

Board Highlights: January 31 – February 1, 2017

The following are highlights from the January/February 2017 Ontario Pork board meeting.

Financial Statements

The Board of Directors approved the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Ontario Pork for the last fiscal year, which were reviewed by the members of the Audit Committee prior to the Board meeting.

Advisory Groups' Update

Co-Chairs of three Ontario Pork advisory groups presented their brief reports to the Board. The sustainability advisory group will be meeting soon to review the government's Domestic Action Plan, Nutrient Application as well as discuss a range of potential activities that Ontario Pork could pursue to help pork producers offset the resulting cost increases due to cap and trade.

Ontario Base Price

Ken McEwan, Production Economics and Agribusiness College Professor, University of Guelph presented specifics of hog pricing in Ontario and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of various pricing methods. The discussion with the Board included pork trade trends, import and export numbers, and comparison of the Canadian and US pork industries. Pros and cons of the mandatory price reporting in Canada were also discussed.

Processing Infrastructure in Ontario

Randy Jackiw, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development, Aileen MacNeil, Director, Agriculture Development Branch, and George Borovilos, Director, Business Development Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) discussed challenges and opportunities for additional pork processing capacity in Ontario and required hog volume for a viable facility. Questions from Board members also focused on the establishing new markets, domestic and international, in such areas as specialty pork products in Ontario and expanding markets in China, India and Korea.

Swine Health Ontario Update

Lori Moser, Manager of Swine Health Ontario (SHO), and Clare Schlegel, a member of the SHO Leadership Team, presented the swine health information system concept. An industry-wide sub-working group has been formed with representation from the key industry partners to create an integrated, enhanced swine health information system that would provide significant value to producers, industry partners, veterinarians, government and researchers. A selected number of transporters and producers, enrolled in ARC&E and AgManifest, will be participating in the movement pilot that will run February through June 2017. AgManifest or PigTrace will be used for all movements to analyze system overlaps and to test and report or simulate a disease break.

Food Integrity Initiative

Cory Van Groningen, VG Meats joined the meeting to present the food integrity initiative. He spoke about implications of food fraud from an economic and public trust perspective and the importance of food integrity to Ontario farmers. Cory presented objectives of the Food Integrity Initiative, a collaboration between the government and the industry leaders in Ontario, which included building awareness and understanding about food integrity throughout the agri-food supply chain.

Premier's Spring and Fall Food Drives 2017

Over the last few years, Ontario Pork participated in the Premier's annual Ontario Public Service spring and fall food drives supporting the Daily Bread Food Bank. The Board of Directors supported a donation of up to \$2,000 in ground pork products for each drive. This worthwhile initiative provides a great government relations opportunity for Ontario Pork and extends its corporate image and reputation within the community.

Canadian Pork Council Update

Bill Wymenga and Teresa Van Raay, Ontario Pork's representatives at the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), provided an update on the recent CPC Board meeting held in Banff on January 9-10, 2017. At that meeting, the CPC Board discussed the 2017 budget and operational plan, price discovery/value transfer, traceability, and the promotion and research agency. Ontario Pork's Board voted to allow Bill Wymenga to stay on as Ontario Pork's representative on the CPC Board for the remainder of 2017. Bill will be stepping down as the Ontario Pork Board member in March 2017.

Canadian Pork Excellence Program

The Board discussed challenges around the Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) program and agreed to hold an information meeting for all pork producers in the province in early March to focus on creating awareness and a two-way dialogue between the national organizations and grassroots producers.