



## Board Highlights: November 3 and 4, 2015

The purpose of Board Highlights is to help keep you informed on the issues the Board is dealing with on your behalf.

This update is sent by e-mail. If you would like to be added to or removed from our distribution list, please let us know.

Please direct any questions or comments to the Ontario Pork Communications department at 1-877-ONT-PORK (668-7675) or by e-mail to [comm@ontariopork.on.ca](mailto:comm@ontariopork.on.ca)

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

### Vineland Research and Innovation Centre

On November 3-4<sup>th</sup>, the Board meeting was held at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, a world-class research centre dedicated to horticultural science and innovation. Vineland aligns business and science interests by assisting with commercialization, technology scouting and technology transfer activities. Vineland is an independent, not-for-profit organization, funded in part by Growing Forward 2. Lana Culley, Director, Business Development and Daryl Somers, Research Director, Applied Genomics, outlined the organization's mandate and objectives and highlighted the main ongoing research initiatives during a tour of the facilities.

### 2015-16 Budget

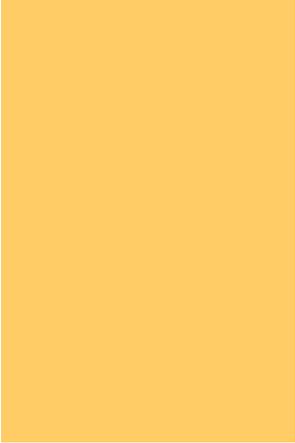
The Board of Directors approved a deficit budget for the 2016 fiscal year. The Universal service fee on market hogs will stay at \$0.95 per hog for 2016; a portion of the fee allocated for research is \$0.10 per hog. The service fee on weaner pigs leaving the province will remain at \$0.20 per weaner pig. A number of programs and initiatives, including the Food Bank transition program, implementation of the producer engagement revitalization activities, enhancing producer outreach, animal health projects, strategy for swine research infrastructure, a branding strategy and a reputation management campaign have been incorporated in the next year's budget.

### Program Update

The Board was briefed on the recent activities addressing PED cases, surveillance, research projects, and biosecurity improvements at processing plants. Over 76% of the 84 primary cases have eliminated PED and are testing negative. The PED discussion also included an update on the transfer payment agreement (TPA) and long-term strategy initiatives. A status report on the PigTrace program included error reporting, producer registration and license plate compliance for transporters. Staff also outlined options for producers to comply with new regulations regarding unvented heaters. The information on the new regulations was sent to all provincial pork producers in early September.

### Ontario Pork's Social Responsibility Report

Staff provided an update on the Ontario Pork Social Responsibility Report. The feedback received from pork producers at the Policy Day on September 22, 2015 has now been incorporated in the report. The report will be



presented at the Ontario Pork reception at Queen's Park on November 25, 2015. The report will showcase Ontario pork industry's commitment to socially responsible practices achieved through education, greater dialogue and increased transparency.

### **Ridgetown College Update**

Ken McEwan provided an update on the Ridgetown Swine Centre retrofitting project, funded in part by Ontario Pork. With a building tender now completed, construction of the new educational facility is scheduled to commence in the spring of 2016. The purpose of the project is to teach basic swine husbandry skills and to demonstrate modern swine technologies to students as well as to demonstrate swine production practices to the public.