



## CANADIAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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### Dear Fellow Cattle Producer,

We are asking for cooperation from ranchers, farmers, the fertilizer industry and the feed industry to help gather accurate information on agricultural management practices that affect ammonia emissions. This questionnaire is designed to help researchers know what is really happening to better focus efforts on developing mitigation strategies to decrease ammonia losses.

The driving forces behind this initiative are:

1. Scientists are concerned about the impact that ammonia emissions have on air quality. Ammonia is a precursor to particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns. These particles are small enough to travel very deep into the lungs and cause disease. Environment Canada has listed ammonia as a toxic substance under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) for that reason.

The United States is also very concerned about atmospheric ammonia and is going through a similar detailed national emissions inventory process.

2. The Government of Canada signed the Gothenburg Protocol which commits Canada to report emissions annually. Environment Canada is currently doing this reporting but their data collection needs to be improved to increase its accuracy.

The Gothenburg Protocol is part of a larger United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) agreement on long range transport of pollutants.

3. Although this survey focuses only on the identification of ammonia emission Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is currently conducting research which looks at ways to improve efficiencies in production systems so that emissions are reduced with least possible negative impact on any agricultural sector and hopefully improvements.

Sincerely,

Ian McKillop  
Chair, Environment and Animal Care Committee



*February 1, 2006*

*Re: Ammonia Emissions Survey for Canadian Agriculture*

Dear Fellow Producer,

Canada recently signed the international Gothenburg Protocol, which commits our country to reporting ammonia emissions each year. The United States, among other major agricultural producing countries around the world, is also devoting much effort to the Gothenburg Protocol.

In Canada, ammonia emission data collection needs to be improved, so surveys have been developed in order to more accurately capture this information for a variety of sectors across the country. A survey has been included in this package that will help develop a clearer picture of agricultural ammonia emissions in Canada.

As stewards of the land, Canadian farmers recognize the importance of being proactive in reducing our overall environmental 'footprint'. The agricultural sector has a great potential to reduce ammonia emissions, using agronomically accepted management practices and technologies, such as the use of injection techniques to apply manure and manure storage cover systems.

Losses of ammonia-nitrogen from the farm are also becoming quite costly. As nitrogen fertilizer prices continue to rise, there is increasing incentive to conserve manure nitrogen. Conserving nitrogen adds value to your manure, for use as a crop nutrient source, and reduces the need to purchase supplemental fertilizers.

We can all play a part in respecting and protecting our environment. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, along with Statistics Canada, has requested the support of the Canadian Pork Council and Canada's hog producers in this important ammonia emissions project. As President of the Canadian Pork Council, I encourage you to do your part, by participating to this survey.

By doing this, you will help demonstrate the role we play as environmental leaders in the Canadian agricultural sector. Further, your co-operation will help ensure that future national and provincial ammonia emissions programming will be properly designed to address both the needs of the pork producer community and the natural environment in which we live and work.

Kind regards,

Clare Schlegel