

Board Highlights: November 7-8, 2017

2017-18 Budget

The Board of Directors approved a deficit budget for the 2018 fiscal year. The service fee structure remained the same: the Universal service fee on market hogs will stay at \$0.95 per hog for 2017; 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. A number of programs and initiatives was included in the 2018 budget, such as support for the Swine Health Ontario activities, resources for Pig Mobile and Ontario Pork outreach kit, education and training programs for producers, as well as programs that would connect farmers and consumers to grow consumer familiarity with Ontario Pork brand while expanding retail and food service participation.

New Professor in Swine Nutrition

Lee-Anne Huber, new professor in Swine Nutrition at the University of Guelph, joined the meeting to introduce herself and provide an overview of her scientific background and field of research. Her research will address on improving Ontario pork producers' bottom line and competitiveness and will focus on three areas: 1) novel ingredients that have low environment impact; 2) improving the feeding value of these ingredients, and an ability to fight diseases without antibiotics; 3) precision agriculture – lactating sows, gilt development, early nutritional programming.

Canada Pork Council Update

Doug Ahrens and Oliver Haan, newly elected Ontario Pork's representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), attended a recent the Board of Directors meeting as observers. They will become the CPC Board members in January 2018. Ontario Pork's Board Chair and General Manager also attended the CPC Fall meeting held on October 24-26, 2017 in Ottawa. Strategic planning and business plan development were central on the agenda; provincial pork organizations were invited to provide input with respect to the mandate of national pork organizations: CPC and Swine Innovation Porc (SIP). The Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) program was another important item on the agenda.

2017-2020 Strategic Plan

In July, September and October of this year, Ontario Pork's Board of Directors and senior management participated in strategic planning sessions to shape the organization for the next three years and develop the organization's strategic plan for 2017-2020. The Board of Directors adopted, in principle, a draft strategic plan. Staff will work on finalizing the report and preparing a draft business plan to present to the Board at the meeting in March 2018.

Policy Update: Trade

Ontario Pork's ongoing advocacy for trade market access most recently included its submission to Minister Leal ahead of the Tri-National Meeting with his U.S. and Mexican counterparts in September 2017; as well as Ontario Pork's letter in support of TPP11 (TPP excluding the USA); the letter was sent to federal and provincial ministers of agriculture, international trade and foreign affairs.

Membership with the OLTA (Ontario Livestock Transporter Alliance)

The Board of Directors voted to accept an invitation from Ontario Livestock Transporter Alliance (OLTA) to become a non-voting member. This would allow Ontario Pork to attend meetings, provide input and advice during discussions, bring forward new industry issues and concerns for the group to consider, stay informed on direction OLTA will be taking on various issues, and to improve Ontario Pork's relationship with transporters.