



OLPC 2018 Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are Fridays and take place at Ontario Pork except in December which will be at Beef Farmers of Ontario.

- February 16, 2018
- April 13, 2018
- June 15, 2018
- August 10, 2018
- October 12, 2018
- December 14, 2018

Forum Presentations

The presentations from the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council's Forum have been uploaded to the Council website:

<http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/forum-2017>

Senior Government Appointment

Carolina Giliberti, CFIA Executive Vice-President will retire at the end of December. France Pegeot, currently Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, will become the new Executive Vice-President effective January 2, 2018.

New Reporting Requirements for Ontario Veterinarians and Veterinary Labs

As of January 1, 2018, veterinarians and veterinary laboratories in Ontario will have new requirements to report animal cases of certain diseases to local public health units. As a result of recent regulatory amendments to O. Reg. 557 (Communicable Diseases – General), veterinarians and directors of laboratories who know or suspect that an animal is infected with:

- Avian influenza virus;
- Novel influenza virus (defined as any influenza virus not already known to be endemically circulating in Ontario's animal species); or
- Echinococcus multilocularis

will be required to report these cases to their local public health unit. They must also provide the health unit with information on the location of the animal(s), contact information for the owner(s) of the animals, and any other information required by the health unit to minimize potential risks to human and public health. Local Medical Officers of Health will also have regulatory authority to act to prevent the spread of these infectious agents to humans.

O. Reg. 557 already contains similar provisions relating to veterinary reporting requirements for cases of avian chlamydiosis in birds, and all mammal bites as potential rabies exposures.

The full text of the regulatory amendments, filed on December 15, 2017 is currently available online at Ontario's e-Laws website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r17501> The text of the newly amended O. Reg. 557/91 will be available on the e-Laws website at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900557?search=557> once the amendments come into force on January 1, 2018.

Seneca virus

Seneca virus is still being detected at Ontario swine assembly yards at a low level; but has not been identified on farms or at abattoirs. There are also a few cases in Manitoba but, again, they are restricted to assembly yards. U.S. media stories are reporting increased cases in the U.S. Midwest. In 2015, there were a total of 200 cases in the U.S. as a whole, but this year, there were 300 cases in Wisconsin alone.

OMAFRA and the Animal Health Lab are involved in a study of herds in Ontario to see if they have been exposed to Seneca virus. To date, surveillance for Seneca virus has only taken place at high risk points. This study will be looking at herds without lesions.

Bovine TB in Alberta and Saskatchewan

The on-farm testing of trace-in herds (approximately 15,000 animals) is complete. There were 71 premises to be tested, 60 have been released from quarantine. Premises will continue to be released as laboratory and post-mortem examination results are received. Trace-in herds are tested to determine if they were the source of infection but it is possible that the source will not be found.

The one infected premises which had six animals infected with the same strain of bovine TB has been released from quarantine. Four premises that housed co-mingled herds are under quarantine (with no cattle) and will be released once cleaning and disinfection is completed.

One trace-out herd (a herd that received animals from the infected herd in the past five years) is under quarantine.

To date, approximately 11,500 animals associated with the infected, co-mingled, trace-out and trace-in herds have been destroyed with compensation paid to the owners and approximately 26,000 animals have been released from quarantine.

Rabies

There have been fewer cases this year than last however the number is still quite high with 382 animals testing positive for the raccoon strain and 14 with the Arctic fox strain. The surveillance areas have expanded because of two cases further West (one Arctic fox strain and one raccoon rabies).

In August, there was a huge spike in bat submissions, all big brown bats. There were 168 bats submitted in August alone which is double the norm although only 20 were positive for rabies. Wildlife rehabilitation groups are also noticing an increase in bats being brought in leading to concerns regarding what is going on in the big brown bat population.

The Public Health Unit should be contacted if there is any type of human exposure. If there is no human exposure and it is a domestic animal, contact your veterinarian. MNRF is the appropriate contact if there is a wild animal acting strangely. For dead bats, contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781.

West Nile Virus

The number of cases of West Nile virus in Ontario, as at October 30, 2017, was 21 cases in horses and many in wild birds (approx. 61). All horses had neurological signs; some were euthanized and some were treated. The horse cases were widespread; there was no particular hot spot although Bruce County had four cases and Simcoe and Niagara each had three. The Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners will try to partner with another group to bring awareness to vaccinating horses for West Nile.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus

Two cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus were detected in Ontario this year. The first was in Bruce County followed by one in Muskoka.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Two white-tailed deer from London were submitted to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative in early September. They tested positive for epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) but negative for Chronic Wasting Disease.

EHD can affect domestic livestock and farmed cervids. An industry advisory was issued by OMAFRA. The risk of transmission to domestic livestock is low but in white-tailed deer there can be direct transmission, otherwise it is transmitted via midges. EHD is not transmitted to livestock simply by being in the same field with wild deer.

If members of the public come across a sick or dead deer, they are asked to report it by calling the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781 or the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940.

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.