

Board Highlights: June 26-27, 2018

Canadian Pork Excellence Program Update

Ontario Pork held meetings with validators and participants of the Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) pilot project on June 25, 2018. At the meetings, CPE pilot participants and validators reviewed the final draft of the CPE Producer Manual. An electronic version of the manual is available on the Ontario Pork member-only secure website for all producers to review, at ontariopork.on.ca/secure/Canadian-Pork-Excellence. Canadian Pork Council (CPC) representatives also attended the meeting to listen to participants' feedback. Next steps in Ontario Pork's consultations will include meetings with processors and a producer focus group in the summer followed by producer information meetings in four locations across Ontario in September.

Farm and Food Care Update

Kelly Daynard, Executive Director of Farm and Food Care-Ontario (FFCO), joined the meeting to review FFCO's mandate and the strategic plan that was built based on input from their members. Kelly highlighted FFCO's services and recent activities, including animal care, barn fire prevention awareness, and public trust and outreach initiatives.

Development of a Farmer Mental Wellness Research Hub

Jennifer MacTavish, General Manager, Ontario Sheep presented the Stress and Mental Wellness on Farm research project, done by Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton. This research project identified a need to better study Canadian farmer mental health and wellness to create evidence-informed, practical programs that will be used by farmers to support their mental health and wellness. Jennifer invited Ontario Pork to participate in garnering government support for a development of a Farmer Mental Wellness Research Hub in Guelph to facilitate creation of such programs.

Canada Pork International Funding

Neil Ketilson, Board Chair and Martin Lavoie, Chief Executive Office and President, Canada Pork International (CPI) provided an overview of the CPI mandate and activities. CPI is a joint initiative of the Canadian Meat Council (CMC), representing the pork packers and trading companies, and of the Canadian Pork Council. The discussion focused on opportunities for the Canadian pork industry in different export markets, especially Japan, as well as food consumption trends and the importance of Canada pork brand recognition and food security. The guests also explained a rationale for requesting a funding increase of additional \$0.01 per hog, including a breakdown of how the money will be spent. The Board of Directors decided to join other provincial pork producers' organizations and the CMC in supporting the CPI request to increase the funding contribution.

Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC)

The Board of Directors decided to continue Ontario Pork's membership in Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) for the next five years with a review after three years. LRIC is an organization made up of Ontario Livestock and Poultry Organizations; and it provides a single portal through which collective investment in livestock and poultry research conducted in Ontario.