

Board Highlights: May 30, 2017

Committee Appointments

Further to a call for committee members that was conducted earlier this year, the Board of Directors appointed members for the Research and Resolutions committees as well as Program Development, Risk Management and Sustainability Advisory Groups. Ontario Pork's staff will be finalizing appointments with producers interested in contributing their expertise and time to working on various issues affecting the provincial pork industry.

Resolutions Response Document

Board members approved responses to resolutions that were brought forth by delegates at Ontario Pork's Annual General Meeting on March 22, 2017. The Resolutions Response document will be finalized and mailed to delegates by June 30, 2017.

Leadership Training

The Ontario Pork Leadership Training program for 2016-17 has concluded. Eight producers participated in the course. The course covered leadership traits personal assessment, governance, media training, policy development, strategic thinking, and government relations training. The value-chain tour, a new program component, was added this year. Participants' comments will help Ontario Pork to evaluate the course objectives, to maintain and improve the quality of the course and the learning environment. Recruitment for the 2017-18 leadership course will commence in early June. All producers interested in advancing themselves in their leadership journey are encouraged to apply. The cost of the program is covered by Ontario Pork.

Domestic Action Plan

In March, the government released the draft Lake Erie domestic action plan for consultation. The current consultation window on the government's draft Lake Erie domestic action plan closed May 24, 2017. Ontario Pork's sustainability advisory group has developed recommendations for an Ontario Pork response to the consultation questions, including the proposal for increased restrictions on nutrient application during the non-growing period.

Swine Research Infrastructure at Elora

The Board approved a memorandum of understanding which clarifies and formalizes the respective roles and expectations of Ontario Pork, Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), and the University of Guelph with respect to the intended project scope for the swine component of the Livestock Research and Innovation Centre at Elora. This would allow to develop "early concept" build options for consideration by steering committee which outlines an estimate of possible costs based on scope of project.

Policy Day

Board of Directors made a decision to hold the Ontario Pork Policy Day on September 12, 2017. This year's Policy Day will focus on the Canadian Pork Excellence Program and a decision on whether to build a new swine research facility in Elora.