

Board Highlights: May 27, 2020

Annual General Meeting

After consultations with presidents of local pork producers' associations and following the government restrictions due to the COVID-19 situation, the Board of Directors discussed potential dates and the format for the 2020 Ontario Pork annual general meeting. Due to the continuing pandemic, it was decided to incorporate components of the AGM related to the Chair' address, audited financial statements, announcement of auditors for the next fiscal year and the resolution session into the Policy Day proceedings in September (subject to COVID-19 restrictions). Ontario Pork's reports and audited financial statements for the past year were included in the 2019 Corporate Profile, circulated to all pork producers in February 2020. An electronic version of the [2019 Corporate Profile](#) can be found on the Ontario Pork website.

In June 2020, Board members will be connecting with pork producers, in the zones they represent, to provide an update on Ontario Pork's activities and ask for producers' feedback to ensure a two-way communication during this time of change and uncertainty. The Ontario Pork Board continues to advocate on your behalf; if you want or need to reach out to any of [Board members](#), their information can be found on Ontario Pork's website.

COVID-19

Ontario Pork continues to seek solutions to manage the backlog created by processing plants closures, working together with the provincial government, processors and other supply chain partners. Recent developments have allowed for the reduction in the backlog of animals; the increase in the cut-out price has also given an incentive to packers to process as many pigs as possible. Ontario Pork's office remains open and services continue to be provided to producers. The office density was decreased by offering staff the option to work from home. The limited number of employees working in the office follow the physical distancing rules. Meetings are held by tele- and videoconferences.

Business Risk Management

COVID related supply chain disruptions including restaurant closures and packing plant closures and reductions in processing capacity have hurt hog prices even while wholesale meat prices briefly moved higher. Ontario's pork farm businesses are at immediate risk, and existing business risk management programs cannot meet the need without major restructuring. Ontario Pork, together with other agricultural organizations, has been communicating with government officials and policymakers to inform on the state of the industry and to advocate for the urgent need for a meaningful financial assistance.

Prairie Swine Centre Appointment

The Board of Directors elected Tara Terpstra, Board member representing zone 1 and a pork producer from Huron, to represent Ontario on the Prairie Swine Centre Board of Directors. Prairie Swine Centre is a non-profit research corporation and is recognized for its contributions to practical, applied science, training and knowledge transfer in pork production with emphasis in the disciplines of nutrition, engineering, and applied animal behavior.