

Board Highlights: January 30-31, 2024

Canadian Pork Council Update

Eric Schwindt and James Reesor, Ontario Pork's representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), briefed the Board on the recent CPC Board meeting held on January 8-9, 2024, in Banff, Alberta. The CPC Board agenda topics included the Pig Code review, the committee structure and appointments, business risk management, the environmental project, as well as the advocacy update and plan for 2024. The ad-hoc Codes of Practice Committee was established to participate in the upcoming negotiations; James Reesor, Ontario Pork's representative on the CPC Board will chair the committee. Dr. Egan Brockhoff joined the meeting to inform the Ontario Pork Board of Directors about the Movement Risk Mitigation plan that includes recommendations to mitigate spread of African swine fever (ASF) if detected in Canada.

2024 Zone Meetings

The Board of Directors was briefed on preparation for zone elections and meetings. All pork producers are invited to attend a meeting in their zone. The meeting locations align with the five-zone structure. Topics are based on issues that have a high impact and relevance for the pork sector. Ontario Pork's staff is coordinating the event planning, including announcements, registration, speakers, presentations, venues, and meals. The meetings provide an opportunity and a venue for local pork producers' associations to hold their meetings, if they so choose, as well as networking opportunities during lunch or dinner before the meeting. Elections for delegate and Board member positions will be conducted in at all five zone meetings. Three at-large Board positions, representing pork producers within the province, will be subject to election at the Ontario Pork annual general meeting on March 19-20, 2024.

More information can be found: <https://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Communications/Whats-New/Upcoming-Zone-Meetings-in-2024>

Ontario Pork's Annual General Meeting

The Ontario Pork annual general meeting will be held on March 19-20, 2024, the Delta Guelph. The theme of this year's meeting "Respecting Tradition, Embracing Progress". Further information about the AGM will be circulated in February.

Cybersecurity Update

Staff updated the Board of Directors on measures to rebuild Ontario Pork's information system after it suffered a cybersecurity attack in November 2023. Ontario Pork's team is actively addressing the situation under the guidance of experts, implementing security measures and working to minimize the impact. While the cybersecurity breach has resulted in a difficult situation for pork producers and Ontario Pork, it has also presented an opportunity to review and improve the IT system, including data security, retention and storage processes.

Agricultural Credit Corporation Update

Jaye Atkins, Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), presented an overview of the loans available for producers. ACC is a not-for-profit farm organization that administers low-cost loans for producers. During the presentation, Jay highlighted the interest-free option and the simplified application process that includes applications over the phone, faster turnaround time, one enrollment fee and electronic transfers.

African Swine Fever Discussion

The Board of Directors discussed capacity building options to ensure sufficient human resource requirements to effectively manage an emergency, such as foreign animal disease (e.g., African Swine Fever) and market interruptions (e.g., COVID, large scale plant closures). The Board tasked staff to enhance the Ontario Swine Incident Command Centre (OSICC) and look for synergies with partner organizations to avoid duplication and strengthen capacity.