

Canadian
Animal
Health
Surveillance
System



CAHSS

The latest news and updates from the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System



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CAHSS HIGHLIGHTS

Presentation at CAHLN

Presentation at CAHLN -The Canadian Animal Health Laboratorians Network (CAHLN) conference was held in June 2021. The conference theme was "One Health Perspectives on Emerging Disease and Antimicrobial Resistance", and it included many interesting presentations by laboratorians and epidemiologists across Canada. CAHSS coordinator Dr. Theresa Burns presented on behalf of co-authors Drs. Glen Duizer (MB Govt), Nathalie Bruneau (CFIA) and Doris Leung (CAHSS) on "Animal Health Informatics: Integrating Animal Health Information in Canada". She discussed the concept of generating surveillance datasets from Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), provincial abattoir systems, and other data sources that can be used by laboratorians, pathologists, epidemiologists, and other personnel to easily generate information they need. Next steps include a visioning process with key partners, updating the recommended dataset for animal health laboratory data, and preparing for new data including genomic data.

**Animal Health Informatics:
Integrating Animal Health
Information in Canada**

Perspectives from the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System

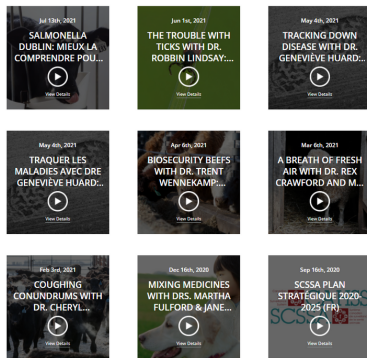
Theresa Burns, CAHSS Coordinator
Doris Leung, CAHSS Communications Lead
Glen Duizer, Veterinary Epidemiologist, Province of Manitoba
Nathalie Bruneau, Director, Strategic Planning and Research, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

CAHSS HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Review & Sustainability Planning Committee

At the June 2021 CAHSS Annual meeting, Dr. Glen Duizer (MB Govt) was nominated as the CAHSS steering group chair, and Dr. Ashley Whitehead (UCVM) was nominated as the CAHSS steering group vice-chair. There were also year in review updates from each CAHSS network, and from CEZD, CSHIN, WeCAHN, OAHN, RAIZO and AtCAHN. Annual Review presentation slide decks are available on the CAHSS portal site if CAHSS members would like to have a look. The second day of the meeting focused on the forward looking annual plan. The intention is to continue supporting the diverse projects of CAHSS network groups, CanSpotASF, CAHSS website, Animal Health Insights podcast, and other information products that are relevant to animal health and surveillance. One key focus area for this year is CAHSS Sustainability Planning. If you know anyone with expertise or experience in organizational sustainability planning, we would love to have an opportunity to reach out to them - please let us know!

ALL EPISODES

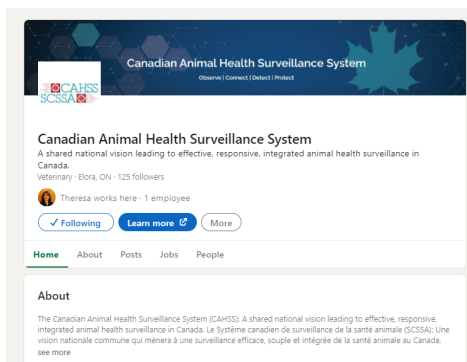


Animal Health Insights

Since the launch of our inaugural episode in December 2020, CAHSS has broadcasted 7 web-based podcast episodes with diverse topics that inform and engage producers, pet owners, laboratorians, and veterinarians on Canadian animal health and surveillance topics. Our podcast series has had around 400 all-time downloads. Our latest episode was released on July 14, 2021 and featured information on a cattle-adapted bacterial pathogen, *Salmonella Dublin*. We are excited to continue releasing more episodes monthly in both English and French. Listen to our podcasts on most audio podcast apps, or visit <http://cahss.podbean.com>.

Social media platform

CAHSS now has different social media platforms to showcase CAHSS resources, tools, events, while highlighting new initiatives and programs from partner regional networks and CAHSS network groups. We have launched our Youtube, LinkedIn, and Twitter pages this year, and continue to update these pages regularly with English and French content. You can bookmark these links and follow us at: [Youtube](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).



CAHSS Featured in New PHAC AMR Network Report

CAHSS and NFAWHC are mentioned as organizations working to enhance the One Health AMR response in Canada in the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Network Report, titled "Strengthening Governance of the Antimicrobial Resistance Response Across One Health in Canada". You can view the report here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/statement-from-the-minister-of-health-on-the-antimicrobial-resistance-amr-network-report.html>.



NFAHWC UPDATES



NFAHWC Welcomes Dr. Melanie Barham as the New Council Executive Director

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) is excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Melanie Barham as the new NFAHWC Executive Director as of July 15, 2021. Melanie has over fourteen years of experience working across animal health and veterinary industries and was the Ontario Animal Health Network Coordinator (OAHN) for several years. She has a veterinary degree, an MBA, and a project management designation. Dr. Barham is excited to serve the Council and work collaboratively with key stakeholders to support animal health and welfare from a national perspective.



The Council and Divisions would like to thank Dr. Megan Bergman for years of dedicated leadership, commitment, and passion in animal health and welfare in Canada during her time as the Executive Director of NFAHWC. The Council and Divisions wish her the best with her new role as the Registrar with the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia.

New NFAHWC Graphic

The NFAHWC has two divisions which include the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) and National Farmed Animal Care Council (NFACC), and several multi-year projects that address issues related to animal welfare, animal health surveillance, animal health emergency management, and livestock transportation. You can see the different divisions and projects of NFAHWC in this updated graphic at:

<https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/divisions>.

NFAHWC COUNCIL
National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

PROJECTS
In addition to hosting our annual animal health and welfare FORUM, we are proud to support five exceptional multi-year initiatives:

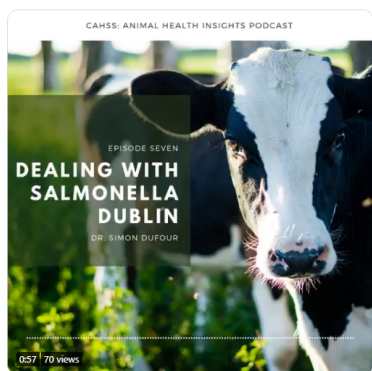
<p>Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust Through Codes of Practice (NFACC)</p> <p>Project lead: Jackie Wegniak September 2018 – March 2023 www.ahwc.ca</p> <p>Under the NFACC Division, this project centers around the development of a new Farmed Animal Code as well as updates to the following three existing Codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Dairy cattle Goats <p>We are also simultaneously advancing communication and support activities that promote public trust and decrease the frustration, inclusive and collaborative https://www.ahwcouncil.ca Code review and development.</p>	<p>Animal Health Emergency Management Project (AHEM)</p> <p>Project lead: Mikki Shatosky April 2019 – March 2023 www.animalhealth.ca</p> <p>This collaborative initiative focuses on fast responding activities aimed at improving preparation for and response to various animal disease emergencies in the livestock sector. Outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and testing new industry protocols Developing emergency management resources (frameworks, plans and handbooks) Delivering industry awareness tools and workshops Facilitating online, practical training for private practitioners. 	<p>National ASF Coordinator: Christa Kruenault April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 www.ahwcouncil.ca/afsf www.afsf.ca</p> <p>Focus is to provide coordination to all aspects of African Swine Fever (ASF) planning and preparedness. She is connected to the Pan-Canadian ASF Action Plan, under the leadership of the ASF Executive Management Board (EMB).</p> <p>The Pan-Canadian ASF Action Plan includes the following pillars under its framework: 1) Enhanced biosecurity and prevention 2) Preparedness planning 3) Ensure business continuity 4) Coordinated risk communication.</p> <p>The ASF Coordination team will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified ASF planning gaps and challenges are addressed. Best communications practices take place amongst all involved, including to our stakeholders. Efforts on ASF planning and preparedness continue to be collaborative and move in a forward direction. 	<p>Enhance Collaboration, Data Integration, Analysis and Reporting (CAHSS)</p> <p>Project lead: Theresa Burns July 2019 – March 2023 www.caahss.ca</p> <p>Recognizing that systematic data collection, analysis and interpretation are integral to improving health and welfare outcomes and reducing the scale and impact of disease events, CAHSS is exploring ways to advance animal health surveillance in Canada.</p> <p>This CAHSS division project targets three key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing collaboration Expanding shared intelligence opportunities, and Defining joint processes for collective success and sustainability. 	<p>Canadian Livestock Transport Program (CLT)</p> <p>Project lead: Amy Wright Ongoing www.livestocktransport.ca</p> <p>The CLT program is a comprehensive training course and support service for livestock truckers, shippers and receivers. The program offers certification that is recognized throughout Canada and United States.</p> <p>The program is led by an industry initiative to address the need for increased accountability and improved handling practices in livestock transport.</p> <p>Training modules are available for livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, elk and bison) and poultry.</p>
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NEW PROJECTS AROUND THE NETWORK

Our commodity group and topic-focused networks are going strong. A few highlights of network activities are provided below:

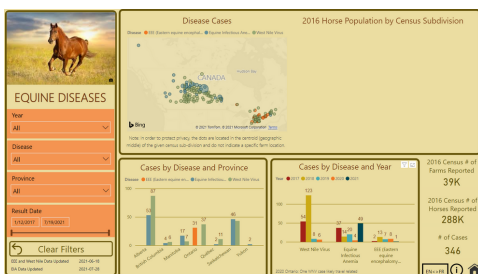
AMU/AMR Metrics and Indicators Tool

The **CAHSS AMR/ AMU Backgrounder on Metrics and Indicators for Reporting AMU** provides a recipe-like approach that partners can follow when planning AMU reporting in animals. The backgrounder and accompanying AMU reporting tool will allow the user to be able to better communicate with contacts within the animal production sector, other sectors engaged in antimicrobial surveillance, policy makers, and other key partners. CAHSS will initiate a pilot of the tool and to seek feedback and comments.



Dairy Network Update

The **Bulk Tank Milk report** was completed for this year and was presented to the network group. The CAHSS dairy network continues to remain actively engaged, with many jurisdictions providing updates on Salmonella Dublin, a disease of significance that seems to be on the rise across Canada. There is also a recent podcast released on CAHSS providing information on *Salmonella Dublin* etiology, biosecurity, disease management, and more with Dr. Simon Dufour.



Equine Disease Alerts & Other Updates

Equine disease alerts (<https://cahss.ca/cahss-tools/disease-alerts>) have been updated and shared with members through the equine disease dashboard (<https://bit.ly/3ygkpWC>), especially of **equine infectious anemia** (EIA) cases. There is hope that increased information sharing will raise awareness of the importance and value of testing for EIA. EIA, EHV, and influenza were reported this quarter. CAHSS would like to acknowledge CFIA and provinces for their contribution and efforts in providing case information for disease alerts to the dashboard. In other equine-related news, the **Potomac Horse Fever (PHF) webinar** presented by Drs. Luis Arroyo and Ashley Whitehead on May 18, 2021 was met with tremendous success. Link to the webinar is on our equine page at: <https://cahss.ca/cahss-networks/equine>. CAHSS hopes to host additional online webinars in the near future that offers RACE CE for participants.

Cross Canada Check in - Potomac Horse Fever
 An update on Potomac Horse Fever in Canada and review of how recent advances in genotyping may impact clinical practice.
Online Webinar (or to follow)
 Date: May 18, 2021
 Time: 10:00am EST
 RACE-Approved CE: 1 hour
 Cost: Free
 Register: Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.
Speakers:
 Dr. Ashley Whitehead BSc, DVM, DVC, DACVIM
 Dr. Luis G Arroyo, LMD, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Small Ruminant Network Update

The CAHSS Small Ruminant network group formed this year and has been actively engaged and share information in a cross-Canada roundtable on a quarterly basis. One of the priorities of the network group was to create a stakeholder surveillance map that connects partners from industry, veterinary associations, research groups, governmental agencies and more together in improving small ruminant animal health. The map is now live on our CAHSS page in French and English. The group aims to have other network priorities to discuss at the fall network meeting.



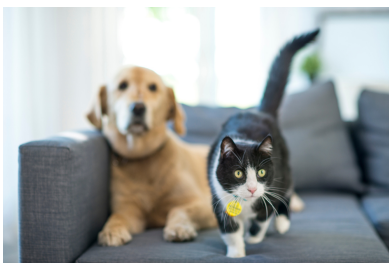
WDAI Projects Update

Dr. Danielle Julien, a research associate with One Health UCMV developed a framework to guide collaborative management of issues at the human-wildlife-domestic animal interface, and presented the framework to the NFAHWC WDA Interface working group and other key partners on June 8, 2021. The next step is to utilize the framework to solve real world problems with interface diseases. Moreover, CAHSS Communications Lead Dr. Doris Leung is currently working on generating an inventory for disease control and management strategies for high priority wildlife-domestic animal diseases in Canada. The report will be available this fall.



Launch of New Networks

CAHSS is currently evaluating the need for a **Companion Animal network**, and considering options to bolster surveillance information sharing for companion animals across regions and organizations. We welcome ideas and discussion topics that may be relevant to this network. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this network, contact cahssinfo@ahwcouncil.ca.



REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

Council of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVO)

Did you know the CCVO have a new website? You can view it at <https://www.ccvo-cmvc.com>.

Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (CEZD)

CEZD's website was launched as a microsite of the CAHSS website in the spring of 2021, since launch we have had almost 5000 page views on the site. We also now have a social media presence on Twitter, follow us at: https://twitter.com/CEZD_CMEZ. A small working group of CEZD members is collaborating to further engage with other One Health Networks across the country. The team is compiling an inventory of One Health networks and organizations, and will conduct outreach in the fall with those that have a focus on emerging and zoonotic diseases. We are continuing to work to enhance CEZD's capabilities to identify and direct early warning signals to those that need them. As a result, we are working on the creation of disciplines within the Knowledge Integration using Web Based Intelligence technology to direct signals via species and syndrome types.

Atlantic Canadian Animal Health Network (AtCAHN)

AtCAHN continues to meet regularly. These meetings allow members to bring forth disease trends and issues. Updates from each region of our network allow for quick notifications and possible action if any is required.

Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN)

OAHN has had a busy spring and early summer, with the creation of multiple new communication products related to: An emerging fish parasite in Ontario; Ontario equine disease alerts; COVID-19 veterinary podcast; Bovine podcasts, and many more. As well, multiple research projects have been concluded and results posted, including: Development and validation of a PCR test for small ruminant lentiviruses (CAEV and MVV); Modelling potential hotspots of African Swine Fever in Ontario's wild pig population; Parasitism in grazing cattle in Ontario; Ongoing investigation of an outbreak of Senecavirus A; and Surveillance of post-mortem data from a livestock disposal site. Go to <https://www.oahn.ca> and navigate to your species of interest to find all of the information on these latest projects and more. OAHN will be searching for a new Coordinator after Dr. Barham resigned to assume the position of Executive Director NFAHWC (congratulations Melanie!).

Réseau d'alerte et d'information zoosanitaire (RAIZO)

Small-scale pig farming veterinary group: Launched in May 2021, this group promotes veterinary presence in small pig farms to improve pig health monitoring. Among other things, the group shares veterinary expertise and publishes an online directory of practising veterinarians interested in offering their services to this clientele in various parts of the province. Consult www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/vetpetitelevageporc for more information.

PISAQ: A financial support program, the Quebec integrated animal health program is designed to prioritize actions that impact the structure of animal health and welfare and the wellbeing of the bio-food sector. The program is implemented through campaigns, which include animal health visits. A number of these campaigns have been held since 2017. The most recent one, launched this spring (2021), targets fish farms. It focuses on the importance of biosecurity to prevent and control diseases in farmed fish. Consult www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/PISAQ for more information.

REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

Western Canadian Animal Health Network (WeCAHN)

As WeCAHN enters its second year of operations, the steering committee is developing the Terms of Reference, and we are also developing guidelines for identifying and responding to surveillance signals.

The dairy network is pleased to welcome the Western Canadian Certified Hoof Trimmers Association to its group. The association will be sending a representative to WeCAHN network meetings for continued information sharing.

The beef network is currently prioritising outcomes of interest for reporting at meetings, with the help of the Western Canadian Bovine Practitioners' Association.

Frequently asked questions regarding practices such as vaccination, and common clinical presentations, from the swine and poultry listservs, are being converted to pagers and shared publicly via the WeCAHN website.

WeCAHN is launching a small ruminant network this fall and is currently recruiting and on-boarding veterinary practitioners from each of the western provinces to participate.

**WECAHN BEEF NETWORK REPORT
FEBRUARY 24TH 2021**

The first teleconference meeting of the Western Canadian Animal Health Network (WeCAHN) beef network was held 24th February, 2021.

Respiratory diseases: the most consistently diagnosed syndromes across the network practitioners was bronchopneumonia, in both weaning calves and feeder cattle. Pneumonia associated with viruses (Bovine coronavirus and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus) was reported increasing, relative to last year, in some herds.

Antibiotic resistance: reported for less common bacterial diseases of pneumonia or septicemia (blood poisoning). Mannheimia hemolytica and Histophilus somni.

Digestive diseases: Diarrhea in calves, a bacterial cause of diarrhea in calves, was diagnosed commonly from Oct-Dec 2020 in two locations.

Reproductive diseases: the most frequently reported was primary (i.e. individual disease of the female reproductive tract) (e.g. individual uterine infections in a herd).

Mastitis/diseases: were commonly reported, (e.g. arthritis and abscesses).

Novel clinical presentations: One practice reported increased acidosis diagnosed in all ages of cattle, sometimes during treatment.

Laboratory updates: Phalix Diagnostic Services: Dr. Zhang reported on influenza C virus PCR detection in bovine respiratory samples at PSD, when there are seeing more success (i.e. viral detection) sampling trachea relative to lung post-mortem samples. Phalix Diagnostic Services continues to include Influenza C detection delivered at no charge on samples for which the bovine respiratory panel is ordered.

Provincial reports: Manitoba reported some follow up regarding the 2020 Anaplasma ovisborne outbreak outside the 'endemic' zone. No further clinical cases have been detected with this outbreak since the previous (December) network meeting. However, another Anaplasma case occurred within the 'endemic' zone was identified, with a primary complaint of feucis associated with Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV).

Canadian Cow-Calf Surveillance Network (CCSN): Dr. Walker reported that CCN is currently testing the 2020 group of serum samples for BLV.

Takeaways:

- No case seen, John's disease and BVD will be becoming more frequent diagnoses in beef herds.

WECAHN BEEF NETWORK MEETING DISCUSSING THE PERIOD OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020

WECAHN Networks and Resources

Members of the WeCAHN expert networks meet every 2 months to share data, discuss animal disease trends, and identify treatment failures, as well as best practices. This group reports findings back to western veterinarians, livestock producers, and pet owners, to improve animal health and welfare.

Each of the individual networks or sector-specific networks is composed of a group of network experts, including university practitioners, laboratory diagnosticians, veterinary college researchers, provincial ministry staff including veterinary epidemiologists, and representatives from other surveillance networks.

When using other resources please note that for each of the following graphics below: hovering over them to back but not to click will identify the area 'READ MORE' to click on, to access the linked web page.

WECAHN Beef Network
Beef health and disease trends in western Canada
[READ MORE](#)

WECAHN Poultry Network
Poultry health and disease trends in western Canada
[READ MORE](#)

Small Ruminant Resources
Small ruminant resources: news and information
[READ MORE](#)

Swine Resources
Swine resources: news and information
[READ MORE](#)

Other Canadian animal health surveillance networks

- Other animal health networks have a range of interests, from the national network (Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS)), to regional networks (e.g. British Columbia Distribution Network (BCADN)), to the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN), and the Alberta network (Alberta Animal Health Network (AAHN)). Some have regional networks (e.g. Ontario Veterinary College Research Network (OVCRN)), and the Canadian Cow-Calf Surveillance Network (CCSN).
- National entities only (by country, from west to east):
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS)
 - Canadian Cow-Calf Surveillance Network (CCSN)
 - Canadian Sheep System for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CSARS)
 - Canada's Swine Health Surveillance Network (CSHSN)
 - Canadian OVIDS Health Surveillance (COVHS)
 - Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN)
 - British Columbia Distribution Network (BCDN)

CAHSS SUMMER STUDENT - CLAIRE SU

Claire Su is a third-year veterinary student at Faculté de médecine vétérinaire (FMV), Université de Montréal. She has an interest in public health, disease management, epidemiology, and animal production systems. She has been working with CAHSS staff since July to review CAHSS resources and materials in French to ensure quality, consistency, and effectiveness. She also helps support CAHSS staff in communications initiatives and strategies. Claire is excited to continue her work with CAHSS this summer, and hopes to share her experience, as well as knowledge on accessing CAHSS tools and resources back to her classmates in the fall.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Forum 2021

Forum will consist of two virtual sessions, with the first virtual session, **“Animal Health and Welfare Internationally”** that will engage international speakers on providing their perspectives on innovative initiatives that help to advance animal health and welfare, as well as One Health on a global scale. The second virtual session, **“Animal Health and Welfare in Canada - Where are we at?”** will provide information to participants on animal health and welfare in Canada, and will engage participants in a facilitated discussion to help inform strategic planning and paving the path forward for animal health and welfare nationally. Visit <https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/forum-2021> for more information.

Smallholder Swine CE

CAHSS is anticipating launching a **Smallholder Swine Health continuing education short course** for veterinarians in the fall 2021. The goal is to strengthen connections between smallholders and the animal health system so that sick smallholder pigs can be examined by veterinarians, and tested for serious disease such as ASF when appropriate.

Animal Health Emergency Management Project (AHM) will be hosting an **African swine fever (ASF) Preparedness Course for Canada** in the fall from September 21 to October 19, 2021. The online course is suitable for swine industry personnel who may be engaged in response activities. The program is approved for 8 hours of RACE CE credits. Participants For more information on registration, visit: <https://animalhealth.ca/ahem/training>.

For other virtual and in-person events related to animal health and surveillance across Canada, visit our CAHSS events page at <https://cahss.ca/about/events>.



2021 NFAHW Council
Virtual Events

NFAHW 
COUNCIL



“Animal Health and Welfare Internationally and At Home”
October 26th and November 23rd 2021
Virtual Events!

GET INVOLVED - JOIN CAHSS

Not yet a member? CAHSS is open to those who are involved, affected, or interested in animal health surveillance. To join CAHSS, visit <http://cahss.ca> or send an inquiry to cahssinfo@ahwcouncil.ca.

Members can login to CAHSS portal site to access additional resources and other CAHSS tools. If you are already a member, please update your member profile under **"My Profile"** after logging into the CAHSS portal site to ensure your information is up to date.



The **CAHSS Disease Alerts** tool now live <https://cahss.ca/cahss-tools/disease-alerts>. To ensure that you are subscribed, please update your member profile, check off disease alerts subscriptions and all animal species of interest for the disease alerts subscription.

Funding for CAHSS activities has been provided through the AgriAssurance Program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.