

Board Highlights: September 21, 2022

2022 Policy Day

The Board of Directors discussed delegate feedback results from the Ontario Pork Policy Day held on September 20, 2022, at the Cutten Fields Club for delegates, presidents and secretaries from local pork producers' associations. This year's event, attended by 55 participants, focused on two key areas: "Proposed Changes to Ontario Pork's Political Structure" and "Priority Setting for the Canadian Pork Council". Tara Terpstra, Board member and the Political Structure Review member, outlined the proposed changes and the implementation plan, designed to reenergize the organization, improve a democratic election process and strengthen grassroots input into policy development. Delegates supported the proposed structure but emphasized that the new regulation and procedures need to be clearly communicated to producers. Based on the approval by delegates, the Board of Directors requested that the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission posts the proposed changes to the policy registry for a 45-day consultation. Ontario Pork will be hosting a meeting with presidents and secretaries of local pork producers' association to discuss the new election process.

Maaik Campbell, Board Vice-Chair provided an overview of the Canadian Pork Council mandate, focus areas and factors that may limit the organization's success. Delegates indicated that they see value in the core activities of the national pork organization, including trade, international and domestic market development, as well as a nationally cohesive advocacy strategy.

Glynn Tonsor, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, delivered an insightful presentation about global economic trends and their implications for agriculture.

The Board of Directors will be working on identifying next steps based the feedback from delegates.

Alliances and Partnerships Representation

The Board of Directors made the following appointments for the next term:

- Canadian Pork Council (CPC) – Eric Schwindt and James Reesor
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture Policy Advisory Council (OFA PAC) – Mike Mitchell
- Ontario Pork Grading Authority (OPGA) – Bruce Hudson

Production Insurance

The Board of Directors instructed staff to proceed with an application for the Agri Risk Initiative funding to do an actuarial study required to verify premiums would help expedite expanding production insurance to swine. In 2017, Ontario Pork proposed a pilot program for production insurance for hogs that would insure the number of pigs weaned. Preliminary discussions with an actuary were held about a study on the premium costs and sustainability fund required for program to ensure the number of pigs weaned per litter. The results of this project could be used to advocate with government for a pilot program for hogs that is part of the current suite of production insurance programs with cost-shared premiums.