

Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission Hearings

The Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission (Commission) is an agency of the Government of Ontario. The Commission is often referred to as the supervisory body of Ontario's agricultural marketing boards.

The Commission is responsible for the administration of the *Farm Products Marketing Act* and *Milk Act*. All regulatory authority for marketing boards in Ontario comes from these two pieces of legislation. The *Farm Products Marketing Act* and the *Milk Act* give very broad ranging powers and authorities to the Commission. The Commission has the authority to use these powers directly, or delegate certain powers to marketing boards. The Commission has the authority to limit or revoke any of the powers or authorities given to marketing boards at any time.

The Commission and marketing boards with the appropriate delegation have the power to investigate any matter related to the production, marketing and processing of regulated commodities. They may investigate and settle marketing disputes between producers and marketers or processors. Formal hearings can be used by either the Commission or boards to investigate and/or settle disputes. Decisions of the Commission and of marketing boards may be appealed to the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Tribunal.

July 2008 Pork Hearing

This hearing will address the following key questions:

1. What should be the scope of the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board's regulatory authority with respect to all pig production segments (breeding stock and all classes of pigs raised for slaughter)?
2. What role should the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board play in the selling/marketing of all types and classes of pigs? What type of regulatory authority does the Board require to manage this mandate?
3. What role should the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board play in serving the interests of the Ontario pork industry?
4. What representation model and board structure will best enable the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board to achieve its mandate?

Interested parties can participate in the hearing by requesting either full party status or intervenor status. Full party status gives persons the right to make submissions and deliver evidence. Intervenors have the right to make submissions. More details including the specific deadlines are stated in the notice. The notice can be viewed on the Commission's website at the following link: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/farmproducts/index.html>

For further questions regarding the hearing please contact: John Fitzgerald, Marketing Analyst at: (519) 826-3222 or by email at john.fitzgerald@ontario.ca

Pork Pre-hearing Meeting

The Commission made its decision about what the hearing would address after receiving written submissions and input through a pre-hearing meeting. The pre-hearing meeting was held on May 28, 2008 and allowed interested parties to bring forth issues they believe should be addressed at a hearing. Pre-hearing meetings or conferences as they are sometimes called are recognized as a normal part of a hearing process.