



OLPC 2019 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 15, 2019
- April 12, 2019
- June 14, 2019
- August 9, 2019
- October 18, 2019
- December 13, 2019

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-2018>

CFIA Staffing Changes

Paul Glover, who has served as the CFIA's president since October 31, 2016 has been named the new president for Shared Services Canada starting January 7th. France Pégeot, the agency's executive vice-president, will act as president until a successor is named.

Scott Barden is stepping back as Operational Manager, Plant and Animal and Dr. Janine McLearn will be taking over his position. Scott will be doing training for the Safe Food for Canadians Act.

Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)

Since May 18, 2018, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has confirmed 231 cases of vND in California. The outbreak has primarily been in backyard flocks and fighting cocks however, in December, the USDA confirmed the disease in a commercial flock of table egg pullets. This is the first vND case in commercial poultry since 2003. Virulent Newcastle disease is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous and digestive systems of birds and poultry. The disease is so lethal that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs. Since the outbreak of the virus in mid-May, about 60,000 birds, mostly chickens, have been euthanized,

African Swine Fever

No new countries have reported the disease in recent weeks although the new discovery of ASF-positive wild boar carcasses in Belgium near the border with France has that country on alert. As well, the disease continues to spread within China. There are no meat products imported to Canada from China but feed ingredients are imported which have the potential to carry the disease. There are recommended storage times and temperatures for these products to mitigate the risk. Air travellers bringing in potentially contaminated food products are considered a high risk.

Chronic Wasting Disease in Western Quebec

In September, Chronic Wasting Disease was confirmed in a herd of commercial Red Deer in Quebec. CWD has not been found in commercial or wild deer populations in Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is targeting the bordering areas in Ontario for CWD sampling. OMAFRA will be monitoring any farmed deer going to slaughter.

Ontario Livestock Medicines Act

The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs announced the Livestock Medicines Act will be formally repealed and replaced with a new regulation under the Animal Health Act. The legislation was already passed in 2009 to repeal the Act; the government is now just enacting that repeal and moving to a new regulation. The proposed regulation will be posted for consultation and comment in 2019.

Antimicrobial Use Website and Resources

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association is leading a project, in collaboration with OMAFRA, to raise veterinary and producer awareness of the federal changes related to antimicrobial use. Farmed Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship (FAAST) is an educational website that veterinarians can access to obtain resources such as toolkits, information sheets, species specific information, case studies, whiteboard videos, podcasts, and interviews with veterinarians from jurisdictions that have already implemented similar changes to address AMR. For more information and to sign up for updates, visit the FAAST website <http://www.amstewardship.ca/>

Livestock Haemorrhagic Disease Project

At the December OLPC members' meeting, Samantha Allen, University of Guelph gave a presentation on her current research which is focused on vector-borne orbiviruses. The most well-known are Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) viruses and Bluetongue (BT) viruses. EHD cases in Canada are rare and sporadic; in the southern portion of BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan (seropositive only). Two white-tailed deer near London were diagnosed with fatal EHD virus-2 in September 2017. There have been Bluetongue cases in BC, Alberta and Ontario although Alberta and Ontario were seropositive animals only. Sheep flocks with Bluetongue can have a 70% loss, cattle have fewer clinical signs

The vector for these viruses is biting midges of which there are 1,200+ species worldwide, but only a small fraction (50) are proven vectors of EHDV and BT. These midges are extremely small,

On-line Tick Surveillance Program

Etick.ca is a website that provides image-based tick identification. It is currently a pilot project limited to Quebec only but the project has received three-year funding to expand outside of Quebec. It should be functional in Ontario in April 2019.

Members of the public can submit a photo of a tick through the online platform and receive visual identification confirmation along with some standard health and awareness messaging.

less than 2 mm long (also called “no-seeums”). In North America, the only proven vector of EHDV is *Culicoides sonorensis* and for BTV, *Culicoides sonorensis* and *Culicoides insignis* (the latter is found in Florida and the Caribbean). However, others are suspected.

A Brock University group first found *Culicoides sonorensis* in Essex and Oxford in 2013-2014 in the Sarnia area. It appears the distribution of the midges/viruses is changing, moving further North. Outbreaks are also appearing more frequently; from traditional 20 to 25 year cycles to now every one to three years.

Samantha’s research has so far found:

- over 17, 000 *Culicoides* individuals identified of at least 14 species (three unknown);
- confirmed *C. sonorensis* from two sites in southwestern Ontario;
- 9.2% (15/162) of samples from livestock were seropositive for EHD virus-2; and,
- 0/105 samples from cervids were seropositive for either EHDV/BTV.

Rabies Regulation

Changes to the rabies immunization regulation for livestock were posted on the Regulatory Registry for public comment until December 10th. The proposed changes would limit the livestock rabies vaccination requirement to horses, cattle and sheep, and add a further exemption from rabies immunization requirements for these species if the only time they are accessible to someone other than the persons who are responsible for their care and control is when they are at a seasonal agricultural fair.

Ontario Rabies Cases

As at the end of November, there had been 100 confirmed rabies cases in Ontario in 2018: 31 bats, one bovine, 48 raccoons, and 20 skunks. Recently a rabid skunk bit a person resulting in a human exposure case. Since the beginning of the rabies outbreak in 2015, there have been 448 confirmed cases of raccoon rabies and 20 fox rabies cases.

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.