

Board Highlights: March 7-8, 2024

2024 Zone Meetings and Elections Update

The Board of Directors discussed outcomes and the feedback from producer meetings held by Ontario Pork in February 2024 and local pork producers' associations' annual meetings. Over 270 producers attended the meetings. As per 403/10 regulation, elections were held in five zones this year for the purpose of electing delegates and Board members. Within the zone election process, 90 delegates and 6 Board members were elected and acclaimed. Elections for three at-large Board positions will be held at the Ontario Pork annual general meeting. Delegates are invited to submit their nominations to Ontario Pork by March 15, 2024.

Financial Statements

The Board of Directors approved the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Ontario Pork for the last fiscal year, which were reviewed by the members of the Audit Committee prior to the Board meeting. The audited Consolidated Financial Statements are not part of the corporate profile this year and has been sent to all members separately. An electronic version of the [financial statements](#) can be found on the Ontario Pork website.

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". Participants are encouraged to [register online](#) as soon as possible as space is limited. Staff briefed the Board of Directors on preparations for the upcoming Ontario Pork AGM, including, the agenda, speakers, resolutions, as well as registrations progress to date. The Board of Directors approved the [2024 resolutions booklet](#) as recommended by the Resolutions Committee. At the AGM, Ontario Pork will provide an update on its activities during the past year, including key programs and benefits delivered for pork producers and the broader industry; the two-day agenda includes guest speakers and a resolution session. The Ontario Pork corporate profile has been printed and sent to all members. An electronic version of the [2023 corporate profile](#) was also published on the Ontario Pork website.

Research Update

The Board of Directors approved funding recommendations for four research projects that the Research Proposal Review Committee had reviewed and recommended for funding at its meeting in February 2024:

- Development of boar taint detection kits for use in commercial packing plants; phase II
- Aptamer-based multiplex sensing of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea
- An investigation of risk factors for increased sow mortality in Canadian herds, and identification of potential mitigation strategies
- Sow mortality in Ontario: A comprehensive study to assess trends and to identify risk factors

IT Strategy

The IT Strategy Development Working Group updated the Board of Directors on its activities to date. This internal working group, consisting of Board and staff members, was tasked with the formulating the Ontario Pork IT strategy. The decision to develop a new information technology (IT) strategy stemmed from a desire to enhance Ontario Pork's value proposition to its members, advance service delivery, streamline communication, and improve data management. The group developed a consultation document and a questionnaire for the proposed consultations with stakeholders. The group outlined its vision for a development of a user-centric platform that enhances the experience through modern, intuitive, personalized, and secure technology. Consultations with producers and other primary users will begin shortly.