

Board Highlights: June 22-23, 2021

Producer Information Meetings

Ontario Pork will be holding information meetings for producers to discuss the foreign animal disease preparedness and response in September. As an industry reliant on export markets, prevention, preparedness and response to a foreign animal disease are fundamental priorities for the Ontario pork industry. The topics will focus on activities undertaken and mechanisms in place to safeguard the pork industry reputation as a provider of safe product to the domestic and world consumer market. Five meetings are being planned to be held across the province; an option to attend virtually will be also provided. Further information will be circulated during the summer months. Pre-registration is required due to limited space.

Climate Change

The Board discussed the current and potential impacts of climate change on agriculture and pork producers, as well as key areas of adaptation to meet government goals, requirements and timelines. Staff presented a summary of relevant information that also included an overview of some of the government programs and activities regarding climate change. The Board tasked the Sustainability Advisory Group to identify efficiencies that individual producers, as well as the pork sector, can undertake to further minimize the environmental footprint. Ontario Pork will seek feedback from delegates on the Sustainability Advisory Group at the in-person Policy Day later this fall (subject to COVID restrictions).

Local Pork Producers Associations

The Board of Directors discussed a strategy to increase member engagement at the local producer association level as well as at the provincial level. Feedback received from delegates and Political Structure Review committee members identified such areas of strength for associations as local identity, interaction with local communities, promotional activities and social opportunities. During the brainstorming session, Board members exchanged ideas on whether focusing on areas of strength could increase producer participation. The Board decided to establish a working group to further flesh out these ideas.

Resolutions Committee

Mike Mitchell, Chair of the Resolutions Committee reported that earlier in June the committee re-evaluated resolutions included in the 2020 resolutions booklet and selected three resolutions that are still relevant for debate by delegates at an in-person 2021 Policy Day. The Board voted to approve these three resolutions (resolution 8, 16 and 17) for debate; an electronic copy of the 2020 resolutions booklet can be found on the Ontario Pork website:

<https://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Portals/0/2020%20Resolutions%20Booklet.pdf>.

Ontario Pork will prepare and circulate the resolution response with explanatory information to address resolutions submitted in 2020.

The Board of Directors encourages producers to submit new resolutions throughout the year. Any new resolutions can be submitted by email at olga.klashtorny@ontariopork.on.ca.