

Board Highlights: January 31 – February 1, 2023

Financial Statements

The Board of Directors approved the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Ontario Pork for the last fiscal year, which were reviewed by the members of the Audit Committee prior to the Board meeting.

Canadian Pork Council Update

Eric Schwindt and James Reesor, Ontario Pork's representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), briefed the Board on the recent CPC Board meeting held on January 9-10, 2023 in Banff, Alberta. Rick Bergmann announced his retirement from the CPC Board Chair position; René Roy was elected Chair of the CPC Board, and Scott Peters was elected to the position of First Vice-Chair. The CPC Board of Directors discussed the advocacy on African Swine Fever (ASF) recovery program, Learning Management System (LMS), the Pig Code update next steps, and committee appointments.

Producer Meetings

The Board was updated on producer information and local pork producers' associations' annual meetings. Ontario Pork is holding producer information meetings in five locations across the province in February 2023. The intent of the meetings is to update membership on the Ontario Pork Board activities, provide an opportunity for networking, facilitate an open forum for discussions and communicate information important for the pork industry. Many local pork producers' associations decided to hold their annual meetings at the producer information meeting. Ontario Pork's staff have been working with presidents and secretaries to coordinate and provide support for set-up, communication and notifications to members, running elections and technical support during the meetings. Elections are being held in zone 1 this year for the purpose of voting in delegates. Only elected delegates can be nominated to run for a Board position.

Information on the meetings can be found on the Ontario Pork on-line calendar:

<https://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Communications/Whats-New/upcoming-association-meetings-in-2023>

Ontario Pork's Annual General Meeting

The Ontario Pork annual general meeting will be held on March 21-22, 2023 at the Delta Guelph. The theme of the next year's meeting "From Challenge To Change". Further information about the AGM will be circulated in February.

Federal Funding for ASF Industry Preparedness

The African Swine Fever Industry Preparedness (ASFIP) Program Parameters were released by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in November 2022. An Ontario Pork working group consisting of Board members, the Swine Health Ontario Chair and staff met to review the proposed ASF funding initiatives and survey responses as well as determine priority ranking. Ontario Pork's staff are currently in the process of submitting applications to AAFC.

Production Insurance

Ontario Pork continues its work on the proposed production insurance for hogs that would provide an indemnity in the event of a shortfall in the production of viable weaned pigs, resulting from swine disease. Ontario Pork's application for the actuary study under the AgriRisk Initiative fund was approved. The objective is to complete an actuarial study on the premium costs of a product to ensure the number

of pigs weaned. Internal data analysis is underway. The results of this project could be used to advocate with government for a pilot program for hogs that is part of the current suite of production insurance programs with cost-shared premiums.

Emergency Planning

Staff briefed the Board on the status of several projects that address various aspects of the emergency planning, including the on-farm emergency preparedness and herd management tools. Ontario Pork has been assisting producers in the development of a plan that would provide information critical to execute an on-farm emergency response, in the event of a foreign animal disease incident. Ontario Pork provided funding for up to four students for the spring-summer of 2022 in collaboration with students hired by the industry and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). This project continues on a part-time basis in anticipation of obtaining federal funding to extend the work through to spring 2024.

Anti-Microbial Study Proposal

Ontario's pork industry has been proactively and voluntarily involved in efforts to monitor and benchmark antimicrobial use (AMU) in barns. Any progress in animal health, even in small increments, has a positive impact on public health and food safety. It remains a delicate balancing act for pork producers to maintain a healthy herd and ensure the responsible use of antibiotics. Recognizing the importance of continued efforts to monitor AMU, the Ontario Pork Board of Directors approved funding to the amount of \$50,000 towards the next iteration of the AMU benchmarking study proposal submitted by the Ontario Pork Industry Council.