

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 August 14, 2015
- o October 16, 2015
- o December 11, 2015

OLPC Board Elections

OLPC held its annual meeting on June 12, 2015. Gord Coukell was acclaimed as Chair. The Vice-Chair is elected by the Board and will be elected at their next meeting in July.

All three Board members whose terms were up this year were acclaimed to another two-year term.

Chair: Gordon Coukell,
Alcoma Farms

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 – currently vacant

Term Expires 2017

Major Livestock – Mike DeGroot, Ontario Pork
Poultry – Albert Visser, Egg Farmers of Ontario
Veterinarian Associations – Steve Wolfgram, Ontario Swine Practitioners Association

Biosecurity Project with OMAFRA

The project is complete. All of the biosecurity workshop documents are now available on the OLPC website (www.ontlpc.ca) under a new tab entitled “Workshops”. With the Avian influenza outbreak, there was a spike in demand for biosecurity resources with over 500 signs, 70 manuals, 50 posters, and 35 log books being distributed.

Recognizing Signs of Mental Health Issues in Agriculture

The recognition and importance of supporting people experiencing mental health distress is now a well-recognized deficiency in emergency management planning and response. This is particularly evident within the agricultural industry where large scale emergencies involving animals can result in feelings of isolation, failure and helplessness among those involved in the event.

Traditionally, farmers do not have a strong history of turning to mental health professionals for support. As noted in an analysis of the psychological impact of the 2001 Foot and Mouth disease outbreak in the UK, they prefer to turn to family, friends and veterinarians. This underlines the importance of offering mental health awareness training to those in the agricultural community who are most often turned to for help.

The Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council is addressing this gap by partnering with the Canadian Mental Health Association in offering an introductory psychological first aid training course to those on the front lines of agricultural response, namely veterinarians and agricultural association staff. A pilot workshop was offered on June 1 and 2, 2015. Based on the feedback received from the 16 participants, consideration will be given to holding additional workshops in the Fall 2015.

Equine FAD Workshop

OLPC partnered with OMAFRA, the Animal Health Lab, CFIA and the Ontario Equestrian Federation to organize an equine FAD workshop for June 23rd at Mohawk Raceway. Woodbine Entertainment/Mohawk Raceway provided the room at no charge and also sponsored part of the lunch costs. Over 50 representatives from the equine sector attended this event. A special guest speaker was Dr. Angela M. Pelzel-McCluskey, Equine Epidemiologist, Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services.

Biosecurity Protocols for Movement Permits

As noted in our March newsletter, one of the lessons learned coming out of the B.C. Avian influenza outbreak was 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. This was underscored with the recent Ontario AI outbreak as those companies with pre-existing protocols were better prepared to apply for movement permits. In order to receive movement permits, companies must have biocontainment protocols in place to prevent the spread of disease.

The Board has prepared a draft document listing critical control points for companies to consider when developing their company specific biocontainment protocols. The intent is for companies to use it as a guidance document when writing their own SOPs. Once the current Ontario Avian influenza response subsides, the list will be submitted to CFIA for feedback whether the list includes all risks that need to be addressed in biocontainment SOPs for movement permits.

New Members

We welcome two additional members to OLPC; Dairy Farmers of Ontario have re-activated their membership and Dr. Jane Carpenter, consulting veterinarian, has joined OLPC.

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.