Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council

# Newsletter

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**OLPC Board Changes**

Albert Visser, Egg Farmers of Ontario has replaced John Groen as the poultry sector representative on the OLPC Board.

**OLPC Membership Meetings**

- October 11, 2013
- December 13, 2013

**Upcoming Guest Speakers**

There will be guest speakers at the October and December OLPC membership meetings.

**Dr. Norm Willis** will talk about the National Farmed Animal Council at the October 11th OLPC meeting.

**Dr. Martine Dubuc,** Canada's new OIE representative, will be speaking at the December 13th meeting. The December meeting is being held at 1 Stone Road in the Conference Centre and guests are welcome.

## Poultry FAD Simulation Results

At the August OLPC members' meeting, Dr. Tom Baker, Project Manager with the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) gave a presentation on the results of the two-day poultry foreign animal disease simulation held in June. The primary purpose of the simulation was to raise awareness of foreign animal disease outbreak emergency management amongst FBCC organizations and value chain partners.

The first day was a larger industry wide meeting which OLPC helped coordinate. The second day was restricted to 35 FBCC response personnel and staff from OMAF and CFIA directly involved in the response scenario. Day two tested the activation of the FBCC Emergency Operations Centre at OBHECC offices as per the FBCC Emergency Management Plan. Within the scenario, the Incident Commander deployed Command and General Staff positions. The FBCC live website was activated and multi-agency coordinated mapping employed. The website was also linked to CFIA movement permit section.

In reviewing the list of recommendations arising from a 2010 simulation, 18 recommendations were made and of those, 13 have been accomplished with five recommendations partially completed or awaiting sign-off. All 17 recommendations from the 2012 simulation have been completed.

## Q-Fever Surveillance Project

Also at the August meeting, Shannon Meadows from the University of Guelph gave a presentation on the results of her Q-Fever Surveillance Project. Q Fever is a zoonotic disease caused by a bacterium called Coxiella burnetii. In animals this disease is referred to as Coxiellosis and in humans Q Fever. The main route of human infection is through inhaling air contaminated with Coxiella organisms. The pasteurization process does kill the bacteria, but if people are consuming unpasteurized dairy products that can also be a potential method of infection.

The incubation period is two to three weeks; 60% of people are asymptomatic, 38% develop acute Q Fever (flu-like illness, pneumonia, hepatitis), and 2% develop Chronic Q Fever. Chronic Q Fever is a much more serious disease associated with heart and liver disease as well as chronic fatigue syndrome. The incidence of Q Fever is unknown, and because the signs are generally non-specific and often self-limiting, there is likely significant under-reporting.

Shannon's project randomly selected 148 small ruminant farms in both meat and dairy sectors proportional to total farms per sector in Ontario: 50 meat sheep farms; 34 meat goat farms; 22 dairy sheep farms; and, 42 dairy goat farms. With dairy sheep flocks, there was a higher proportion of farms testing positive (64%) than meat sheep flocks (42%), and also a higher proportion of animals positive per farm (24.3% vs. 10.2%). Meat sheep and meat goats had similar farm-level (42% and 44%, respectively) and animal-level positives (10.2% and 10.8%, respectively). Dairy goats had the highest farm-level prevalence at ~79%, and also had the highest animal-level prevalence at 43.7%. The main risk factor was the size of the female herd. Risk was decreased if the kidding area was disinfected, replacement animal access to kidding area was restricted, and does were quarantined after abortions.

Exposure was very common among sheep and goat farm workers however this does not correspond directly to clinical disease. All farm workers who gave a blood sample were given their results and factsheets on Q fever. Workers were at greater risk if they were working with a higher proportion of positive testing animals, were from a dairy goat farm and if they smoked. Those with positive results were advised to take visit their doctors for further diagnostic testing.

As of February, animal cases are immediately notifiable in Ontario. Diagnostic labs will report positive samples so that provincial veterinarians can provide guidance to the producer or their veterinarian on minimizing further spread.

**Our Mission**

*Provide a forum to facilitate the development and coordination of an Ontario strategy to deal with foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.*