

## **RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

Government and industry's support of applied research assure ongoing quality and innovation in the raising of pigs and processing of pork products in Canada.

Canadian developments include the Estimated Breeding Value (EBV), a microcomputer program developed at the University of Guelph that identifies superior performance traits of leanness, growth rate, feed conversion and prolificacy.

Another first for Canada is the very recent development, by universities in Toronto and Guelph, Ontario, of a DNA probe for gene characteristic identification. This is being used experimentally at this time and licensing is now being entertained with interest being expressed by other countries.

## **2. NEW AND EMERGING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES AND TRENDS**

### **INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL FOODS**

As Agriculture productivity throughout the world has increased, international trade in agricultural commodities has become increasingly competitive. The value of world agri-food trade has been expanding steadily, rising from US\$209 billion in 1985 to US\$325 billion in 1990. Canada's agri-food exports of \$11 billion accounted for 3.5 per cent of 1990 world trade in agri-food products. Canada's share of world trade in agri-food products has increased with exports of \$13.3 billion in 1992, but our share of value added exports still remains low. Pork is an important part of this share accounting for approximately 5% of Canadian agri-food exports.

### **INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN PORK**

World consumption of pork is highest among all meats. Although intensive production of pork takes place in northern countries, they also provide good opportunities for international trade due to increased domestic consumption or demand for high quality or special cuts. There are many countries which for religious reasons eat little or no pork, and there are limited opportunities for increasing pork exports to these countries.

Pork exports in the fifteen years leading up to 1990 were stable with established trade patterns. Denmark had established a prominent position in the international market. Poland and Hungary also had established markets, particularly with Russia and the U.S. The U.S. was a net importer whose exports were not large, and were mainly offal directed to Europe. The Canadians were regular participants in the U.S. market, as they are today.

Up until 1991, the U.S. was the largest importer of pork products, but was then displaced by Japan, which imported over 500 000 metric tonnes.