

Board Highlights: June 27-28, 2023

Ontario Pork's Political Structure

Staff reported that the 45-day consultation period on additional amendments to O. Reg 403/10 Hogs Plan, proposed by the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission (OFPMC) closed on May 8, 2023. No comments were submitted. Once the consultative version of amending regulation is received from OFPMC, Ontario Pork, in consultation with the Commission, will develop the election handbook that would include administrative requirements regarding delegate and Board elections as well as revise the implementation plan for the new political structure.

Cyber Security

Janos Botschner and Ritesh Kotak, Community Safety Knowledge Alliance (CSKA), presented findings from the Cyber Security in Canadian Agriculture initiative (a research, engagement and knowledge mobilization project). CSKA is a non-profit corporation that supports governments, organizations, communities and others in developing, implementing and assessing new approaches to improving community safety and well-being outcomes. Janos and Ritesh stressed that cyber security threats facing the agricultural sector are real, however, practical, achievable, opportunities exist to reduce and mitigate cyber-related risks for individual producers and the Canada's food system. These include on-farm cyber security, collaboration, workforce capacity, and policy. Agricultural commodity organizations have an important role to play in promoting awareness of issues and opportunities for practical improvements, developing and sharing producer-centred resources, and strengthening education, training and ongoing research.

Provincial Policy Statement Position Paper

The Board of Directors was briefed on discussions with a producer focus group regarding the provincial government's proposed Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). The provincial government is proposing land use changes to address housing needs across the province and to permit housing to be built faster. The PPS is a component of Bill 97. The Board discussed allowing additional residential units (ARUs) on farmland, but that these additional residences cannot be severed. Discussions occurred regarding the size and locations of ARUs, with Board members agreeing that municipalities should determine this and not the province. The Board also determined that Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) continued to be maintained. Staff will use feedback from producers and the Board of Directors to prepare Ontario Pork's position and for use in further consultations with the government.

Pork Industry Economic Outlook Working Group

The Board of Directors discussed the market hog situation in Canada including challenges brought about by Olymel downsizing, current low high prices and impact that they have on pork producers in Ontario. Ontario Pork has been monitoring the situation and updating the Minister's Office on the financial pressures that producers are experiencing. Three Board members were tasked with identifying proactive actions that Ontario Pork could undertake to prepare producers to a potential adverse market situation.