



Board Highlights: August 11-12, 2015

The purpose of Board Highlights is to help keep you informed on the issues the Board is dealing with on your behalf.

This update is sent by e-mail. If you would like to be added to or removed from our distribution list, please let us know.

Please direct any questions or comments to the Ontario Pork Communications department at 1-877-ONT-PORK (668-7675) or by e-mail to comm@ontariopork.on.ca

The following are highlights from the August 2015 Ontario Pork board meeting.

PED Program Update

The Board was briefed on the recent activities of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) industry working group including ARC&E, surveillance, and biosecurity improvements at processing plants. Over 60% of the 84 primary cases have eliminated PED and are testing negative. Board members were also informed that the final Ontario Pork proposed amendments to the federal Health of Animals Regulation pertaining to livestock identification and traceability were submitted to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Confirmation of receipt of the Ontario Pork comments was received on July 6, 2015.

Risk Management Advisory Group Report

The Risk Management Advisory Group had two meetings in July to discuss options for a meaningful mortality insurance program for Ontario pork producers. The group also discussed and prioritized workable financial protection options for the Ontario pork industry. Members of the Risk Management Advisory Group, pork producers, Rob McDougall (Oxford), Detmer Boekhorst (Lambton), and Wouter Van Leeuwen (Kent) participated in brainstorming sessions and provided their feedback. The Risk Management Advisory Group is co-chaired by Board members Doug Ahrens and Bill Wymenga.

Sustainability Advisory Group Report

The Sustainability Advisory group met in the end of July to discuss a wide array of topics related to sustainability issues, such as the Great Lakes Act, unvented gas heaters regulations, anti-microbial resistance, climate change, and nutrient management regulations. Members of the sustainability advisory group are pork producers James Reesor (Niagara), Mark Dejong (Northumberland/Quinte), and Geert Geene (Huron). The group is co-chaired by the Board members Arno Schober and John de Bruyn.

Enhanced Government Relations Strategy

Board members were updated on the steps that Ontario Pork has taken with regards to enhanced government relations at the provincial and federal level to achieve Ontario Pork's policy advocacy goals identified in the 2014-17

strategic plan. The Board of Directors discussed the importance of creating an early warning system to deal with a wide variety of policy issues that impact the provincial pork industry and producers' viability. A key point of contact with the industry's various stakeholders, Ontario Pork's policy analysis and monitoring system aims to manage and balance the impact of regulatory shifts, as well as changes to government policy and the compliance requirements, while ensuring the industry remains competitive and sustainable.

Prairie Swine Centre (PSC) Update

Lee Whittington, CEO/President, Dr. Jennifer Brown, researcher, and James Reesor, PSC Board of Directors member, joined the meeting to provide an update on the Prairie Swine Centre (PSC). PSC, a non-profit organization located in Saskatoon, SK, operates a research farm of 330 sows farrow to finish and employs 35 personnel to conduct research in nutrition, engineering, ethology, and management with emphasis on economic impact on the industry. Dr. Jennifer Brown highlighted ethology research projects including recently completed (sow lameness, sow management, pain management at castration), ongoing projects (nursery density, environmental temperature of sows) and future project goals.

Lee Whittington and James Reesor spoke with the Board regarding the potential National Chair in Swine Welfare, including the benefits of this position for the Canadian pork industry such as addressing production concerns, improve measures of animal welfare, and ensuring sustainability and social licence.

Presentation and Public Speaking Skills Workshop

Board members received training to hone their skills to give dynamic, memorable and persuasive presentations. Daniel Tisch of Argyle PR facilitated an interactive workshop which focused on providing Board members with tips and techniques to deliver engaging presentations and to add variety, interest, and emphasis for greater audience impact.