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Big Sky Farms Adopts Feedlogic Technology To Improve Production Efficiency

ABBOTSFORD, British Columbia — January 5, 2004 — Big Sky Farms, Saskatchewan's largest hog producer, has installed robotic feeding systems from Feedlogic Systems, Inc. to research different nutrition strategies and improve production efficiency.

The Humboldt-based producer is operating two Feedlogic systems and associated communications networks in its Matsalla finisher barn. The systems allow the feeding of specific diets to individual feeders and live monitoring of feeding activity from remote locations.

"The Feedlogic systems have definitely provided us with labor savings for our feed trials," said Dr. John Harding, Big Sky veterinarian and manager of nutrition and research. "We are also very interested in the potential of the technology. Big Sky is a firm believer in the use of technology, novel ideas and continual improvement.

"As our company continues to grow, our goal is to seek new ways to improve production efficiency. Technology such as Feedlogic's can provide us with valuable information to help lower our production costs and allow us to manage to changing market conditions."

Big Sky's robotic systems dispense feed automatically and the weight and time of each delivery is recorded and transmitted live via a wireless network to an off-board computer. The systems can be monitored and managed remotely by Dr. Harding from his Humboldt office.

Feedlogic Systems president Drew Ryder said Feedlogic's technology can provide large producers such as Big Sky Farms with a competitive edge. "With increasing pressure on operating costs and a continuing difficult market for hogs, the more producers can do to lower costs without sacrificing the quality of their product, the better," he said.

“Focused nutrition management will be needed to stay profitable and survive current and future downturns in the industry. The biggest savings will be realized by producers that have the software and hardware tools to understand the current performance in their barns and make rapid changes to feeding strategies.”

About Big Sky Farms

Big Sky Farms entered the hog production market in 1995 and is based in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Its goal is to own and operate fully modern, farrow-to-finish hog production facilities in Saskatchewan using the most advanced production methods available. The company was the first in Western Canada to design and build 2,500-sow, three-site, farrow-to-finish units where breeding, nursing, and feeder barns are physically separated from each other. It is also the first in the province to design and build 5,000-sow, three-site, farrow-to-finish units.

About Feedlogic Systems, Inc.

Founded in 2001, Feedlogic Systems, Inc. supplies on-farm feed system technology designed to enhance business intelligence, improve management capabilities, and help cut production costs. Headquartered in Abbotsford, British Columbia, the company is a pioneer in the development of hardware and software which can provide hog producers with real-time monitoring and management of feeding. It was a recipient of the 2003 Dr. F.X. Aherne Prize for Innovative Pork Production and was rated one of the top three emerging technology companies in British Columbia in 2002 by New Ventures BC.

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