

Board Highlights: June 10, 2019

CPC Pig Code Review Sub-Committee Update

James Reesor, Ontario Pork's representative at the national Technical Code Panel, tasked with reviewing the Code of practice spoke with the Board of Directors about the work done so far. The codes of practice for the care and handling of farm animals are typically reviewed every five years. It provides the opportunity for stakeholders to address any issues that may have arisen during initial implementation. The Canadian Pork Council is fully participating in the process for the review of the Code. The Code Technical Panel will be drafting a summary report for presentation to the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) by the end of 2019.

Committee Appointments

Further to a call for committee members that was conducted earlier this year, the Board of Directors appointed members for the Research and Resolutions committees, the Speak-up Group, as well as Program Development, Risk Management and Sustainability Advisory Groups. Ontario Pork will be finalizing appointments with producers interested in contributing their expertise and time to working on various issues affecting the provincial pork industry.

Update on African Swine Fever

The Board of Directors received an update on the ongoing activities to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with a potential African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak in Ontario, Canada, or North America. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Swine Health Ontario (SHO) have all partially activated their incident command structures to allow them to proceed with ASF planning and preparedness in an organized and collaborative fashion. Ontario Pork is part of the SHO partial activation incident command centre. As part of the national activities, John de Bruyn, Ontario Pork's Vice-Chair presented on ASF to The House of Commons' Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. Ontario Pork has been also focusing on the market interruption response plan development to address economic impacts of a foreign animal disease.

Resolutions Response Document

Board members approved responses to resolutions that were brought forth by delegates at Ontario Pork's Annual General Meeting on March 20, 2019. The Resolutions Response document will be finalized and mailed to delegates by June 30, 2019.

Activism – Key Messages

Staff briefed the Board of Directors on Ontario Pork's advocacy activities in response to Crown decision to drop charges in McQueen case, an activist who publicly admitted to repeatedly entering a barn and removing piglets. A grassroots letter writing campaign, supported by a dozen agricultural organizations was promoted by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and individual commodity groups. Letters were sent to the Attorney General, Solicitor General, Minister of Agriculture, Premier and local MPPs. Ontario Pork's advocacy efforts are underway, including meetings with Minister Hardeman and other government officials.

2019 Policy Day

Ontario Pork's Policy Day will be held on September 10, 2019 at the Holiday Inn – Guelph. The main focus of the discussion at this year meeting will be the Ontario Pork Political Structure review. The agenda will also include AgManifest and other issues.