



Ontario Pig Health Check-up

PROGRAM GUIDELINES



Supporting the Raising of Healthy Pigs



Program Overview

The Ontario Pig Health Check-up program will provide funding to support veterinary consultations for small scale pig herd owners. The exchange of animal health knowledge and practical resource materials will support the raising of healthy, well-grown pigs. In addition, good animal health practices are key tools to prevent the introduction, development and spread of transmissible animal diseases.

Within the terms of this project, a small-scale pig owner is someone who produces less than 1,000 market hogs a year or owns less than 50 sows or owns pet pigs.

The Ontario Pig Health Check-up program will reimburse Ontario licensed, practicing veterinarians for completing animal health consultations with small scale pig owners. The consultations can be in-person or via telemedicine as prescribed by the College of Veterinarians of Ontario Professional Practice Standard for Telemedicine. Treatment costs, up to a maximum cap based on the number of pigs, will also be reimbursed. This will include, but is not limited to, diagnostic costs, medication or vaccination, injury treatment, or medical intervention. See eligible activities and expenditures [here](#).

The Ontario Pig Health Check-up will cover the topics listed below as applicable:

- Housing and management of facilities
- Feed, pasture management, and water
- Handling
- Reproduction management
- Biosecurity and disease prevention
- Swine health, welfare and behaviour
- Euthanasia and deadstock
- Transportation
- Marketing and slaughter

Who Qualifies

The Ontario Pig Health Check-up will reimburse Ontario licensed, practicing veterinarians for completing animal health consultations with small scale pig owners.

The consultations can be conducted in-person or via telemedicine as prescribed by the College of Veterinarians of Ontario Professional Practice Standard for Telemedicine.

Within the terms of this project, a small-scale pig owner is someone who produces less than 1,000 market hogs a year or owns less than 50 sows or owns pet pigs. Pig herd owners must have or register for a Premises Identification Number (PID) www.ontariopid.com or by telephone 1-888-2347-4999. There is no cost to register.

Only one check-up and treatment program per pig owner will be reimbursed during the term of this project.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

Consultation

For in-person or telemedicine consultations, the Ontario Pig Health Check-up program will reimburse veterinarians up to \$400 per consultation using a professional hourly rate of \$200.00 per hour. It is anticipated each check-up will take approximately 2.0 hours on average.

The [Ontario Pig Health Check-up booklet](#) provides a template for the consultation with sections for recording observations, concerns, and follow-up actions as appropriate. Topics to be discussed cover the topics listed below as applicable:

- Housing and management of facilities
- Feed, pasture management, and water
- Handling
- Reproduction management
- Biosecurity and disease prevention
- Swine health, welfare and behaviour
- Euthanasia and deadstock
- Transportation
- Marketing and slaughter

Travel

- In lieu of mileage, travel to on farm/on site visits will be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$100 for travel of less than one hour and \$150 for calls one hour or more from home base based on Google Maps travel time between clinic location and farm premises.

Treatment Costs

- Treatment costs include, but are not limited to, diagnostic costs, medication or vaccination, injury treatment, or medical intervention.
- Reimbursement of treatment costs will be 100% of documented treatment up to a maximum cap per check-up based on the number of pigs as follows.
 - Five or fewer pigs – \$350 maximum reimbursement
 - > 5 up to 200 market hogs a year/10 sows - \$700 max
 - > 200 market hogs a year/10 sows up to 500 market hogs/25 sows - \$1,500 max
 - > 500 market hogs a year/25 sows up to 1,000 market hogs a year/50 sows - \$2,000 max

Ineligible Costs - Taxes

- **Taxes payable on services and products will not be eligible for reimbursement.**
- Participating veterinarians will need to charge their clients applicable taxes.

Reimbursement

- Reimbursement will be issued directly to the participating veterinarian.
- Veterinarians may only submit one check-up and treatment program per pig owner during the term of this project.
- Health check-ups must be completed **on or before October 31, 2022***.
- Veterinarians are encouraged to submit claims for reimbursement following each completed Pig Health Check-up or on a monthly basis if completing check-ups with multiple pig owners.
- All requests for reimbursement **must be received no later than November 15, 2022.**
- Reimbursements to veterinarians will be issued within four weeks of receipt of a complete claim for reimbursement
- **Note:** Pig owners may be contacted to verify the check-up was completed and confirm any treatments submitted for reimbursement.

*The program runs until October 31, 2022, or until project funds are depleted whichever occurs earliest.

Forms and Resources

Each of the following are provided in pdf format for downloading. Hard copies will be provided to participating veterinarians for distribution to pig owners. Veterinarians should contact the [Ontario Pig Health Check-up office](#).

Consultation Resources

- Ontario Pig Health Check-up Consultation Booklet – To be completed by the participating veterinarian in consultation with the pig owner. Completed booklet to be left with the pig owner.
- Ontario Pig Health Check-up Consultation Checklist – To be completed by the veterinarian, signed by the veterinarian and pig owner, and submitted with reimbursement claim.

Reference Material for Pig Owners

- [Canadian Small Scale Pig Farming Manual](#)
- [Top 10 Guide of Things to Know about Raising Pigs](#)
- African swine fever *Why it Matters* poster for pet pig owners
- African swine fever *Why it Matters* poster for pig herd owners

Claim Forms

Participating veterinarians are required to submit the following documents when requesting reimbursement.

- Ontario Pig Health Check-up Consultation Checklist – To be completed by the veterinarian, signed by the veterinarian and pig owner, and submitted with reimbursement claim.
- The participating veterinarian is to provide an itemized invoice issued to the Ontario Pig Health Check-up Program for each check-up completed. The invoice is to include:
 - the name of the client/pig owner;
 - date of consultation and type, e.g., in person or telemedicine;
 - number of consulting hours billed; and,
 - itemized treatment costs (if applicable).

Taxes are not eligible for reimbursement and must be charged to the client.

Reimbursement claims can be submitted via email, fax, or regular mail.

Ontario Pig Health Check-up
c/o 39 William Street
Elmira, ON N3B 1P3
Fax: 519-669-3826
Email: Financial Administrator, Krista Bates: krista.fio@bell.net

Note: Pig owners may be contacted to verify the check-up was completed and confirm any treatments submitted for reimbursement.

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How to Get Started

Veterinarians

Contact the Ontario Pig Health Check-up office to receive check-up booklets and checklists as well as pig owner information packages. Copies can also be downloaded from the [website](#). Advise the office if you wish your contact information to be posted on the Ontario Pig Health Check-up website under Links insert link for pig owners seeking veterinarians.

Pig Owners

Contact your current veterinarian and let them know you are interested in taking advantage of the Ontario Pig Health Check-up program. If they are not familiar with the program, direct them to the [website](#) or have them contact the office.

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Phone: 519-669-3350
Email: Program Manager, Susan Fitzgerald: susan.fio@bell.net
Financial Administrator, Krista Bates: krista.fio@bell.net

If you do not currently have a herd veterinarian, there are links to veterinary clinics who serve owners of small pig herds on the Links page of the [Ontario Pig Health Check-up website](#). You can also contact a veterinary clinic in your area and inquire if they provide pig care services.

You must have a Premises Identification Number. If you do not have one, you can register with the Provincial Premises Registry online www.ontariopid.com or by telephone 1-888-247-4999. There is no cost to register.

Questions and Answers

Am I eligible?

In order to qualify for reimbursement, veterinarians must be licensed and practicing veterinary medicine in Ontario.

To qualify as a small-scale pig owner, within the terms of the Ontario Pig Health Check-up, you produce less than 1,000 market hogs a year or own less than 50 sows or pet pigs. You must have or register for a Premises Identification Number.

How do I get a Premises Identification Number?

Getting your Premises Identification Number is easy and free. To register with the Provincial Premises Registry:

- Online: www.ontariopid.com
- By phone: 1-888-247-4999

How often can I apply for funding?

Only one check-up and treatment program per pig owner will be reimbursed during the term of this project.

How do I submit for reimbursement?

The participating veterinarian completes the Ontario Pig Health Check-up checklist. Both the veterinarian and pig owner sign and date the form confirming a health consultation was completed and which topics were discussed.

The participating veterinarian submits the completed checklist and an itemized invoice to the Ontario Pig Health Check-up program via email, fax, or regular mail.

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Note: Pig owners may be contacted to verify the check-up was completed and confirm any treatments submitted for reimbursement were provided.

How long does the program run?

The program runs until October 31, 2022, or until project funds are depleted whichever occurs earliest.

I am a veterinarian; how do I get started?

Contact the Ontario Pig Health Check-up office to receive check-up booklets and checklists as well as pig owner information packages. Copies can also be downloaded from the website [here](#). Advise the office if you wish your contact information posted on the website under Links for pig owners seeking veterinarians.

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I am a pig owner, how do I get started?

Contact your veterinarian and let them know you are interested in taking advantage of the Ontario Pig Health Check-up program. If they are not familiar with the program, direct them to the website or have them contact the office.

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How do I find a veterinarian?

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Links

African Swine Fever

<https://www.cpc-ccp.com/asf-pig-owners>

Alberta Pork - Pig production in Alberta: A guide for small-scale producers

<https://www.albertapork.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Alberta-Pork-Small-Scale-Producer-Handbook-final.pdf>

BC Pork – Small Lot Pork Producers

<https://www.bcpork.ca/small-lot-pork-producers/>

BC Pork – Small Lot Pork Producers Manual

<https://www.bcpork.ca/small-lot-pork-producers/manual/>

Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System – Information for Smallholders

<https://cahss.ca/cahss-networks/smallholders>

Canadian Pork Council – Small scale production

<https://www.cpc-ccp.com/small-scale-production>

Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs

https://www.cpc-ccp.com/uploads/userfiles/files/pig_code_of_practice.pdf

OAHN Swine Small Scale Herd Post-mortem Project

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/ahl/oahn-swine-small-scale-herd-postmortem-project-may-2020>

Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council – biosecurity resources

<http://www.ontlpc.ca/downloads.php>

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Livestock resources

<http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/index.html>

Ontario Pork - Small Scale Pig Farming Info Kit

<https://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Producers/Small-Producer-Manual/Small-Scale-Pig-Farming-Info-Kit>

Ontario Provincial Premises Registry

<https://www.ontariopid.com/en-CA/>

PigTrace for Small Scale Pig Producers

<https://www.cpc-ccp.com/pigtrace-for-small-scale-pig-producers>

Podcast: Maximizing Swine Health in Alternative Production Settings

<https://www.wecahn.ca/wecahn-tools/wecahn-podcasts>

Sask Pork – Small Scale Pig Production

<https://www.saskpork.com/small-scale-production>

Small Scale Pig Farming in Ontario

<https://www.ontariopork.on.ca/producers/small>

Contact Us

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