

# EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR SWINE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

## PROJECT LEADERS

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## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

- To develop a methodology for analyzing the cost/benefit of system optimization and standardization that can be applied to commercial swine farms.
- To ensure that concepts identified in this project can be translated to the farm, providing a competitive advantage to Canadian pork producers.

*The current knowledge and value people place on standards in barn design, construction and operation is very low and 'rules of thumb' dominate equipment purchase and barn design decisions. Other industries have demonstrated significant economic returns from adoption of standards.*

## FINAL RESULTS

Over 150 relevant animal agricultural standards in the five major systems (physical building, mechanical systems, animal handling, electrical systems and waste systems) were catalogued. Although information on the net financial benefit of these standards was rarely available.

A pre-survey was conducted and highlighted 14 system failure areas. Then, a main survey to quantify the impact and importance of concerns in the 14 system failure areas was conducted. Analysis of the answers revealed that only 18% of respondents reported no problems with any of the 14 areas identified. The areas of most frequent issues were: feeders and waterers, space requirements and crowding, load out and farrowing crates.

Based on the analysis of the responses, a list of recommendations to optimize pig production and research areas to be pursued was drawn up.

*The Canadian pork industry could reduce costs and producer frustration through the adoption of standards particularly in the areas of feeder/waterer, space requirement, loadout and farrowing crate design.*



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