



Board Highlights: August 9-10, 2016

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The following are highlights from the August 2016 Ontario Pork board meeting.

Policy Day

The Policy Day will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at the Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre, 50 Stone Road West, Guelph. Elected delegates, presidents, and secretaries are encouraged to register to attend the event to provide their feedback on policy positions for the pork industry in the province. The agenda and white papers for discussion will be available shortly. This year's Policy Day will focus on the implementation of the social responsibility report as well as education programs and resources required to meet the performance targets outlined in the Ontario Pork Social Responsibility report.

Minimum Working Capital

The Board adjusted the minimum working capital requirement for Ontario Pork from \$4.4M to \$5M recognizing recent changes to the size and scope of the organization. As part of this exercise, the Board considered a potential impact of catastrophic events such as a foreign animal disease outbreak as well as Ontario Pork's other liabilities.

Trade Update

John Ross, Executive Director, Canadian Pork Council (CPC), joined the meeting via teleconference and provided an update on trade and market access, high priority areas for the national pork sector. The update included the implementation status of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) ratification challenges, as well as ongoing free trade agreement negotiations between Canada and India. John stressed that Canada needs to take every opportunity to secure favourable terms of access to foreign markets.

Mid-Term Business Plan Briefing

Senior management team presented the mid-term business plan report, as this year is the second year operating under the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. Managers outlined completed projects and reconfirmed the targets for the next fiscal year which will be the last year in the current strategic plan.

New Swine Research Facility

The Board of Directors established an internal Swine Research Facility Support committee. The main purpose of the committee to provide guidance and support for the negotiations with the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), and the University of Guelph; and ensure alignment with pork producers' interests. John de Bruyn, Board member and a pork producer from Oxford, will lead the committee.

Risk Management Advisory Group

Bill Wymenga and Doug Ahrens, co-chairs of the Risk Management Advisory Group, provided a status update of the mortality insurance development. More barn-specific data including recent disease outbreaks is required to compare real-time situations. Other tasks of the advisory group include payment protection and outlining the Ontario Pork position in planning Growing Forward 3, the next agricultural framework.

Sustainability Advisory Group

Arno Schober and John de Bruyn, co-chairs of the Sustainability Advisory Group presented manure storage recommendations to the Board of Directors. These recommendations were developed based on pork producers' input at the information meetings held by Ontario Pork across the province in June 2016. The group also developed a priority list of policies that would support and assist the Ontario pork sector.