

Issue 39 March 2017

OLPC 2017

Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are Fridays and take place at Ontario Pork except the April meeting which will be at AAC.

- April 21, 2017
- June 16, 2017
- August 11, 2017
- October 13, 2017
- December 15, 2017

Biosecurity Signs

OLPC has biosecurity stop signs available in English and French (double-sided) as well as English visitor signs. The order form can be found at:

<http://www.ontlpc.ca/page.php?cnt=biosigns>

Ontario Pork On-Farm Emergency Response Planning Guide

Ontario Pork has produced an on-farm emergency response planning guide. It covers numerous emergency situations such as: disease, fire, mass mortalities, structure collapse, personal injury, power outages, and more. In addition to the hard copy binder format, an electronic version and fillable templates are available on the Ontario Pork website at <http://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Resources>. Ontario Pork has also offered the resource to other interested commodities to adapt.

Draft National Plant and Animal Health Strategy

The Strategy was developed collaboratively by government, industry and other partners in plant and animal health. It builds on the feedback gathered last fall through the online discussion document as well as the National Plant and Animal Health Planning Forum held on December 6 and 7, 2016 which was attended by several OLPC members. The [Plant and Animal Health Strategy](#) is available online on the CFIA's website under Consultations and Engagement or contact the OLPC office for a Word version of the text. The consultation will be open until April 30, 2017.

OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Evaluation

During March, OIE evaluators conducted on-site visits in several geographic regions across the country as part of an evaluation of Canadian veterinary services. This is a voluntary evaluation rather than an audit and will be useful in providing an overall assessment of veterinary services across Canada and to identify gaps. The evaluation involved staff from the CFIA, Health Canada, provincial governments, veterinary colleges, veterinary licensing bodies, laboratories, private veterinarians, animal industry groups and organizations. Canada was the third first-world country to be evaluated following Japan and Australia. The report will be ready by July 2017.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Investigation – Alberta and Saskatchewan

In February, CFIA reported they had completed depopulation of all mature cattle from the 18 farming operations that were declared to be infected. Screening was also conducted on all those animals. However, the number of infected cattle remains at six, and all of these six cattle were from the same farming operation.

Based on the evidence that gathered to date, CFIA has determined that the investigation will be focused on the single infected farming operation as long as no new cases of tuberculosis are identified. The herds that are currently under quarantine have received animals from the infected farming operation. The CFIA is conducting screening tests on these animals. Only animals that react to the tests will be humanely slaughtered and an enhanced post-mortem examination will be conducted. Herds that have no reactors can be released from quarantine.

Testing of herds identified through tracing activities will begin in the fall, because calving season has already started in Western Canada. This will minimize stress on cows that are pregnant or have recently given birth. It will also allow cattle from these low-risk herds to proceed to summer pasture.

CAHC Emergency Preparedness Project

The Canadian Animal Health Coalition is leading a project to produce disease preparedness guidelines for farmers and emergency response plans for the associations. Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Sheep and Ontario Goat are the three commodities involved in Ontario. There was a workshop on March 6th for the three groups taking part and other related stakeholders. Gord Coukell attended on behalf of OLPC. The draft plans are to be ready within the next two months. At the end of June, there will be another meeting to run through some simulations followed by a wider commodity meeting in 2018.

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.