Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council

Newsletter

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OLPC Vice Chair
The OLPC Board elected Julie Harlow as their Vice Chair for 2025-2026. Klaus Schneeberger was elected as Chair by the members at the June meeting.

OLPC 2025 Membership Meetings
In-person meetings will be at Beef Farmers of Ontario, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph.

- October 17, 2025 – in person
- December 12, 2025

Agriculture Related Calls to Animal Welfare Services
During the first half of 2025, there were 13,661 calls to Animal Welfare Services of which 733 (5.4%) were related to livestock. The breakdown was: 42% horse/donkey/mule, 20% poultry, 15% cattle, 11% goats, 7% sheep, and 5% swine.

Detections of Avian Influenza in Canada
As of September 24th, there were five AI infected commercial poultry premises in Canada. Four in Alberta and one in Quebec. In addition, there were two non-commercial sites. One each in B.C. and Manitoba.

Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2025
To August 31st, there have been 2,440 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 198 samples tested positive, which is significantly higher than the same period last year (81 positives). Ontario accounted for 1,552 samples of which 90 tested positive (50 in same period last year, all bats). The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

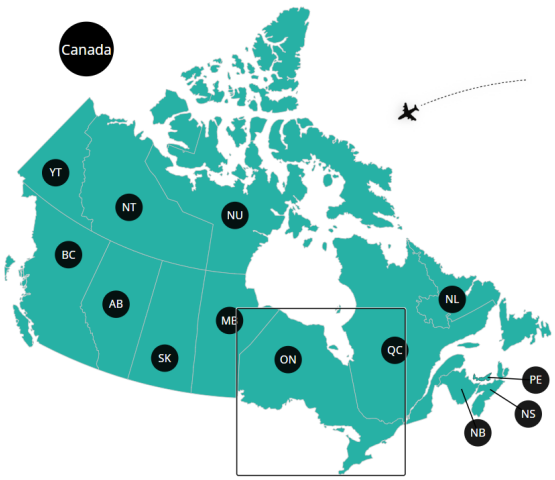
	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	6	0
Bat	122	90
Dog	5	0
Caribou	1	0
Raccoon	50	0
Red Fox	8	6
Skunk	6	0
Total	198	96

Congratulations to Kendra Keels - 2025 Carl Block Award Recipient
At the Animal Health Canada Forum in Ottawa on September 23rd and 24th, Kendra Keels was presented with the 2025 Carl Block Award for her outstanding commitment to the veal industry and broader livestock sector.

Kendra has been a strong supporter of OLPC since its inception in 2005. She has been the Veal Farmers of Ontario representative to OLPC for many years and served on the Board of Directors as the minor livestock representative on two separate occasions. OLPC was pleased to provide a letter of support for Kendra's nomination for this award. Her exemplary leadership and dedication to agriculture make her a deserving candidate for this prestigious honor.

The Carl Block Award is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions in the field of livestock animal health. The award is in memory of Carl Block, a cattleman whose tireless dedication to Canadian agriculture and commitment to animal health will long be remembered.

West Nile Virus (WNV)
The Government of Canada website publishes a map of WNV human cases, positive mosquito pools, and infections in horses and dead wild birds in Canada. https://health-infobase.canada.ca/zoonoses/mosquito/ Below are the stats for Ontario as of September 6th.



61 cases of WNV have been reported among Ontario residents who became **infected in Canada**. WNV has been found in mosquito pools* (251), horses (5), and dead wild birds (57) in Ontario.

61	251
Human cases	Positive mosquito pools
5	**57**
Positive horses	Positive dead, wild birds

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus

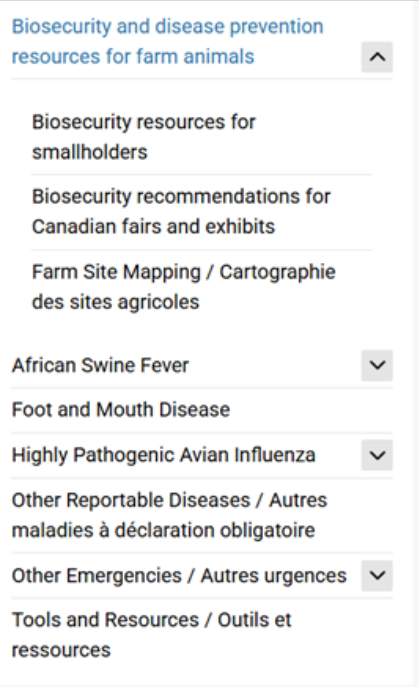
1	8	0
Human cases reported	Reported cases in horses	Reported EEE virus positive mosquito pools

Comparison of Zoning versus Compartmentalization for African Swine Fever
During the August OLPC meeting, members heard a presentation by Dr. Egan Brockhoff, Consulting Veterinarian with Canadian Pork Council on the African Swine Fever Compartment Program. Compartmentalization is different from zoning in that

Factsheets – Keeping Your Pigs Healthy
Animal Health Canada has developed two factsheets for pig owners. You can download 6 Tips to Keep Your Pigs Healthy and Common Questions about HPAI Prevention in Pigs in Canada from their website.

2023 Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Report
Animal Health Canada (AHC) has released the first collaborative report that highlights locations of wild pigs in Canada and details the efforts of participating provinces to help prevent wild pig populations from becoming established, and to manage existing wild pigs and remove them from the landscape. The short two-page report can be accessed at this link.

Biosecurity and Disease Prevention Resources
Animal Health Canada has posted several biosecurity and disease prevention resources on their website as shown below. Click here for the site.



zoning takes in everything within a defined geographic area around an infected premises. Compartments are established prior to a disease outbreak; zones are set up around infected premises when the disease is detected.

Compartmentalization focuses more on business and production relationships. Compartments are designed to remain operational and disease-free even if ASF is present elsewhere in Canada. A "compartment" is a sub-population of pigs managed under a unified biosecurity system. Compartments may include:

- Farms (PID sites)
- Feed mills
- Slaughter establishments
- Truck washes

Compartmentalization would allow disease-free production systems/chains to continue operations during an ASF outbreak. The benefit of compartments is facilitation of business continuity and help reduce the risk of a need for an animal welfare cull.

Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) webinar
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Based on feedback received last year, the CIPARS Webinar (November 18th) will be slightly longer to allow participants to attend multiple presentations.

1. Hour 1: Key and integrated findings presentation (45 minutes + questions)
2. Hours 2 & 3: Presentations and discussions with the speakers regarding more detailed data on the following topics:

- Grower-finisher Pig Data with Dr. Angie Bosman
- Poultry Data with Dr. Agnes Agunos
- Feedlot Cattle Data with Dr. Sheryl Gow
- Dairy Cattle Data with Dr. Daniella Rizzo
- Human *Salmonella/Campylobacter* Data with Dr. Melissa MacKinnon

An invitation will be sent closer to the meeting date and will provide the necessary meeting weblinks. All presentations will be available on the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System website in advance of Nov. 18th.

New World Screwworm
New World Screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly. Its larvae feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Once eradicated from the United States in 1966 through the release of sterile flies, the pest has re-emerged in southern Mexico.

In response to the 2024 detection of NWS in Mexico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) halted live animal imports from the region, including cattle, bison, and horses. The USDA continues to release sterile male flies in eastern Panama to maintain a biological barrier and prevent the pest's northward spread.

Illegal cattle smuggling has exacerbated the spread of NWS in Central America and Mexico. In 2022, an estimated 800,000 cattle were smuggled into Mexico annually, bypassing health inspections and contributing to the pest's expansion. Mexico has since restricted cattle imports at northern seaports. There have been 48 reported human cases of NWS myiasis in Mexico.

NWS larvae, which resemble flesh-eating disease due to the presence of maggots and fly eggs, can infest livestock, pets, wildlife, and even humans—causing severe, often fatal damage. Climate change is raising alarms about the potential for NWS to migrate further north.