



Board Highlights: December 11, 2015

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

Ontario Pork's Reception at Queen's Park

Staff provided an update on the Ontario Pork reception for MPPs and government staff that was held on November 25, 2015 at Queen's Park. The reception provided an excellent opportunity for Board members to discuss pork producers' concerns and interests with Minister Leal, opposition critics to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MPP Toby Barrett, PC, MPP John Vanthof, NDP and other policy makers, as well as a platform to release the Ontario Pork Social Responsibility report which was very well received. Ontario Pork is the first livestock commodity group in the province to commit to setting benchmarks in areas that measure economic, environmental, social and governance performance, based on global measurement standards.

Presidents and Secretaries Meeting Update

Amy Cronin, Board Chair, shared highlights from the local pork associations' Presidents' and Secretaries' meeting held by Ontario Pork on December 8, 2015. The meeting was attended by twenty five presidents, secretaries, as well as by Board Chair, Vice Chair and Ontario Pork staff. Participants were updated on Board initiatives that addressed concerns voiced at the Presidents' and Secretaries' meeting last year. An interactive discussion focused on supplementary grants, staff support, Board vacancy in zone 3, and Ontario Pork's branding campaign and social responsibility report.

Resolutions Committee

In preparation for the resolutions session at the Ontario Pork AGM, the Resolutions committee reviewed and approved the Resolutions Process document which outlines resolutions submission steps, procedures and timelines. The Resolutions Process document was circulated to Presidents and Secretaries of local pork producers' associations at the meeting on December 8, 2015.

Program Update

The Board was briefed on the recent activities addressing PED cases, surveillance, research projects, and biosecurity improvements at processing plants. Over 79% of the primary cases have eliminated PED and are testing negative. The Board was also updated on the creation of the Swine Health Ontario, a new leadership team that will focus on coordinating the swine industry's capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to serious threats to

swine health in Ontario. A status report on the PigTrace program included Ag-Manifest status, producer registration and license plate compliance for transporters.

Canadian Pork Council (CPC) Update

Bill Wymenga and Teresa Van Raay provided an update on the CPC Fall Meeting held in Ottawa on November 25-26, 2015. Discussion focused on CPC activities and ongoing projects including Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA®)/Animal Care Assessment (ACA) updates swine health, animal care, nutrition, antimicrobial resistance, and trade.

Policy Update

Staff provided an update on federal and provincial government initiatives which are expected to have a direct impact on the pork industry such as the Great Lakes Act, climate change, hog mortality insurance, and antimicrobial resistance. Board members were also updated on the status of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreements.