



ONTARIO PORK

Resolutions Response

June 15, 2017

Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair of the Resolutions Committee	2
Canadian Pork Council	3
RESOLUTION 1 – CPC Reporting to Ontario Pork	3
Canadian Pork Excellence Program	5
RESOLUTION 2 – Animal Care Assessment	5
RESOLUTION 4 – Considerations of Competitiveness	7
Hog Price Reporting	8
RESOLUTION 7 – Hog Price Reporting	8
Advocacy	9
RESOLUTION 9 – Municipal Infrastructure Replacement	9
Associations	10
RESOLUTION 11 – Pork Communication Coordinators	10
Research	11
RESOLUTION 12 – Carbon Tax Plan	11
RESOLUTION A	12
APPENDIX	14
Appendix 1	15
Appendix 2	16

Letter from the Chair of the Resolutions Committee

June 15, 2017

Dear Delegates, Substitutes, Presidents, and Secretaries:

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I thank all delegates and pork producers' associations for participating in the resolution process. Your efforts in developing thoughtful resolutions and participating in meaningful debate provide another valuable means for the Board to attain and capture your input. This booklet contains actions taken and planned with respect to the resolutions debated and carried at the Annual General Meeting on March 22, 2017.

I encourage each of you to read and consider the responses given. Further questions pertaining to the issues outlined in these resolutions can be directed to the Board of Directors, or directly to the staff at the office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa VanRaay", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Teresa VanRaay
Chair, Resolutions Committee

Canadian Pork Council

RESOLUTION 1 – CPC Reporting to Ontario Pork

Whereas the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) was established to represent interests of all Canadian pork farmers at a federal level; and

Whereas the CPC achieves the representation by including representatives from provincial pork producer organizations; and

Whereas Ontario Pork has contributed \$829,966.00 to the annual 2016 budget of the CPC; and

Whereas Ontario producers do not receive regular updates regarding the usage of producer funds; and

Whereas Ontario producers are being directed to implement policies and programs developed by the CPC without proper producer consultation;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork’s representatives to the CPC provide regular reports to Ontario Pork that includes thorough updates regarding the CPC budget, use of producer funds and of proposed programs both administered and/or under development by the CPC. In addition, any proposed policies and programs under development by the CPC that impact producer economic viability be presented to producers in advance of the annual county association meetings, in order to provide producers the opportunity to properly prepare for policy discussions and comment at Ontario Pork’s Annual General Meeting.

Submitted by:

Niagara Pork Producers Association

Haldimand/Norfolk Pork Producers Association

Huron Pork Producers Association

Perth Pork Producers Association

Wellington/Dufferin Pork Producers Association

Supported by:

Middlesex Pork Producers Association

Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton Pork Producers Association

Durham Pork Producers Association

Peterborough Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: Recognizing the demand for improved communications from Canadian Pork Council (CPC), the CPC Board of Directors approved hiring of a Communication Specialist on April 11-12, 2017. Funding for this position will come from within existing resource levels.

The Ontario Pork Board of Directors heard producers' concerns about poor communication from CPC and a lack of consultation process with producers. As a grassroots organization, Ontario Pork stays committed to holding timely consultations with pork producers and inviting their input into the policy development.

Canadian Pork Excellence Program

RESOLUTION 2 – Animal Care Assessment

Whereas the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) works to produce initiatives that are of benefit to all Canadian Pork producers; and

Whereas the CPC has implemented the Canadian Quality Assurance program that has benefited all Canadian Pork producers by creating transparency for food safety; and

Whereas the proposed Canadian Pork Excellence Program expands the emphasis on food safety to include the mandatory completion of the proposed Animal Care Assessment; and

Whereas the Canadian Pork Council failed to consult with producers regarding the scope and content of the proposed Animal Care Assessment throughout the process of development; and

Whereas the proposed Animal Care Assessment inhibits the individual producer's ability to provide the best care for their animals in consultation with their attending veterinarian;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork does not support any national program that requires mandatory participation in the proposed ***Animal Care Assessment*** program, as currently presented by the Canadian Pork Council, until producers and their attending veterinarians have the opportunity to review and assess the proposed program.

Submitted by:

Niagara Pork Producers Association

Haldimand/Norfolk Pork Producers Association

Huron Pork Producers Association

Perth Pork Producers Association

Supported by:

Middlesex Pork Producers Association

Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton Pork Producers Association

Durham Pork Producers Association

Peterborough Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: The Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) program pilot is currently ongoing on the 27 farms that are part of the CPE pilot project. Ontario Pork is committed to working with CPC on finding the best solution to ensure the CPE program meets producers' needs. At a meeting on April 11-12, the CPC Board of Directors confirmed that if required, a second round of pilot project will be undertaken to resolve any outstanding issues.

Ontario Pork will hold further consultation with its delegates at Policy Day, September 12, 2017.

RESOLUTION 4 – Considerations of Competitiveness

Whereas the prices Ontario producers receive for their hogs are based on North American and wider global pork pricing supply and demand factors; and

Whereas these pricing mechanisms require Ontario producers to have cost structures that are competitive with other key jurisdictions (i.e. the United States); and

Whereas Ontario producers have concerns the proposed Canadian Pork Excellence program will add costs and, furthermore, have not been given sufficient time to study the possible costs and benefits of this proposed Canadian Pork Excellence Program; and

Whereas without sufficient study and possible program alteration, Ontario producers may suffer from reduced competitiveness;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork notify the Canadian Pork Council that Ontario Pork will not be bound by imposed deadlines such as the currently proposed deadline of January 1, 2018 or any such deadline until a majority of producers in each Ontario Pork Zone have reviewed and approved Canadian Pork Excellence implementation at a sanctioned Ontario Pork meeting.

Submitted by:

Niagara Pork Producers Association

Haldimand/Norfolk Pork Producers Association

Huron Pork Producers Association

Perth Pork Producers Association

Wellington/Dufferin Pork Producers Association

Supported by:

Middlesex Pork Producers Association

Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton Pork Producers Association

Durham Pork Producers Association

Peterborough Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: Through the resolutions process, the Ontario Pork Board of Directors understood pork producers' concerns about the CPE program and, primarily, the policy behind it. The Board of Directors will not support the CPE program until further consultation takes place with Ontario pork producers. As a member of the CPC, Ontario Pork brought these concerns to the CPC spring meeting on April 11, 2017. As a result, the CPC Board directed staff to take the time necessary to ensure the program meets producer needs before being implemented.

Hog Price Reporting

RESOLUTION 7 – Hog Price Reporting

Whereas the entire country of Canada posts its provincial hog price in price per kilogram at 100 index; and

Whereas producers know how to arrive at the whole price without the aid of Ontario Pork to do it for them; and

Whereas we need to provide consistent price reporting across the country; and

Whereas Ontario pork producers in fact do not receive \$20-\$30 per hog more than the rest of the country as it would appear;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork returns to reporting the price of pork in dollars per kg HDW at 100 index

Submitted by the Huron Pork Producers Association and the Perth Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: Ontario Pork will forward a request to include the hog price reporting for discussion at the next meeting of the Hog Industry Advisory Committee (HIAC), since the price reporting method was changed based on the HIAC recommendation.

Background information on the current hog price reporting method is included in [appendix 1](#).

RESOLUTION 9 – Municipal Infrastructure Replacement

Whereas rural municipalities have a disproportionately large stock of infrastructure compared to the local tax base;

Whereas rural municipalities are struggling to maintain and replace infrastructure such as roads and bridges;

Whereas some rural municipalities have looked at imposing charges and taxes on farms to increase funding for the municipalities, hurting their ability to be competitive in a global market; and

Whereas effective and efficient transportation infrastructure is essential to Ontario Pork's entire value chain.

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork along with other agriculture commodity groups strongly recommend the Ontario government work with municipalities across rural Ontario to develop and adopt a cost-effective infrastructure replacement program including roads, bridges and drainage.

Submitted by the Wellington/Dufferin Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: In its 2017 pre-budget submission to the provincial government, Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobbied for an increase to the main provincial program delivering infrastructure funding to rural municipalities, the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). In addition to lobbying for increased infrastructure funding, OFA is also actively lobbying at the county and municipal level to oppose the introduction of development charges for new farm buildings at the local level, e.g. in Mapleton Township. At the municipal level, farmers wishing to discuss local solutions with their municipal council (e.g. related to property taxes or development charges) can request analytical and technical support from OFA to assist them in preparing and presenting analysis in support of their proposals.

Associations

RESOLUTION 11 – Pork Communication Coordinators

Whereas the Ontario Pork Board of Directors has been reduced to nine, thus challenging their time to devote to communications, to the county associations, within the province; and

Whereas Ontario Pork has lost two key individuals who have been integral in communicating industry information, and have been liaisons between the provincial office and the county associations; and

Whereas the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association currently runs a very successful Regional Communication Coordinator program, across the province;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork implement a two year “Pork Communication Coordinator” pilot project based on the very successful Soil and Crop model, in order to enhance communications within the province.

Submitted by the Glengarry-Prescott Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: The two communications and industry relations roles vacated in late 2016 have been filled. In April, Ontario Pork welcomed Emma Payne to the role of Member Services Liaison, Kathy Zurbrigg as Industry Outreach Coordinator and Stacey Ash as Manager of Communications and Consumer Marketing. They will be active in leading communications and outreach efforts with pork producers throughout the province.

A brief summary of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) Regional Communication Coordinator (RCC) program can be found in [appendix 2](#).

RESOLUTION 12 – Carbon Tax Plan

Whereas the current provincial and federal governments have made taxing carbon dioxide a priority as a new revenue source; and

Whereas a carbon dioxide tax will put Ontario and Canada at cost of production disadvantage to our major competitors; and

Whereas a simple rebate that only considers the tax at the point of sale does not account for the cumulative cost of a carbon tax down the whole chain of production and therefore does not reflect the real cost of said tax; and

Whereas such plans open the door to taxation of animal emissions;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork work collaboratively with other livestock exporting industries and grain farmers to initiate a study to determine the total costs that the Carbon Dioxide tax will add to Ontario farm operations.

Submitted by the Middlesex Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: Ontario Pork's Sustainability Advisory Group has begun preliminary analysis on the cost impact of the cap and trade on pork production, with a focus on heating fuel used in hog barns. Ontario Pork's internal capacity is currently limited to determining impacts on cost; any analysis beyond that, e.g. regarding economic impact on competitiveness, production, processing and associated jobs would require external expertise.

Ontario Pork will collaborate with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) to conduct a study for all impacted commodities.

RESOLUTION A

Whereas the *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act* (SC 1995, c 40), as it stands now, doesn't allow any person named in a notice of violation to oppose any useful defense by eliminating the due diligence defense;

Whereas under the law as it stands now, it is therefore impossible for any alleged violator to plead that they took all reasonable steps to prevent the violation;

Whereas under the law as it stands now, the fact that the alleged violator has done nothing wrong is explicitly ignored when confirming notice of violation;

Whereas the law is specifically designed to condemn innocents;

Whereas the law gives the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ("CFIA") twenty-four months to deliver a notice of violation after the alleged violation;

Whereas the CFIA routinely waits eighteen months or even more to deliver notices of violation;

Whereas the alleged violator can hardly remember the condition of a given animal after so much time, while the CFIA has a professional, sometimes two examine the animal on the spot and take pictures and videos to constitute evidence;

Whereas these issues makes it almost impossible for a alleged violator to oppose any kind of meaningful defense;

Whereas the law is so heavily biased against the alleged violator and in favor of the CFIA that under 2% of the notices of violation actually get overturned after a trial;

Whereas the consequences of such a situation upon the small actors of the industry is to take away everything they have and strip them for their livelihood, homes and profession;

Whereas that situation violates section 7 of the Canadian Charter, namely the right to security of the person;

Whereas absolute liability violates the principles of fundamental justice in that it condemns innocent violators;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The Ontario Pork considers that there is a very real problem with the law as it stands;

2. The Ontario Pork will therefore support any and all attempts to obtain a modification in the *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act*;
3. The Ontario Pork will ask the government to review the applicable law to make it more just and in particular to :
 - a. Remove section 18(1) of the law so alleged violators can oppose due diligence;
 - b. Reduce the delay between the violation and the notice of violation by the CFIA.

The motion to support the debate on resolution A reached the required 2/3 vote. (Yes: 57 No: 9)

Submitted by the Ottawa Valley Pork Producers Association

RESPONSE: Ontario Pork will work with CPC to request that the CFIA join livestock industry stakeholders in a consultation process to review and change the regulations of the Administrative Monetary Penalties Act. One objective of this process would be to update the regulations to allow that alleged violators are given an immediate notice that informs them that a violation is in question and that further investigation may be pending. A second objective would be an update which allows alleged violators the opportunity to prove due diligence and the logistics of how this could be done.

Ontario Pork looks forward to working with CFIA on the continuous improvement of the regulations and enforcement of the transport of livestock in Canada.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

In response to a request from the Hog Industry Advisory Committee (HIAC), the “Potential Methods to Improve Ontario Mandatory Price Reporting System” study was performed by the University of Guelph – Ridgetown in May 2011. The Mandatory Price Reporting (MPR) committee recommended using the method of pooling all hogs and applying the low 15%, middle 70%, and high 15% concept versus the original method (top 5% and bottom 5% by plant). The main objective of the change was to maintain confidentiality of individual hog pricing data for all producers. The grouping of all hogs to develop the reported prices along with the cut-off changes to 15/70/15 captured the diverse pricing in Ontario. Based on this recommendation, Ontario Pork changed the price calculation method on March 1, 2012.

Further details on the New Mandatory Price Reporting System can be found on the Ontario Pork website (www.ontariopork.on.ca/Price-Reporting/Price-Calculation)

Appendix 2

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) Regional Communication

Coordinator (RCC) program serves as a communications conduit between 11 regional groups and the central OSCIA. Regional Communications Coordinators are hired, funded and managed by each region. These are part-time positions, typically paid for an average of five hours of work per week, hired on a one-year, renewable contract.

Duties include:

- Ensure interaction between the counties in their region
- Produce and send out 4 regional newsletters per year
- Relay communications from the Provincial office
- Send out “email blasts” when necessary
- Along with local Directors, organize crop tours and events
- Help to organize field days
- Coordinate field trials

The hourly rate and specific work requirements are established and paid by each region. Central funding from OSCIA covers a set cost for the production of a minimum of four newsletters per year. The mailing cost for newsletters and any additional scope of work is paid by the region or through sponsorship secured by the RCC or local association. Leadership is provided by a central RCC lead, and central training is offered to RCCs twice a year.