

Upcoming Meetings

OLPC Membership Meetings

- April 11, 2014
- June 13, 2014
- August 8, 2014
- October 10, 2014
- December 12, 2014

OLPC Membership and Board

There are currently 25 regular members, four associate members and six ex-officio members including livestock and poultry groups, farm service, feed, processing and veterinary organizations.

The OLPC Board consists of seven directors representing six sector groups and a Chair elected by the membership. The Vice-Chair is elected by the Board.

Chair: Gordon Coukell, Alcoma Farms

Term Expires 2014

Minor Livestock – Jennifer MacTavish, Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

Agriculture and Food Associations and Coalitions – Susan Collier, Association of Ontario Chicken Processors and OLPC Vice-Chair

Individual Agri-Businesses – Ian Richardson, e-Biz Professionals

Term Expires 2015

Major Livestock – Mike DeGroot, Ontario Pork

Poultry – Albert Visser, Egg Farmers of Ontario

Veterinarian Associations – Steve Wolfgram, Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians

Highlights of OLPC Activities 2013–2014 A Year in Review

Poultry Simulation

The OLPC provided coordination support for a Poultry Foreign Animal Disease Workshop on June 13, 2013 in Guelph with 90 individuals participating in the day. Attendees represented a broad cross-section of the poultry industry including producers, veterinarians, feed and service suppliers, processors, and government.

The objective of the workshop was to improve the preparedness of the poultry industry for a foreign animal disease outbreak and to familiarize stakeholders with the Incident Command System which would be used during an emergency response.

The morning program consisted of a number of speakers and presentations. The topics were focused on government response in the event of a FAD in Ontario and what would be needed from the poultry industry. The afternoon session was a tabletop disease exercise. Each table was assigned a role to play within the Incident Command System structure, e.g. Command, Information, Liaison, Finance, Operations, Planning, and Logistics. The role playing was designed to stimulate conversation among stakeholders regarding the necessary assets, vulnerabilities and response resources including personnel, skill sets, equipment and supplies.

Ninety percent of the respondents rated the day good to excellent regarding raising their awareness of emergency management within the context of a foreign animal disease. Sixty percent indicated they heard or learned something at the workshop that they would consider implementing in their business or association activities.

Growing Forward 2 Biosecurity Workshops

OLPC is developing resources to be used in farmer biosecurity workshops under Growing Forward 2. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association will deliver the workshops in conjunction with the commodity groups and technical resource people (e.g. veterinarians, veterinarian technicians, crop advisors, etc.). The sectors with national biosecurity standards will be offered commodity specific workshops. These include: beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goats, mink, bees, poultry, grains and oilseeds and potatoes. The beef, sheep and goat workshops are being rolled out this spring.

Q-Fever Surveillance Project

At the August OLPC 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 kills the bacteria, but if people are consuming unpasteurized dairy products that can also be a potential method of infection.

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. Those with positive results were advised to 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.

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Update

At the October OLPC meeting, Dr. Norm Willis gave an overview of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy and the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council. The purpose of the Council is to establish a more harmonized and integrated approach to the management of the farmed animal health and welfare continuum and system in Canada

The Council provides scientific, strategic policy advice and recommendations on farmed animal health and welfare matters to FPT Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers, CFIA, industry, and non-government stakeholders. Implementation is not in the mandate. Additional information is available on their website <http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/>.

Overview of the Role and Responsibilities of the OIE

Dr. Shane Renwick, Director of Animal Health Science Foresight with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was a guest speaker at the December OLPC membership meeting. The World Organisation for Animal Health was formed in 1924 under the name “*Office International des Epizooties*” (OIE). It was established to ensure better cooperation between nations to counter the spread of animal disease. Today, the OIE facilitates intergovernmental cooperation to improve animal health throughout the world. There are 178 member countries that provide voluntary financial contributions to fund the organization. Canada’s annual membership is \$200,000 and \$500,000 is donated to the OIE World Fund.

There are six key objectives of the OIE:

- Ensure transparency of the animal disease situation globally.
- Collect, analyze and disseminate veterinary scientific information and disease control methods.
- Encourage international solidarity in animal disease control.
- Safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.
- Improve the legal framework and resources of Veterinary Services.
- Provide a better guarantee of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach.

Reports are posted in the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) database (<http://web.oie.int/wahis>) along with exceptional animal health events.

On-Farm Biosecurity Resources

OLPC continues to offer free biosecurity resources for producers to use when considering and applying biosecurity practices on farm. Copies of these items can be viewed on or downloaded from our website www.ontlpc.ca and hard copies may be ordered from the OLPC office.

- Generic on-farm biosecurity guides – one for livestock and one for crops
- Biosecurity video
- Posters explaining biosecurity to employees and visitors
- Biosecurity signs
- Visitor log books

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.