



Choose Alberta pork

Canada is consistently among the world's top five pork exporters with products being shipped to approximately 30 countries. As a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products, Alberta's open business environment and natural advantages contribute to its strength in pork exports. For high-quality, safe and delicious products, choose Alberta pork.

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Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
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Alberta pork

Alberta pork is a premium product that is both tasty and versatile. Its mild flavor makes it an ideal choice for a range of different seasoning and cooking styles, whether you prefer spicy, sweet or tangy flavors. Alberta offers a wide range of pork cuts, including bone-in and boneless options, which cater to different cooking styles and preferences.



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Alberta pork producers are dedicated to providing the highest quality of pork, ensuring that their products are safe and delicious. Pork is rich in nutrients, including protein, vitamin B12 and zinc, making it a nutritious addition to any diet. Moreover, pork is low in sodium and is trans-fat free, making it an ideal choice for those seeking healthy eating options.

Food safety

The pork industry launched The Canadian Quality Assurance® (CQA) program to maintain the high quality of Canadian pork. This science-based program uses HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) principles to ensure food safety. Producers are required to meet strict standards and keep extensive records, with a validator reviewing the documents and farm facilities to ensure compliance.

The pork processing plants in Alberta are federally inspected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a world-renowned independent agency that provides all inspection services related to food and animal health.

Swine traceability is critical to animal health and food safety, as it helps track and prevent the spread of diseases. Alberta's commitment to traceability contributes to an industry that meets and exceeds domestic and international standards for animal health and food safety.

Responsible animal care

Humane and responsible swine production is a priority for Alberta's pork industry, with all producers enrolling in the Canadian Pork Council's Animal Care Assessment (ACA) program. This program conducts on-farm inspections and production facility audits to ensure that animals receive proper care. Alberta's natural environment also contributes to the superior quality of its pork, with its vast land mass resulting in better disease control, excellent herd health status and lower medication use.

Environment

Alberta's pork production benefits from its environment, superior swine genetics, and quality feed. With a wide land mass and lower hog population, pig farms are widely distributed, leading to better disease control and herd health status. This natural advantage results in healthier animals, lower medication use and a superior, healthy product.

Superior swine genetics

The province also has a long history of ensuring superior hog genetics. The organized swine improvement programs in the province have roots as far back as 1928 beginning with the Sow Progeny Test Program. The world-famous Lacombe breed of swine was developed in Alberta in the 1940s and 1950s and was officially registered in 1957.

Today, organizations like the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI) and the Western Swine Testing Association continue to lead efforts for swine genetic improvements. The Ottawa based CCSI has one of the largest hog genetics databases in the world.

The careful breeding and crossbreeding of Yorkshire, Landrace, and Duroc animals have produced most of Alberta's hogs, chosen for their outstanding characteristics. This commitment to swine improvement leads to a superior pork product.

Quality feed

Alberta is Canada's largest feed grain producer with abundant supplies of barley, wheat, canola and clean pure water. This natural advantage makes Alberta a prime location for hog production, with high-quality barley making up the largest part of the feed rations used for hogs raised in the province. Alberta's grain-fed pork is famous for its tenderness and firm white fat, leading to a better flavor and texture experience.