

OLPC Board Elections

OLPC held its annual meeting on June 14, 2024. Klaus Schneeberger was acclaimed as Chair. Klaus had been Interim Chair since the passing of Gord Coukell. The poultry sector will be naming a new Board representative to replace Klaus now that he has been elected to the Chair role.

The Vice-Chair will be elected by the Board at their July meeting.

Term Expires 2026

Minor Livestock – Erin Morgan,
Ontario Sheep Farmers
Individual Agri-Business – Julie
Harlow, Small Farm Canada
Agriculture and Food Associations
and Coalitions – Jean Howden, LRIC

Terms Expires 2025

Major Livestock – Robert Matson,
Dairy Farmers of Ontario
Poultry – TBD
Veterinarian Associations – Steve
Roche, Acer Consulting

OLPC 2024 Membership Meetings

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

- August 16, 2024 - virtual
- October 11, 2024 – in person
- December 13, 2024 – virtual

OLPC Resources

Over the years, OLPC has produced several biosecurity resources including: signs, manuals, posters, videos, and more. Electronic versions are available on our website at

<https://www.ontlpc.com/resources.html> and

<https://www.ontlpc.com/videos.html>

West Nile Virus

WNV seems to be appearing earlier in Ontario each year. Eight positive birds have been submitted so far this

Avian metapneumovirus

Ontario has avoided a spring outbreak of Avian influenza however poultry producers are now dealing with Avian metapneumovirus (aMPV). While it is endemic in most other countries, Canada was one of three countries that did not have the virus. The first detection was in April. Original testing was done by a U.S. laboratory. NCFAD confirmed in May then Canada notified the World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH).

The disease is immediately notifiable from the testing labs to CFIA. CFIA then has a responsibility to notify WOAH. CFIA will also notify the province that there is an outbreak. As this is a notifiable rather than a reportable disease, there are currently no corrective actions taken by CFIA within industry in response to detection.

aMPV is highly contagious and there is currently no treatment for aMPV. There are currently no licensed commercial aMPV vaccines available for use in Canada or the United States of America. So, prevention is the only defence available. There is high morbidity, but low mortality and it is not a food safety or human health concern.

There are currently over 20 cases in Ontario. The virus is also occurring in western Canada (Type A). Type B is what is circulating in Ontario and the eastern U.S.

HPAI in Cattle

High path avian influenza continues to be detected in US dairy herds. As of June 21st, there were 116 affected herds in 12 states. An updated national map can be found at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock> Scroll down the page to find the map.

There have been three people who had been exposed to HPAI positive dairy cattle who tested positive for H5N1. Conjunctivitis seems to be the main symptom. The virus was similar to that isolated from the dairy cattle which was similar to that seen in wild birds. It has a mammalian gene adaptation but does not have all genes required for person-to-person transmission. It is susceptible to the candidate vaccine and anti-viral drugs. There is no vaccine in Canada, but the U.S. has a stockpile which it has not deployed. Finland has decided to vaccinate fur farm workers.

The USDA has released some preliminary epidemiological reports describing some of the risks to spread. The summary report is available at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hpai-dairy-national-epi-brief.pdf>

There is a new CFIA page for Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in livestock [click here](#). HPAI in cattle is reportable to CFIA by veterinarians or the Animal Health Lab. It is also an immediately notifiable disease to OMAFA. CFIA would manage a positive dairy case as a novel disease so no depopulation and movement control zones as we see with HPAI in poultry. Notification of a case would also trigger a public health follow-up for human exposures. CFIA has conducted retail milk sampling and there were no detections of virus fragments.

[Guidance for private veterinarians for HPAI in cattle](#) has been updated to include:

- Until further notice, CFIA will cover the fees for laboratory testing at any CAHSN laboratory that is approved to test samples in domestic animals. CFIA does not pay for associated veterinary fees for sample collection or shipment to the lab.

year from across Ontario. A warning to owners to vaccinate their horses.

Subscribe to Notices from CFIA

Did you know you can sign up for disease alerts and import/export change notices from CFIA? The website to register is <https://notification.inspection.canada.ca/>. The service is opt-in. The number of emails you will receive varies from month to month.

Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS)

CIPARS has posted new interactive data visualizations for their farm antimicrobial use data.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/surveillance/canadian-integrated-program-antimicrobial-resistance-surveillance-cipars/interactive-data.html>

Also, their *2022 Executive Summary Key and Integrated Findings* is available on their web page:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/drugs-health-products/canadian-integrated-program-antimicrobial-resistance-surveillance-2022-executive-summary.html>

Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2024

During the first five months of 2024, there have been 742 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 13 samples tested positive which is significantly lower than the same period last year (35 positives). Ontario accounted for 487 samples of which 7 tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	2	
Bat	9	7
Dog	1	
Skunk	1	
Total	13	7

- All non-clinical dairy cattle will now be eligible for testing. A milk sample is required for lactating dairy cattle and a nasal swab is required for non-lactating dairy cattle.
- For suspect case submissions, the private veterinarian is required to report negative test results back to the district office upon receipt.

OLPC Membership Survey

In April, OLPC surveyed the members regarding our current strategic directions which are:

- Increase On-Farm Biosecurity Awareness and Encourage Implementation
- Assist with Coordination of Emergency Preparedness Efforts
- Continue Networking and Advocacy Efforts with Government Agencies and Academia

Overall, the members agreed with the current strategic directions and objectives. There were a lot of comments about sharing information on biosecurity and emergency preparedness activities and resources amongst OLPC members. The Board suggested having one or two member organizations share what they have done regarding biosecurity and disease response preparedness at each meeting.

OLPC is focused on assisting groups with preparedness activities not participating in response which resides with the respective commodity groups. We only participate in or organize simulations when requested.

Advocacy efforts referenced in strategic direction three, means support for member positions when there is consensus, keeping members informed, providing a venue for discussion and information presentation.

The Board asked members to consider we offer more tangible benefits without incurring more costs.

Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases Quarterly Reports

The Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases produces quarterly, species specific reports. These reports provide a summary of relevant signals for each species group from the previous three months. They can also include relevant longer trends. The links for the reports produced so far in 2024 are noted below. They open PowerPoint presentations.

Bovine: <https://www.cezd.ca/CEZD/Assets/Documents/CEZD-Discipline-Specific-Report-Bovine-2024-03-15.pptx>

Equine: <https://www.cezd.ca/CEZD/Assets/Documents/CEZD-Discipline-Specific-Report-Equine-2024-03-14.pptx>

Swine: <https://www.cezd.ca/CAHSS/Assets/SharedDocuments/CEZD-Discipline-Specific-Reports-Swine-2024-02-29.pptx>

Small Ruminant: <https://www.cezd.ca/CEZD/Assets/Documents/CEZD-Discipline-Specific-Report-Small-Ruminant-2024-03-05.PPTX>

Companion Animal: <https://www.cezd.ca/CEZD/Assets/Documents/CEZD-Discipline-Specific-Report-Companion-Animal-2024-04-02.PPTX>

Vector Borne Diseases: <https://www.cezd.ca/CEZD/Assets/Documents/CEZD-Discipline-Specific-Report-Vector-Borne-Diseases-2024-03-12.PPT>

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.