

OLPC Board Vice Chair

Julie Harlow was re-elected by the OLPC Board as Vice Chair for 2019-2020. Julie represents Angus Geo Solutions at OLPC and the Individual Agri-business Sector on the Board.

OLPC 2019

Membership Meetings

- October 18, 2019 at Ontario Pork
- December 13, 2019 at Beef Farmers of Ontario

Upcoming Meeting Presentations:

October:

- Reducing the Risk of Barn Fires – Vicki Hilborn, OMAFRA

December:

- Ontario Cases of Brucellosis canis and Canine H3N2 – Scott Weese, OVC, University of Guelph

February:

- Learnings from 2019 FBCC Simulation – Tom Baker, Feather Board Command Centre

Rabies in Ontario

As at the end of August, there had been 1,341 Ontario samples submitted for rabies testing. Of those, there were 39 positive cases: 21 bat, 10 skunk, seven raccoon, and one dog. There was one fatal human case in British Columbia; a 21-year-old who was exposed to a rabid bat.

Developments Regarding Animal Welfare Inspections

On June 29th, the Ministry of the Solicitor General announced:

- A new 24/7 toll-free number to report animal welfare concerns: 1-833-9ANIMAL (1-833-926-4625);
- The appointment of Paula Milne, a 25-year veteran of the OPP as the interim chief inspector, to provide leadership on animal protection in the province; and,
- New temporary animal welfare inspectors, many from local humane societies and Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs).

The new contact number is an emergency response centre which then contacts police; police are urged to contact commodity groups.

The government has indicated that by late October or early November the new draft Act will go to Committee as they want it to be in place by January.

CFIA Webinar Presentation on New Transportation Regulations

New transportation regulations under the Health of Animals Act will come into effect in February 2020. Andy Armstrong, Program Officer Animal Transportation, from the Guelph CFIA office gave a presentation via webinar on the new regulations on September 24th. The webinar was taped and can be accessed at the link below:

https://zoom.us/recording/share/n1wsE6vugQvIF0MOrdwJz5GWqHSabX_mxKgdH1hi6ACwlumekTziMw?startTime=1569329964000

Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Ontario and Michigan

In August, OMAFRA was notified of a confirmed case of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in a horse located in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The unvaccinated mare was euthanized. EEE has been reported in horses in Ontario since 1938 however it is not transmissible from horses to people. Birds are the natural hosts for EEE as well as West Nile virus, which are transmitted to horses and humans by mosquitoes that have bitten an infected bird. Ontario's local public health units are conducting mosquito surveillance for both EEE and West Nile but had detected no EEE positive mosquito pools as of August.

In Michigan, EEE has had a much more significant impact on the human population with eight confirmed infections of which three were fatal. The virus has also infected animals, including 12 horses and nine deer. While it is rare for canines to contract EEE, a recent article described the case of a Mexican gray wolf pup at a Michigan zoo that died from EEE with test results pending for a second deceased pup.

The Mexican gray wolf is the rarest subspecies of gray wolf, with only 131 counted in the wild in 2018. All species at the zoo considered susceptible to EEE infection are vaccinated on a yearly basis however the wolf pups were not vaccinated because canines are not commonly considered susceptible to the infection.

Invasive Mosquito

The Windsor Essex County Health Unit recently reported finding a mosquito capable of transmitting Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever during their routine mosquito surveillance program. However, the single adult *Aedes aegypti* mosquito tested negative for any vector-borne diseases. This particular type of mosquito was first discovered in Canada in the Windsor area in 2016.

Fortunately, the only way that local transmission of Zika, dengue, or chikungunya viruses could occur is if an individual infected with one of these viruses was in the area. There would also have to be a population of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito large enough to permit ongoing transmission. The mosquitos are not expected to survive winter temperatures.

Senecavirus A

Senecavirus A was found on Hamilton and Norwich area swine farms whereas it was previously confined to assembly yards. It has been in the province since 2016.

Seneca virus is not a reportable disease but is considered a hazard under the provincial Animal Health Act (2009) and is therefore immediately notifiable to OMAFRA.

A containment plan was implemented for the sow herds and nurseries. An elimination plan is also underway.

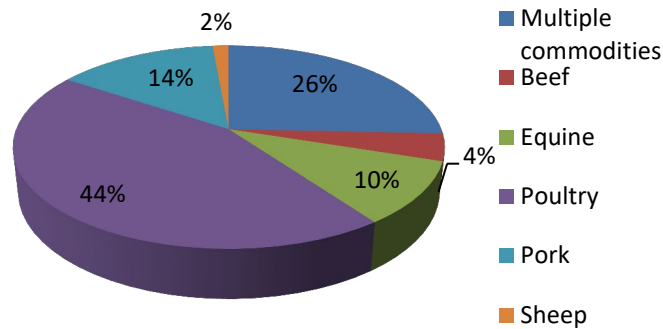
The health unit is also testing mosquitos collected for Eastern equine encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease that has recently caused fatalities in Michigan and a number of other states. (See above article).

Incident Management System (Emergency Response) for Agriculture Workshops

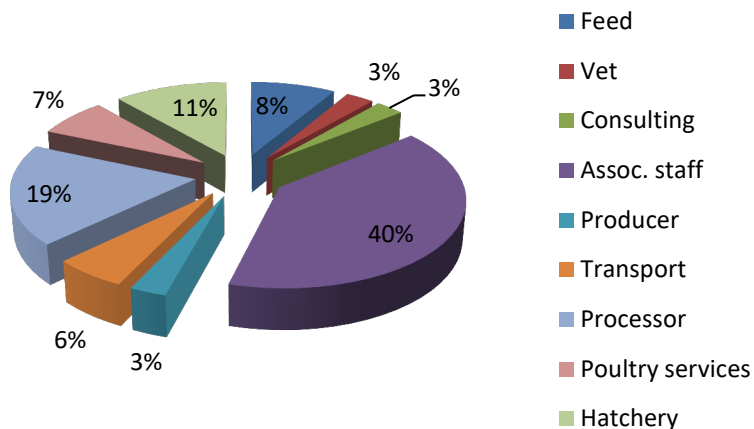
All government agencies in Ontario follow the Incident Management System (IMS) when responding to emergencies. This same IMS structure would be used for emergencies involving agriculture, e.g. fires, floods or significant disease outbreaks. The goal of these workshops is to increase industry awareness and understanding of the basic concepts of emergency response protocols. 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.

Six emergency management workshops have been held to date with 70 participants. Three more workshops are scheduled: October 2, October 23, and November 13. A wide variety of agri-food stakeholders have been represented at the workshops as illustrated in the graphs below.

Commodity Represented by Participants



Role in Agriculture and Food Sector



As a follow up, there is a table top emergency response exercise built around a severe weather event. It is an opportunity to think about enacting some of your emergency preparedness plans. The dates will be November 5 and December 3; same agenda, just two different dates from which to choose. These sessions are restricted to individuals who have attained at least an IMS 100 level certificate. There is no cost to register but pre-registration is required. To register for a workshop or the table top scenario, 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.