

Board Highlights: August 23, 2023

2023 Policy Day

Ontario Pork's Policy Day will be held on **September 19, 2023**, at the **Cutten Fields Club**, 190 College Avenue East, Guelph. To prepare members for the proposed new electoral structure, the opportunities to engage and the Ontario Pork initiatives designed to optimize and elevate value for producers, will be presented for delegates' review and discussion. Elected delegates, presidents, and secretaries are invited to attend the event and provide their feedback. Ontario Pork will be also presenting the proposed changes to its statistics reporting to align with changes to the electoral structure, expected to come into effect in January 2024. The Policy Day will include a market update and a presentation about cyber security on-farm, possible weak points and tools to recognize and stay ahead of potential risks.

Ontario Swine Research Centre

The Board was briefed on preparations for the Ontario Swine Research Centre (OSRC) Open House. Pork producers, academia, government, and industry representatives were invited to celebrate the opening of the centre on August 24, 2023, in Elora. The OSRC will be an incredible asset to the Canadian pork industry, generating research and technological developments in animal health, nutrition, sustainability, genetics and genomics, and husbandry. Pork producers from across Canada will have access to the most up-to-date research for their businesses and operations, making them more competitive and sustainable moving forward. Ontario Pork's continued investment in research and development ensures that the pork sector remains innovative, resilient, and capable of meeting the evolving demands of society. The new research centre was made possible through a joint investment by the government of Ontario, the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO) and Ontario's pork industry. Further information about the OSRC Open House can be found [here](#).

Leadership Training

Registration is ongoing for the Ontario Pork 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

DON Project: Funding Request

The Board of Directors approved funding towards the Ontario Corn Committee corn hybrid assessments for Deoxynivalenol (DON) for two years. The Ontario Corn Committee oversees corn hybrid performance testing in Ontario. Mycotoxin concentrations (DON in particular) can be very disruptive when fed to livestock, particularly swine (vomiting, anorexia, immunotoxicity, weight gain/growth impairment and reproduction issues). The goal of DON hybrid testing is to release a hybrid-risk dataset that can provide Ontario corn growers with reliable DON risk management information when selecting hybrids.