

Issue 51 March 2020

OLPC 2020 Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are Fridays and take place at Ontario Pork except in December which will be at the Poultry Industry Council.

- April 17, 2020- tentative
- June 12, 2020
- August 14, 2020
- October 16, 2020
- December 11, 2020

Biosecurity Stop Signs

The OLPC office continues to receive requests for biosecurity stop signs. There are residual funds from a project a few years ago which are designated specifically for biosecurity. The Board passed a motion to purchase 500 copies of the biosecurity stop signs and allocate the cost to the balance of the biosecurity project funds.

The signs should be available by May and can be ordered by calling the office 519-669-3350 or completing an order form from the website www.ontlpc.ca under the resources tab.

Review of OLPC Strategic Directions

In 2012, the OLPC members identified three Strategic Directions to guide the focus and activities of the organization:

- increase on-farm biosecurity awareness

New Transportation Regulations – Health of Animals Act

The new transportation regulations under the Health of Animals Act came into force as of February 19, 2020. However, for the new feed, water and rest times only, CFIA will be treating those as education and awareness rather than enforcement for the first two years for all species.

Transporters must adhere to the current transport times and will be encouraged to try to comply with the new feed, water and rest times. If there are poor welfare outcomes with the load, CFIA will take action regardless.

The full text of the new regulations can be read [here](#). The existing Guidance Document can be found online [here](#). The Guidance Document is very important as it expands upon and explains the intent of the regulations. The updated list of definitions has not yet been posted.

COVID-19 and Animals

Now that COVID-19 virus infections cases are widely distributed in the human population there is a possibility for some animals to become infected through close contact with infected humans. To date, the only known animal cases are two dogs in Hong Kong from different households that tested positive for COVID-19 virus following close contact with infected humans. Neither dog showed symptoms of the disease.

The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission. To date, there is no evidence that companion animals spread the disease.

Studies are underway to better understand the susceptibility of different animal species to the COVID-19 virus. When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand washing before and after being around or handling animals, their food, or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing or sharing food.

Barn Fires

At the February OLPC meeting, members heard a presentation on barn fire prevention by Jacqui Empson Laporte from OMAFRA. Jacqui noted that social media makes it seem like barn fires are happening more often however the number of barn fires is actually decreasing although the value of losses is increasing. For 50% of barn fires, no cause is determined. For those for which a cause is identified, 40% is electrical. A significant issue is the use of electrical components, including extension cords, that are household grade not industrial/agricultural. Household grade components cannot withstand the harsher barn and outdoor conditions. Anyone who now downloads the Electrical Code will also get a bulletin relating to agricultural structures.

Ontario Wild Pig Reporting - Report your Sightings!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ontario-wild-pig-reporting>

Invasive wild pigs are not native to Ontario and can have a negative impact on Ontario's native wildlife populations and ecosystems through predation, competition, grazing, and rooting.

The term "wild pig" encompasses any pig outside of a fence, including domestic pigs that have become wild (or 'feral') when ownership cannot be determined, Eurasian wild boar, and hybrids of domestic pigs and Eurasian wild boar.

You can help the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry document wild pig occurrence trends and distribution by reporting your sightings. If you have seen a wild pig or have information on a wild pig sighting, please report it on the iNaturalist web page listed above. Please include the date and time of the sighting, a detailed description of the location, the number of animals seen, and if available, include any photographs to assist in identification.

and encourage implementation;

- assist with coordination of emergency preparedness efforts; and,
- continue advocacy efforts in relation to the Animal Health Act, 2009 and proposed regulations.

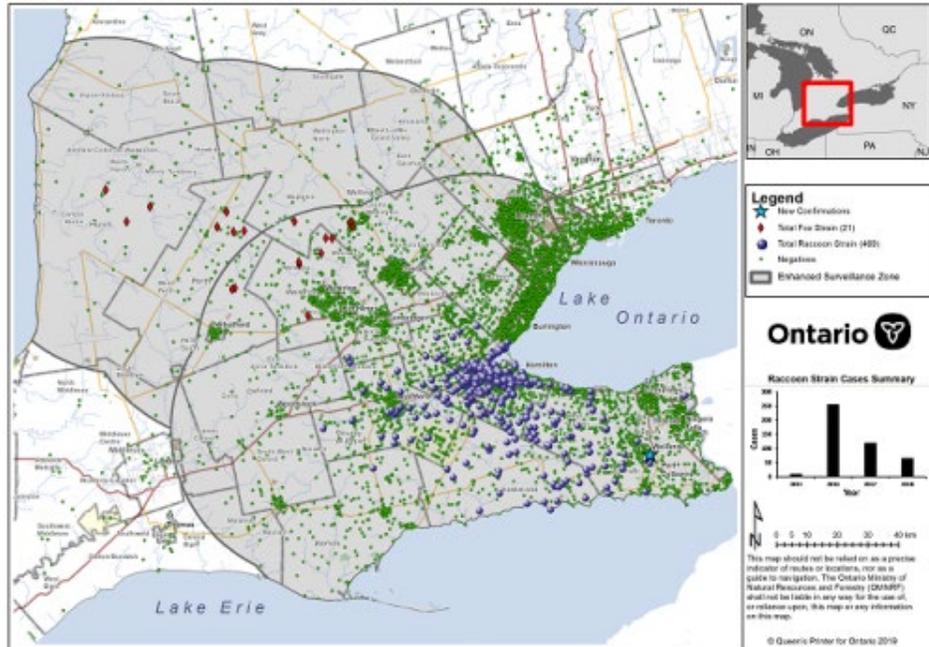
At their March meeting, the Board directors reviewed the current three strategic directions and the original activities assigned to each. New and updated activities were proposed as well as subtle changes to the focus of the third Strategic Direction. The Board will review a draft of the new Strategic Directions document at their May meeting and then present to the members at the June meeting.

Rabies

In 2019, The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry spread just over 1.1 million rabies baits. There were 1,560 specimens collected and tested in relation to human exposure which was an increase over the previous year. This was likely due to a fatal human case in B.C. in 2019 which heightened concerns. There were 22 positive cases of raccoon rabies and no fox cases last year.

The map on the next page shows the total number of rabies cases in Ontario since the start of this outbreak in 2015. There have been a total of 21 positive fox strain cases (red diamonds) and 468 cases of raccoon rabies (blue circles). The green dots are negative samples.

Rabies Surveillance September 25, 2019



<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/rabieszone.htm>

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.