

### OLPC 2021 Membership Meetings

- April 16, 2021
- June 11, 2021
- August 13, 2021 – tentative
- October 15, 2021
- December 10, 2021

### OLPC Vice Chair Election

Julie Harlow was re-elected by the OLPC Board as Vice Chair for 2020-2021. Julie represents Angus Geo Solutions at OLPC and the Individual Agri-business Sector on the Board.

### Dealing with Escaped Livestock

There have been an increasing number of instances of loose animals. This is a biosecurity hazard for other farms and livestock and a human safety concern. In February, a motorist was killed when he hit a loose horse on a road in Oxford County which emphasizes the seriousness of this issue. OMAFRA has produced two animals at large infosheets which are available on the OLPC website

<http://www.ontlpc.ca/news.php>

### OIE Guidelines for ASF Compartmentalization

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recently released guidelines on compartmentalization for African swine fever (ASF). The document can be downloaded at [OIE Compartmentalization Guidelines](#). It details specific recommendations and provides guidance on key aspects of the compartmentalization process. These include the definition of an ASF-free compartment, the pork supply chain, risk assessment, biosecurity, surveillance, diagnostic capabilities and procedures, traceability, public-private partnerships (PPPs), the regulatory framework, approval and recognition of ASF-free compartments, and responses to changes of ASF status, within and outside the compartment.

### Canada – U.S. Protocol for ASF in Wild Pigs

Canada and the United States have signed a protocol that would guide bilateral trade between the two countries should African

### Wild Pigs in Ontario

At the OLPC membership meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>, Christoph Wand, Livestock Sustainability Specialist with OMAFRA and Bree Walpole, Senior Policy Advisor, at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry gave a presentation on “Wild Pigs in Ontario: What you need to know and what you can do.”

Euroasian boar were imported for farming in the 1980s and 1990s. Some animals escaped or were intentionally released. They easily adapted to many areas of North America. Concerns include: danger to humans, kill grazing livestock and wildlife, harass other livestock and wildlife, and can do extensive damage to crops with their rooting behaviour. Ontario has an opportunity to get ahead of the population so they don't become established.

Wild pigs are defined as any escaped wild boar, domestic pigs, and hybrids. The MNR receives reports of all types of wild pigs everything from domestic pigs loose on the road (25%), to trail camera footage of wild boar (12%), to pot-bellied pigs (16%) that have wandered away from home or have been abandoned; 48% of reports are unknown type due to lack of photographs or poor quality photographs.

The number of sightings of wild boar is low, only singles or small groups are seen. This indicates there are no large, established and breeding groups. They are difficult and costly to eradicate; 90% must be eliminated annually just to maintain the population. Hunting is not effective and actually accelerates their spread; the animals become nocturnal, avoid humans, and are more difficult to find. Whole sounder (herd) removal is the objective. The provincial government is looking into listing wild pigs as an invasive species under the Invasive Species Act. That would provide more control tools for government.

MNR wants to know about sightings. They will follow-up and try to remove the animals. If you see wild pigs in Ontario, they can be reported at [wildpigs@ontario.ca](mailto:wildpigs@ontario.ca)

### OAHN Small Scale Swine Herd Post-mortem Project

The Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) is sponsoring a new study to identify disease issues in small scale swine herds in Ontario. For this project, small scale swine herds are defined as those with ≤50 sows, or that market ≤1000 hogs annually.

The goals of the project are to:

- identify disease problems in Ontario small scale swine herds;
- establish and maintain communications between small scale producers, veterinarians and OAHN; and,
- increase awareness of zoonotic and foreign animal diseases among small scale swine producers.

By participating in this project, the herd owner will receive subsidized post-mortem exams and laboratory testing to help diagnose health problems. For additional information, contact Dr. Josepha DeLay at the Animal Health Laboratory: [jdelay@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jdelay@uoguelph.ca) 519-824-4120 ext. 54576.

### Infectious Laryngotracheitis in Niagara Peninsula

Since Fall 2020, there have been seven infected premises diagnosed with Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) within the Niagara Peninsula. On February 5, 2021, one of the already infected premises reported a positive test in a subsequent flock. All

swine fever (ASF) be detected in wild pigs in either country, without cases in domestic swine. In a joint statement, Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jaspinder Komal and the United States' Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Burke Healey said the protocol, which is the first-of-its kind, is based on science and is designed to minimize trade impacts.

"Under the protocol, all trade in live swine, swine germplasm, and untreated swine products would initially stop if ASF is found in wild pigs, while trade in products treated to make the ASF virus ineffective could continue," the veterinarians said in a statement issued on March 16, 2021, adding the protocol "describes three phases which would gradually reduce restrictions on trade for these products." You can read the full statement [here](#).

### **Canada's Application for Negligible Risk Status for BSE**

The Scientific Commission of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has recommended to OIE delegates that Canada's application to change its status from a controlled-risk country for BSE to one of negligible risk fulfills the necessary requirements. This recommendation has been sent to OIE Delegates who will officially vote on Canada's application at the next World Assembly of OIE Delegates General Session at the end of May 2021.

A change from controlled to negligible BSE-risk status would help secure and negotiate access for Canadian cattle and beef products to trade markets that require products to originate from negligible BSE-risk status countries.

You can read the full Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada press release [here](#)

infected broiler flocks have been shipped for processing. The infected premises have completed the ILT cleanup protocols and will vaccinate their next two crops. All broiler farms in the zone have been monitored regularly and no clinical signs are evident. However, not all broiler farms in the zone have vaccinated.

A 15,000 bird pullet flock from an infected premises is being sold to backyard flocks. There are no clinical signs currently and all pullets have been re-vaccinated. The farmer has committed to rigorously follow ILT clean up protocols and fallow time. This highly contagious virus can survive in litter and on equipment. It can also spread through dust particles in the air.

Outside of the Niagara zone, ILT was diagnosed in a Prince Edward County small layer flock on February 25th, a small poultry flock in the Paisley area of Bruce County on March 3rd, and in a 38-bird flock near Cornwall on March 19th.

### **CIPARS Annual Stakeholder Meeting Integrated Findings Presentation**

The Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) hosted the Annual Stakeholder Webinar on February 24, 2021. The presentation is available for downloading on the [CAHSS website](#)

Below are some of the key findings:

- Antimicrobial sales (kg) decreased by 10% between 2018 and 2019.
- Sales for production animals (livestock, aquaculture, horses) decreased by 10% in terms of kg sold and decreased by 12% after adjusting for the biomass – mg/PCU.
- In comparison to 2018, sales for use in pigs, poultry, and aquaculture decreased; sales for use in cattle, horses, companion animals, and small ruminants increased in 2019.

Of the antimicrobials sold:

- 78% were intended for production animals
- 22% were intended for humans
- <1% were intended for companion animals
- <1% were intended for crops

*S. Enteritidis*, the most common serovar from sick people, has been decreasing. However, nalidixic acid resistance in *S. Enteritidis* isolates has been increasing. Nalidixic acid resistance in *S. Enteritidis* is more common in cases with a history of travel outside of Canada.

Though the numbers are still small, CIPARS continues to see an increase in *Salmonella* isolates resistant to six to seven of the seven antimicrobial classes tested from humans, animals, and food in 2019. In 2019, this included drug-resistant *Salmonella* Heidelberg from healthy cattle observed for the first time.

### **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.*