



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

## Hog Transportation Handling Award

*Jointly awarded by the  
Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan and  
the Saskatchewan Pork Development Board*



***Deadline for Nominations: November 17, 2008***

### **Introduction**

Quality animal care and welfare are priorities for the pork industry. Consumers and retailers demand assurances that the food we purchase and eat has been raised in a humane manner. Every step in the production process is critical to ensuring the pork industry continues to provide nutritious, high quality pork products.

Animal care and welfare does not end at the farm gate. Improper handling by transporters can detrimentally affect the health of animals being transported and ultimately the quality of the end product.

In 2002, the U.S. National Pork Board introduced the Trucker Quality Assurance<sup>®</sup> (TQA<sup>®</sup>) program to the American pork industry. The program was initially designed for truckers responsible for hauling hogs to market.

In 2005, Sask Pork, with permission from the National Pork Board, began delivering this program to the Saskatchewan trucking industry. In the past two years, more than 600 provincial truckers have completed their TQA<sup>®</sup> certification in Saskatchewan.

Truckers are a critical link in the production process. Losses resulting from inadequate care, attention to animal handling, welfare and hauling equipment costs our industry many millions of dollars each year. Healthy, unstressed animals are essential to successful pork production.

### **Eligibility**

Any Saskatchewan trucker or organization directly involved in the transporting of live hogs is eligible to be nominated. Drivers must have completed the pork industry Trucker Quality Assurance (TQA<sup>®</sup>) program.

### **Criteria**

The individual or organization consistently demonstrates:

- a) exceptional animal care and handling techniques during the loading and unloading process preventing undue stress on the animals;
- b) a solid understanding of animal behavior. He/she holds the animal's welfare in high regard treating every animal as an individual. This includes the ability to recognize signs of discomfort, dangerous conditions or disease in an animal and makes responsible judgments as to when an animal should not be transported.

- c) a positive attitude and deals with packers and producers in a professional manner. He/she also ensures equipment is in excellent condition and adheres to strict biosecurity and unloading policies as set out by the premises they are responsible for hauling to or from.
- d) delivery of healthy, stress-free animals by adhering to established federal and provincial commodity, regulatory and transportation guidelines applicable to their jurisdiction.

The deadline for submission of nominations is **November 17, 2008**. Awards will be presented at the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting in December.

To obtain a nomination form or additional information you may contact the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan at (306) 249-3227 (Email: [facs@sasktel.net](mailto:facs@sasktel.net)) or Sask Pork at (306) 244-7752 ([info@saskpork.com](mailto:info@saskpork.com)). Electronic forms can also be obtained at [www.facs.sk.ca/welfare\\_awards](http://www.facs.sk.ca/welfare_awards) or [www.saskpork.com](http://www.saskpork.com)