

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.

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

The June 12, 2015 meeting is also the OLPC Annual Meeting. Election for the position of Chair occurs annually at the June meeting. The current Board is noted below. New terms will take effect after the June meeting.

Chair: Gordon Coukell,
Alcoma Farms

Vice Chair: Susan Collier

Term Expires 2015

Major Livestock – Mike DeGroot, Ontario Pork

Poultry – Albert Visser, Egg Farmers of Ontario

Veterinarian Associations – Steve Wolfgram, Ontario Swine Practitioners Association

Term Expires 2016

Minor Livestock – Jennifer MacTavish, Ontario Sheep

Agriculture and Food Associations and Coalitions – Susan Collier, Association of Ontario Chicken Processors

Individual Agri-Businesses – Marilyn White, Canadian Poultry Magazine

Meeting for Debrief on B.C. AI Response

The OLPC hosted an information session on the B.C. Avian Influenza outbreak response on February 17, 2015. Individuals from CFIA and OMAFRA who participated in the response efforts gave presentations on their activities and experiences. There were 62 attendees and, based on the feedback received, the event was felt to be very informative and appreciated by participants.

Biosecurity Workshop Project with OMAFRA

This project is now complete. Biosecurity workshop content is available in English and French for beef, sheep, goats, poultry, dairy cattle, mink, bees, potatoes, grains and oilseeds, and generic livestock and generic crops programs. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association started offering workshops beginning last spring as the material was finalized for each commodity. A separate page is being created on the OLPC website to host the English and French versions of the PowerPoint slide decks, case studies and exercise sheets.

Biosecurity Protocols for Farm Visitors from Other Countries

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. Suggested protocols for tour organizers have been sent to breed associations, genetics companies, agricultural tour operators, and foreign embassies located in Ontario. A newsletter article targeting farm hosts has been distributed to producer organizations for inclusion in their newsletters and magazine. So far, this article has appeared in Ontario Sheep News and Canadian Poultry Magazine.

Biosecurity Protocols for Movement Permits

One of the lessons learned coming out of the B.C. Avian influenza outbreak is that it would be extremely beneficial for the agriculture service and supply sector to have heightened biosecurity protocols prepared in the event of a disease outbreak. In order to receive movement permits, companies must have biocontainment protocols in place to prevent the spread of disease. OLPC will be working on compiling a generic list of biocontainment goals or targets. Companies can then write their own protocols around achieving those targets. The list will be submitted to CFIA for feedback whether it includes all the critical control points that need to be addressed in biocontainment protocols for movement permits.

Recognizing Signs of Mental Health Issues in Agriculture

In agriculture, mental health issues can arise when dealing with a disease outbreak, euthanasia or other stressful situations. Being able to identify the warning signs in a farmer client, veterinarian, work colleague, or yourself, is very important in order to get the help needed. OLPC, in conjunction with the Canadian Mental Health Association, is holding a two-day course on June 1 and 2, 2015 that will help you recognize the signs of mental health issues with specific examples relating to agriculture. Participants will receive a certificate of completion in Mental Health First Aid from the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Veterinarians, agricultural association employees at the office and field level, extension staff, and anyone involved in providing agricultural services should consider attending. The cost is \$226 per person and includes course material, coffee breaks, and lunch for both days.

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.