

Board Highlights: November 6-7, 2018

2018-19 Budget

The Board of Directors approved a deficit budget for the 2019 fiscal year. The service fee structure remained the same: the Universal service fee on market hogs will stay at \$0.95 per hog for 2019; a portion of the fee allocated for research is \$0.10 per hog. The service fee on weaner pigs leaving the province will remain at \$0.20 per weaner pig. The 2019 budget underpins the current business plan projects and includes such key initiatives as, the Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) launch in Ontario, training resources for producers, electronic manifest enhancements to facilitate data flow and reduce paperwork, and programs that would promote positive developments in the Ontario pork sector among public and policy-makers.

Risk Management Advisory Group

Doug Ahrens, Chair of the Risk Management Advisory Group provided a report from a meeting on September 24, 2018. Objectives of the meeting included: seeking input on the “ask” for industry relief in response to US trade and farm policies, Canadian hog pricing, the provincial risk management program (RMP) formula analysis, top-up options for national business risk management (BRM) programs.

Canada Pork Council

Doug Ahrens and Oliver Haan, Ontario Pork’s representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), reported on the recent CPC Members Fall Meeting and the Board meeting, held in Ottawa on October 23-25, 2018. Ontario Pork’s Board Chair, Vice-Chair and General Manager also attended the CPC Members Fall meeting. Discussion topics included the 2019 Pig Code Review, BRM, CPE, hog pricing, antimicrobial use and resistance, wild pigs, and African Swine Fever (ASF).

Policy Update

Staff briefed the Board of Directors on current policy updates that included labour issues and red tape reduction priorities. Ontario Pork provided direct input into federal consultations on the Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) program; and has been working with Ontario Pork Industry Council (OPIC) to lobby for provincial improvements to the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program that would better allow temporary foreign workers to settle and work in the province. With respect to the red tape reduction, Ontario Pork submitted a list of the pork sector priority issues to Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) based on grassroots feedback gathered in recent years, including nutrient management regulations, foreign workers rules, paperwork and complexity of cost-share applications, antimicrobial drug use restrictions, and building code requirements.

Ontario Pork’s Social Responsibility Report

Staff provided an update on the 2018 Ontario Pork Social Responsibility Report. The first Social Responsibility Report in 2015 set the baseline of this journey and allowed Ontario Pork to monitor the improvements of the sector over the past three years. The new report will be presented at the Ontario Pork reception in Queen’s Park on November 21, 2018. It will showcase Ontario pork industry’s commitment to socially responsible practices achieved through education, greater dialogue and increased transparency.