to the activities and production of the farm.

See Farm Practice: [Transportation](#)

Waste Handling

Manure is collected and stored or composted until it can be applied to cropland as a fertilizer. Some amount of odour may be generated from waste handling.

See Farm Practice: [Composting](#)
[Farmstead Refuse](#)
[Fertilizers and Soil Conditioners](#)
[Manure Storage and Use](#)

Legislation

Agricultural producers are expected to follow all legislation that pertains to their farming operation. The *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* stipulates that the farm operation must meet the *Health Act*, *Pesticide Control Act*, *Waste Management Act* and the regulations under those acts. Information on federal and provincial legislation can be found in Appendices B and C.

Acts that pertain to specific farm activities are listed in the farm practices section of this reference guide. Local government bylaws may also apply to some farm practices. Acts that are not referenced elsewhere that are of special interest to Pork producers include the following:

Provincial

No Act applies at this time.

Local Government

Applicable *Animal Control Bylaws* where in place

Publications

Publications that provide information on pork production include, but are not limited to, the following (refer to Appendix D for details):

British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Reference Guide
Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Pigs