

Board Highlights: June 24, 2025

Government Relations Spring Campaign Update

As part of Ontario Pork's 2025 advocacy campaign, spring meetings are underway with provincial Ministers, MPPs, and ministerial staff to discuss key priorities for the pork sector. To date, nine meetings have been completed, with five more scheduled and additional follow-up underway.

Discussions have focused on the need to expand pork processing capacity, provide support for producers impacted by tariffs, and ensure emergency measures are in place for potential market interruptions. Ontario Pork has shared data and sector insights while encouraging elected officials to champion pork sector priorities within government. Meetings have included the Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Affairs, Finance, Red Tape Reduction, and Housing, as well as representatives from all major political parties. Additional meetings with the Ministry of Economic Development and the Premier's Office are being arranged.

Ontario Pork will continue engaging with MPPs and staff, providing requested follow-up information, and working to advance funding opportunities and policy support for Ontario's pork producers.

New Software Platform

The Board of Directors has approved the new software platform proposal designed to make it easier for users to access and manage their information. This new system will bring together key services, industry programs, research, advocacy, and communications into a single, secure platform. The goal is to save producers time by streamlining how they submit forms and access information. Built with direct input from staff and producers, the platform will offer:

- A mobile-friendly portal for easy access anytime, anywhere
- Clear, simple dashboards to track what matters to you
- Integration with industry tools such as AgManifest, PigTrace and Swine Health Area Regional Control (SHARC).

This platform is part of Ontario Pork's broader IT strategy to modernize services, improve data accuracy, and make sure producers spend less time on paperwork. With Board approval in place, staff will now move forward with implementation, including training and support to ensure a smooth transition.

Business Risk Management Programs

Staff presented an overview of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs to support the Board's understanding of how these programs impact producers, inform policy discussions, and guide advocacy efforts. BRM programs are part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative aimed at strengthening Canada's agriculture sector. These programs help pork producers manage risks related to income fluctuations, market disruptions, rising input costs, and disease outbreaks.

The session covered key BRM tools, including AgriInvest, AgriStability, the Risk Management Program (RMP), AgriRecovery, AgriInsurance, and the Advance Payments Program (APP). The Board discussed how each program supports producers, as well as their limitations and opportunities for improvement. Understanding these programs equips the Board to better represent producer needs, identify policy gaps, and strengthen Ontario Pork's advocacy with government. The Board also reviewed Ontario Pork's current policy positions and progress on related advocacy files.