



## Board Highlights: June 22-23, 2015

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

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

### Policy Day Discussion

The Board of Directors decided to hold the 2015 Policy Day in September 2015. The date will be confirmed shortly. The main topic of discussion will focus on the Ontario Pork corporate social responsibility contract followed by information updates.

### PigTrace Update

Further to discussion regarding the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) consultation period on proposed amendments to the federal Health of Animals Regulation pertaining to livestock identification and traceability, the Board approved a document containing potential change requests. This document, developed by staff after consultations with pork producers and the industry stakeholders, will be submitted to the CFIA on behalf of Ontario Pork.

### Canadian Pork Council (CPC) Update

Bill Wymenga and Teresa Van Raay, Ontario Pork's representatives at the CPC Board of Directors, briefed the Board on important CPC projects such as Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), Animal Care Assessment (ACA)/Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA®) updates, and the domestic marketing program. The next CPC Board meeting will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup> in Ottawa.

### Sustainability Advisory Group

The Board was briefed on some government initiatives, expected to have an impact on the pork industry, including Great Lakes Act, Nutrient Management Regulations, and climate change. Ontario Pork has been working with provincial and national partners to flag incoming issues and assess their impact to Ontario's pork industry. The Ontario Pork Sustainability Advisory Group, led by Board members Arno Schober and John de Bruyn, will commence their work in July. The agenda will include animal care, swine health, microbial resistance, environment and regulatory reform issues.

### Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) Update

Staff outlined the recent activities of the PED industry working group including addressing PED cases, ARC&E, surveillance, processing biosecurity

improvements, long term plan. Over 60% of the primary cases have eliminated PED and are testing negative.

### **Ontario Swine Research Infrastructure Committee**

The Board of Directors decided to set up an ad-hoc Ontario Swine Research Infrastructure Evaluation Committee, which is tasked with the development of an Ontario pork strategy for research infrastructure. The committee membership will include industry-wide representation.

### **Farm and Food Care – Ontario (FFCO) Update**

Crystal MacKay and Heather Hargrave joined the meeting to provide an update on the FFCO mandate, funding and structure. They also spoke with the Board about the importance of public outreach, education and advocacy on behalf of agriculture. Opportunities for collaboration, challenges and measurements of success were also discussed.

### **Ag & Food Exchange**

The Board of Directors was provided with an overview of Ag & Food Exchange, its strategy, structure, and activities, stressing the importance of security for farmers. The focus of this initiative has been primarily on animal agriculture.