

**Issue 74 December 2025**

**OLPC 2026 Membership Meetings**

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

- February 13, 2026
- April 10, 2026
- June 12, 2026 – in person
- August 14, 2026
- October 16, 2026 – in person
- December 11, 2026

**Agriculture Related Calls to Animal Welfare Services**

To September 30, 2025, there were over 20,000 calls to Animal Welfare Services of which 1,089 (5%) were related to livestock. The breakdown was: 42% horse/donkey/ mule (460), 21% poultry (229), 15% cattle (164), 11% goats (121), 6% sheep (67), and 4% swine (48).

**Seneca Virus in Canada**

A sow herd in southern Manitoba has recently tested positive for Seneca Valley Virus, which continues to circulate at high-traffic livestock locations across Western Canada, Ontario, Quebec and the United States. [Click here for online article.](#)

Reported in Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (CEZD) Weekly Intelligence Report covering the period of November 24, 2025, to November 30, 2025

There was also one on-farm case of Seneca in Ontario as reported in the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network Q3 2025 report.

**H5N1 Influenza Virus Stability and Transmission Risk in Raw Milk and Cheese**

A recently published research article in Nature Medicine,

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

The Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council (OLPC) hosted three IMS courses this fall. There were 15 participants in the IMS 100-level courses, and the IMS 200 course was fully subscribed at 16 participants. Feedback was very good with some of the IMS 200 participants indicating an interest in a 300-level course for agriculture.

**Cybersecurity Preparedness in Agriculture**

At the October OLPC members meeting, Vidushi Agarwali with the University of Guelph gave a presentation on cyber risks in agriculture. As farms and agribusinesses adopt smart farming technologies such as GPS-guided machinery, automated ventilation and feeding systems, and digital data management, they face rising risks from cyberattacks that can disrupt production, compromise sensitive data, and threaten food supply chains.

Fraudulent emails or texts trick farmers and agribusinesses into revealing login credentials or financial details. Hackers lock critical systems and demand payment, as seen in the \$11 million attack on JBS and the \$10.5 million attack on Dole. Although small businesses and individual farms have also been targeted. There is also the potential for theft of sensitive information such as crop yields, veterinary records, or customer contracts.

The University has developed a free cybersecurity self-assessment for farmers in different sectors that can be downloaded at <https://cybersciencelab.com/ag-security/>

**Current Active Canadian HPAI H5N1 Poultry Sites**

The chart below provides a summary as of December 10, 2025. \*In 2024, due to the large number of positive premises in B.C., CFIA implemented a novel approach to zoning there. The Fraser Valley is divided into 11 permanent zones and restrictions are implemented whenever a case is detected in that zone. There could also be implications for zones if they are within 10 km of a site in a neighboring zone. Once the infected zone within a primary control zone is released, the zone becomes a security zone. Security zones have less stringent movement requirements than primary control zones.

Province	Commercial Primary Control Zones	Commercial Infected Premises	Non-commercial Zones	Security Zones
BC*	9*	24*	2	3
Alberta	1	1	0	7
Manitoba	2	2	0	4
Saskatchewan	1	1	1	2
Ontario	3	5	0	0
Quebec	1	1	0	0

**Using Antiviral Paint and UV Light to Control Avian Influenza**

OLPC members heard a presentation during the December meeting by Dr. Faizal Careem, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine with the University of Calgary. Dr. Careem's research at the University of Calgary is exploring using antiviral paint coatings and ultraviolet (UV) light to reduce the spread of avian influenza in poultry environments.

reported that the H5N1 virus can remain infectious for extended periods in raw-milk cheeses under specific conditions. To access the complete article, [click here](#).

**Spain Investigating if ASF Virus Came from a Lab**

Spain has confirmed 13 cases of ASF in wild boars in a 6 km radius in Barcelona; sequencing has shown most similarity to the Georgia 2007 strain which is not currently circulating in other EU member states but is used in experimental studies and vaccine evaluation – suggesting the potential origins may be from a containment laboratory. [Click here for National Hog Farmer article.](#)

Reported in Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (CEZD) Weekly Intelligence Report covering the period of December 1, 2025, to December 7, 2025.

**Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2025**

To November 30<sup>th</sup>, there have been 3,158 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 266 samples tested positive, which is significantly higher than the same period last year (134 positives). Ontario accounted for 1,931 samples of which 112 tested positive (87 in same period last year, all bats). The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	8	0
Bat	150	106
Dog	5	0
Caribou	1	0
Raccoon	84	0
Red Fox	8	6
Skunk	9	0
Wolf	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>112</b>

The concept involves coating poultry barn surfaces with specialized paint containing titanium dioxide. Titanium dioxide absorbs UV light resulting in the formation of highly reactive hydroxyl radicals and superoxide anions. These radicals then attack and break down bacteria, viruses etc., essentially oxidizing them into harmless components like CO2 and water. Titanium dioxide has demonstrated effectiveness against bacteria, fungi, and viruses (like Infectious bursal disease virus). These coatings offer long-term, continuously active disinfection, as the coating itself is stable and its action is renewed by light.

UVA combined with titanium dioxide paint effectively neutralized H4N6 Avian influenza in a lab setting. Dr. Careem is now working on a project to test the concept at farm scale.

**The 2024 Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Report is now available**

Source: Animal Health Canada

The *2024 Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Report* summarizes data that represent areas of established wild pigs in participating provinces from 2022 to 2024, locations of verified reports of uncontained pigs in 2024, and on-site field activities conducted by provincial control programs and their collaborators in 2024. It encompasses all wild pig types, including escaped domestic pigs, Eurasian wild boar, and their hybrids.



[Click here to access a larger version of the image and download PDF](#)

The data for the 2023 and 2024 Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Report were collected, collated and mapped using the same criteria across the participating provinces. A comparison of the data does not indicate differences in the location of established populations of wild pigs. For more details on the provincial program data, look to the reports referenced by program area. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario’s wild pig control programs contributed data to the report. Other provinces and territories are engaged and may contribute information in the future. [View past reports here.](#)

Members of the public are encouraged to report wild pig sightings to their provincial control programs. To report a wild pig, contact a [local wild pig control program](#) in your area.

*Financial support for the report was provided through the AgriAssurance Program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.*

**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.*