

OLPC Vice Chair

The OLPC Board elected Robert Matson as their Vice Chair for 2024-2025. Klaus Schneeberger was elected as Chair by the members at the June meeting.

OLPC 2024 Membership Meetings

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

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

OMAFRA Funding Programs

The provincial government recently announced the **Food Safety and Growth Initiative**. Food processors, producers and service providers will be able to apply to the \$5 million program for projects to improve food safety and traceability. A recipient is eligible to receive 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$75,000. Detailed funding criteria are available at

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/food-safety-and-growth-initiative>

The **Cybersecurity Preparedness Initiative** supports agricultural boards under the Farm Products Marketing Act, marketing boards under the Milk Act, the association under the Beef Cattle Marketing Act, and representative associations under section 12 of the Farm Products Marketing Act to undertake cybersecurity enhancement activities that are tailored to the specific needs of the agricultural sector. Recipients are may receive 50% of total eligible costs up to a maximum of \$50,000. More details at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/cybersecurity-preparedness-initiative>

Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2024

As of August 31, 2024, there have been 1,743 samples submitted for

HPAI in Cattle

High path avian influenza continues to be detected in US dairy herds. As of September 23, 2024, the USDA has reported influenza A H5N1 in a total of 232 dairy herds across 14 states: Wyoming (1), North Carolina (1), Ohio (1), Oklahoma (2), Kansas (4), South Dakota (7), Minnesota (9), New Mexico (9), Iowa (13), Texas (26), Michigan (29), Idaho (32), California (34), and Colorado (64). The 24 recent outbreaks have all been reported from California. The USDA recently announced the first field trial of an influenza A H5N1 vaccine for dairy cattle.

In Canada, the CFIA has conducted several rounds of retail milk sampling, all test results have been negative. In addition, CFIA has sampled raw milk deliveries at processing sites in three provinces. No virus was detected in any of the samples.

CFIA main page on HPAI in dairy cattle with resources for producers and veterinarians <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/latest-bird-flu-situation/hpai-livestock>

New guidance and precautions for producers participating in U.S. agricultural exhibitions are available at: [Advisory: Guidance and precautions for participation in United States agricultural exhibitions to mitigate the risk of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Canadian cattle](#)

CFIA guidance for veterinarians on testing and sampling

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/latest-bird-flu-situation/hpia-livestock/hpai-cattle-guidance>

Free On-line Tool for Scoring On-Farm Biosecurity

Biocheck.UGent is a scientific risk-based, on-line questionnaire to evaluate the quality of on-farm biosecurity. It was developed by Ghent University in Belgium and is essentially a scoring system based on questions farmers answer online. The tool will score them on an individual basis and report how the farm compares to other farms of the same species and same production method within their home country and globally.

Biocheck.UGent has been used 85,420 times to evaluate biosecurity on farms worldwide. Top use has been in the swine sector with 61,381 surveys followed by poultry with 18,487 surveys. Cattle operations completed 5,223 surveys and small ruminants 329.

Basic features are accessible for free, access to advanced features can be requested for a fee. For more details, visit their website at <https://biocheckgent.com/en>

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV)

As of September 14, 2024, the Government of Canada website <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/zoonoses/mosquito/#> was reporting eight cases of EEEV in horses, one human case of EEEV in Ontario, and one reported EEEV positive mosquito pool.

The City of Ottawa reported the human case of the mosquito-borne virus eastern equine encephalitis (EEEV). The individual died of a viral encephalitis in August and tested positive for an eastern equine encephalitis virus infection. EEEV normally cycles between wild birds and mosquitoes but can occasionally spread to horses and, rarely, to humans

rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 81 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for the vast majority of samples at 1,068 of which 50 bats tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

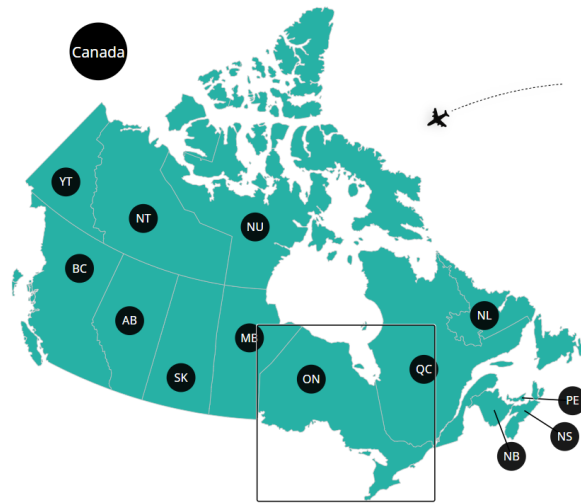
	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	2	
Bat	74	50
Dog	1	
Skunk	4	
Total	81	50

Ontario recorded its first domestically acquired case of human rabies since 1967. A resident of Brantford-Brant is suspected of contracting the virus from a bat in the Gowanda area of the Timiskaming region just north of Sudbury.

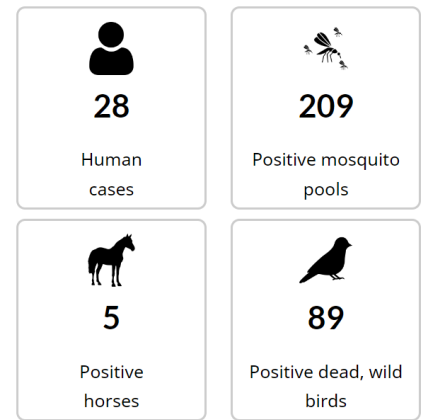
through an infected mosquito's bite. Humans do not get infected with EEEV from a horse or another human. For the full media article, go to <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ottawa-resident-who-tested-positive-for-mosquito-borne-virus-dies-public-health-says-1.7035386>

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, by reporting province or territory. <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/zoonoses/mosquito/> Below are the stats for Ontario as of August 31st. There was also a confirmed case of West Nile virus in an alpaca in Middlesex County.



28 cases of WNV have been reported among Ontario residents who became infected in Canada. WNV has also been found in mosquito pools* (209), horses (5), and dead wild birds (89) in Ontario.



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.