

Issue 60 June 2022

OLPC 2022 Membership Meetings

- August 12, 2022
- October 14, 2022
- December 16, 2022

OLPC Board Elections

OLPC held its annual meeting on June 17, 2022. Gord Coukell was acclaimed as Chair. The Vice-Chair will be elected by the Board at their July meeting.

Terms Expires 2023

Major Livestock – Darby Wheeler, Beef Farmers of Ontario

Poultry – Klaus Schneeberger, OBHECC

Veterinarian Associations – Steve Roche, Acer Consulting

Term Expires 2024

Minor Livestock – Jennifer Bullock, Veal Farmers of Ontario

Individual Agri-Business – Julie Harlow, Angus GeoSolutions Inc.

Agriculture and Food Associations and Coalitions – Jean Howden, LRIC

New Member

We welcome two new members! The College of Veterinarians of Ontario and the Canadian Animal Health Institute.

Farm & Food Care Livestock Transportation Emergency Resources

Farm & Food Care have compiled a Livestock Transportation Emergency Manual and Contact List. These resources are designed for farmers who truck their own livestock and smaller livestock truckers who travel regular routes. The Emergency Contact list would be useful to First Responders (and others) as an advanced planning tool to identify resources in your area that could be called upon in the event of a livestock transport accident. Contact list [click here](#), Emergency Manual [click here](#).

Wild Pigs Factsheet

The revised wild pig factsheet is now available on www.ontario.ca/wildpigs. It is available in [English \(click here\)](#) and in [French \(click here\)](#).

A wild pig is any pig that is outside of a fence that is not contained or under the physical control of a person. This includes free roaming pigs that are:

- domesticated pigs (for example, pot-bellied pigs and farmed domestic breeds, including heritage breeds)
- Eurasian wild boar
- hybrids of domesticated pigs and Eurasian wild boar

Wild pigs also pose a significant risk to the agricultural industry. They damage crops, pasturelands and spread disease to livestock, pets, and humans.

Ontario HPAI H5N1 Outbreak

Ontario has a total of 26 Influenza A (H5N1) virus infected flocks (474,000 birds) to date, the last detection was reported on May 18, 2022. There have been 20 commercial and six small flocks infected across the province. Seven flocks are from the four Ontario feather boards.

As of June 2, 2022, HPAI H5N1 virus has infected 95 poultry flocks across nine Canadian provinces during the five months since its first detection. This has resulted in the death or culling of 1,913,700 birds according to most recent data; only 57% of these were commercial flocks.

Over 362 cases of HPAI have been confirmed in wild birds across all provinces as of May 5th.

Influenza A (H5N1) Virus Detected in Wild Foxes in Ontario

In early May, the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative diagnosed influenza A (H5N1) in two wild fox kits in Ontario. These cases were the first detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 lineage in wild mammals in Ontario, Canada and in the Americas.

The fox kits were found together in St. Marys. One of the kits was found dead and the other was exhibiting severe neurological signs (including seizures) and died shortly after admission to a wildlife rehabilitation centre. Based on clinical signs, post-mortem/microscopic examination, and the detection of influenza A (H5N1) virus in brain tissue, it is likely that was the cause of mortality for these foxes.

There has also been one wild mink near Guelph which tested positive for the virus. Although these cases represent the first detections of influenza A (H5N1) viruses in wild mammals in Ontario, it is known to affect a variety of wild animals, including wild fox kits in Europe.

Influenza A (H5N1) Virus in Alberta Skunks and Fox Kits

In late May, five skunks from central Alberta were lab-confirmed as having avian influenza. Fish and Wildlife Alberta Environment and Parks reported an unusually large number of calls about skunks that were acting strange or being found dead. This was all within the area where they had confirmed that the avian influenza virus was present in the snow geese. They believe the skunks were feeding on the dead geese and contracting the virus through that route.

The Medicine River Wildlife Center located South of Red Deer have reported more scavengers needing treatment and suspect it's because the animals are eating carcasses of birds that died from Avian influenza. There were seven fox kits brought in during May that had consumed an infected bird. Two were normal and five were showing the symptoms.

Rabies Numbers in Canada as at May 31, 2022

To the end of May, there have been seven positive cases in bats, and two positive cases in skunks.

In 2022, there have been 844 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 54 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 489 samples of which 10 tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	15	
Bat	9	7
Bovine		
Caprine		
Cat		
Dog	9	1
Equine	2	
Raccoon		
Red fox	14	
Skunk	5	2
Total	54	10

Two Ontario Cases of Lone Star Tick Causing Red Meat Allergy

(CEZD Weekly Intelligence Report – May 22 to 29, 2022)

Lone star ticks, which can cause a rare allergy to red meat called alpha-gal syndrome, are expanding into Canada as temperatures rise. So far, there have only been two reports of cases of alpha-gal syndrome in Canada: a woman from Windsor and a man from Eastern Ontario. The location of the tick bites that led to the two cases is unknown and could have occurred during travel to the US. Data from etick.ca shows the number of lone star ticks reported in Canada is roughly ten each year, with seven lone star ticks reported in the country this year, mostly in Ontario and one in Nova Scotia. These numbers may increase, as migration patterns of ticks are changing due to warmer temperatures, deforestation, and the building of highways

Symptoms include blindness and seizures. Three of them died shortly after arrival but two have completely recovered. Foxes do not pass on the virus and if they are given some early onset supportive care, they can recover.

New Ontario Pig Health Check-up Program

The Ontario Pig Health Check-up program will provide funding to support veterinary consultations for small scale pig herd owners. Within the terms of the project, a small-scale pig owner is someone who produces less than 1,000 market hogs a year or owns less than 50 sows or owns pet pigs.

The program will reimburse Ontario licensed, practicing veterinarians for completing animal health consultations with small scale pig owners. The consultations can be in-person or via telemedicine as prescribed by the College of Veterinarians of Ontario Professional Practice Standard for Telemedicine. Treatment costs, up to a maximum cap based on the number of pigs, will also be reimbursed. This will include, but is not limited to, diagnostic costs, medication or vaccination, injury treatment, or medical intervention. Good animal health practices are key tools to prevent the introduction, development and spread of transmissible animal diseases.

The Ontario Pig Health Check-up Program will run until October 31, 2022. To learn more about the program, visit the website www.ontariopighealth.ca. The project is funded in part through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Updated Standards of Care for Outdoor Dogs

Updated standards of care for outdoor dogs will come into force on July 1, 2022. The updated standards replace the previous standards of care for dogs that live outdoors under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act and create more comprehensive requirements related to:

- General care – including access to shade, food and water, grooming and nail care, and health and welfare maintenance.
- Outdoor dog shelter – including when an outdoor dog shelter is required (with exceptions for livestock guardian dogs and dogs that have access to a structure housing livestock), as well as design features and size-related specifications for an outdoor dog shelter.
- Use of tethering – including when dogs cannot be tethered, the safe usage of tethers, minimum space requirements when a dog is tethered, and maximum time a dog can spend on a tether (with limited exceptions).
- Use of housing pens – including the use of housing pens, minimum housing pen size and restrictions on outdoor dogs that can be penned together (with limited exceptions).
- Tethering and housing pen containment area – including adequate cleaning and sanitation, as well as features to support the physical comfort and welfare of a dog while they are contained outdoors.

A factsheet and commonly asked questions document are available on the OLPC website <https://www.ontlpc.com/news.html>

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus-2

On June 10, 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reported two cases of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus – 2 (RHDV2) in pet rabbits in Lambton County. Ongoing epidemiological work, including strain typing, is being performed. This virus is extremely contagious to domestic and wild rabbits and hares and may have a significant mortality rate. This is the first time RHDV2 has been reported in Ontario although there are outbreaks in the U.S. and in British Columbia.

RHDV2 is not a food safety or significant public health concern for people or non-rabbit domestic animals. It is an Immediately Notifiable Hazard to the Office of the Chief Veterinarian for Ontario under the Animal Health Act, 2009 and to the CFIA under the Health for Animals Act.

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.