

Board Highlights: March 3-4, 2020

Industry Development Strategy

The Board of Directors approved terms of reference for the Industry Development Strategy committee. This ad-hoc committee is tasked with providing input on factors and actions that can be influenced to increase the profitability and competitiveness of the Ontario pork industry and to ensure its sustainable growth. The committee will analyze the Ontario pork industry, taking into account current production levels and infrastructure and encompassing processing and pricing components. Two Board members and five pork producers will serve on the committee.

Annual General Meeting Update

Ontario Pork is hosting its Annual General Meeting on March 24-25, 2020 at the Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre. This year's event focuses on external forces affecting Ontario's pork sector. We have an excellent line up of speakers focusing on economics, swine health, trade and other topics. Staff briefed the Board on preparations for the AGM. Electronic copies of the [2020 resolutions booklet](#) and [2019 corporate profile](#) are available 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 at 15 locations throughout the province January 22 through February 12, 2020. A number of associations held joint meetings. Speakers included: Wayne Humphreys (Iowa); Ted Bilyea; Dr. Sue Burlatschenko; Laura Eastwood, Steve Beadle, John van de Vegte (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), Claire Schlegel (Swine Health Ontario) Randy Pettapiece, MPP for Perth-Wellington. Zone 1 held elections and filled their full slate delegates to Ontario Pork. Three Board members for zone 1 were acclaimed: Maaike Campbell (Lambton), Mike Mitchell (Middlesex) and Tara Terpstra (Huron).

Livestock Research Innovation Corporation

Mike McMorris, Chief Executive Officer of Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) provided an overview of the organization's mandate, governance structure, membership, as well as recent and planned activities and initiatives. LRIC's objective is to determine research needs and to direct research priorities for the betterment of the livestock value chain. Ontario Pork is a one of LRIC's founding members and uses tools provided by the organization to streamline its research process.

Research Committee Update

The Board of Directors approved funding recommendations for seven research projects that the Research committee had reviewed and recommended for funding at the committee meeting on February 4, 2020:

- Development of evidence-based feeding strategies for lactating sows using novel and evolving feeding technologies
- Supranutritional levels of dietary antioxidant-related nutrients to improve oestral antioxidant status and litter homogeneity
- Advancing 4R Nutrient Stewardship for Sustainable Use of Phosphorus from Pig Manure Slurry for Crop Production
- Beta Prototypes of Improved Euthanasia Chamber to Support Commercialization
- Direct Pen Ventilation Retrofit for Nursery Rooms
- Development of boar taint detection kits using DNA aptamers for use in commercial packing plants. Phase I: Lab validation"
- Improving post-weaning performance of nursery pigs through a feeding system designed to be compatible with normal weaned pig feeding behaviour

The Board also approved funding for the early diarrhea syndrome and vitamin D on-farm research trial.