



NUTRAMIX JPFA CELEBRATE FARMERS WITH A BALL

The Jamaica Pig Farmers' Association (JPFA) under the kind patronage of Dr The Honourable Christopher Tufton, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries with sponsorship from Nutramix, host the 2010 Farmers Ball on Saturday, April 24 at the Terra Nova Hotel, beginning at 7.00 pm.

The Farmers Ball is being held to climax the observation of the Seventh Annual Farmers Month that is geared towards raising the image of agriculture and increasing awareness of its importance to the Jamaican economy and national development; as well as of its role in tackling rising food prices and ensuring food security.

"The event will attract farmers from across Jamaica and is a call for support for our farmers, support for agriculture and support for Jamaica in highlighting the major contribution of our farmers. In the year 2009, the productive sector comprising agriculture, forestry and fishing was the only sector that recorded growth; growing by 10.0% and making a 9.0% contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)", said Mrs Angella Bardowell, President of the JPFA, in emphasising the significance of recognising the work of farmers.

Individuals and corporate Jamaica are being encouraged to contribute to the

success of this event by purchasing single tickets at a cost of J\$5,000.00 or corporate tables for J\$60,000.00. Arrangements for tickets may be made by contacting the JPFA's office at 977 0952.

Farmers Month was officially launched in April 2004 and is observed in April of each year.

The 2010 Ball is additionally sponsored by Caribbean Producers Jamaica, Jamaica National Building Society, Newport Genetics and the Caribbean Broilers Group along with support from the National Commercial Bank. ■



For additional information please contact:

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Ticket Information

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Kindly see advertisement for Farmers Ball on Page 4.

Pigtails

is the Quarterly Newsletter of the



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Please visit us on the web at:

www.jamaicapigfarmers.org

***"JPFA Improving the
Competitive Advantage of
Jamaica's Pig Farmers"***

FARMERS WANT INCREASED PRICES FOR THEIR PIGS

Jamaican pig farmers are alarmed over the continuous trend of low "farm gate" prices for their animals, in light of the significant levels of increases in cost of major inputs - feed, utilities (water and electricity), improved genetic stock, transportation, labour etc. Adding insult to injury, when a comparison of the movements in the cost of production (COP - from the standpoint of major input costs) and the prices of pigs/pork at the beginning of the decade to their current costs; it was noticed that COP has quadrupled (increased by approximately 400%) whilst the prices paid for finished pigs has more or less only doubled.

THE PIG FARMERS HAVE DONE THE MATHS AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THE RESULTS!

Over the last three years, and with a greater degree of intensity, over the last six months, pig farmers have conducted extensive analysis on the profitability of their operations. Based on the results of these analyses, it is reasonable to indicate that at current input prices:

1. It costs an estimated J\$118 to produce one pound warm dress weight (wdw).
2. Currently farmers are receiving between J\$90.00 and J\$94.00 (on an average J\$92.00) per pound wdw.
3. Clearly, at current prices producers are losing approximately J\$26 (J\$118 - J\$92) per pound wdw.
4. A typical farmer producing 20 finishers per month weighing 220 pounds live weight each (equivalent wdw of 165 each) is losing approximately J\$86, 000.00 per month; that is J\$1.032M per year.

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM PRICE INCREASE THAT JAMAICAN PIG FARMERS WANT?

The JPFA is being supported by all Jamaican Pig Farmers in their call for increased "farm gate" prices from the current average of J\$92.00 per pound wdw to J\$110.00 per pound wdw.

Farmers are also desirous of having the negotiations with purchasers to reflect a standardized price per pound based on live weight of animals at the time of pick-up from the farm, reflecting the "real farm gate" price of their product. Farmers have expressed dissatisfaction with the levels of income they lose due to the issues of mortality during transportation and "processors' plant spoilage loss".

PIG FARMERS WAY FORWARD

Given the high cost of production versus the low farm gate prices being faced by the Jamaican pig farmers, the JPFA need to work assiduously with farmers to actively negotiate with traders and processors for a more reasonable purchase price and payment mechanism for farmers' animals. The JPFA must also seek to simultaneously:

1. Implement a communication and information campaign among members to inform producers of the "recommended farm gate price" for live pigs;
2. Encourage Jamaican Pig Farmers to implement improved management practices geared at significantly reducing their cost of production. This may include but is not limited to reduction in electricity bills (utilizing more efficient/cost effective) lights; minimize feed spillage/wastage; bulk purchases; and reduce labour costs.
3. Improve institutional capacity of the JPFA whilst simultaneously increasing the number and distribution of members and Parish Chapters islandwide.
4. Lobby Government so that policy makers will prevent any unnecessary importation of pork and pork products.
5. Negotiate with processors and buyers for a standardized purchasing and payment mechanism based on "real farm gate" price (live weight) or equivalent warm dress weight computations (warm dress weight = 75% of live weight).
6. Invest in continuous monitoring of COP variables so as to ensure that any change (increase in costs) of one or more of these variables will set the stage for pig farmers justifying additional calls for increased pig/pork prices.

Remind Newport Genetics of their original mandate and commitment to the industry of ensuring that all farmers are afforded equal opportunities to access improved genetic stock - F1 Gilts and/or semen.

The Big Feed



NUTRAMIX

JPFA'S INDUSTRY MEETING REPORT CARDS

Continuing on its efforts to fulfilling its lobbyist mandates the JPFA's Executive Committee organized four regional meetings (held simultaneously) and two Industry Meetings during the January - March 2010 quarter. The focus of these meetings was to allow pig farmers and other industry stakeholders an avenue to participate in discussions relating to pertinent developmental issues within the Jamaican Pig/Pork Sub-sector.

PIG FARMERS' REGIONAL MEETINGS

Four Regional Meetings (were held simultaneously) on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the following locations:

1. Region 1 (Westmoreland, St. James, Hanover and Upper Trelawny) - Knockalva Agricultural High School, Ramble, Hanover;
2. Region 2 (St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Upper Clarendon, Upper St. Ann and Upper Trelawny) - RADA Parish Office, Manchester Road, Mandeville, Manchester;
3. Region 3 (St. Catherine, Lower Clarendon, Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Thomas) - Farmers Training Centre, Twickenham, Central Village, St. Catherine; and
4. Region 4 (Portland, St. Mary and Lower St. Ann) - St. Mary Banana Estates Sports Club, Aqualtavale, Annotto Bay, St. Mary.

Two Hundred and Thirty - Six (236) persons attended these meetings and participated in the main discussion topics resulting in the following findings per topic:

a. Pig/Pork Cost of Production (COP)

- Average COP for one pound of pork (wdw) is J\$177.
- High COP justify farmers cry for increased prices paid per pound.
- Increased prices are necessary if farmers and by extension the industry is to improve their sustainability over the medium to long term.

b. Circovirus

- Availability and application of the Circovirus vaccine.
- To date, the Government has identified two authorized dealers to supply Circovirus vaccine islandwide.

c. JPFA Fundraising Activities - Farmers' Ball

- Proposed date of April 24, 2010, to be held Terra Nova All Suites Hotel, Kingston.
- Members advised the Executive Committee to go ahead with finalizing preparations for the Ball.
- Estimated contribution per ticket is J\$5,000.00

INDUSTRY MEETINGS

Industry Meetings were held as follows:

1. February 11, 2010 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) with MoAF's Technical Directorate; and
2. March 13, 2010 at the MoAF with MoAF's personnel, processors and other stakeholders.

The main issues discussed in these meetings included:

- a. Jamaican Pig/Pork Industry Market Survey and Study
- b. Development and Investment Funding Opportunities
- c. MoAL's Pork Importation Policies
- d. Animal Identification System/Food Safety and Quality Assurance Traceability Programme
- e. Availability of Circo Virus Vaccine
- f. Cost of Production and Pricing for Jamaican Pig Pork
- g. Availability of Improved Genetic Stock, Newport Genetics (NUGEN) etc.
- h. Nugen to make available a Technician to Administer Artificial Insemination (AI) for iFree Semen provided with purchase of F1 Gilts
- i. Contract Arrangement and Payment System for Animals supplied to Processors; including purchase price mechanisms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FARMERS' BALL -	Saturday April 24, 2010 at Terra Nova All Suites Hotel 17 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS -	3rd Saturday of each month
REGIONAL MEETINGS -	Last Thursday of the January, April and July
PARISH CHAPTER MEETINGS -	At least one per Quarter: (i) January to March; (ii) April to June; and (iii) July to September
AGM -	Last Thursday of September

FEEDBACK - CONTINUE TO KEEP THE FEEDBACK COMING !

Send comments or questions to jpfa@infochan.com
or Call Office: 977-0952, President: 579-6931, Admin: 579-6954
Visit us at www.jamaicapigfarmers.org



HI-PRO FEEDS, WHITE MARL, ST. CATHERINE, TEL: 984-7918



FOR PROFITABLE PRODUCTION



NUTRAMIX in association with
The Jamaica Pig Farmers' Association

under the kind patronage of
Dr. The Honourable Christopher Tufton, MP
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

present

Farmer's Ball ²⁰¹⁰

SATURDAY, APRIL 24
TERRA NOVA ALL SUITES HOTEL
17 WATERLOO RD., KINGSTON 10

CONTRIBUTION: **\$5000.00** PER PERSON

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT: *Cocktails at 7:00p.m.*

LLOYD PARKES & WE THE PEOPLE

SUPPORT OUR
FARMERS
SUPPORT JAMAICA



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