

Canadian  
Animal  
Health  
Surveillance  
System



# CAHSS

*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.

Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Resources Library

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Resources Library contains documents and media files that have relevance for animal health surveillance in Canada. The library can be searched using the drop down menus, as well as by title or key word. CAHSS members can add resources by using a [linked form](#).

**Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Charter**

**Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Newsletter August 2020**

**Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

**ASF - Weekly Intelligence Report Apr 21 - May 10, 2020**

- Disease Agent - (0/50)
- Animal Type - (0/74)
- Disease Agent Type - (0/74)
- Frequency - (0/3)
- Media Type - (0/74)
- Organization - (0/74)
- Production System - (0/74)
- Region - (0/74)
- Topic - (0/74)

From:

To:

Search:

**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.

Regulated Disease Tables

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Regulated Disease Tables are designed to allow a user to quickly determine whether a disease of interest is regulated, reportable or notifiable nationally and in different provinces and territories. The tables can be searched by disease name, region or animal type. Reports absent from the table are not present in a list of regulated diseases.

CAHSS members can request a spreadsheet containing more detailed information about regulations in various regions and in additional animal species and subpopulations.

Provincial and provincial authorities best authority over regulated diseases, and are the definitive final resource source for information about regulated diseases. Links to jurisdictional resources and regulations are available here.

Regulated Diseases Legend:

- R - Reportable
- N - Notifiable
- NI - Notifiable/Interventive
- AI - Annually reportable
- NI - Notifiable/Interventive
- C - Controlled
- D - Designated
- H - Hazardous
- R - Regulated

Navigation: All Terrestrial Animal Diseases, Name, Cause, Signs, Symptoms and Lesions, Control, Risk, Statistics, Profiles, Tables, Questions, Values, Advanced

Available:  Available

Disease name:

All Terrestrial Animal Diseases	Region										
	ATL	AB	BC	MB	NS	NL	ON	QC	SK	YT	OE
Adenoviruses											
African horse sickness											
African swine fever											
African trypanosomiasis											
Alveolar echinococcosis											
Amboyna disease virus (fish)											
Anaplasmosis											
Arbovirus											
Arboviruses											
Arthropods (Chaperon virus)											
Arthropods (Chaperon virus)											
Arthropods (Larvicide)											
Arthropods (Larvicide)											

LISTEN TO THE LATEST EPISODES

**Episode 1: Mixing Medicines with Drs. Martha Fulford & Jane Parmley**

An infectious disease specialist and veterinary epidemiologist discuss zoonotic disease risks and the benefits of integrating a One Health approach to veterinary and human medical practice.

**Episode 2: Coughing Conundrums**

with Dr. Cheryl Waldner

Genomic testing may be the future of respiratory disease diagnostics - Dr. Cheryl Waldner outlines a project involving use of genomic tests to gain timely diagnosis, allow for targeted use of antibiotics, and improve the health of feedlot cattle. (Photo credit: Christina Wieser)

**Episode 3: A Breath of Fresh Air**

with Dr. Rex Crawford & Harold House

Good barn ventilation goes a long way to support the respiratory health of ruminants. An agricultural engineer and large animal veterinarian explain why ventilation is so important for animal health, and share simple barn improvements to minimize disease.

**Episode 4: Biosecurity Boebs**

with Dr. Trent Wennekamp

A veterinarian reveals some newly identified risk factors for introduction of respiratory disease, Johne's disease, and calf diarrhea into beef cow-calf herds in Western Canada.

**"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 move forward on the network’s mission and AMU metrics.

**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.

**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.



## 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.



This testing at approved laboratories is one of more tools in CanSpotASF.

**CanSpotASF TOOLBOX**

The CanSpotASF toolbox provides several tools that can be implemented by region and population. Implementation will be stepwise and prioritized based on risk and logistical feasibility. Enhanced surveillance will be an iterative process and will include pilot projects; more tools may be added as implementation progresses.

<p><b>APPROVED LABS +++</b></p> <p>Rule-out testing at Canadian labs approved for ASF testing</p>	<p><b>ON-FARM ++</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach</li> <li>• Small-holder networks</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Sample submissions</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ASF SURVEILLANCE POPULATIONS</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">               +Commercial Indoor         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               *Small-holder, organic or captive wild boar         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               •Wild Pigs         </div>
<p><b>ABATTOIRS ++</b></p> <p>Risk-based testing in provincially- and federally-inspected slaughterhouses</p>	<p><b>OTHER TOOLS +++</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wild pig stakeholder network</li> <li>• Enhanced sampling capacity</li> </ul>	

**DOCUMENTATION**

Development of a process and system to pull together ASF surveillance information

**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.

**September 2020**  
**Western Canadian Animal Health Network (WeCAHN)**  
 Beef Network Meeting  
 Producer Summary

**AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND SMALLHOLDER PRODUCERS**

African swine fever is very contagious & is killing pigs and wild boars in Africa, Asia and parts of Europe. No treatment is currently available. Let's work together on African swine fever: does not make its way to Canada!

**YOUR PIGS ARE VULNERABLE TO THE DEADLY AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS.**  
 Take necessary precautions to protect your animals.

**DO NOT FEED HUMAN FOOD WASTE, OR ANY KIND OF MEAT, TO YOUR PIGS!**  
 Although African swine fever (ASF) cannot cross borders, even in the absence of ASF, a contaminated pork product can hit your pigs and spread the disease. Additionally, the spread of where you dispose of your food waste to other animals, including wild boars, do not have access to it. If they eat ASF-contaminated garbage, they may spread ASF to the wild boar population, which can then back to domestic pig herds. If you have any pig manure and vegetables, make sure the fuel and vegetables have never been in your kitchen, or in contact with meat or products of animal origin. The virus can survive in fresh pork, processed pork products including cured, or dried, whole or minced portions for up to 100 days and over 1000 days in frozen pork.

**TRAVELLERS BEWARE!**  
 African swine fever can be transmitted to pigs through contaminated food and by contaminated items such as clothing and footwear. When you travel, never bring back meat or pork products to the Canada, which could spread ASF or other related or disease risks to the wild boar population (PWS). Wash all clothing and footwear thoroughly after use in other countries. Do not bring ASF-infected items or animals back to Canada.

**TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS SO YOUR PIGS NEVER COME INTO CONTACT WITH WILD PIGS.**  
 Although ASF is not currently present in Canada, wild boars can very easily spread their disease to your pigs. If you have access to the outdoors, take the necessary precautions to your pigs never contact wild pigs.

Reference: <https://www.oas.org/en/raf/pig-swine>

This project was funded in part by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

# 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](mailto:cahssinfo@ahwcouncil.ca).

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