



OLPC 2016 Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are Fridays. Meetings are held at Ontario Pork.

- February 19, 2016
- April 15, 2016
- June 17, 2016
- August 12, 2016
- October 14, 2016
- December 16, 2016

New Members

OLPC welcomes the **Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners and Equine Guelph** as the newest members of the Council.

Biosecurity Workshops Available

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is putting on free, one-day commodity-specific workshops, aimed to help increase on-farm biosecurity.

Workshops include: dairy (English and French), bee, poultry, generic livestock, and crops (English and French). OLPC developed the content for these workshops. Traceability and food safety workshops are also available.

For further information and dates, please contact Barb Caswell, Program Coordinator, at 519-826-4707 or email barb.caswell@ontariosoilcrop.org.

Bluetongue in Ontario

Bluetongue was detected in Ontario on August 7th as part of routine BSE surveillance at an abattoir. Follow up testing on the farm detected two other positive animals. None of the animals had ever left the farm nor were there any U.S. imported animals on the premises. This suggests that the animals contracted the disease on-farm. Bluetongue is considered endemic in the U.S. but Canada has been free of Bluetongue, except in B.C. which has experienced cases that are believed to be the result of wind-borne infected midges from the U.S. Midges migrating North are the presumed vector in the Ontario case as well. Sheep, goats, cattle, bison, deer and elk can contract Bluetongue but sheep get hit the hardest; 50% mortality in sheep is realistic. Cattle get ill but do not typically die.

Antibiotic Use in Food-Producing Animals

At the October meeting, Jan Robinson, College of Veterinarians of Ontario, provided an update on the study of current practices and perceptions of Ontario veterinarians regarding antibiotic use. During the past few months, the advisory group, on which OLPC is represented, progressed through several stages of the project to gain an understanding of the current antimicrobial prescribing practices of food animal veterinarians in Ontario and develop a set of recommendations which will set the stage for antimicrobial stewardship. Five focus areas were identified: Legislation and Regulation, Research and Surveillance, Education and Liaison, Quality Assurance, and Stewardship. The next step includes a GF2 funding application for Phase II which involves determining consensus on the top five priorities, developing a work plan, and collaborating with producers.

Raccoon Rabies Re-emerging in Ontario

At the December OLPC meeting, Dr. Catherine Filejski gave an update from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care regarding the re-emergence of raccoon rabies in Ontario. Baiting operations have started in Hamilton and into Haldimand Norfolk. However, it will probably take two or more years to ensure the raccoon population is no longer circulating the virus.

Estimates for current rabies vaccination rates of pets in the Hamilton area are 40% for cats and 53% of dogs. The Health Units are updating their raccoon rabies program. OMAFRA looks after domestic animal exposures and quarantines. Catherine noted that it is important to report all livestock exposures especially interactions with raccoons.

Need for Increased Documentation for Antimicrobial Use and Health Surveillance

Dr. Bruce McNab was a guest presenter at the December OLPC meeting. Bruce highlighted two key upcoming challenges: meeting the January 2017 federal requirements for enhanced veterinary oversight of the use of antimicrobials in feed and water along with greater documentation of both the use of antimicrobials and animal disease surveillance. These requirements are part of Health Canada's initiative to align with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Veterinary Feed Directive which comes into effect as of January 1, 2017. It was discussed that it is essential, long-term, that industry is combined under one tracking and reporting system. OLPC members were urged to take these concerns back to their respective commodities and ensure there is awareness of the requirements coming as of January 1, 2017.

Humane Depopulation and Carcass Disposal

As part of the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy, e-Biz Professionals Inc. was tasked with looking at the capacity for mass humane depopulation and carcass disposal. The focus was swine, beef cattle and dairy calves. Ian Richardson gave a presentation on their work at the December members' meeting. Ian also presented at the 5th International Symposium on Animal Mortality Management held in Pennsylvania in late September. A copy of the proceedings is available at <http://animalmortmgmt.org/> (click proceedings link in right column of the web page).

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.