

Board Highlights: June 25-26, 2019

Activism Update

Staff provided an update on Ontario Pork's activities to address recent anti-agriculture activism issues. Cross-industry advocacy response to the activism pressure is beginning to see results, including engagement by political leaders and farm media. Recent industry activities included discussions with transporters and processors, meetings with the provincial government, and distribution of Ontario Pork's key messages brochure and a leave-behind postcard for politicians to producers and industry supporters.

2019 Policy Day

Ontario Pork's Policy Day will be held on September 10, 2019 at the Holiday Inn – Guelph. The main focus of the discussion at this year meeting will be the Ontario Pork Political Structure review. The agenda will also include the AgManifest demo and an update African swine fever.

Carbon Tax

Peter Sykanda and Ian Nokes, Ontario Federation of Agriculture's (OFA) Policy Advisors, joined the meeting to present OFA's position on carbon pricing and lobby efforts. They indicated that rather than carbon pricing in agriculture and the agri-food value chain, OFA is asking the government to consider motivating greenhouse gas reductions.

New Research Facility Project

The Board of Directors approved proceeding with the build of a new swine research facility in partnership with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. This joint investment in a state-of-the-art swine research facility will advance knowledge and support the development of new technologies and practices. This new facility will draw industry investment and research talent to southern Ontario and will ensure that the pork sector remains a vital contributor to economic growth in the province.

Canadian Pork Exports to China

The Board of Directors was notified that China halted Canadian meat shipments. The Board is closely monitoring the situation and has been in contact with both the Canadian Pork Council and Minister Hardeman.

Swine Innovation Porc

The Board of Directors nominated Arno Schober, the Chair of the Ontario Pork Research Committee, to represent Ontario Pork at the Swine Innovation Porc for the next two-year term. Stewart Cressman, a pork producer from Waterloo Region, was nominated to represent the Ontario pork sector. Swine Innovation Porc is a non-profit corporation committed to facilitating research in the Canadian swine sector. The main objective of the organization is to enhance the profitability and sustainability of the pork industry by supporting the development of the most innovative technologies that will benefit the pork value chain.