Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council

Newsletter

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OLPC Board Elections
OLPC held its annual meeting on June 12, 2026. Klaus Schneeberger was acclaimed as Chair. The other directors are listed below. Josh Crossland was subsequently elected as Vice Chair by the Board.

Terms Expires 2027
Major Livestock – Thomas Brandstetter, Beef Farmers of Ontario
Poultry – Gbenga Alade, Chicken Farmers
Veterinarian Associations – Josh Crossland, OVMA

Term Expires 2028
Minor Livestock – Erin Morgan, Ontario Sheep Farmers
Individual Agri-Business – Harlan Martin, Norwell Dairy
Agriculture and Food Associations and Coalitions – Danille Dunn, OABA

OLPC 2026 Membership Meetings
In-person meetings will be at Beef Farmers of Ontario, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph.

- October 16, 2026 – in person
- December 11, 2026

Webinar Addresses New World Screwworm
The Swine Health Information Center and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians hosted a New World Screwworm webinar on August 4th. It presented the latest information on the USDA NWS Response Playbook and its impact on producers, current products available to treat animals affected by the parasitic larvae, including product categories and requirements for use, and insights regarding efforts in Texas to manage and control NWS were shared. Click here to access the webinar recording.

Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2026
To August 31st, there have been 2,589 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 291

Meeting Rising Demand for Veterinary Drug Withdrawal Guidance

At the August meeting, OLPC members heard a presentation by Dr. Trisha Dowling regarding the Canadian Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD™). CgFARAD™ has supported Canadian veterinarians with withdrawal recommendations for extra-label drug use since 2002, following the model established by FARAD in the United States 40 years ago. While the U.S. program is funded through the congressional budget via the USDA, CgFARAD™ relies on contributions from commodity groups, pharmaceutical companies, veterinary associations, and national feed mill and processing organizations. The Canadian service is especially busy because, unlike in the U.S., extra-label drug use in feed is permitted here.

Demand continues to grow. CgFARAD™ received 3,540 withdrawal recommendation requests in 2025–2026, a 30% increase from the previous year, driven mainly by poultry. The service handles approximately seven to 10 requests each day, with seasonal spikes. Poultry is its largest user group, and requests involving backyard flocks have increased as small-animal veterinarians seek guidance on unfamiliar treatments and products. Feed mill errors also require urgent attention because they can affect many animals and carry significant financial consequences.

One key challenge is detectability when a drug is not approved for a particular species. In such cases, a withdrawal recommendation may be based not on human toxicology concerns, but on whether any residue can be detected in the animal product. CgFARAD™ research has also helped shape regulation: work by co-directors Dr. Ron Johnson and Dr. Trisha Dowling led to established legal maximum residue limits and withdrawal times for dexamethasone. Their study, published in the *Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics* in September 2023, was the journal's most downloaded article that year.

Emergency Management for Agriculture – Incident Management System (IMS) Courses

OLPC is hosting IMS 100 and 200 level courses this fall. There were 12 participants in the IMS 100 course held on August 20th. The feedback from participants was very positive. The IMS 200 course will be held on October 28 and 29. There are currently still spaces available in that course. Contact susan.tfio@bell.net if you or colleagues are interested in receiving training. In addition, the OLPC Executive and Beef Farmers of Ontario are continuing to explore funding options for the development of an agricultural IMS 300 course.

Detections of Avian Influenza in Canada

As of September 24th, there were six AI infected commercial poultry premises in Canada. All are located in Manitoba.

Canadian HPAI Vaccination Trial

In early August, clinical trials of HPAI vaccine were launched by CFIA in Manitoba with a layer flock. Turkeys will be added to the trial in 2027. There are three main objectives: assessing the vaccine effectiveness and immune response, evaluating vaccine delivery in commercial poultry operations, and identifying what would be required for a potential national vaccination program.

Agriculture Related Calls to Animal Welfare Services

During the first half of 2026, the overall number of calls to AWS was higher as compared to last year but the number *related to livestock* was lower. The chart below shows a comparison to total calls in 2025. July, August and September tend to be the busiest months so the numbers will increase during Q3.

samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 1,224 samples of which 61 tested positive (all were bats). Quebec has been experiencing an outbreak of raccoon rabies. Of the 164 positive raccoon samples, 163 were from Quebec and one from New Brunswick. Quebec also accounted for seven of the eight skunk cases and both cats. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	2	0
Bat	112	61
Cat	2	
Dog	2	0
Raccoon	164	0
Red Fox	1	0
Skunk	8	0
Total	**291**	**61**

OLPC Biosecurity Resources

Over the years, OLPC has produced several biosecurity resources including signs, manuals, posters, videos, and more. Electronic versions of the print material are available on the website at https://www.ontlpc.com/resources.html

We still have a few biosecurity stop signs in stock. They can be ordered by downloading an order form from https://www.ontlpc.com/resources.html, calling the office 519-787-4322, or emailing Susan Fitzgerald at susan.tfio@bell.net. The stop signs are $20.00 + HST per sign.

We also have the biosecurity videos on DVD. The videos work well for training nonagricultural staff and for 4-H or school groups. There is no charge for the videos. Contact the OLPC office to request a copy. The videos can also be viewed at https://www.ontlpc.com/videos.html

Species	2025	2026 (Jan 1 – June 30)
Cattle	222	97
Horse/Donkey/Mule	587	225
Poultry	263	80
Sheep	85	27
Swine	61	15
Goats	150	49
Total	**1368**	**493**

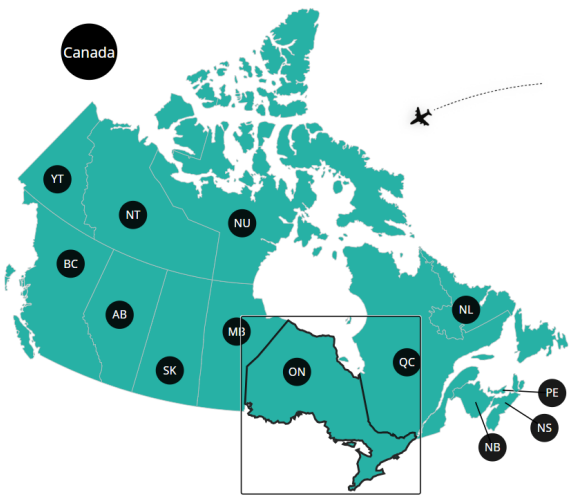
Rabies

The Ontario Ministry of Health is working with public health units to ensure adherence with rabies-testing criteria and avoid testing in low-risk situations. To date, 29 bats associated with human exposure have tested positive. The CFIA figures in the sidebar include all positive detections.

Enhanced rabies-control measures are in place along the Quebec and New York borders in Eastern Ontario. Quebec currently has a rabies outbreak with 163 positive raccoons, seven skunks, and two cats reported. Expanded surveillance includes testing roadkill.

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 24th.



Ontario residents who became **infected in Canada**. WNV has been found in mosquito pools* (254), horses (3), and dead wild birds (74) in Ontario.

39 Human cases

254 Positive mosquito pools

3 Positive horses

74 Positive dead, wild birds

Free Smallholder Webinar Series

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS), in partnership with the Western Canadian Animal Health Network, is hosting a free six-week Smallholder Webinar Series from October 7 to November 18, 2026. Designed for Canadian smallholders and producers, the series will provide practical information on disease prevention, early detection, biosecurity, outbreak response, and recovery for small ruminants, swine, and poultry/small flocks. Veterinarians working with smallholder clients are also strongly encouraged to participate.

The webinar schedule is:

- October 7: Small Ruminant Session 1 – Disease Prevention & Risk Reduction with Dr. Paula Menzies

	• October 14: Swine Session 1 – Disease Prevention & Risk Reduction with Dr. Suzanne Burlatschenko • October 21: Small Ruminant Session 2 – Disease Detection, Response & Containment with Dr. Paula Menzies • October 28: Swine Session 2 – Disease Detection, Response & Containment with Dr. Suzanne Burlatschenko • November 4: Poultry Session 1 – Disease Prevention & Risk Reduction with Dr. Gigi Lin • November 18: Poultry Session 2 – Disease Detection, Response & Containment with Dr. Gigi Lin All sessions will take place on Wednesdays from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Registration information and additional details are available on the CAHSS Smallholders webpage: https://cahss.ca/cahss-networks/smallholders

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.