

## Issue 57 October 2021

### OLPC 2021 Membership Meetings

- October 15, 2021
- December 10, 2021

### OLPC Board Vice Chair

Julie Harlow was re-elected by the OLPC Board as Vice Chair for 2021-2022. Julie represented Angus Geo Solutions and now Small Farm Canada magazine at OLPC and the Individual Agri-business Sector on the Board.

### OLPC on Twitter

OLPC now has a Twitter account @ontlpc and can profile or retweet any member animal health and welfare communications. Forward suggested topics to Laura Shantz [laura.tfio@bell.net](mailto:laura.tfio@bell.net)

### New Provincial Poultry Veterinarian

Dr. Lucica (Luci) Rosca has been appointed Lead Veterinarian Animal Health and Welfare. She will focus on a variety of files in the Animal Health and Welfare Branch, including poultry health and welfare. Dr. Rosca has been with OMAFRA as a Regional Veterinarian since 2010 providing veterinary guidance and oversight for food safety and animal welfare at provincial abattoirs. Dr. Rosca can be reached at [lucica.rosca@ontario.ca](mailto:lucica.rosca@ontario.ca)

### African Swine Fever Webinars

The Canadian Pork Council hosted two townhalls on African swine fever on September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The sessions were recorded and are available on the CPC website <https://www.cpc-ccp.com/asf-townhall-day-1>

There are also lots of ASF resources for producers on their website at <https://www.cpc-ccp.com/african-swine-fever>

The USDA APHIS hosted an ASF action week in September. They offered 90-minute webinars each afternoon. If you are interested in watching the recorded versions, the website is [here](#).

### Ontario Man Diagnosed with Anaplasmosis

An Ontario man, living near Gananoque was recently diagnosed with anaplasmosis. Dr. Gerald Evans, an infectious disease expert with Queen's University, says more cases of anaplasmosis are being reported in southern Canada, particularly in southern Quebec and southeastern Ontario. In 2020, one case was reported in the region, this year that has jumped to seven.

Anaplasmosis is a serious bacterial infection that can be picked up after being bitten by a black-legged tick. This is the same tick that carries Lyme disease. Unlike Lyme disease, the symptoms can come on quickly and appear more severe, says Dr. Evans. They can include fever, tiredness, aches and pains in bones and joints, and even possible anemia. Luckily, it is easier to treat than Lyme Disease. It can be treated quickly with antibiotics and people typically feel better within a few days.

### West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis

There have been two reported WNV equine cases (Leeds and Grenville, and Kawartha Lakes) and seven EEEV equine cases. These viruses are transmitted by mosquitoes or other biting insects. The morbidity rate in horses infected with EEE is 75-95%. For WNV, up to 40% of infected horses are euthanized or die. Vaccines are available.

As of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, there have been 103 WNV positive mosquito pools, and two EEEV positive mosquito pool detected through surveillance.

There have been 10 reported (confirmed or probable) human WNV cases in Ontario this year.

### African Swine Fever in the Caribbean

The U.S. has had an active surveillance agreement with the Dominican Republic (DR) regarding Classical swine fever. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. tested samples collected in the DR from February to early July. They were asked to give priority to 12 samples of which eight tested positive for African swine fever (ASF). ASF has now been confirmed in 19 out of 32 provinces in the DR and also in Haiti. The DR government has implemented a program to financially compensate farmers for animals ordered destroyed and is investing in infrastructure to store pork from disease-free animals

There is a lot of movement of people between the DR and Puerto Rico (PR) which is a U.S. territory. The OIE does not distinguish between countries and their territories so disease in PR would mean the U.S. would be deemed ASF positive. The USDA APHIS has stated they are proceeding to establish PR and the U.S. Virgin Islands as a protection zone. This designation would allow the U.S. to maintain its current animal health status should there be a detection of ASF or other foreign animal disease on the island territories.

In Canada, there is enhanced screening of international flights from the Caribbean islands. There are no direct flights currently between the DR and Canada. The major airlines in Canada have been asked to include in-flight messaging on Caribbean flights and connector flights regarding bringing back

### Deadstock Collection

One of two deadstock collectors in the Central/Eastern Region has ceased operations. The other company is not able or interested in expanding. As well, Atwood Resources has announced that, effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, they will only accept deadstock within a 90-minute radius of their facility. They want to focus on the abattoir waste side of their business which has grown and resulted in them reaching capacity with their current facility.

Biosecurity concerns could arise if deadstock is not picked up in a timely manner or not disposed of properly. The commodity groups have been in discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The OLPC Board agreed OLPC should continue to listen and see if there is a role/need for further involvement.

### Rabies Numbers in Canada

As at the end of August, there have been 1,805 samples submitted in 2021 for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 70 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 981 samples of which 30 tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	1	
Bat	41	22
Bovine	2	
Cat	1	
Dog	5	1
Llama	1	
Raccoon	1	1
Red fox	4	
Skunk	14	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30</b>

pork products. There are also restrictions on feed imported from the DR and Haiti although there is negligible volume of feed ingredients imported from those countries.

The U.S. has implemented increased entry requirements for dogs from ASF positive countries and Mexico has done so for the DR and Haiti. ASF can be transmitted via dogs' fur and bedding although considered low risk. CFIA is gathering importation data on dogs, assessing the Canadian position on whether to take additional mitigating steps and what those would look like.

CFIA has published an ASF-themed podcast. Search for Inspect and Protect Podcast on Apple, Spotify or Google Podcast.

### Changes to Avian Influenza Reporting to OIE

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) recently made changes regarding reporting of Avian influenza. These changes include:

- Low pathogenicity avian influenza is no longer reportable. A sudden and unexpected increase in virulence of low path A.I. in poultry is now notifiable as an emerging disease.
- The definition of "poultry" now refers to commercial operations only. Birds that are kept in a single household, and the products are used exclusively within the same household, are not considered poultry. Birds that are kept in captivity for other reasons, including those that are kept for shows, racing, exhibitions, zoological collections and competitions, and pet birds, are not considered poultry, provided that they have no direct or indirect contact with poultry or poultry facilities.
- Disease-free status may be regained after a minimum period of 28 days following cleaning and disinfection; previously this was 90 days.

The current/new OIE requirements for Avian influenza can be found online [click here](#). There has been no communication as yet from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on how this will change their Avian Influenza Hazard Specific Plan.

### Provincial Animal Welfare Services

In January 2020, the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019, (PAWS Act) came into force, creating Animal Welfare Services (AWS) at the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the first fully provincial government-based animal welfare enforcement system in Canada. The new enforcement model aims to increase compliance regarding animal welfare through proactive and preventive measures, such as having the strongest penalties against animal cruelty in Canada.

Farm & Food Care Ontario has produced a backgrounder on the key changes and the scope of the inspection and investigation powers. The backgrounder is available by clicking [here](#).

From January to June 2021, the Ontario Animal Protection Call Centre (OAPCC) received over 23,500 calls of which more than 9,300 resulted in the ministry undertaking an inspection or investigation. Of these 9,300, roughly 370 were calls related to livestock. Therefore, inspections of agricultural operations account for approximately 4% of total inspections conducted during that period.

### 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.*