

Issue 56 June 2021

OLPC 2021 Membership Meetings

- August 13, 2021 – shortened agenda
- October 15, 2021
- December 10, 2021

OLPC Board Elections

OLPC held its annual meeting on June 11, 2021. Gord Coukell was acclaimed as Chair. The Vice-Chair will be elected by the Board at their July meeting.

Term Expires 2022

Minor Livestock – Tom Lewis, Sheep

Farmers of Ontario

Individual Agri-Business – Julie Harlow, Angus GeoSolutions Inc.

Agriculture and Food Associations and Coalitions – Jean Howden, LRIC

Terms Expires 2023

Major Livestock – Darby Wheeler, Beef Farmers of Ontario

Poultry – Klaus Schneeberger, OBHECC

Veterinarian Associations – Steve Roche, Acer Consulting

New Member

Small Farm Canada magazine was accepted as a new OLPC member.

New Chief Veterinarian

On June 24th, it was announced Dr. Mary Jane Ireland will take over from Dr. Jaspinder Komal as Canada's Chief Veterinarian. She will also serve as Canada's delegate at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Dr. Ireland is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph and began her career in mixed animal practice in eastern Ontario. In 2002, she joined Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Director, where she held several positions, including director general. Ireland joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2020 as the agency's executive director of its animal health directorate.

Limited Need for Animal Protection Zone Signage under Bill 156

(adapted from an article produced by Ontario Pork)

With *the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act* (Bill 156) now in force, many farms and animal businesses may wonder if they need new signage. The short answer is probably not. The legislation strengthens protection for farms, processing plants, assembly yards and other areas where livestock and poultry are held through the creation of Animal Protection Zones. Most livestock and poultry operations do NOT need a special sign to be recognized as an Animal Protection Zone. Bill 156 gives obvious animal enclosures inherent protection without a sign.

No sign required

- Barns or pens near barns
- Enclosed pastures
- Livestock loading zones
- Rings where farm animals are being displayed or shown
- Pens in auction houses or rings at sales yards

Sign is required

- Community pastures with no enclosure for farm animals
- Raceway

To learn if signage is required, an [interactive decision tree](#) (www.AboutBill156.com/signs/) can be found at www.AboutBill156.com, a website developed by agriculture groups to provide information and dispel myths about this legislation. If a sign is required, a limited number are available through livestock commodity groups and Farm & Food Care Ontario.

Swine Influenza Variant Cases Detected in Manitoba

In April, two cases of variant influenza viruses were found in two unrelated individuals in different communities in southern Manitoba as a result of COVID-19 testing. The human influenza A (H1N2)v case and the human influenza A (H1N1)v case appeared to be isolated cases. One had a direct link to pigs. The other was a family member of someone who had direct contact with pigs.

A third, single and apparently isolated case of another influenza variant turned up in a Manitoba resident in June (H3N2v). The person sought testing after developing an "influenza-like illness".

These variants are related to flu viruses that circulate in pigs. While such viruses do not normally infect people, "sporadic" infections with variants have been known to occur. In all cases, there was no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission.

COVID-19 Detected on Third B.C. Mink Farm

In May, a mink farm in the Fraser Valley was placed under quarantine after a single animal tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Two other mink at the farm were suspected to have the virus as well. Movement of animals and materials from the farm was restricted. The positive case was detected during a provincial surveillance program in which 20 animals were tested for the virus. This is the third B.C. mink farm where COVID-19 has been detected.

As the OIE Delegate, Dr. Ireland represents Canada in the OIE standard-setting process for the development and adoption of animal health standards and guidelines. She is also responsible for notifying the OIE of reportable animal disease occurrences in Canada.

New Executive Director at National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council announced the appointment of Dr. Melanie Barham as Executive Director, effective July 15, 2021.

Dr. Barham's most recent position involved being the Ontario Animal Health Network Coordinator. She has over 14 years of experience across the animal health and veterinary industries. She holds a veterinary degree, project management designation, and has completed an MBA from the University of Guelph.

Canada Achieves Negligible Risk Status for BSE

Canada has been officially recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) World Assembly of Delegates as a country with negligible risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

This status enhances Canada's efforts to gain access to additional export markets for Canadian cattle, beef and beef products among countries that require products to originate from countries with negligible BSE risk status. A large number of Canada's major export markets have already approved all Canadian beef based on Canada's previous controlled risk status.

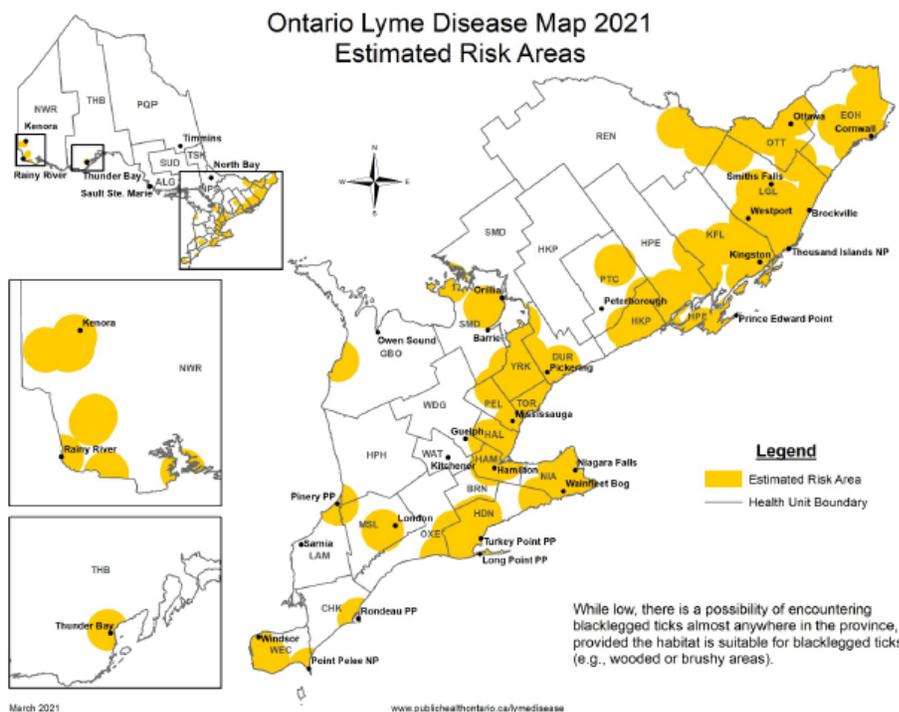
OMAFRA is collaborating with CFIA regarding identifying options for revising handling requirements for specified risk material (SRM).

Bluetongue Virus and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus in Deer, Cattle and Sheep

In April, Dr. Samantha Allen gave a presentation to OLPC members regarding her research on Epizootic

Ontario Lyme Disease Map

The Public Health Ontario [website](#) has a map which shows the estimated risk areas for Lyme disease. The current map is pasted below. The public can also use www.etick.ca to upload photos of ticks for identification.



ASF and FMD Found in Pork Products Seized at Australian Border

African swine fever (ASF) and foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus fragments have again been detected in pork products seized at Australia's international mail centres, highlighting the significant risk posed by mailed products. These findings do not change Australia's FMD or ASF-free status.

Pork products were seized at international mail centres in Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, and Melbourne over two separate two-week periods. Overall, 24% of samples tested positive for ASF virus fragments and 1% tested positive for FMD virus fragments.

In the first period (December 2020), 19 of 94 pork samples (20%) tested positive for ASF virus fragments and none tested positive for FMD virus fragments. In the second period (January-February 2020) 29 of 104 pork samples (28%) tested positive for ASF virus fragments and two of 104 pork samples (2%) tested positive for FMD virus fragments. These results do not confirm live infectious virus was present.

New Import Requirements for Dogs

Effective May 15, 2021, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) strengthened the import requirements for commercial dogs less than eight months of age for breeding and resale (which includes adoption).

These changes include:

- Multiple entry permits will be replaced with single entry permits, and importers will have to specify the number of dogs to be imported.
- Dogs will require rabies vaccination at least 28 days before export to Canada and treated for internal and external parasites prior to export.
- Importers will be required to provide information about the travel route from the country of origin to the final destination in Canada, including the airport or land border crossing that will be used to enter Canada. They will also be required to schedule a CFIA inspection at the point of entry.
- Importers transporting dogs by air must have a post-import quarantine facility

hemorrhagic disease viruses (EHDVs) and bluetongue viruses (BTVs) which are a health threat to ruminant livestock and wildlife. EHDV and BTV infections can result in high rates of illness and death.

These diseases are typically found further South in the U.S. although EHDV has been found in southern B.C, Alberta and Saskatchewan and BTV in B.C., Alberta and Ontario. In 2017, EHDV was found in deer carcasses in southwestern Ontario.

C. sonorensis midges, the only confirmed EHDV vector species in North America, have been found in Ontario but not in large numbers. They could have been blown northward from the U.S. as this outbreak coincided with one in the northeastern U.S. The concern is that native species of midges may be able to transmit these viruses once the diseases appear in the province.

Rabies Numbers in Canada

As at the end of May, there have been 726 samples submitted in 2021 for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 23 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 438 samples of which seven tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	1	
Bat	9	4
Bovine	2	
Cat	1	
Dog	2	
Raccoon	0	
Red fox	4	
Skunk	4	3
Total	23	7

OMAFRA COVID Resources

OMAFRA has established a COVID Secretariat to consolidate activities and resources. There are regular updates on the OMAFRA website www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/covid-19.htm

that has been pre-approved by the CFIA.

This review was initiated after the inspection of an air shipment of dogs in June 2020 in which a number of dead and sick dogs were found and other non-compliance issues were identified.

An article highlighting the risk to livestock production of importing pets appears below.

Movement of Dogs from China May Pose Risk to North American Livestock Production

Excerpt of March 10, 2021 article by Paul Sundberg, www.aasv.org/news

Dueling animal health priorities converge as US-based rescue groups work to save dogs from the meat trade in China, bringing them to the US and Canada for re-homing. North American pork industry stakeholders worry about the threat of foreign animal disease transmission posed by these pets, particularly African swine fever which continues to be a concern in Asia. The supplies used in shipment, such as kennels and bedding materials are of special concern because of their potential to act as vectors for disease transmission.

A February 2021 report, detailed a shipment of 50 dogs flown from China to Los Angeles. After arriving in the U.S., the dogs were driven to the Canadian border, destined for an unnamed facility. Because there was not a veterinarian available at the Canadian border crossing to check the animals, the dogs were housed at a U.S. kennel. Winter weather extended the stay for a few days until the dogs were transported to Canada. China Dog Rescue says it plans to import more dogs.

Veterinarians are the first line of defense against the introduction of FAD and human pathogens with the potential to impact animal health. Veterinary training and knowledge for disease transmission and risk makes the veterinarian the key resource to advise and work with non-veterinary groups toward the protection of animal health. Working closely with all appropriate regulatory agencies and possessing an awareness of international disease threats can prevent unwanted pathogens from negatively impacting clients, farmers and the safety and security of North American animal health.

One Health Institute at the University of Guelph

At the June OLPC members' meeting, Dr. Cate Dewey, Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph gave a presentation on the One Health Institute.

The One Health approach includes human health, environmental health, and animal health. The Institute encompasses:

- livestock and plant research
- zoonotic disease
- global burden of animal disease
- poverty and food security in subsistence economies
- antimicrobial resistance in Canada and globally
- behaviour change for new health-related policies (vaccine hesitancy)
- effects of pet ownership on at-risk populations
- translational medicine (cancer research)

The Institute has a bi-weekly news-link and monthly seminars from September to April which are open to anyone. To sign up for the news-link, email Pete Kelly at onehealth@uoguelph.ca. The seminar series is on YouTube, click [here](#).

There are also new academic programs with a specialization in One Health at the Bachelor, Master, PhD and DVM levels. Students are also looking for co-op opportunities for work-integrated learning.

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.