

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.

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

Biosecurity Resources

The OLPC office has visitor log books, a few livestock biosecurity posters and livestock biosecurity binders. These resources are available at no cost.

Changes to Investigation of Animal Welfare Complaints

The responsibility for investigating animal welfare complaints is currently in transition. The OSPCA has not renewed their contract with the provincial government to fill this role. Beginning, April 1st, calls relating to farmed animals and horses will be referred to local police services. Information will be provided to police chiefs regarding connecting with veterinarians where required and also contacting OMAFRA in order to connect with commodities. This is an interim step; consultations will be held regarding a long-term approach.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in British Columbia [Source website](#)

On November 9, 2018, laboratory testing results confirmed a case of bovine TB. The animal was traced to a farm in the southern interior of British Columbia. No portion of the animal entered the food chain.

The CFIA has completed culture testing of the tissue samples collected from the four infected animals. All four animals were infected with the same strain of bovine TB. This strain of bovine TB is distinct from any cases previously detected in Canadian wildlife or domestic livestock. This strain is not related to past cases of bovine TB in Alberta or British Columbia or anywhere else in Canada. The United States Department of Agriculture has confirmed that this strain has not been previously identified by its laboratory service.

Tracing movements of animals into and out of the infected herd during the past five years is ongoing.

African Swine Fever

The Canadian Pork Council has estimated an outbreak of African Swine Fever in Canada could cost the industry up to 100,000 jobs and cause up to \$24 billion dollars in losses. The CFIA imposes strict regulations on the import of animals and animal products from countries where African swine fever is known to occur to prevent entry into Canada. They are working with the Canadian Border Services Agency to develop procedures for confiscated pork products at ports of entry. CFIA labs are validating PCR testing for live virus in pork products.

Canada currently has 15 meat-sniffing dogs at border security points. The federal government recently announced they will spend up to \$31 million over five years to increase the number of detector dogs to 39.

Canada will also host the first-ever international forum on African Swine Fever prevention in Ottawa on April 30th and May 1st. This is a by-invitation-only event which will include government and industry invitees from the United States, Mexico, China and the European Union. The forum will explore four key areas for action: preparedness planning, enhanced biosecurity, ensuring business continuity and coordinated risk communication.

Farmed Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship (FAAST) Initiative www.amstewardship.ca

FAAST is a collaborative effort between the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, government, academic, and industry partners. The website provides information for veterinarians and animal owners. The site includes a series of information sheets (or FAASTsheets) reviewing the policy and regulatory changes related to antimicrobials, along with key tools and recommendations for reducing antimicrobial use without compromising animal health or food safety. The site also includes videos, pod casts and case studies.

Livestock Medicine Act

As part of the red tape and regulatory burden reduction actions, OMAFRA is proposing a new regulation under the Animal Health Act, 2009 which would replace the existing Regulation 730 and the Livestock Medicines Act (LMA).

As of December 1, 2018, modifications at the federal level enacted changes for antimicrobial oversight and the LMA now governs a smaller segment of lower-risk, non-prescription livestock medicines. The current level of regulation of Livestock Medicine Outlets is no longer warranted relative to the risk of the designated livestock medicines. The changes will maintain and potentially increase access for farmers to these products. [Posting link](#) (comment period has closed)

Amended Transportation Regulations – Health of Animals Act

Amended transportation regulations under the Health of Animals Act were published in Canada Gazette 2 on February 20, 2019 and come into effect one year later. The full text of the new regulations can be read [here](#). In addition to reduced maximum travel times for most species, the time limits also apply to access to feed or water. As feed is typically withdrawn prior to transport for most species, this would be the start of the maximum time interval calculation.

Proposed Changes to Traceability Reporting

The CFIA is proposing amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations relating to the livestock traceability system. The proposed federal traceability regulations would require, amongst other things, reporting the animal identification number to a responsible administrator for a location where, for example, an approved indicator (tag) will be applied to an animal, an animal has been received or slaughtered; or, a carcass has been disposed.

The proposed regulations are expected to be published in spring 2019, at the earliest. Following the publication of the proposed regulations in Part I of the Canada Gazette (www.gazette.gc.ca), stakeholders will have 75 days to review and provide comment. The CFIA will review and consider all comments received prior to finalizing the regulation amendments and publishing them in Part II of the Canada Gazette. Factsheet available [here](#).

Codes of Practice under Review or Development

The National Farm Animal Care Council is very busy launching another round of Code review and development. The Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance has requested the development of Canada's first Code of Practice for farmed finfish. Existing Codes scheduled for review are: the 2009 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle; the Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation, which was published in 2001; and the 2003 Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Goats. The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs was released in 2014 and will undergo a limited review this year.

IMS for Agriculture Workshops

Over the next few months, emergency management workshops for agriculture will be offered explaining the formal response structure that government agencies and first responders use in emergency situations. The Incident Management System (IMS) was created as the result of a communications breakdown amongst the many services and levels of government that were called in to fight wildfires in California in the 1970s. All government agencies in Ontario follow the IMS when responding to emergencies. This same IMS structure would be used for emergencies involving agriculture, e.g. fires, floods or significant disease outbreaks.

The goal of these workshops is to increase industry awareness and understanding of the basic concepts of emergency response protocols. This will help improve both associations and individual companies know how to "tap into" the emergency command system and respond effectively to emergencies that may impact their sector or society at large.

There is no charge to attend these workshops as they are being financially supported by Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funds provided through OMAFRA. However, pre-registration is required. For dates and registration, contact Susan Fitzgerald susan.tfio@bell.net, 519-669-3350.

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.