

Board Highlights: November 3-4, 2020

Market Hog Backlog

The Board of Directors was briefed on processing backlogs affecting some Ontario pork producers. Since late October, the pork industry experienced slow downs in production at processing plants in Ontario and Quebec, related to both the COVID-19 pandemic and plant breakdowns. This coincides with a seasonal increase in hog volumes. Ontario Pork is working with affected producers and marketers shipping to Olymel to triage market hog movements. Also, discussions with the government continue to explore all options to address backlogs.

2019-20 Budget

The Board of Directors approved a deficit budget for the 2021 fiscal year. The service fee structure remained the same: the Universal service fee on market hogs will stay at \$0.95 per hog for 2021; a portion of the fee allocated for research is \$0.10 per hog. The service fee on weaner pigs leaving the province will remain at \$0.20 per weaner pig. Programs and initiatives included in the 2021 budget included, support for the Swine Health Ontario activities, the Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) and AgManifest implementation and delivery, electronic manifest enhancements to facilitate data flow, expenditures for the new research facility, communication and consumer marketing programs that promote positive developments in the Ontario pork sector.

Canada Pork Council

Doug Ahrens and Oliver Haan, Ontario Pork's representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), reported on the recent CPC Members Fall Meeting and the Board meeting, held virtually on October 20-21, 2020. Eric Schwindt, Ontario Pork's Board Chair, also attended the CPC Members Fall meeting. Each CPC member was asked to identify their immediate priorities and share their views about medium to longer term priorities that producers will face. Discussion topics included "top five issues": African swine fever, pricing, business risk management, advocacy and infrastructure.

Annual General Meeting

In view of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors decided to hold a virtual annual general meeting on March 23-24, 2021. In preparation for the event, Ontario Pork's staff will work on the logistics proper technology and rules of engagement to ensure that important components are included and opportunities to engage in a discussion and ask questions exist. Further information about the AGM will be sent out in the coming months.

Traceability / PigTRACE Canada

Jeff Clark, Director, PigTRACE Canada, provided an overview of the PigTrace program and spoke with Board members about the national program and database development, PigTRACE summary data and data quality, ASF preparedness, and policy and regulations. Jeff commented on the continued increase in movement reporting done through Ag Manifest, a software program developed for the pork industry to record animal movements between farms, yards and slaughter facilities. Jeff explained how the national database is used to support the delivery of the Canadian Pork Excellence and its potential to support animal health goals.

Government and Industry Collaboration

Strengthening the long-standing partnership of the government and the industry is necessary to support a business environment that allows Ontario to provide the province and the world with high quality pork. Deputy Minister John Kelly, David Hagarty, ADM, Policy Division, and Randy Jackiw, ADM, Economic Development Division, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) discussed their perspective on constructive collaboration between government staff and Ontario Pork to develop workable solutions to issues affecting the provincial pork industry including, animal care, business risk management and environment.