



CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

# ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

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2024-2025

Canadian  
Animal  
Health  
Surveillance  
System



CAHSS  
DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA



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# CAHSS **VISION AND MISSION**

## **OUR VISION**

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

## **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.

# ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA **VISION AND MISSION**

## **OUR VISION**

A sustainable agriculture and agri-food sector strengthened by an inclusive industry-governments partnership protecting the health and welfare of farmed animals.

## **OUR MISSION**

Animal Health Canada provides leadership in building a collaborative, multi-partner model that clarifies the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of each partner implementing an animal health strategy for Canada, beginning with emergency management.



ABOUT  
CAHSS, A DIVISION OF  
ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA

# LETTER FROM CAHSS



**DR. MURRAY GILLIES**  
CAHSS INTERIM DIVISION  
DIRECTOR

Dear CAHSS Community,

I truly believe that 2024-2025 was a breakout year for our network of networks surveillance system, made possible by a foundation of previous years of great work. The growing threat of Avian Influenza and its emergence in dairy cattle in the United States was an excellent example of the importance of having a robust early warning system in place for animal health in Canada. We have repeatedly heard how a lack of a coordinated surveillance response has been a significant limiting factor in the control of emerging diseases globally, and this past year really allowed CAHSS to shine in its role as a part of Canada's early warning system.

Through our connections, CAHSS was able to report on the emergence of HPAI in dairy cattle in a very timely manner. We were then able to leverage the strength of our networks to keep our stakeholders engaged and informed on developments. CAHSS convened a weekly scientific discussion group, launched weekly update emails to our members, participated in a rapid risk assessment conducted by CEZD, contributed to the development of various resources through Animal Health Canada's Emergency Management division, and have advocated for and participated in surveillance discussions for Canada.

These activities continue to this day, and we have learned valuable lessons to allow us to refine our early warning system. These are being put into a publication coming soon in the CVJ on CAHSS' role in early warning, have been used to develop a national surveillance strategy for dairy which could be used for further surveillance should the need arise, and has resulted in the development of a surveillance framework which could also be applied across sectors for known or novel disease threats to Canada's animal health. CAHSS continues to build towards our vision of having a national, shared data platform where we can use information already available in Canada to better report on both emerging trends and known surveillance priorities in animal health and welfare.

I am pleased with where we are today as a surveillance system, and I am extremely proud of our ability to come together nationally to successfully deal with an emerging One Health threat of high risk to this great country. I look forward to seeing where CAHSS will end up in the future. A big thank you to all our CAHSS network members and stakeholders and here is to another highly successful year!

Cheers,  
Dr. Murray Gillies  
CAHSS Interim Division Director

# CAHSS TEAM

The CAHSS team has grown in the last few years. The surveillance division is proud to have a core team with diverse skillset, expertise, and professional interests:



## DR. MURRAY GILLIES, INTERIM DIVISION DIRECTOR

Dr. Murray Gillies is a bovine practitioner and dairy producer. Murray joined CAHSS as the Coordinator in January 2024 and became the interim Division Director in January 2025.



## DR. EMMA GARDNER, INTERIM COORDINATOR

Dr. Emma Gardner is a veterinary epidemiologist. Emma joined CAHSS in January 2025.

*"At CAHSS, we connect people and organizations from across Canada and across sectors who are involved in animal and One Health surveillance. Being part of a group that supports the generation and sharing of health intelligence, I get to see the real-world impact this has on Canadian livestock and other animals—which makes the work incredibly rewarding."*



## DR. MARIANNE PARENT, VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Dr. Marianne Parent is a veterinary epidemiologist. Marianne joined CAHSS and the Western Canadian Animal Health Network in January 2024.

*"I enjoy working with CAHSS because it challenges me to engage in diverse projects, such as the CAHSS data platform and network prioritization exercises."*



## TALIA STRANG, PROJECT LEAD

Talia Strang has a Master's degree in public health. Talia joined CAHSS as a contractor in March 2022 and became the Project Lead in September 2024.

*"I appreciate being part of sharing information and developing connections to build and maintain a robust animal and One Health surveillance system."*



## STEFAN IWASAWA, ONE HEALTH RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Stefan Iwasawa is a vector specialist. Stefan joined CAHSS as a contractor in 2021.

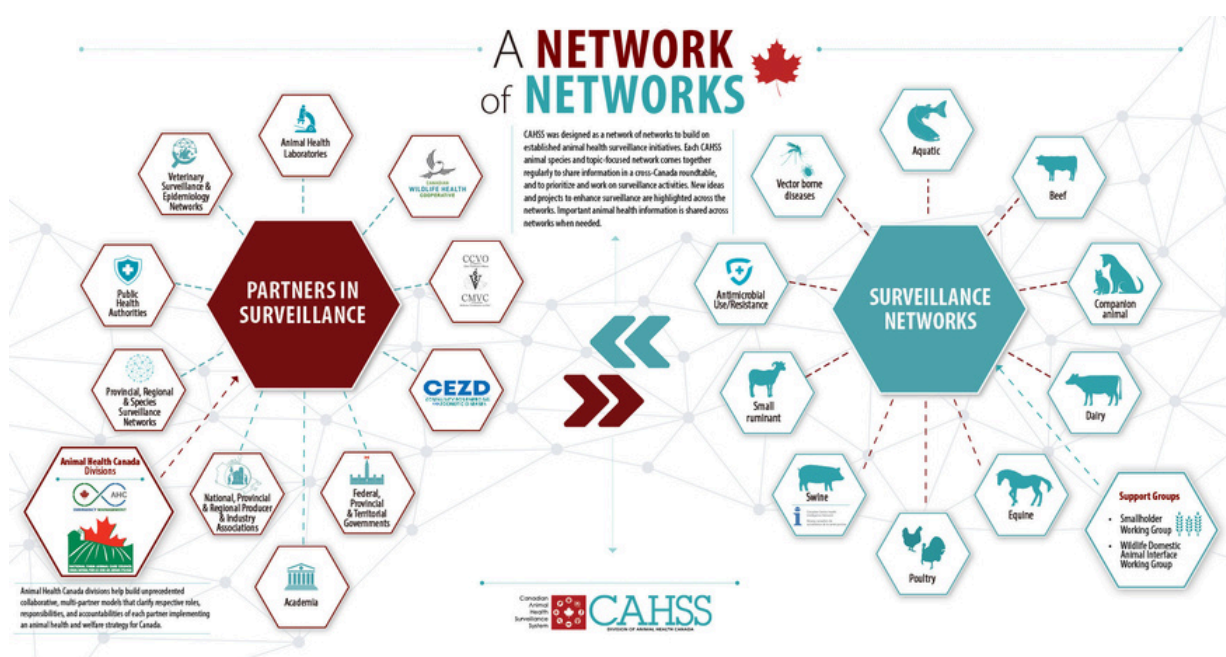
*"CAHSS is akin to the family reunion of old where relatives from across Canada come together to share, catch up and make plans for the future. The networking opportunities that the CAHSS quarterly meetings provide enable every corner of our vast country to come together and be better for it. Many new ideas, friendships and scientific collaborations are wrought out of these collaborative meetings. It is involved in and developed a vast array of infographics, webinars, podcasts and disease reports that puts it at the front lines of animal health surveillance."*

# CAHSS' NETWORK OF NETWORKS

The success of CAHSS is largely credited to its **network of networks** model that is built on established animal health groups and partnerships in Canada. CAHSS acts to ensure that animal health surveillance activities are conducted effectively and efficiently. CAHSS leverages surveillance partners and members for guidance and leadership, as well as the sharing of information and best practices for surveillance within our **seven species specific** (Aquatic, Beef, Companion Animal, Dairy, Equine, Poultry and Small Ruminant) and **two special topics** (Antimicrobial Use/Resistance and Vector-Borne Disease) networks.

**Additional working groups** were formed based on the unique priorities and needs of the network groups, including the smallholder communications working group, horse census working group, the small ruminant therapeutics working group, and most recently, the wildlife-domestic animal interface working group.

Each CAHSS network model is the same, but partnerships vary within each network. We are proud to work in collaboration with partners across sectors and disciplines, with representation from the animal and agri-food industry organizations and associations, federal/ provincial/ territorial governments including agriculture, animal health and public health, and environment, animal health laboratories, universities, provincial and regional surveillance networks, and more.



Our CAHSS network members are not only active participants in information sharing at our virtual meetings through the cross-Canada roundtable, but they also contribute by identifying surveillance priorities and developing resources and tools to advance and improve animal health in Canada.

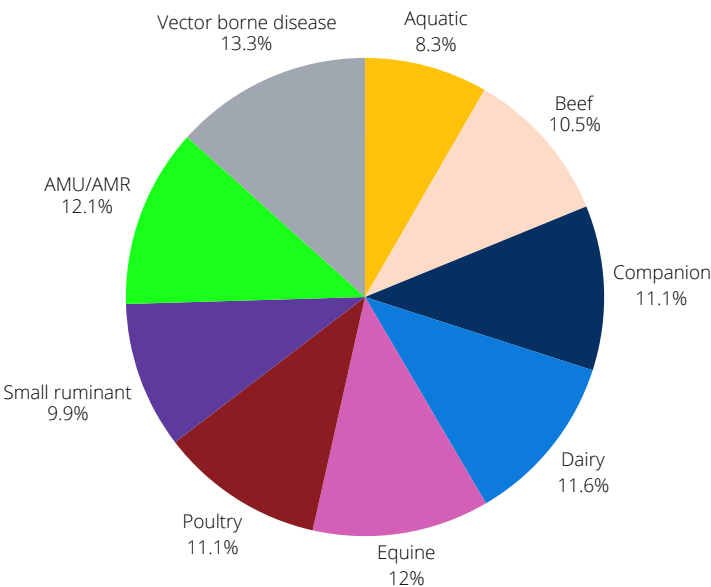
From April 2024 to March 2025, CAHSS organized a total of **37 network and working group meetings** for our network members, with **over 50 hours** of information and resource sharing that occurred across multi-sectoral groups and agencies.

# CAHSS MEMBERSHIP

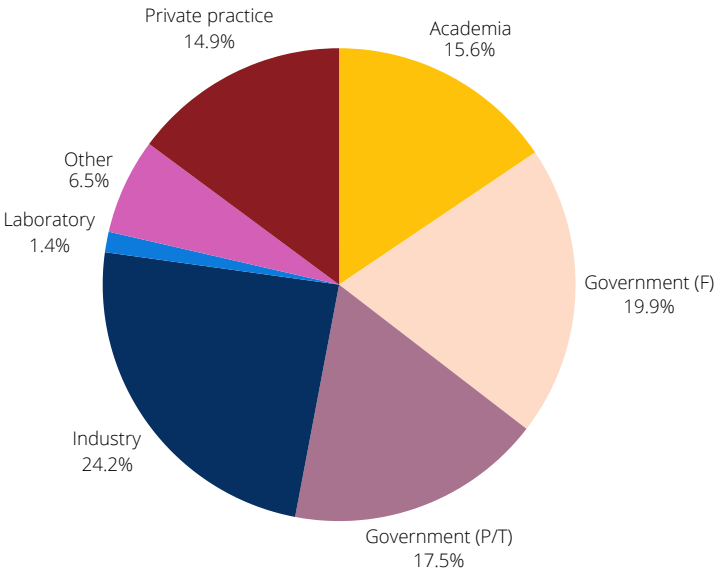


CAHSS membership has **grown 7.5%** since April 1, 2024. We have 919 members within CAHSS as of March 31, 2025.

Membership by CAHSS Species and Special Topics Networks



Membership by Organization or Agency



We encourage our members to log on to the Portal (password protected) side of the [CAHSS website](#) and to update their member profile. Doing so allows us to compile the most up to date information about the composition of our CAHSS members.

MEMBERSHIP  
AT A GLANCE



# CAHSS GOVERNANCE

## STEERING GROUP TO LEAD CAHSS

Overall leadership of CAHSS is provided by the AHC Council, as well as the CAHSS Steering Group, which includes representatives from CAHSS's species networks, as well as Community of Practice members. Community of Practice members are from organizations that provide insight into surveillance oversight and best practices. This includes members from federal/ provincial/ territorial governments, Council of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVO), and diagnostic laboratories.

The CAHSS Steering Group structure is designed for strong industry representation within CAHSS governance.

### CAHSS LEADERS MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025

#### Steering Group Members

- Species Network Representative (Beef): Dr. Cheryl Waldner
- Species Network Representative (Equine): Dr. Amanda Emery
- Species Network Representative (Poultry): Dr. Cynthia Philippe
- CFIA Representative: Dr. Noel Harrington
- PHAC Representative: Dr. Richard Reid-Smith
- CEZD Representative: Dr. Andrea Osborn
- CSHIN Representative: Dr. Christa Arsenault
- Provincial Epidemiologist: Dr. Glen Duizer (Steering Group Chair)
- Diagnostic Animal Health Laboratory Director: Dr. Maria Spinato
- Provincial Chief Veterinary Officer: Dr. Jill Wood

#### Steering Group Observers

- Species Network Representative (Aquatic): Dr. Laura Sitter
- Species Network Representative (Companion Animal): Dr. Erica Sims
- Species Network Representative (Small Ruminant): n/a
- Species Network Representative (Dairy): Dr. Karin Orsel
- Partner Network Representative (WeCAHN): Dr. Ana Ulmer Franco
- Partner Network Representative (OAHN): Dr. Tanya Rossi
- Partner Network Representative (RAIZO): Dr. Marie Eve Brochu-Morin
- Partner Network Representative (AtCAHN): Dr. Nicole Wanamaker

#### Network Leads

- Aquatic Network: n/a
- Beef Network: Dr. Gabriela Guigou
- Companion Animal Network: n/a
- Dairy Network: Dr. Karin Orsel
- Equine Network: Dr. Ashley Whitehead
- Poultry Network: Jessica Heyerhoff, Victoria Sikur
- Small Ruminant Network: Dr. Katie Waine
- Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Network: Dr. Daniella Rizzo
- Vector Borne Diseases Network: Dr. Jasmine Dhillon, Dr. Shaun Dergousoff

CAHSS network chair representatives are also encouraged to participate in regularly scheduled CAHSS meetings held online with the collective group of **CAHSS Leaders**.

We would like to thank **Dr. Mary Bell, Dr. Jagvinder Dhanda, Dr. Hussein Keshwani, Dr. Cassidy Klima, Dave Taylor, Dr. Fabienne Uehlinger, Adam Weir, and Dr. Barb Wilhelm** for their years of contribution to the CAHSS Leaders group and for their dedicated leadership and work in the past few years.

# ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER S-CAP (2024-2025)

**From 2023 to 2028**, CAHSS is committed on supporting the activities under the following categories:

1. Data integration and synthesis in a One Health context
2. Enhancing and building core competencies within CAHSS networks
3. Strengthening surveillance for animal health emergency scenarios

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM EACH ACTIVITY FROM 2024-2025:

### ACTIVITY 1: DATA INTEGRATION AND SYNTHESIS IN A ONE HEALTH CONTEXT

- Maintaining regular surveillance network meetings to facilitate collaboration and information sharing with a range of stakeholders and partners.
- Developing a national data platform to consolidate and transform disparate data into a standardized format for meaningful analyses and comparisons on animal health data across Canada.

### ACTIVITY 2: ENHANCING AND BUILDING CORE COMPETENCIES WITHIN CAHSS NETWORKS

- Organizing risk communications training sessions for members of each surveillance network, including an interactive session to practice crafting messages for different audiences.

### ACTIVITY 3: STRENGTHENING SURVEILLANCE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

- Playing a key role in the Canadian response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza emerging in dairy cattle in the United States through coordination, communication, and subject matter expertise.
- Continuing to support and collaborate with the Animal Health Canada Emergency Management Division to improve the readiness of Canada to react and respond to animal health related emergencies.



CAHSS AT  
WORK

# S-CAP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The three categories of the new project allow CAHSS to be uniquely positioned to advance all five S-CAP priorities and focus areas to advance sustainable agriculture, animals, and agri-food, including: building sector capacity, growth and competitiveness, climate change and environment, science, research and innovation, market development and trade, as well as resiliency and public trust.



**Sustainable Canadian  
Agricultural Partnership**

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

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CAHSS AT  
WORK