



OLPC 2020 Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are Fridays and take place at Ontario Pork except in December which will be at the Poultry Industry Council.

- February 14, 2020
- April 17, 2020
- June 12, 2020
- August 14, 2020
- October 16, 2020
- December 11, 2020

OMAFRA Staffing Appointments

- Assistant Deputy Minister, Food Safety and Environment Division - Kelly McAslan
- Director of Food Safety Systems Development Branch – Laurie Adrien
- Director, Food Safety Inspection Delivery Branch – Renee Bowler
- Director of Agriculture Development Branch – Colleen Fitzgerald-Hubble

New Provincial Acts

The Provincial Animal Welfare Act received Royal Assent and becomes effective January 1, 2020.

Bill 156, Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019 has received second reading and is currently being debated.

New Transportation Regulations – Health of Animals Act

The new transportation regulations are still coming into force as of February 19, 2020. However, for the new feed, water and rest times only, CFIA will be treating those as education and awareness rather than enforcement for the first two years for all species. Transporters must adhere to the current transport times and will be encouraged to try to comply with the new feed, water and rest times. If there are poor welfare outcomes with the load, CFIA will take action regardless.

The Guidance Document that provides greater detail around the intent of the regulations is currently being revised. A new version is expected in late January. It will contain some expanded text for certain definitions, e.g. lameness. The revised Guidance Document will clarify that the prescriptive angles for ramps are for external ramps and chutes only (not ramps inside trailers). It will also give guidance regarding flexibility for unforeseen and uncontrollable situations.

The full text of the new regulations can be read [here](#). The existing Guidance Document can be found online [here](#). The guidance document is very important as it expands upon and explains the intent of the regulations.

Echinococcus multilocularis

In recent months, two dogs in the province have tested positive on fecal examination for intestinal infection with the zoonotic tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis*. The eggs found in the stools are potentially infectious to people. Public health follow-up with the close contacts of these dogs is being done. This tapeworm is widely distributed in the wild canid (e.g. coyotes, foxes) population in Ontario. *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals and humans became reportable to public health last year.

Enhanced Mosquito Surveillance

There was enhanced mosquito surveillance in Windsor of two invasive *Aedes* mosquito species (*A. albopictus* and *A. aegypti*). They can be carriers of Zika, dengue and Yellow Fever. There were lower numbers than last year however there was one *Aegypti* found this year, none last year and six the year before. All tested negative for viruses.

Brucellosis canis and H3N2 in Dogs

Dr. Scott Weese, Ontario Veterinary College gave a presentation at the December OLPC meeting regarding *Brucella canis* and H3N2 in dogs. Below are some key points.

- There is a thriving puppy mill industry in the Elmira, Listowel, and Woolwich Township area. Brucellosis is known to be circulating amongst this population. It is believed it was introduced through the importation of breeding animals from the Ukraine.
- There is not a lot of concern about the canine form of Brucellosis jumping to livestock however it can infect people. Fortunately, it does not appear to be highly infectious with humans.
- Some of these breeding operations are quite large involving hundreds of breeding animals spread over multiple locations.
- Canine H3N2 was introduced in Ontario in 2017 and 2018 via rescue groups importing dogs from the U.S. which had originated in Southeast Asia. Fortunately, the disease was contained and eradicated. There has been no canine influenza activity in Canada since October 2018.
- Commercial shipments of dogs face stricter import entry provisions than personal pets although the requirements are not as stringent as with the importation of livestock. Rescues will often import a small number of dogs with individuals who declare the animals as their pets.
- The ease of importing these animals from other countries prevents adequate screening for the introduction of diseases, parasites, or pest/vectors which are not currently present in this country.

Cancellation of Federal Processing Licences

CFIA cancelled the licences for three federal slaughter plants: Ryding Regency Meat Packers, Canadian Select Meats (operating under St. Ann's Food Inc.), and the Beef Boutique. This action was taken due to false reporting of E coli results and caused recall notices to be issued to hundreds of retail and food service locations.

A full list of CFIA suspensions and cancellations is posted on their website [here](#).

Forum Presentations

The presentations from the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council's Forum have been uploaded to the Council website:

<https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/forum-2019>

Feather Board Command Centre June Disease Simulation

Tom Baker gave a presentation to OLPC members on the Feather Board Command Centre's three-day disease simulation in June. OMAFRA and CFIA also participated. The main objective of the exercise was to assess the capacity of the Ontario poultry industry to effectively apply established emergency response protocols in the case of a high mortality disease situation. The simulation was also an opportunity to use the new FBCC emergency manual. It sets out the standard procedures and reporting templates to assist in efficiency and effectiveness of a response.

The FBCC participant Boards have indicated they would like at least annual or more often meetings of the individual sections for additional practice.

Canadian Animal Health Coalition – Animal Health Emergency Management Project

The Animal Health Emergency Management project leads are conducting awareness work with previous partner groups from phase one. This involves workshops with producers where they demonstrate the resources now available. They are also holding workshops with boards and senior staff providing them with an overview of the Incident Command System (ICS) through delivery of a scenario followed by a short course (ICS-402). They are also producing brochures highlighting specific issues of concern to producers in the event of an outbreak.

The project is continuing the development of emergency disease response plans for association staff and producer handbooks for associations with which they have not yet worked. There will also be a web-based program for veterinarians providing training in Foot and Mouth Disease recognition and foreign animal disease response.

Potential Impact of EU AMU Restrictions

Dr. Catherine Filejski, Canadian Animal Health Institute attended the December OLPC meeting to share information that the European Union is currently considering restrictions on antimicrobial use in animals. These restrictions would also apply to any imported animals or animal products. CAHI has asked the national commodity groups for a list of antimicrobials which would be very problematic if lost. Lists of important antimicrobials from provincial groups can also be provided to CAHI. The deadline to provide comments to the EU is December 31, 2019. The new regulations are to take effect in January 2022.

Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS)

The CIPARS 2017: Figures and Tables is now available on the Government of Canada Publications website at <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.879523/publication.html>. Antimicrobial use decreased in broiler chickens and pigs, but increased in turkeys, though there were provincial variations. Overall, antimicrobial sales increased between 2017 and 2018.

Some highlights from the report include:

- Nalidixic acid resistance was detected in S. Enteritidis in chicken and chicken meat at levels never observed previously.
- The number of highly drug-resistant Salmonella isolates is increasing.
- On broiler chicken sentinel farms, they continue to see no reported ceftiofur use, but there was a reported use of fluoroquinolones for treatment. For related resistance, for the most part, ceftriaxone resistance has decreased, though there was an increase in resistance in Salmonella on farm.
- CIPARS has recently launched sentinel farm surveillance activities in feedlot and dairy cattle.

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.