

Building a National Pork Research Pipeline

In 2025–26, Swine Innovation Porc strengthened its role as the national facilitator of pork research: delivering coordinated programs, launching a new funding pathway and demonstrating the measurable value of research

\$20M

Swine Research Cluster 4 national program now in year three

6

New Projects funded through the first Advancing Swine Research call

\$8

Returned to producers for every \$1 invested in swine research

\$225M

Returned to the Canadian economy

Message from the Chair



Mark Ferguson

This year marked another important step in strengthening Canada's pork sector through coordinated research and collaboration.

Research directly supports productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and our ability to respond to emerging challenges. Through continued delivery of Swine Research Cluster 4 and the launch of Advancing Swine Research, SIP is helping align national priorities and direct investment toward practical solutions for producers.

Our recent Impact Assessment further demonstrates the value of this work, confirming that coordinated research delivers measurable economic returns.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to our members, partners and stakeholders for helping build a stronger, more resilient and more competitive Canadian pork sector.

Message from the General Manager



Daniel Ramage

In 2025–26, SIP focused on delivering results while strengthening the systems that support coordinated pork research in Canada.

We continued to manage the \$20 million Swine Research Cluster 4 program while launching our first Advancing Swine Research Call for Proposals, creating a repeatable national framework for industry-driven research investment.

We also advanced the Pork Research Hub and completed an independent economic impact assessment demonstrating the measurable value of coordinated research.

Together, these initiatives are helping build a more connected, responsive and effective research system for Canada's pork sector.

02 Building the Next Research Pipeline

Swine Cluster 4 built the foundation. Advancing Swine Research opened a new national funding pathway. Together they point to a permanent, repeatable pipeline for Canadian pork research.



Swine Research Cluster 4

2023-2028

SIP's flagship five-year national program, uniting researchers, institutions, government and industry on shared priorities.

\$20M
National program

15
Research projects

13
Research institutions

36
Industry partners

50
Researchers



Advancing Swine Research

First national call for proposals, launched in 2025-26. Three-year projects, with annual calls planned as funding allows.

The first call established a **nationally coordinated, repeatable approach** to funding research aligned with industry priorities, the first step toward a pipeline the sector can rely on between clusters.

6 Projects approved

→ **4** Projects launched
→ **2** *Projects pending

\$788K
SIP investment

\$1.91M
Total project value

SIP INVESTMENT: \$788K

PARTNER CO-FUNDING: \$1.12M

41%

59%

Each SIP dollar attracted \$1.42 in partner co-funding, for **2.4x total leverage**.

**Two projects delayed by the closure of AAFC Lacombe and are expected to launch in 2026-27*

Priority areas: Animal health | Housing systems | Energy efficiency | Pork quality

03 Demonstrating the Value of Research

An independent economic analysis of coordinated pork research confirms measurable returns for producers, industry and the Canadian economy.

\$8

RETURNED

TO CANADIAN PORK PRODUCERS
FOR EVERY **\$1** INVESTED
IN SWINE RESEARCH

Independent economic impact assessment of coordinated swine research investments, completed in 2025–26.



A decade of coordinated swine research, put under an independent economic microscope this year, came back with one clear finding: it pays.

The assessment examined roughly \$50 million in national research investment, project by project. It found approximately \$225 million in economic return, a 30 per cent annual return on investment and an 8:1 benefit-to-cost ratio for producers.

Investment and return

\$50M

Invested in coordinated research over a decade

**\$225M
GDP**

*Returned to the Canadian economy:
4.5x the investment*

Where the value to producers comes from

\$20M

Productivity gains:
Improved efficiency and production performance on farm

\$47M

Market growth:
Research supporting pork quality, competitiveness and market development

30%

Return on investment

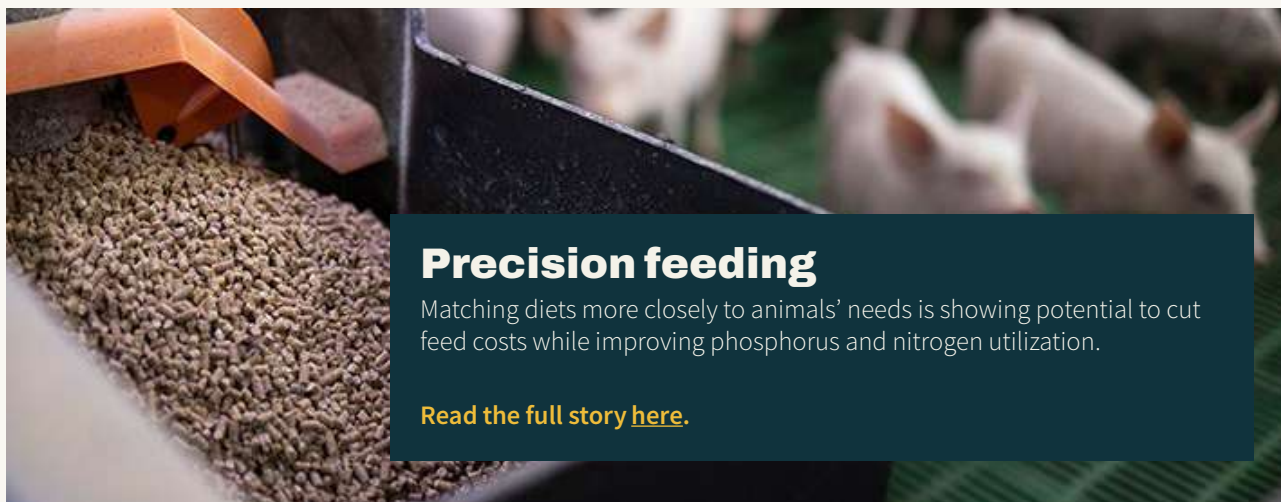
04 Research in Action

Three years into Cluster 4, findings are emerging across animal health, sustainability, nutrition, pork quality and production, and they are moving into practice.

Swine Research Cluster 4, 2023–2028



From the portfolio



Precision feeding

Matching diets more closely to animals' needs is showing potential to cut feed costs while improving phosphorus and nitrogen utilization.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Protecting against PED

PED is like that uninvited house guest: it appears without warning and never leaves. Called Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea, it hits pigs hard with vomiting, dehydration, anorexia and, you guessed it, diarrhea.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Rethinking Pork Belly quality

Long overlooked in favour of leaner, more traditional cuts, pork belly has risen to culinary fame. Once a supporting player, it has proven its worth with rich marbling, deep flavour, and versatility.

[Read the full story here.](#)

05 Taking it to the Industry



Le Porc Show

Quebec City, QC December 2025

SIP's first Québec-based Deep Dive: a fully French program of three research presentations for nearly 40 producers, researchers and stakeholders.



Banff Pork Seminar

Banff, AB January 2026

Opened the seminar with a Deep Dive announcing the first Advancing Swine Research projects, plus a panel on making research practical and commercially relevant.

06 What Comes Next

Developed in 2025–26. Now live.

The Pork Research Hub

Developed through 2025–26 with partners across the sector, the Hub is a **bilingual national platform** that makes Canadian pork research easier to find and use.

Launched in 2026, it now gives producers, researchers and industry everything in one place.

Articles, videos, podcasts, webinars and resources.



Looking Ahead

Delivering the pipeline

The first Advancing Swine Research projects move into implementation while Swine Research Cluster 4 enters its results and knowledge transfer phase.

The next Advancing Swine Research call

SIP is preparing the second national call for proposals, building on the repeatable framework established in 2025–26.

The next Swine Cluster

A national consultation with producers, industry, researchers and government will set pork research priorities for 2028 to 2032, laying the groundwork for the next national program.

The Next Agricultural Policy Framework

Working with members and partners, SIP is making the case for coordinated research investment in the framework that follows the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership in 2028.

DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Agriculture
and Agri-Food Canada

Pork Promotion
and Research Agency

Provincial pork organizations

Research institutions

Industry partners

Read the full
SIP Annual Report
2025–26

