

Board Highlights: August 16-17, 2022

2022 Policy Day

Ontario Pork's Policy Day will be held on **September 20, 2022**, at the **Cutten Fields Club**, 190 College Avenue East, Guelph. Elected delegates, presidents, and secretaries are invited to attend the event and provide their feedback for each discussion topic. The political structure proposal along with the implementation plan will be presented for delegates' review and discussion at the 2022 Policy Day. The Policy Day will also include a discussion of priorities for the national pork organization, the Canadian Pork Council. Glynn Tonsor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, will conclude the meeting with a presentation about global economic trends and their implications for agriculture. The Policy Day materials will be circulated by the end of August.

Government Relations Plan

The Board of Directors engaged in the priority setting exercise to develop key areas for the provincial pork sector to drive the organization's advocacy efforts based to achieve objectives outlined in the 2021-24 strategic plan. At several subsequent meetings, the Board will focus on the strategic policy development, advocacy and government relations across important policy issues affecting the Ontario pork industry.

Federal Goal for the Fertilizer Emissions Reduction

Staff briefed the Board of Directors on the federal government's plan to reduce fertilizer emissions by 2030. The federal government has stated that the goal will be met by a focus on improving nitrogen management and optimizing synthetic fertilizer use – not on a mandatory reduction in the use of fertilizers. Challenges identified by agricultural groups include establishing reliable and internationally acceptable measures, availability of tools to accurately reflect individual practices, and the potential for increased reporting burden for farms. Ontario Pork will be monitoring developments and working jointly with other agricultural organizations to utilize industry knowledge and expertise in developing solutions that not only achieve the policy goal but do it in a way that keeps Ontario's agriculture competitive in North America and globally.

Update on the New Research Facility Project

Construction is underway for the new Ontario Swine Research Centre near Elora, being built in partnership with the University of Guelph and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Outfitted with cutting edge technology, the Ontario Swine Research Centre will attract talent to work on emerging global issues, including disease prevention and management, environment, and climate change, while contributing to breakthrough improvements in areas including swine nutrition and productivity improvements. Follow this link: <https://www.freybc.com/videos> to watch a video update on the progress of this project. The research centre is expected to open in 2023.

Leadership Training

After a temporary pause during the COVID pandemic, Ontario Pork is resuming its leadership training program. The focus is on helping producers develop the capabilities required to respond effectively to the challenges of leading their farm and the pork industry in Ontario. The program also creates excellent networking opportunities for producers. All producers interested in advancing themselves in their leadership journey are encouraged to apply. The cost of the program will be covered by Ontario Pork. For more information or to apply, please contact olga.klashtorny@ontariopork.on.ca