

Board Highlights: May 28-29, 2018

Committee Appointments

Further to a call for committee members that was conducted earlier this year, the Board of Directors appointed members for the Research and Resolutions committees as well as Program Development, Risk Management and Sustainability Advisory Groups. Ontario Pork will be finalizing appointments with producers interested in contributing their expertise and time to working on various issues affecting the provincial pork industry.

Resolutions Response Document

Board members approved responses to resolutions that were brought forth by delegates at Ontario Pork's Annual General Meeting on March 21, 2018. The Resolutions Response document will be finalized and mailed to delegates by June 30, 2018.

Leadership Training

The Ontario Pork Leadership Training program for 2017-18 has concluded. Eight producers participated in the course. The course covered leadership traits personal assessment, governance, media training, policy development, strategic thinking, a value-chain tour and government relations training. Participants' comments will help Ontario Pork to evaluate the course objectives, to maintain and improve the quality of the course and the learning environment. Recruitment for the 2018-19 leadership course has commenced in late May. All producers interested in advancing themselves in their leadership journey are encouraged to apply. The cost of the program is covered by Ontario Pork.

2018-21 Business Plan

The Board of Directors approved Ontario Pork's strategic business plan for 2018-21. The Ontario Pork strategic plan, created by the Board of Directors and senior management, served as the base document to develop the new business plan. The implementation progress will be continually monitored, measured, and communicated to the Board of Directors and the membership.

Access to Antibiotics for Livestock Operations

Staff briefed on Ontario Pork's participation, in collaboration with other commodities, in consultations with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and College of Veterinarians of Ontario as they are finalizing provincial rules on veterinarian's standards of practice (e.g. prescription, dispensing, compounding, and extra-label) that ultimately affect the day-to-day business experience of producers. Ontario Pork supports Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA)'s efforts to increase the number of options for producers to fill their prescriptions.

Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) – Ontario Pork's Next Steps

Ontario Pork will post a draft electronic version of the CPE Producer Manual on the producer-only secure website in June. Meetings with pilot farms, validators and processors will be held throughout this summer. In September 2018, Ontario Pork will host four information meetings, open to all producers, will be held in four locations across the province. Meetings' details will be circulated to all producers during the summer.

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 May 25, 2018:

- Effect of genetic stress susceptibility on pork meat quality

- Assessing carcass variability in Ontario pork and the potential to increase returns to producers and improve pork quality
- Protein and non-protein methionine requirements for first parity gestating sows
- CO2 Euthanasia System with Improved Process Control
- Barn Gas Monitoring with Automated Ventilation Control
- Reliable on-farm sampling and testing for mycotoxins in grains destined for feed
- Impact of a specialized feeding regime for replacement gilts on lactation performance