



OLPC 2015 Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are Fridays. Meetings are held at Ontario Pork except the December meeting which will be at Beef Farmers of Ontario.

- o February 20, 2015
- o April 10, 2015
- o June 12, 2015
- o August 14, 2015
- o October 16, 2015
- o December 11, 2015

New Member

OLPC welcomes the Feather Board Command Centre as the newest member of the Council.

The **Feather Board Command Centre** (FBCC) is comprised of representatives from Ontario's four poultry marketing boards. In 2004, in the aftermath of the British Columbia avian influenza outbreak, Ontario's feather boards committed to coordinate efforts to develop a systematic plan to deal with poultry disease emergencies. The FBCC was established and has provided leadership in areas such as geo-spatial coding of Ontario's more than 2,000 commercial poultry farms, participating in various industry/government disease outbreak simulations, staff training, and standardizing biosecurity practices on farms.

Beef FAD Workshop

The Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council (OLPC), in conjunction with Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), OMAFRA and the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph, held a Beef Foreign Animal Disease Workshop on November 19, 2014 in Guelph. The 52 attendees represented a broad cross-section of industry stakeholders including producers, veterinarians, feed and service suppliers, processors, government and emergency response.

The morning program consisted of a number of speakers and presentations on emergency preparedness and response. The topics were geared toward assisting participants develop a better understanding of what CFIA, OMAFRA and the Animal Health Laboratory will do if there is a FAD in Ontario and also what is expected/needed from the beef industry. The afternoon session focused around a tabletop disease exercise. Our scenario used "Lips-and-toes-is", a fictitious disease with characteristics like Foot and Mouth Disease.

The feedback sheet ratings were all good to excellent. Key points raised during the presentations were restricting movement, movement permit requirements, and communications.

Biosecurity Workshop Project with OMAFRA

This project is nearing completion. Biosecurity workshop content is now available in English and French for beef, sheep, goats, poultry, dairy, mink, bees, and a generic livestock program. Train the trainer workshops were held for each commodity except dairy as it will be offered in an e-learning format at a later date. Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association have held several producer workshops this fall with more scheduled for the winter months.

We are currently working on the content for a generic crops program and e-learning modules for potatoes and grains and oilseeds.

Biosecurity Practices for Farm Visitors from Other Countries

OLPC is developing a communication piece targeting tour organizers and farm hosts for foreign visitors to farms. As a general biosecurity recommendation, farms should only admit visitors that are essential to the farming operation. People can spread pests and disease on footwear, hands, hair and clothing and some viruses can live in nasal passages. The concern is even greater with foreign visitors as they could introduce a new strain of pest or disease from their country or a known foreign animal disease not present in Canada but endemic in their country, e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease. Once the document is finalized, it will be distributed to members, breed associations, genetics companies, etc.

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue – Equine Guelph

In partnership with OMAFRA, Equine Guelph has developed an animal welfare educational initiative for horses. Included in this initiative is Emergency Preparedness and Large Animal Rescue Training. Equine Guelph partnered with Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, TLAER Inc. to offer a one-day information session and a three-day Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue workshop. The three-day workshop used mannequins as well as live animals to give participants a sense of the challenges involved with large animal rescue. The program is not just for equine however, other livestock groups would benefit from having representatives trained. They are currently finalizing plans for next year's activities. If any group is interested in additional details or participating in the 2015 training, Susan Raymond is the contact at slraymon@uoguelph.ca or (519) 824-4120, ext. 54230.

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.