

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



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ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE

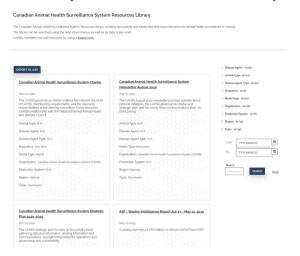
After months of hard work and dedication, we are excited to announce the launch as of our newly designed website as of December 17, 2020, visit us at http://cahss.ca. The goal of the new CAHSS website is to create a centralized platform for information sharing that is user-friendly, accessible, and easier to navigate. The website includes a public side and a member-only log in portal.



New features - The new website will have several notable changes, including the addition of the new CAHSS Tools available in both English and French. New website tools include the resource library, surveillance initiatives library, updated disease alert functions, regulated disease tables, and the "Animal Health Insights" podcast series. A few of these are introduced in this newsletter.

NEW CAHSS TOOLS & RESOURCES

Resource library - The resource library houses documents and media files that are relevant for animal health surveillance in Canada. Documents are organized chronologically and filterable by animal type, production system, disease, lead organization, topics, and document type. CAHSS members use a linked form to add new resources they would like included in the library.



Regulated disease table - The regulated disease table allows users to look up and determine classification for various diseases of interest nationally and in different provinces and territories in Canada. The tables can be searched by disease name, region, or animal type. Links to federal and provincial regulations are also available.



"Animal Health Insights" Podcast - The initial podcast series Animal Health Insights - Lessons from a pandemic is a six-part series incorporating topics such as zoonotic disease, One Health, reportable diseases and responses, Canadian veterinary research, antimicrobial use and resistance, and vector borne and emerging diseases.. The goal of the podcast series is to share interesting information with animal industry partners, veterinarians, and animal owners. You can listen to the first episode of the series, "Mixing Medicines" with Drs. Martha Fulford and Jane Parmley on the website. New episodes will be released every few weeks on a regular basis.

Membership Directory - CAHSS members are encouraged to update their profile when they visit the new website. The membership directory allows us to better understand members' areas of expertise and organizational affiliation. The member directory will be available to CAHSS members in the CAHSS Log-in portal, but will not be visible on the public site.

CAHSS PRESENCE

Forum

As a division of National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC), CAHSS had the opportunity to present short videos at the NFAHWC Forum that was held virtually this year. The videos will be hosted on the main CAHSS webpage and provide visitors with a brief overview of the organization, as well as its current surveillance initiatives and work. The videos are available in both English and French.



BCCDC One Health and Zoonoses Symposium

On November 25, 2020, Drs. Theresa Burns and Doris Leung presented at the BCCDC One Health conference, with 130 participants in attendance. Participants included veterinarians, epidemiologists, laboratorians, graduate students, and other public health experts. Theresa and Doris provided an overview on the CAHSS's work, and the importance of bringing together information on Canadian animal health surveillance. Audience feedback was extremely positive and many were excited about the new surveillance tools. Polling during the presentation revealed that many participants were interested in zoonotic, emerging, and reportable and foreign animal disease information.

AROUND THE NETWORKS

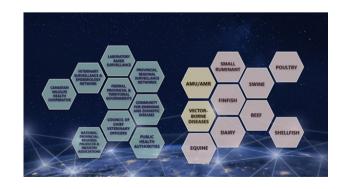
Our commodity group and topic-focused networks are going strong. A few highlights of network activities are provided below:

CAHSS AMU/AMR: This network met regularly throughout the fall to update each other about initiatives underway in various regions and agencies, and plan for priorities. This led to a new project to mover forward on the network's mission and AMU metrics.

CAHSS Vector-borne Disease: We are excited to report that this network recently nominated three new co-chairs to help move priorities forward. The network continues to monitor the spread of the Asian Longhorned Tick throughout the US.

CAHSS Equine: The network has developed case definitions for important equine diseases in Canada. This sector is a leader in using dashboards to report cases of disease in Canada and the United States.

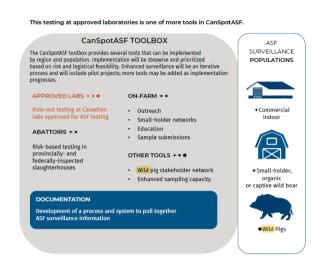
CAHSS Dairy: This network shares health information from across Canada in a roundtable feature on its network calls. In addition, partners have shared valuable information about bulk milk testing, and results are being compiled into a report for the network.



NEW PROJECTS AROUND THE NETWORK

Finfish project - A steering committee was launched to develop and fine tune the finfish health pilot project. In addition to CFIA and CAHSS, the committee consists of representation from DFO, CWHC, MAPAQ, and industry partners. The committee has met thrice since its inception in the fall. There has been ongoing discussion on the project, such as the potential development of a mobile phone app to encourage citizen science.





CanSpot ASF - CAHSS continues to support the work of CanSpotASF-Enhanced surveillance for early detection of African Swine Fever. Updates can be found at African Swine Fever -National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council at http://www.ahwcouncil.ca

REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

AtCAHN: AtCAHN is launching its virtual presence with a dedicated page on the CAHSS website. You can visit the page at https://cahss.ca/cahss-networks/other-network-groups/atcahn

CEZD: A few highlights of CEZD activities in the past year include; the facilitation of Rapid Qualitative Risk Assessments for companion animals, livestock, and farmed mink and COVID-19; the development of terms of reference for the sharing of private information among our members; and provision of support for the online delivery of the INKY2020 conference. CEZD will be launching our new website in the coming weeks as a microsite of the CAHSS site.

RAIZO: RAIZO continues its long history of valuable surveillance and information sharing in Quebec. CAHSS is pleased to host English translations of descriptions of surveillance initiatives and RAIZO reports in our online libraries. These can be quickly retrieved by selecting Quebec in the 'Region' filter.

OAHN: OAHN is jumping into 2021 with our first virtual AGM, taking place in February. The networks have been working on research projects set to support the surveillance needs within each network, along with regular quarterly calls. Veterinarians across the country can sign up to receive updates from OAHN at http://www.oahn.ca

REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

WeCAHN:

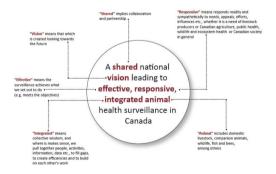
Beef Network - The WeCAHN beef network met in September and December. Summaries of these meetings, including seasonal concerns (e.g. potential exposure to zoonoses in handling sick or scouring calves given detection of Salmonella spp. and other agents such as Cryptosporidia) were shared with producers and veterinarians. Updates were shared on recent regional concerns, including the Anaplasmosis outbreak in Manitoba, and plans are underway for communicating potential mitigation measures such as tick control in livestock.

Smallholders Resources - WeCAHN launched a listserv which connects experienced swine veterinarians with non-specialist veterinarians to answer questions regarding veterinary care for pigs owned by smallholder clients. Infographics for non-specialist veterinarians, and smallholder producers describing several aspects of African Swine Fever have been created.



GOVERNANCE CHARTER UPDATE

We are currently seeking nominations from the species groups for CAHSS steering committee membership. Rotating 3 year terms will be implemented in the new year. Please visit the website's Governance Page and the linked Governance Charter for more details.



GET INVOLVED - JOIN CAHSS

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**.

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





