



CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

2020/2021

Canadian
Animal
Health
Surveillance
System



CAHSS

CAHSS APPROACH, FOCUS & VISION

OUR VISION & PURPOSE

National collaboration and information sharing leading to effective, responsive, integrated animal health surveillance in Canada.

- **Vision** means our desired future for animal health surveillance in Canada
- **Sharing** implies collaboration and partnership
- **Effective** means the surveillance achieves what we set out to do
- **Responsive** means responds readily and sympathetically to needs, appeals, efforts, influence, etc., whether it is a need of livestock producers or Canadian agriculture, public health, wildlife and ecosystem health or Canadian society in general
- **Integrated** means collective wisdom, and where it makes sense, we pull together people, activities, information, data, etc. to fill gaps, to create efficiencies and to build on each other's work
- **Animal** includes domestic livestock, companion animals, wildlife, fish and bees, among others

OUR MISSION

To bring together and use data-driven information to demonstrate animal health, minimize impacts of disease and guide surveillance planning from a national perspective.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

CAHSS is a distinct division of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.



—
ABOUT
CAHSS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020-2021



Membership and Networks

- 310 current members of CAHSS, with 19% membership increase since the launch of the new website
- Most active CAHSS animal specific networks are Equine, Beef, Dairy, Poultry and Small Ruminant
- 2 special topic networks, including Vector-Borne Diseases and AMU/AMR
- Strong partnership with Canadian Pork Council (CPC) and the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV) to support Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN)



Collaboration

- More than 50 CAHSS network meetings organized
- 2197 hours of information sharing and gathering with CAHSS partners
- 30 hours of student supervision on Canadian animal health projects



Governance

Thank you to all CAHSS members for being willing to participate in the governance of CAHSS. CAHSS's member driven network-of-networks structure makes us wholly reliant on this ongoing participation.

- **Governance Charter** - The Charter was completed this year. It outlines CAHSS's governance structure under NFAHWC and articulates the organization's principles, vision, and purpose.
- **Strategic Plan** - The 2020 to 2025 Strategic Plan was completed this year. It provides a roadmap to guide activities and measure outcomes for the next 4 years. Read the details of both documents at <https://cahss.ca/about/governance>
- **Renewed Steering Group to lead CAHSS** - Under the new governance charter, a steering group renewal was completed in Q3. The new structure will help strengthen industry representation. As part of the renewal, CAHSS Poultry and Swine network representatives were appointed to 3-year seats on the steering group, a CAHSS Equine network representative was appointed to a 2-year seat, and a CAHSS Beef network representative was appointed to a 1-year seat. CAHSS Dairy, Small Ruminant and Finfish network representatives will rotate onto the steering group in future years

—
YEAR IN
REVIEW



CAHSS WEBSITE LAUNCH



CAHSS Website Launch

- 32,168 page views for the year
- 17,512 page views since the launch of new website
- 68% are new visitors and 32% are returning visitors
- 61% of users are from Canada, 33% of users are from US, remainder are international



CAHSS Tools

- 157 resources (documents and media files) on animal health surveillance information available since launch
- 149 surveillance initiatives highlighted since launch
- 8 podcast episodes launched (4 Animal Health Insights, 4 governance episodes)
- 160 podcast episode downloads since launch

<http://cahss.ca> 



TOP LANDING PAGES ON CAHSS



CAHSS Tools

- Resources Library
- Disease Alerts



CAHSS Network Groups

- Equine network
- AMU/ AMR network

OTHER SURVEILLANCE TOOLS

Equine Diseases Dashboard- Canada
The Equine Diseases Dashboard shows public information about cases of equine diseases of interest in Canada. At this time, it includes West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), and Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). The dashboard is interactive and can be searched by individual disease, location and date or time period.
[Go to Dashboard](#)

Disease Alerts

Equine Disease Communication Center
The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) is a US industry-driven initiative which works to protect horses and the horse industry from the threat of infectious diseases in North America. It provides information about cases of equine infectious diseases in the US, and includes some Canadian reports.
[LINK TO EDCC SITE](#)

LETTER FROM CAHSS



DR. THERESA BURNS
CAHSS COORDINATOR

From my perspective, the 2020/21 year could be summed up as productive, collaborative, and busy. The success and progress we have seen on the CAHSS file is a testament to the engagement and collaboration from animal health surveillance stakeholders across the country.

The move to virtual for the year worked well to foster cross-Canada information sharing. Two highlights for me included east to west information sharing on *Salmonella Dublin* through the dairy network, and a newly coordinated cross-Canada effort to address animal health and disease surveillance on smallholder farms that grew out of CanSpotASF work.

Good progress was made on governance during the year. The governance charter and strategic plan that were created will provide a strong framework for the CAHSS steering committee to direct the work of CAHSS going forward.

We maintained a stable financial position for the year due to Agriculture and Agri-food Canada Canadian Agricultural Partnership support of specific CAHSS activities. In the second quarter, we recognized a need to explore deferring a portion of 2020/2021 funding as a result of reduced expenditure associated with travel restrictions and increased partner workload due to the pandemic. AAFC was able to accommodate this request for deferral which will help to ensure continued progress on the project on 2021/2022. Other than COVID-19 related deferral, all available funding was used to support project activities as planned, and all funder-related deliverables and obligations were met.



Looking forward, we anticipate another productive and busy year for CAHSS. With governance and management processes in place, we will focus on enhancing data and information sharing and CAHSS sustainability planning. In the coming year, CAHSS will:

- Support our networks to move forward with activities and projects they identify as priorities
- Collaborate with partners to transform more data into information by addressing key IT and epidemiological resource gaps
- Continue to share and develop more web-based resources and materials in French and English to support partner needs
- Continue to enhance disease alert tools to allow for rapid warnings about animal health events, such as emerging disease, across Canada
- Develop and implement strategies to engage faculty and students at veterinary and agriculture colleges in order to enhance awareness about current work in animal health surveillance and opportunities to participate in creating and maintaining a robust animal health surveillance system
- Document requirements for sustainability, and produce a sustainability plan for CAHSS.



LETTER FROM NFAHWC



DR. MEGAN BERGMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Living in the midst of a pandemic has further reinforced for animal health stakeholders the importance of a robust approach to disease surveillance in Canada. It is also clear that successful surveillance initiatives require significant collaboration and co-ordination and should not be undertaken in isolation. The work of CAHSS together with Canada's regional and sectoral surveillance networks continues to advance animal health surveillance information sharing and intelligence which will enhance Canada's ability to detect, prepare for and respond to existing and emerging disease threats.

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council is pleased to see the progress that has been made by the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System, and we look forward to continued advancements through collaboration and engagement in the coming years. I would like to express sincere appreciation on behalf of the NFAHW Council to Dr. Theresa Burns, Dr. Doris Leung, and the other members of the CAHSS team who have worked tirelessly alongside our CAHSS Steering Committee and Networks to drive the evolution of CAHSS so that it is well positioned to support effective, responsive, integrated animal health surveillance in Canada.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH NFAHW COUNCIL DIVISIONS & PROJECTS

CONTINUING COLLABORATION

CAHSS participated in regular meetings throughout Q3 and Q4 that brought together all Council division and project coordinators to discuss opportunities for collaboration across projects, best practices for achieving project outcomes, and innovative methods that may be of value to maximize information sharing, such as podcasts and other media. CAHSS continues to share and highlight relevant information products from other Council division and projects on its newly updated website, social media platforms, quarterly newsletters, and in network group meetings.



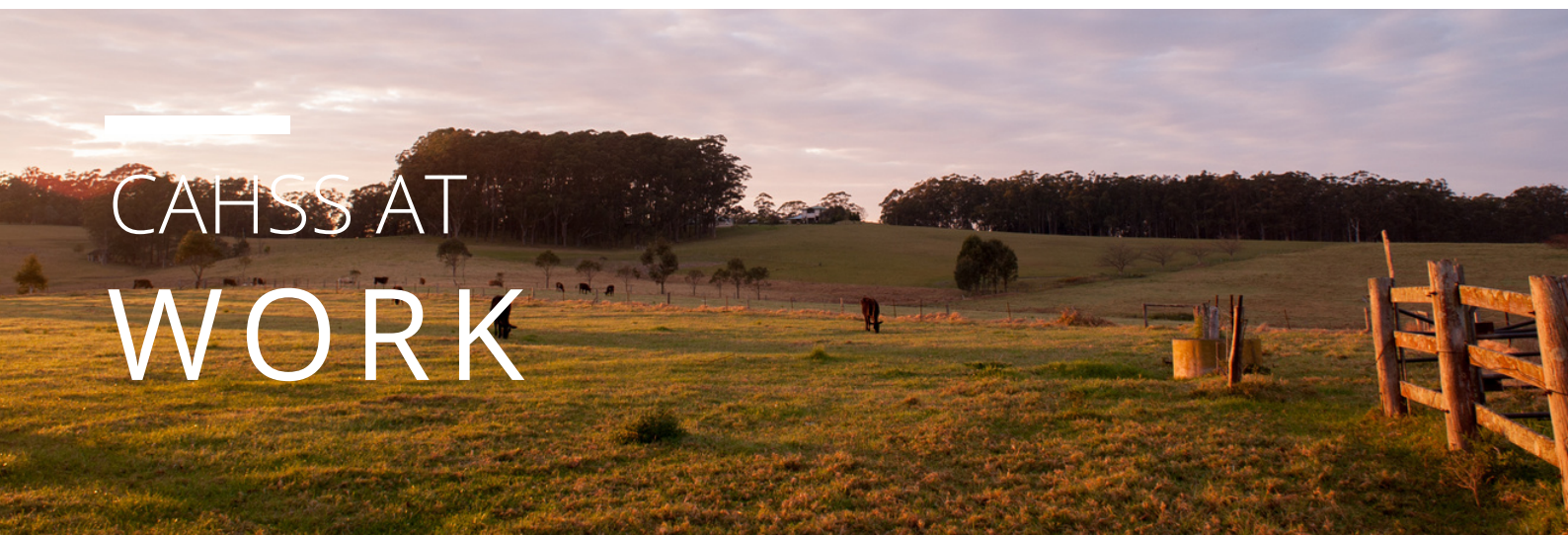
DIVISIONS

- National Farm Animal Care Council - NFACC
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System - CAHSS

PROJECTS

- Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust Through Codes of Practice – NFACC
- Enhance Collaboration, Data Integration, Analysis and Reporting – CAHSS
- Animal Health Emergency Management Project – AHEM
- Canadian Livestock Transport Program – CLT

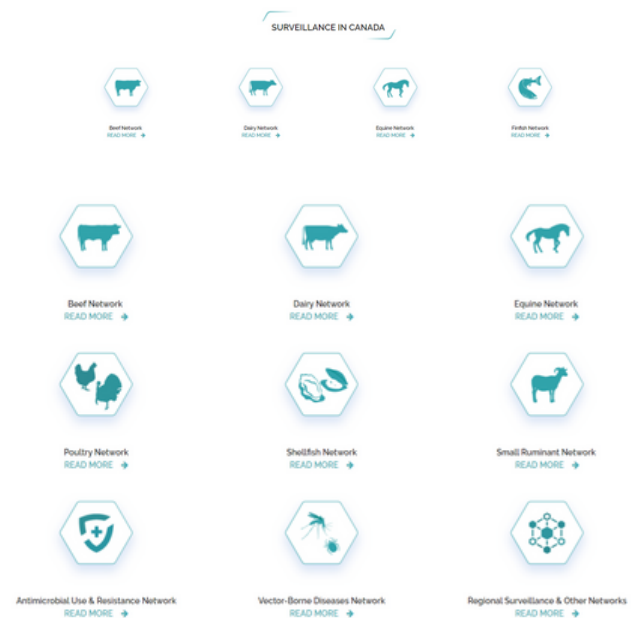
CAHSS AT
WORK



2020-2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

WEBSITE LAUNCH

The full launch of the new CAHSS website <http://cahss.ca> in January 2021 has been met with positive feedback from CAHSS members and key partners. The AODA compliant website is a centralized platform for information sharing and is much more impactful, user friendly, and easier to navigate than the previous website. The website includes improved structure of CAHSS content that is accessible on both the public side and member-only login portal. The website now features new CAHSS tools available in English and French, including the documents library, surveillance initiatives library, disease alert notification, and a regulated diseases table. The website shares events include webinars, conferences, call for abstracts, and education and training that are related to animal health surveillance in Canada and beyond. Improved communication with current and prospective CAHSS members is achieved with integrated social media buttons and a feedback page that encourages comments on the website and website content.



CAHSS AT
WORK



2020-2021 ACHIEVEMENTS



FINFISH NETWORK & CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

The Finfish network group is the latest addition of CAHSS network groups in Q4. Similar to other CAHSS network groups, the Finfish group organized online meetings several times during the past fiscal year to share aquatic animal health information and identify priorities and gaps in surveillance. In current development is the citizen science Fish Health Tracing project. It is a project that is under the direction of CAHSS, CWHC, CFIA, and the steering group with governmental and non-governmental representation. The prototype mobile and desktop observation collection app is in development and when finalized, will allow the public to report field observations of fish health to a centralized database to enhance early detection of new and foreign disease, and to identify changes in locally present endemic diseases.

AMU/AMR METRICS REPORT

With consultation and input from the CAHSS AMU/ AMR (antimicrobial use/ antimicrobial resistance) Working Group and NFAHWC AMU Working Group, the AMU metrics and indicators report was developed in Q3 to improve reporting metrics of AMU in animals in Canada. This document is under review by CAHSS stakeholders and will be used to effectively and accurately communicate AMU data to evaluate the persistence of AMR trends in production animals and to identify any potential negative impacts on animal or human health.



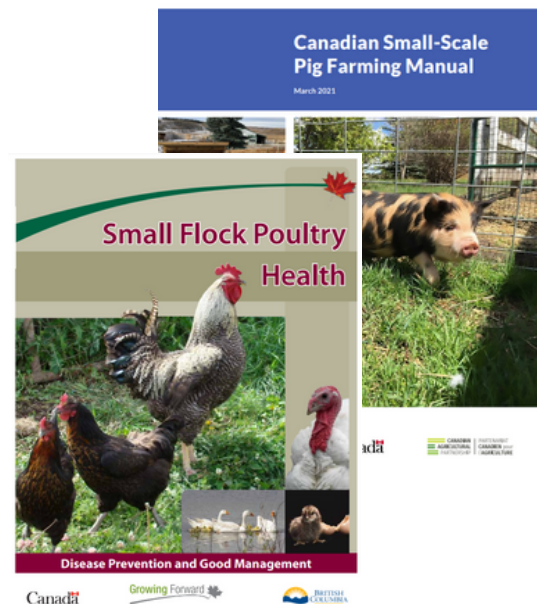
CAHSS AT
WORK



2020-2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

SMALLHOLDER RESOURCES PAGE

The CAHSS website now features animal health surveillance information for smallholders. The CAHSS Smallholder Working Group collaborated from Q3 to Q4 to provide an inventory of resources and surveillance initiatives for this page. The page contains manuals, calculators, posters, and other resources to guide small flock and small-scale pig producers on topics such as management, health, husbandry, animal welfare, provincial and federal legislation, and biosecurity measures.



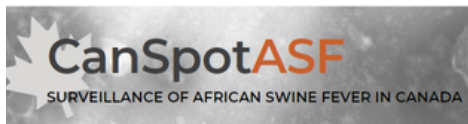
WILDLIFE FARMED ANIMAL INTERFACE PROJECTS

CAHSS understands that issues at the wildlife farmed animal interface, including infectious disease, threaten the health and livelihood of wildlife, livestock, and human populations. Research and surveillance programs targeting this interface is crucial. To this end, CAHSS has two activities in development in Q3. The first is to develop a framework that can help to support collaborative decision-making for management of wildlife and domestic animal interface challenges with total social costs that may be disproportionate to total benefits for a given stakeholder group. This activity is being completed by a post-doctoral fellow supervised by a committee that includes CAHSS staff and a faculty member from University of Guelph and University of Calgary. The second is to identify priority diseases and successful practices for risk management at the national and regional levels for diseases that transmit between wildlife and domestic terrestrial animals. This activity is being completed by CAHSS staff, along with a Vancouver Island University student and faculty member.



CAHSS AT
WORK

2020-2021 ACHIEVEMENTS



CANSPOT ASF SURVEILLANCE

CAHSS has been supporting the work of CanSpot ASF since Q1 and continues to do so. The CanSpotASF technical committee will continue to work on enhanced surveillance programs for African Swine Fever in Canada. The committee has begun risk-based early detection testing at approved laboratories with testing that started in Q2. Partners involved in the technical committee include CFIA, diagnostic animal health laboratories, provincial governments, CSHIN, CWSHIN, OAHN, and RAIZO.

CAHSS COMMUNICATIONS

Launched in Q3, “Animal Health Insights” is a series of educational and topical podcasts that introduce listeners to the partners and agencies that work to support animal health in Canada. The goal of the bilingual podcast series is to share insights, information, and latest updates to producers and veterinarians, as well as to engage and strengthen connections between stakeholders. The themes of podcasts range from respiratory diseases in cow-calf herds in Western Canada, to the importance of integrating a One Health approach to veterinary and human medicine. Since the podcast launch, there have been 160 podcast episode downloads by listeners, while others have been streaming the podcast episodes directly from CAHSS’ various social media platforms.

In Q4, CAHSS integrated different social media platforms to enable continued sharing of information between key partners and CAHSS members. In addition to a podcast webpage, CAHSS now has a Twitter account and Youtube channel that will connect with more partners within Canada and internationally.



CAHSS AT
WORK



OTHER PROJECTS



AMU Network Products

A new tool was developed to guide users through the process of selecting metrics and indicators for AMU reporting.



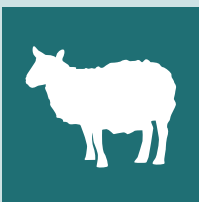
Bulk Milk Testing Activities Report

A report is available that summarizes bulk milk surveillance testing activities across Canada.



Reportable and Notifiable Disease Tool

A new tool on the CAHSS website that allows users to determine whether a disease of interest is regulated (e.g. reportable, notifiable) federally and in each province and territory.



Small Ruminant Surveillance Map

The CAHSS Small Ruminant Stakeholder Surveillance Map is currently undergoing final review with its network members and will be posted on the CAHSS website in upcoming months.

CAHSS AT
WORK

