

Board Highlights: September 20-21, 2021

Producer Information Meetings

Staff briefed the Board on the outcome of four information sessions held for all Ontario's pork producers on September 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2021 in Orangeville, London, Brantford, Mitchell and Kingston. Over 90 pork producers attended the sessions across the province as well as virtually. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss foreign animal disease preparedness and response. As an industry reliant on export markets, the prevention, preparedness and response to an animal disease is one of the fundamental priorities for the Ontario pork industry. The recent detection of African swine fever in Dominican Republic brought the disease closer to Canada's borders and highlighted the critical importance of the foreign animal disease preparedness for the pork industry. The topics focused on activities undertaken and mechanisms in place to safeguard the pork industry reputation as a provider of safe product to the domestic and world consumer market.

Swine Health Discussion

Next to feed, swine health is one of the largest expenses in swine production and can have the biggest impact on productivity, meat quality, and animal care. From a swine health perspective, Ontario is well positioned to identify and address swine health issues within its existing infrastructure: a veterinary college in the province, access to veterinarians and labs, as well as interest from all levels of industry to participate and share knowledge. The Board of Directors discussed options to streamline Ontario Pork's work with industry on a coordinated animal health strategy and to enhance utilization of skill sets across the industry to achieve optimum progress in animal health.

Alliances and Partnerships Representation

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

- Canadian Pork Council (CPC) – Doug Ahrens and Chris Cossitt
- Swine Health Ontario (SHO) – Chris Cossitt
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture Policy Advisory Council (OFA PAC) – Chris Cossitt
- Ontario Pork Grading Authority (OPGA) – Bruce Hudson
- Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) – Maaike Campbell

Strategic Plan

During the 2020-21 strategic planning process, Ontario Pork's Board and management have been discussing the pork sector's immediate and longer-term needs and outlining goals and approach for the pork industry. At the September meeting, the Board reviewed the draft strategic plan and refined strategic intents and operating objectives for the next three years.

2021 Policy Day

The Board of Directors decided to hold a face-to-face Policy Day in early December 2021 subject to government restriction on public gatherings during the COVID pandemic. Once the date is determined, it will be circulated to all Ontario Pork delegates as well as presidents and secretaries of local pork producers' associations. The Board will seek delegates' feedback on climate change and national programs policy positions. The resolution session will be incorporated in the agenda.

The Board of Directors encourages producers to submit new resolutions throughout the year. Any new resolutions can be submitted by email at olga.klashtorny@ontariopork.on.ca.

New Ontario Swine Research Centre Update

The Ontario Swine Research Centre (OSRC) construction began in mid August 2021 in Elora; clearing and re-grading are underway. Ontario Pork continues its advocacy efforts to obtain financial support from the

federal government for the new research facility. The OSRC represents another major step forward in the pork industry's commitment to innovation. Investment in this new swine research facility will help maintain the competitiveness of the provincial pork industry.