



Board Highlights: September 19 and 21, 2016

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

Alliances and Partnerships Representation

The Board of Directors made the following appointments for the next term:

- Canadian Pork Council (CPC) – Bill Wymenga and Teresa VanRaay
- Canada Pork International (CPI) – Arno Schober
- Ontario Pork Grading Authority (OPGA) – John de Bruyn

2016-17 Budget

Staff presented budget assumptions and plans for the 2017 fiscal year. Board members discussed areas that need to be incorporated into the final budget plan for the next year. The Board will finalize the budget in November.

Agricultural Advocacy

The Board of Directors decided to allocate an amount of \$100,000 to develop a pro-active strategy that would address growing animal extremism threats facing the Ontario pork industry.

Policy Day Briefing

Staff provided a brief summary of results from the Ontario Pork Policy Day held on September 20, 2016 at the Delta Hotel – Guelph for delegates, presidents and secretaries from each of the local pork producers' associations.

This year's event was well attended, over 70 participants provided their input into the climate change and producer training program development. Producers highlighted natural gas usage, manure coverage, energy efficiency, and precision agriculture as areas where their farms can benefit from the government support.

Participants listed a wide range of training topics from first aid to business management as valuable options either for farm owners or for their employees. The producer feedback will be carefully summarized and used for the future policy and program development.

Senecavirus Update

Staff briefed the Board on the new information regarding Senecavirus. Ontario Pork is working closely with Swine Health Ontario on coordinating the disease information and management plan for the industry. All Ontario pork producers have been notified to watch for signs and immediately report any suspicion of vesicular disease to their herd veterinarian and the CFIA.

Sustainability Advisory Group

Arno Schober and John de Bruyn, co-chairs of the Sustainability Advisory Group provided a brief update on providing technical input into the Grow Ontario Together policy submission for the development of Ontario's Domestic Action Plan under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Risk Management Advisory Group

Bill Wymenga and Doug Ahrens, co-chairs of the Risk Management Advisory Group reported on work being done in collaboration with Canadian Pork Council (CPC) and other industry stakeholders, to provide input into the development of the next agricultural framework, Growing Forward 3.

Program Development Advisory Group

The Ontario Pork Program Development Advisory Group, led by Board members Oliver Haan and Teresa Van Raay, commenced their work in August. Group members, Chris Cossitt, Board member (Grey/Bruce), Dianne Brekelmans (Oxford), Eric Hartemink (Elgin), and Tanya Terpstra (Perth), reviewed results of the existing program scan and discussed questions for the Policy Day.