

## Issue 40 June 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.

- o August 11, 2017
- o October 13, 2017
- o December 15, 2017

#### OLPC Board Elections

OLPC held its annual meeting on June 16, 2017. Gord Coukell was acclaimed as Chair. The Vice-Chair is elected by the Board and will be elected at their next meeting in July.

#### Term Expires 2018

##### Minor Livestock –

Heather Hargrave, Ontario Sheep

##### Individual Agri-Business

- Jane Carpenter, Precision Strategic Solutions

##### Agriculture and Food Associations and Coalitions -

Julie Harlow, Angus GeoSolutions Inc.

#### Terms Expires 2019

##### Major Livestock –

Mike DeGroot, Ontario Pork

##### Poultry –

Klaus Schneeberger, OBHECC

##### Veterinarian

Associations – Patrick Meyers, Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners

### Seneca Valley Virus

There is still low level presence of the virus in Ontario although there have not been any positive cases of Seneca on farm, only at assembly yards. It is mainly impacting shipments of cull sows. The primary concern with Seneca Valley Virus is that it cannot be differentiated from Foot and Mouth Disease other than via a lab test. A CFIA working group has drafted a procedure to facilitate the movement of swine to domestic slaughter after FMD has been ruled out should an on-farm herd be infected with Seneca. A simulation was run in March with Swine Health Ontario. As a result, some changes are being made to the procedure.

### Potential Disease Risks Posed by Wild Turkeys

Nicole Nemeth, University of Guelph gave a presentation to OLPC members regarding her assessment of the potential for pathogen spread between wild turkeys and domestic flocks. A 22-year retrospective study was completed in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative on diseases diagnosed in wild turkeys in Ontario. As well, 152 wild turkey carcasses were collected from hunters across southern Ontario. There was a high prevalence of Mycoplasma which is consistent with U.S. studies. E. coli was commonly detected but not Salmonella and only three out of 152 samples showed antimicrobial resistance. The majority of samples were Eimeria oocyst positive. All samples were A.I. negative. Nicole's conclusions were that there was minimum evidence of disease in wild turkeys but the potential for transmission to domestic flocks is unknown.

### Bronchitis Challenges in Layers and Pullets

Beginning in November and December 2016, there was a spike in the number of bronchitis cases in layer flocks mainly in western Ontario. By January, the outbreak settled down and production rebounded close to normal. In late spring 2017, there were reports of layer flocks with extremely poor production, as low as 40% up to 90%. All flocks were placed about the same time. The theory is that these flocks were infected with bronchitis as pullets but showed no symptoms at that time. However, their reproductive systems were damaged to the point that they will never lay. Decisions were made to take out some of the flocks and repopulate. It is rare that laying hens are impacted in this manner. There is a similar case in Quebec and two distinct cases in the U.S. where young birds are showing reproduction deformities. In Ontario, it is the Delmarva bronchitis strain which is present in the U.S. and there are vaccines available in the U.S. Other areas of Canada are not experiencing outbreaks and are not keen on introducing the vaccine into Canada.

### Coxiella burnetii (Q fever) on Dairy Goat Farms and in Wildlife

Paula Menzies, University of Guelph gave a presentation to OLPC members on her research relating to Coxiella burnetii (Q fever). Coxiella burnetii is much more prevalent in goats than in sheep and more so in dairy goats than meat goats. It can result in abortions, still births, and weak lambs and kids. The does and ewes are rarely ill and don't shed bacteria until birthing and then afterwards. It is incredibly resistant to changes in environment and can survive for months or even years and can be aerosolized up to 5 km. Humans are primarily infected via inhalation and unfortunately there is poor recognition of Q fever by physicians. It can cause flu-like symptoms, pneumonia and liver disease. Part of Paula's research looked at what role wildlife might play in perpetuating this infection as it is very common in small rodents. Wildlife on farms and nearby natural areas were live-trapped for sampling. Prevalence of C. burnetii was not different in wildlife trapped on farm and in natural areas. Work is ongoing to genotype the C. burnetii found in the wildlife species. Preliminary analysis suggests there is not a risk to domestic livestock by wildlife.

### Ontario Pork and OMAFRA Farm to Fork Emergency Response Workshop

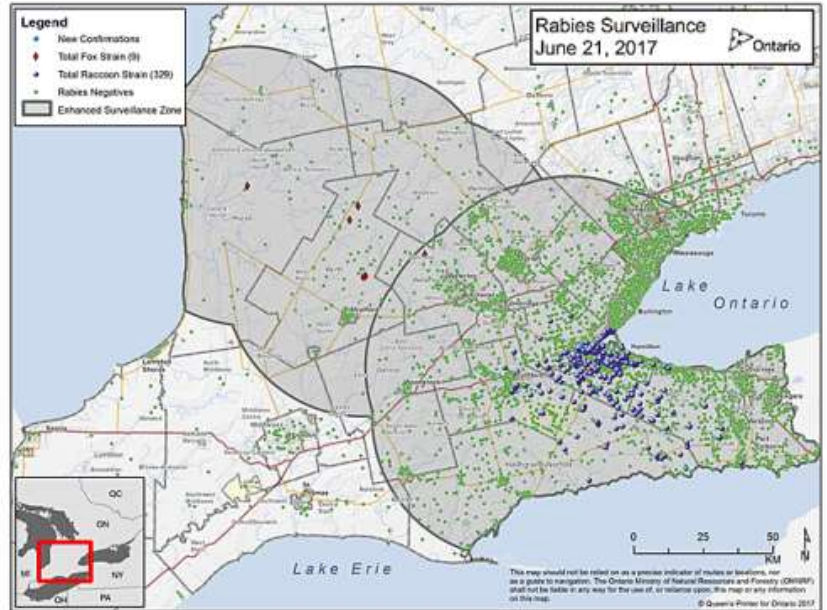
Ontario Pork and OMAFRA held their phase 2 Farm to Fork Disease Workshop in April. The session was organized around six working groups each focusing on a particular aspect of disease response. Each group came up with some concrete action items which will be worked on over the coming months. There will likely be targeted simulations within each working group.

### CAHC Emergency Preparedness Project

Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Sheep and Ontario Goat are involved in a disease preparedness project with the Canadian Animal Health Coalition. The project will develop association disease response plans and farm level guidelines.

### Rabies Update

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, OMAFRA will no longer respond to calls directly from animal owners. Callers will be referred back to their own veterinarian. Veterinarians can refer to the [online training materials](#) or call the OMAFRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre: 1-877-424-1300 for assistance. Rabies surveillance maps are posted at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/rabieszone.htm>. The map from June 21<sup>st</sup>, shows the location of the nine fox strain rabies cases (red diamonds), 329 raccoon strain cases (blue circles) and the green circles are negative rabies cases.



### Zoonotic Public Health Concerns

Catherine Filejski, Veterinary Consultant with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term care is an ex-officio member of OLPC and provides regular updates on zoonotic public health concerns. Below are some recent issues:

- *Aedes aegypti*, which is a mosquito that can spread dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika fever, and yellow fever viruses, was found in Windsor last year. It was felt they were imports rather than an endemic population. There is a mosquito trapping project underway this summer to see if they had the ability to overwinter.
- There is a shortage of human rabies vaccine at present which could impact anyone looking to be vaccinated. This does not affect the public health supply used to respond to cases of rabies exposure. The private supply is expected to be replenished in July.
- There have been four cases of monkey bites recently associated with the exotic monkey trade. Typically these are related to Macaques which can carry simian herpes B.
- There was a Seoul virus outbreak this spring associated with rat breeding facilities. In humans, it causes flu-like symptoms, flushing of the face, inflammation or redness of the eyes, and rash. In rare cases, it can lead to a type of acute disease called Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome, which might include low blood pressure, acute shock, and acute kidney failure. It will likely become endemic in the rat breeding sector in Ontario. A factsheet has been prepared for rat owners.

### Livestock Emergency Response Training Days

Farm & Food Care Ontario will be hosting Livestock Emergency Response Training Days on September 26<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup> in Listowel and Glencoe, respectively. Livestock Handling Specialist Jennifer Woods, of J. Woods Livestock Services, will present an informative and interactive course along with Farm & Food Care Ontario for frontline response and rescue teams to learn how to properly handle livestock in emergency situations. This course will cover decision making for accidents involving livestock, trailer design and extrication, animal behaviour; means to calm, rescue, capture and temporarily confine animals, laws, euthanasia protocols and how to develop response teams. For more information, please refer to <http://www.farmfoodcareon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Livestock-emergency-response-course.pdf> or call (519) 837-1326.

### 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.*