

Board Highlights: January 15-16, 2019

Canadian Pork Council Update

Doug Ahrens and Oliver Haan, Ontario Pork's representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), briefed the Board on the recent CPC Board meeting held on January 7-8, 2019 in Banff. At that meeting, the CPC Board of Directors discussed the organization's government relations and advocacy plan for the 2019, committee appointments, Pig Trace, "Made-in-Canada" price, and animal health.

Barn Fire Safety Committee Update

Arno Schober, the Committee Chair provided a report from the second meeting of the committee held on December 17, 2018. The ad-hoc committee, currently at the information gathering stage, received presentations from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Farm Mutual, and producers who experienced a barn fire. Committee members will be focusing on developing possible strategic actions and initiatives at the next meeting. This committee is tasked with a development of strategy recommendations to deal with barn fires that would address existing gaps, resources, and regulations.

Antibiotic Cost-Monitoring Study

New provincial and federal rules on producer access to livestock antibiotics took effect on December 1, 2018. The new rules reduce the options producers have for sourcing antibiotics for their farm. The Board of Directors decided to commission a study by Ridgetown College to monitor whether the new rules are having a similar impact on animal health costs for Ontario pork producers.

Ontario Independent Meat Processors Update

Franco Naccarato, the new Executive Director of Ontario Independent Meat Processors (OIMP) provided an overview of the organization's mandate, membership, as well as recent and planned activities and initiatives. Franco spoke with the Board about the importance of collaboration among commodity organizations to avoid duplication in services and to provide a more efficient support to members. OIMP is a not-for-profit association with the membership that includes Ontario abattoirs, processing plants, butcher shops, fine food stores, suppliers and partners.

Sustainability Advisory Group

Arno Schober briefed the Board on the last meeting of Ontario Pork's Sustainability Advisory Group held on January 4, 2019. During a "blue-sky" session, group members considered activities and projects that would add value on-farm for Ontario Pork to use these ideas consultations with the government regarding cost-share programs. Participants discussed challenges with the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program delivery and potential options for improvement.

Government Relations Update

Staff briefed the Board of Directors on the government relations activities which focused on building and maintaining relationships with government and policy-makers, achieving its policy advocacy goals, building the capacity of Ontario Pork to improve and maintain the organization's advocacy efforts.

Annual Meetings of Local Pork Producers' Associations

The Board of Directors reviewed the Board report to be presented at the upcoming annual meetings of the local pork producers' associations. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 jointly by Essex, Kent and Lambton Pork Producers' Associations. Information on dates and locations for all meetings can be found on the Ontario Pork on-line calendar: <http://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Communications/Whats-New>