

2024 Dr. FX Aherne Prize for Innovative Pork Production



2024 Contest Rules and Adjudication Process

Eligibility

An applicant may be anyone, including, but not limited to an owner, production manager, herdsperson, or consultant in the pork industry. Applicants may be from any country. Applicants may submit their own innovative technology, or an innovator may be nominated by another person who will apply on their behalf.

Innovations entered must be applicable for use on a farm, in transportation, or with animal handling at the abattoir in Canada, Mexico, or the United States, but do not necessarily need to be in use at the time of application. Applicants are welcome to resubmit previously submitted unsuccessful entries in future years.

Research at publicly funded institutes is not eligible. Commercial research may be used to support the innovation. Entries that use a product or service that is commercially available must clearly demonstrate a new and innovative use or application.

Winners must present their innovation on January 10 2024 as part of the 2024 Banff Pork Seminar event. Winners will have approx. 15 minutes to present their innovation followed by a question & answer period.

Innovators who wish to patent or maintain selling rights to the innovation are advised to seek legal counsel prior to submitting an application. Entrants agree that photographs, drawings, and related materials submitted for judging become the property of the Banff Pork Seminar and may be used for publicity purposes by the Banff Pork Seminar Advisory Committee.

Judging Criteria

The Committee will choose up to two entries to be awarded the prize & may display the materials used for entry at the Seminar. Entries will be judged based on originality and creativity applied to implementing a new technology on a commercial pork production unit. The candidate will demonstrate that the selection, implementation, and evaluation of this technology resulted, or will result, in an improvement in an area such as

1. improved productivity of the individual animal or overall herd, compared to a period (not less than three months) prior to the innovation;
2. improved profitability of the entire production unit or production area;
3. improvement to working conditions, resulting in improved morale and/or productivity for barn workers;
4. improvements in animal well-being, including freedom from thirst & hunger, discomfort, pain/injury and disease;
5. reducing impact of the production unit on the environment; and
6. improvements to pork quality and safety.

In addition to above criteria, commercial companies making application should demonstrate the effectiveness of the technology under North American conditions.

Entries must be received by October 31, 2023 to be eligible for the 2024 award. Entries received by this date will be judged in November by the 2022 Banff Pork Seminar Prize Committee. Decisions of the Committee are final and application materials will not be returned to applicants. Winner(s) will be notified by end of November 2024.

The winner(s) will receive registration, accommodation and travel for the 2024 event. Only the innovator will be able to claim the prize as indicated, and it is not transferable to another individual or future year.

Banff Pork Seminar

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