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Outstanding Young Business Award

Saskatoon, SK., May 17, 2007: At the recent annual meeting of the Midwest Section of the American Society of Animal Science, Dr. Murray Pettit, Research Scientist – External Research Services at the Prairie Swine Centre, was recognized for his achievement in the growth and evolution of the Centre’s unique “contract” research program. The program provides confidential, professional research services to agribusinesses in Canada, the United States and Europe. In recognition of his contribution to agribusiness, the Society cited Murray’s entrepreneurial approach to bringing the services of research to the broader agribusiness community.

With programs and products that provide detailed research results for clients in the feed, pharmaceutical, genetics and equipment businesses, Dr. Pettitt was recognized for his ability to meet the needs of a diverse client base. “Our customers rely on us firstly for accuracy of study results and interpretation, secondly for the speed at which we initiate our studies and provide results and lastly for tailoring our services based on individual customer needs” notes Dr. Pettitt regarding the important aspects of his program.

Dr. John Patience, President of Prairie Swine Centre acknowledges the importance of offering commercial services in an area where academic rigour is required by the client and frequently for the regulatory authorities approving commercially available products. “This program has very few peers anywhere in the animal products world. Although very few of these studies will be published in a scientific journal, experiments must be conducted to at least the same standards. As a mark of success in this regard, a number of Dr. Pettitt’s regulatory studies have been used for applications to regulatory agencies in Ottawa, Washington and Brussels.”

Canadian pork producers benefit two ways from this very successful program: firstly through the successful business contributing financially to the operations of Prairie Swine Centre, and secondly by having new products, services and equipment tested right here in Canada under typical commercial production conditions. This helps to shorten the timeline that Canadian pork producers will have access to new information and products.

Prairie Swine Centre Inc., located near Saskatoon, is a non-profit research corporation affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan, and is recognized globally for its contributions to practical, applied science in pork production in the disciplines of nutrition, engineering and applied animal behaviour.

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