

Board Highlights: January 14-15, 2020

Political Structure Review Committee

Based on the feedback received at the Policy Day and producer information meetings, the Political Structure Review Committee reviewed and refined the proposed new structure. The Board of Directors adopted the Political Structure Review Committee report with recommended changes to the current political structure outlined in the report. Advantages of the proposed model include more flexibility, strengthening the Board, and ensuring that the best people are elected to serve as delegates and as Board members. These recommendations will be presented to delegates at the Ontario Pork annual general meeting on March 24-25, 2020.

Canadian Pork Council Update

Doug Ahrens and Oliver Haan, Ontario Pork's representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), briefed the Board on the recent CPC Board meeting held on January 6-7, 2020 in Banff. At that meeting, the CPC Board of Directors discussed the pan Canadian plan for African Swine Fever (ASF) prevention and preparedness, Pig Trace, Pig Trace, strengthening CPC's advocacy program, and committee appointments. The CPC Board of Directors also discussed the Code of Practice Review. Last year, CPC established a Code Technical Panel to undertake the five-year review of the 2014 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs. The review included a discussion on the 2024 date for producers to change to group housing. The CPC believes the date needs to be extended since the initial, ten-year transition time (2014–2024) was inadequate given the complexity of the task. The pig code has not yet been amended and discussions on the 2024 date for producers to transition to group housing continues.

Industry Strategy Development

The Board of Directors approved funding to initiate a feasibility study that will analyze and evaluate factors that reduce the competitiveness of Ontario's pork industry and prevent Ontario from taking advantage of the world demand for pork. The Board also decided to strike an ad-hoc committee comprised of Ontario pork producers to work on identifying factors and actions that can be influenced to increase the profitability and competitiveness of the Ontario pork industry and to ensure its sustainable growth. Terms of reference for this committee will be presented for the Board discussion and decision in March.

AgScape Update

Glenna Banda, Executive Director of AgScape provided an overview of the organization's mandate, membership, as well as recent and planned activities and initiatives. AgScape provides factual, balanced, curriculum-linked food literacy programs and resources to Ontario's educators and students. Last year, the organization delivered over 600 lessons more than 14,000 Ontario school students. The organization's Teacher Ambassadors are Ontario Certified Teachers who provide engaging and interactive lessons to grade 7-12 students.

Annual Meetings of Local Pork Producers' Associations

The Board of Directors reviewed the Board report to be presented at the upcoming annual meetings of the local pork producers' associations. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 jointly by Essex, Kent and Pork Producers' Associations. Information on dates and locations for all meetings can be found on the Ontario Pork on-line calendar: <https://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Communications/Whats-New/local-producer-association-meetings>