

Board Highlights: August 13, 2025

Policy Day and Resolutions Session

Ontario Pork's Policy Day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the Victoria Park East Golf Club, 1096 Victoria Road South, Puslinch.

At this year's event, the Board of Directors will present highlights of the 2025–2030 strategic plan to delegates, presidents, and secretaries, and invite their input on three consultation areas where producer collaboration is essential to advancing the strategy. Feedback gathered during the 2024 Policy Day played a key role in shaping Ontario Pork's new strategic plan, ensuring it addresses the risks and priorities most important to producers. The plan reflects what the Board heard from producers and outlines how Ontario Pork will be taking action.

Under the updated resolutions process policy, all submitted resolutions will now be considered at Policy Day rather than at the AGM. This change allows producers more time and flexibility to submit resolutions before the August deadline. The 2025 event will include a resolutions debate to encourage open, informed discussion. Staff will provide background materials and fact-checked data to support constructive dialogue. The deadline to submit resolutions is August 15, 2025. A preliminary booklet containing resolutions submitted before the 2025 AGM is now available on the [Ontario Pork website](#).

Farm Insurance Update

Ontario Pork has received inquiries from producers regarding challenges in securing insurance coverage for older barns, specifically for roof collapse due to snow load. During the winter of 2024–25, a high number of roof collapse claims were filed, with pig barns representing a significant share. Most incidents occurred in Grey, Bruce, Huron, Middlesex, and Wellington North. In response, insurers are reassessing their swine operation portfolios. Barns with identified structural issues may face denial of coverage or be required to provide an engineer-approved remediation plan.

Board members emphasized the importance of monitoring this issue, as reduced insurance availability and rising costs could increase financial pressure on producers, particularly those with aging infrastructure. These factors may also influence decisions about capital investments, barn upgrades, and the long-term viability of some operations. While Ontario Pork cannot influence insurance industry decisions, it can help raise awareness and keep producers informed about emerging risks and changing requirements.

Transport Biosecurity Research Project

Swine trailers play a critical role in the pork supply chain but pose a persistent biosecurity risk due to their role in disease transmission. Current cleaning and disinfection protocols are labor-intensive, inconsistent, and often compromised during winter months due to freezing waste and water limitations. A collaborative research project led by the University of Guelph and Swine Health Ontario (SHO) aims to develop novel antimicrobial, antiviral, and anti-slip coatings for swine trailers to improve biosecurity, reduce cleaning time, and enhance disease prevention.

The Board of Directors has approved a \$30,000 contribution from the Ontario Pork research fund to support this project. The project is well-aligned with Ontario Pork's objectives related to biosecurity, innovation, and disease risk reduction. The research also offers practical, scalable outcomes and strong return on investment for producers.