



ONTARIO PORK

Resolutions Response

June 17, 2019

Table of Contents

I.	Letter from the Board Chair	2
II.	Regulations	3
	RESOLUTION 1 – Certification of licensed farm vehicles	3
III.	Animal Care	4
	RESOLUTION 2 – Animal Care	4
	RESOLUTION 3 – Autogenous vaccines	4
IV.	Associations	6
	RESOLUTION 5 – Supplementary grant surpluses	6
V.	Pork Pricing	7
	RESOLUTION 6 – New pricing mechanism	7
VI.	Vomitoxin	8
	RESOLUTION 7 – Vomitoxin (DON) levels	8
VII.	Animal Health	9
	RESOLUTION 9 – Traceability	9
VIII.	Resolutions Submitted at the AGM	10
	RESOLUTION A – Laws prohibiting animal activists to stop livestock vehicles	10
	RESOLUTION B - Canada’s New Food Guide	10
	RESOLUTION C – AgManifest	11

Letter from the Board Chair

June 17, 2019

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 20, 2019.

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 to Ontario Pork staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Schwindt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "S".

Eric Schwindt
Board Chair

Regulations

RESOLUTION 1 – Certification of licensed farm vehicles

Whereas producer members have to certify licensed farm vehicles, be it a truck or truck and trailer annually; and

Whereas this certification is most often unnecessary due to the low kilometers, limited and seasonal use of these licensed farm vehicles; and

Whereas the current provincial government wishes to reduce red tape where and when it is practical;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork support a partial annual certification process for low annual mileage licensed farm vehicles and present the idea to the Ministry of Transportation.

Submitted by: Northumberland/Quinte Producers' Association

RESPONSE: Ontario Pork along with other industry partners such as Grain Farmers of Ontario will be asking general farm organizations for a collaborative advocacy efforts in support of a partial annual certification process for low annual mileage licensed farm vehicles.

Animal Care

RESOLUTION 2 – Animal Care

Whereas Ontario’s pork producers care greatly about the welfare of the animals they are responsible; and

Whereas Ontario’s pork producers wish to portray themselves to Ontario’s public as caring and considerate for the livestock under their care; and

Whereas Ontario’s public has replaced terms such as “castrating” and “tail docking” with culturally appropriate terms such as “neutering” and “tail trimming”; and

Whereas the terms “neutering” and “tail trimming” accurately describe regular pork production practices;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork and Ontario’s pork producers cease from using the terms “castrating” and “tail docking” when describing regular pork production practices, and instead use the terms “neutering” and “tail trimming” to describe these regular pork production practices.

Submitted by the Niagara, Golden Horseshoe and Haldimand/Norfolk Pork Producers’ Associations

RESPONSE: To ensure clarity, transparency and understanding, Ontario Pork uses the terminology appropriate to various audiences, including, producers, industry stakeholders, government, consumers, and general public. Ontario Pork will endeavor to promote consumer-appropriate terminology.

RESOLUTION 3 – Autogenous vaccines

Whereas autogenous vaccines are an important part of a farm’s health strategy; and

Whereas farm specific autogenous vaccines will sometimes be the ONLY WAY to control some diseases, because commercial vaccines will not have been manufactured from the unique pathogen found on a particular farm; and

Whereas without costly additional testing, after 24 months autogenous vaccines run out of their ability to be re-manufactured until the specific problem is identified and re-cultured, which put the barn and animals at risk of antibiotic use to control the issue; and

Whereas the new rules of antibiotic use rely on vet scripts of specific time and for treatment levels of animals;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork work with the appropriate agency to reduce or eliminate the amount and cost of paperwork necessary to extend the use of autogenous vaccines past the current

24 month period, perhaps indefinitely, or until the threat of harm caused by the particular disease has been removed as determined by a veterinarian.

Submitted by the Perth Pork Producers' Association

RESPONSE: Ontario Pork will consult with the veterinarian community on the current autogenous vaccine application timelines and if deemed feasible and safe in animal care, will bring these concerns for consideration by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), when the Health of Animals Regulation opens up for review.

Associations

RESOLUTION 5 – Supplementary grant surpluses

Whereas there continues to be declining interest to participate at the association level along with volunteering at local events; and

Whereas a solid and involved producer base can only help to strengthen Ontario Pork as a whole; and

Whereas there are typically surpluses in the Supplementary Grant budget;

Therefore be it resolved Ontario Pork create an account to hold these surplus funds. Such funds could be used to pay per diems to dedicated producer/volunteers that devote the extra time, energy and in-kind contributions to association level events. In time, if the account permits, Ontario Pork could potentially utilize these funds to innovatively promote involvement at the association level.

Submitted by Middlesex Pork Producers' Association

RESPONSE: Ontario Pork grants supplementary funds to local pork producers associations for special projects through an application process to ensure that these funds are available and distributed in an open, fair and accountable process and to the best benefit of the pork industry in Ontario. Since it was introduced in 2012, the program has been utilized by 14 associations each year with a slight increase in the total amount over the last four years. Ontario Pork's Board of Directors, at its discretion, can increase the fund allocation for eligible projects. As part of its work, Ontario Pork's Political Structure Review Committee, established in April 2019, will be reviewing local pork producers' associations' engagement and functionality.

Pork Pricing

RESOLUTION 6 – New pricing mechanism

Whereas the CME base price used to calculate the 100% Formula Price is only based on about 1.5% of the hogs being reported in the U.S., therefore, proving that this is not an accurate measure of the true value of a market hog; and

Whereas there has been a shift from valuing hogs on a live weight basis to valuing hogs on a cutout basis in the US hog industry in recent years. This puts some producers at a disadvantage; and

Whereas pork in Canada, is raised in a more highly regulated production environment than pork in the US;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork work with CPC, the Federal Government and Canadian hog packers to come up with a mandatory Canadian Pork Cutout Value, thus, giving Canadian independent hog producers the information they need to decide if this would be a beneficial mechanism for pricing the hogs they produce.

Submitted by Middlesex Pork Producers' Association

RESPONSE: Starting in spring 2018, trade disputes and uncertainties have had significant impact on hog pricing. While not a direct target, Ontario's livestock farmers are collateral damage in the US trade wars. Ontario Pork is part of the working group for the "Made-in-Canada Hog Price" study, initiated by the Canadian Pork Council earlier this year. The study, which is ongoing at this time and expected to be completed during the summer of 2019, will outline a model for a Made-In-Canada price formula along with a discussion of the feasibility of its implementation considering possible issues with data availability, as well as a recommendation on preferred price discovery. Ontario Pork will also take into consideration the new Quebec pricing formula as well as different US pricing formulas when informing producers.

RESOLUTION 7 – Vomitoxin (DON) levels

Whereas 2018 has been a challenging year for toxins in corn, the GFO did extensive testing on the varieties of corn grown in the corn trials in this province and no results have been made public;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork spearhead an industry wide-solution on this issue that will provide transparency around these results on an ongoing basis and publish the results.

Submitted by Kent Pork Producers' Association

RESPONSE: Ontario Pork is concerned about high vomitoxin (DON) levels that have affected significant parts of Ontario's 2018 corn crop. High DON levels present a real risk and threat to producers' ability to secure safe feed. Industry-wide, coordinated actions are needed to ensure an adequate supply of feed with safe DON levels for pigs. To this end, in March 2019, Ontario Pork contributed two-year funding towards Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) research projects on planned corn hybrid assessments for DON. The expected research outcomes are a timely, public release of corn hybrid-specific ratings of DON susceptibility. Other funders include Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), seed companies, GFO, and grain handlers/processors. More information on research projects, funded by Ontario Pork, can be found: <http://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Research/Active-Recently-Completed>

RESOLUTION 9 – Traceability

Whereas Ontario pork producers are under constant threat to virus and disease such as PED, PRRS, Seneca Virus and possible threat of African Swine Fever; and

Whereas the existence of these diseases threaten healthy swine herds in Ontario; and

Whereas African Swine Fever will have a devastating impact on Ontario and Canadian pork industry; and

Whereas unknown movement of pigs to locations that are not traceable; and

Whereas informing pig owners of feeding any meat products to their pigs; and

Whereas traceability is key when investigating where all the pigs are in the province of Ontario and to minimize the spread of above-mentioned diseases;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork sends out an official letter to all pork producers strongly suggesting that pork producers not sell any pigs or piglets to persons or organizations that are outside of the Ontario Pork producer enrollment for Pig Trace/CQA/ACA programs.

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork informs persons who purchase pigs to be aware of feeding pigs meat and by-product of meat.

Submitted by Wellington/Dufferin Producers' Association

RESPONSE: Several steps have been taken to raise awareness of disease and prevention strategies, including the importance of traceability and strong biosecurity. Ontario Pork, along with our partners at Swine Health Ontario (SHO) and the Ontario Pork Industry Council began a multi-faceted communications campaign in the late fall, with an information package on ASF prevention and education sheets mailed and emailed to all registered producers. A follow-up mailing with more detailed prevention and preparedness resources was sent out to producers and processors in April. In addition, SHO has also coordinated a series of updates on this issue published in Better Pork magazine. Through social media, Ontario Pork continues to share updates and information provided by the Canadian Pork Council, the Canada Food Inspection Agency and Canada Border Services Agency with recommendations on how to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever. These resources have also been made available on the Ontario Pork website. For audiences beyond agriculture, Ontario Pork developed and shared information for the food service and restaurant industry about the dangers of providing food waste to pigs.

Resolutions Submitted at the AGM

RESOLUTION A – Laws prohibiting animal activists to stop livestock vehicles

Whereas the presence of animal activists is increasing, while farmers and truck drivers in livestock vehicles are stopped at intersections, stuck in slow-moving traffic or entering/exiting a plant; and

Whereas farmers and truck drivers are concerned, when activists are walking directly in front of moving vehicles, hanging off trailers to water the animals; and entering their blind spots of the vehicle; and

Whereas farmers and truck drivers have put guidelines in place to be proactive and avoid any health and safety issue or serious accident, but it is increasingly becoming more stressful on the farmer or truck driver having the public (animal activists) stop their livestock vehicles; and

Whereas farmers and trucking companies are finding it more difficult to retain employees and continually being harassed while in the livestock vehicles;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork seek information, assist counties to address the issue and lobby the government to create laws prohibiting individuals to walk in front, hang off or stop livestock trucks at intersections and/or entering or exiting a plant.

Submitted by the Lambton Pork Producers' Association

Response: Following recommendations from its 2018 ad hoc committee on industry advocacy, Ontario Pork staff are in regular contact with representatives from Ontario's two federally licensed processing facilities and the Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance, as well as with regional and provincial policing organizations on the issue of activist harassment of livestock transporters. This group has developed a unified response to activism at plants, including our concerns about the safety of people and animals. In May 2019, a decision to drop criminal charges against an activist who publicly admitted to repeatedly entering a barn and removing piglets spurred a strong response from more than a dozen agricultural organizations. Livestock groups along with other farm organizations issued a media release expressing their concern. In addition, letters were sent to the Attorney General, Solicitor General, Minister of Agriculture and Premier calling for government to work closely with industry to better protect farmers and livestock transporters, either through stronger enforcement of existing laws, or through the creation of new legislation. Farm groups have also rallied behind a grassroots letter campaign sending a similar message to provincial politicians. Ontario Pork's advocacy efforts are underway, including meetings with Minister Hardeman and other government officials.

RESOLUTION B - Canada's New Food Guide

Whereas the new food guide has made significant changes to its format in that there are no longer food groups but rather food nutrients; and

Whereas the food guide will potentially have a negative impact on the products we as farmers grow and produce locally as the food guide encourages more plant based proteins; and

Whereas a concern for Ontario pork producers that meat products may be replaced by products on the guide that are grown in other areas of the world, in which case hindering our domestic markets;

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Pork seek information and lobby the government that going forward we want to collaborate on these changes as well as other farm marketing boards in order to devise a food guide that promotes real meat and meat products and to continue talks and discussions on the effects of the food guide going forward.

Submitted by the Lambton Pork Producers' Association

Response: Ontario Pork works closely with the Canadian Pork Council to provide input to government and feedback on Canada's Healthy Eating Strategy and new Food Guide. Canada's new Food Guide sends a clear message to eat fewer processed foods, focusing on fruits and vegetables, whole grains and lean healthy cuts of meat – including pork. Protein continues to represent ¼ of a recommended plate. Through its consumer marketing efforts Ontario Pork has commissioned new recipes and photography that are consistent with the Food Guide plate, with lean cuts of pork as the featured protein. New Ontario Pork marketing and outreach materials, vetted by nutritionists, emphasize the many health benefits associated with lean cuts of pork.

RESOLUTION C – AgManifest

Whereas African Swine Fever (ASF) is not in Canada but active around the globe (as well as other Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs) such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD); and

Whereas ASF or a FAD would close the export borders for Canadian pork and pigs; and

Whereas two of the key elements in getting back into export markets are

- 1) Containment of the disease to the smallest area possible
- 2) Full traceability to prove the containment

Whereas producer participation in PigTrace is supposed to be mandatory, and not voluntary;

Therefore, be it resolved that Ontario Pork on behalf of all producers and industry, fully endorse and support

- 1) 100% use of Agmanifest as an electronic manifest for all hog movements (including farm to farm) as part of the Swine Health Information System (SHIS) through Swine Health Ontario
- 2) Traceability of all hogs in Ontario (this means full support of PigTrace and AgManifest)

Submitted by Perth and Huron Pork Producers' Associations

Response:

Reporting of pig movements in Canada is law under the federal Health of Animals Act. Ontario Pork works with producers on a regular basis to help ensure that pig movements are reported to PigTrace within the required seven-day reporting period. AgManifest is a tool that facilitates not only a paperless process when shipping market hogs to processing plants but also supports reporting of movements to PigTrace. Included in the functionality of the software is the ability of producers to record their farm to farm movements and have those movements reported to PigTrace.

Recently, Ontario Pork has begun a pilot project that automates the process of producing the Annex 4 (Ractopamine declaration) that will, if successful, eliminate the physical paper copy of the document that must accompany each shipment of market hogs to processing plants. Ontario Pork is planning to roll out and promote AgManifest to all pork producers in Ontario.