

Board Highlights: March 1-2, 2022

Ontario Pork's Annual General Meeting Update

Ontario Pork will be hosting its Annual General Meeting on March 23, 2022 at the Delta Hotel and Conference Centre in Guelph. This year's AGM will be held in a hybrid format. In-person admission is offered to Ontario's pork producers; all other guests are invited to join virtually.

Participants are encouraged to [register online](#) as soon as possible as space is limited. Staff briefed the Board of Directors on preparations for the upcoming Ontario Pork AGM, including, the agenda, speakers, resolutions, as well as registrations progress to date. The theme for the 2022 AGM is "Reflecting on the Past and Charting a Course for the Future". Ontario Pork will provide an update on its activities during the past year, including key programs and the benefits delivered for pork producers and the broader industry; the afternoon sessions will include guest speakers and a resolution session. The Ontario Pork corporate profile has been printed and sent to all members. An electronic version of the [2021 corporate profile](#) was also published on the Ontario Pork website.

Associations Annual Meetings Review

The Board of Directors discussed outcomes and the producer feedback from local pork producers' associations meetings held in January-February 2022. Approximately 145 producers attended the meetings. Zone 2 held elections for delegates to Ontario Pork. John de Bruyn (Oxford), Eric Schwindt (Waterloo) and Tanya Terpstra (Perth) were acclaimed as Board members representing zone 2.

Market Interruption Programming

The Board of Directors received a status update from staff on the project performed by a working group to develop potential approaches to addressing a market interruption event associated to a foreign animal disease outbreak. A suite of programs targeted toward individual risk factors would allow the industry to adapt and rebuild when the crisis has passed. Staff will be presenting a draft document to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for input.

Non-Business Risk Management Programs

The Board of Directors discussed swine sector priorities related to climate change to determine possible alignment with government priorities. This work has been underway within the Sustainability Advisory Group and at Policy Day, with discussions focused on manure management, animal feed, on-farm energy and infrastructure and on-farm water use reduction, in addition to research areas. In November 2021, federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) agriculture ministers issued the Guelph Statement, identifying agriculture sector focus areas for the 2023-2028 period: 1. Building sector capacity, growth and competitiveness; 2. Climate change and environment; 3. Science, research and innovation; 4. Market development and trade; 5. Resiliency and public trust. In addition to categories identified in the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) as well as in the Guelph Statement, any additional swine sector areas of focus will be important to identify as government consultations on 2023-2028 environmental priorities take place this year.

Political Structure Review

The Board of Directors resumed the political structure review discussion that was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board reviewed the proposal submitted by the Political Structure Review Committee in 2020 and provided feedback to staff.

Research Committee Update

The Board of Directors approved funding recommendations for four research projects that the Research committee had reviewed and recommended for funding at committee meetings in February 2022:

- Investigation of the vaginal microbiome before and after farrowing and its association with sow health
- Feeding gestating sows to maximize mammary gland development and milk production: the importance of Lysine
- Effects of keeping pigs on the truck during rest time during hauls exceeding 28 h
- Improving 4R nutrient stewardship practices for crop production systems currently or previously receiving manures