

Canadian
Animal
Health
Surveillance
System



CAHSS

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



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CAHSS HIGHLIGHTS

Staffing Changes

Dr. Theresa Burns, CAHSS' first staff member under Animal Health Canada (AHC), will be departing her role within CAHSS as of September 2022 to assume the role as the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in her home province of BC.

Theresa's contributions as the first CAHSS Coordinator under the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (now AHC) have directly resulted in the growth of the project and many networks and partnerships within CAHSS. Above all, Theresa's contributions are founded on trust and collaboration, core values of AHC. Theresa looks forward to continuing to champion the important work of CAHSS and the Western Canadian Animal Health Network (WeCAHN).

We thank Dr. Burns for her years of dedicated leadership and work in better positioning CAHSS as an organization that advances animal health and surveillance in Canada. Dr. Doris Leung will assume the role as the interim CAHSS Division Director while being supported by the central team within Animal Health Canada.

CAHSS HIGHLIGHTS

Staffing Changes

CAHSS has recently hired a new Coordinator as of October 2022. Dr. Judy Hodge is a veterinary epidemiologist from Winnipeg, MB. Her interests are in disease surveillance, risk assessment, producer outreach/ education, and knowledge translation. She has previously worked at HyLife, Swine Health Professionals, the Government of Manitoba, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.



Dr. Theresa Burns (left) will be departing from her role with CAHSS in September 2022. Dr. Doris Leung (centre) will assume the role as the CAHSS Division Director (Interim). Dr. Judy Hodge (right) has been hired as the new CAHSS Coordinator.

Presentation at CAHLN

CAHSS representatives Drs. Doris Leung and Betty Althouse presented at the 20th annual Canadian Animal Health Laboratorians Network (CAHLN) conference in Whistler, BC in May 2022 to a large audience comprised of Canadian pathologists, laboratorians, epidemiologists, and more. Doris presented on the "Minimum Dataset for Animal Health Surveillance", while Betty discussed the importance of "Using Laboratory Data for Animal Health Surveillance in Western Canada". More information on the minimum dataset for animal health project can be found as a one pager [here](#).



Presentation at ISVEE

Dr. Glen Duizer, CAHSS' Steering Group chair presented on "A Practical Framework for Developing Case Definitions for Animal Diseases" at the 16th International Symposium of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) in Halifax, NS in August 2022. The work was supported by the Veterinary Surveillance Epidemiology Network (VSEN) and the Centre for Veterinary Epidemiological Research (CVER). The report highlights the importance of case definitions for allowing appropriate comparisons of animal health data for disease surveillance, response, and reporting. The framework is on the [CAHSS website](#).



CAHSS HIGHLIGHTS

CAHSS Leaders Meeting

CAHSS' Leaders meeting was held on September 22, 2022, following Animal Health Canada's Forum at the Infinity Convention Centre in Ottawa, ON. More information on Forum 2022 can be found here: <https://animalhealthcanada.ca/forum-2022>.

The CAHSS Leaders meeting allowed opportunity for CAHSS leaders to provide feedback and direction for CAHSS's strategic plan 2023-2030.



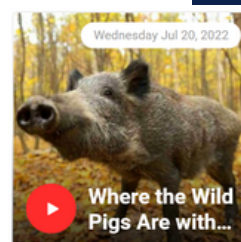
In addition, CAHSS is excited to welcome several new members to the meeting in the fall, including:

- Mr. Adam Weir (Aquatic network chair)
- Dr. Alexandria Oswell (Aquatic network steering group member)
- Dr. Erica Sims (Companion animal network chair)
- Dr. Hussein Keshwani (Companion animal network steering group member)

CAHSS would like to thank CAHSS Leaders Ms. Jenn McTavish (Small Ruminant network steering group member) and Dr. Dave Leger (AMU/AMR network steering group member) for their years of dedication and leadership to the CAHSS steering group.

Animal Health Insights

Since the launch of **Animal Health Insights'** inaugural episode in December 2020, CAHSS has broadcasted 17 web-based podcast episodes with diverse topics that inform and engage producers, pet owners, laboratorians, veterinarians, and others on relevant Canadian animal health and surveillance topics. The latest episode released, "Where the Wild Pigs Are", garnered over 1600 views on CAHSS' social media pages. Listen to the podcast episodes on most audio podcast apps, or visit <http://cahss.podbean.com>. CAHSS will be developing one-page infographics with the podcast episodes in upcoming months that will be available in English and French.



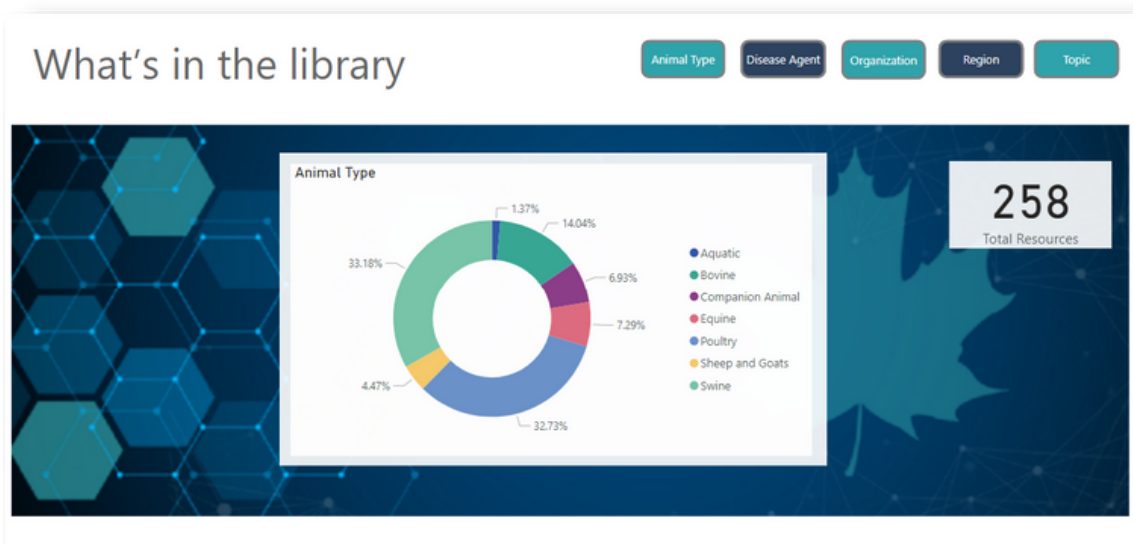
Wild pigs are known to wreak environmental havoc across all types of landscapes, and they can be difficult to find, let alone to...

CAHSS HIGHLIGHTS

New Dashboards with CAHSS

Two new dashboards have been published in recent months on our CAHSS Resource library and Surveillance initiatives pages. The dashboards allow **full user interaction** and **visual snapshots** of what is currently available in our inventory of resources and surveillance initiatives across Canada.

Moreover, CAHSS is in the process of publishing a new table on regulated diseases in Canada, that could be filtered based on risk levels of animal types, occurrence in Canada, and whether it is classified as a vector borne and/or zoonotic disease.



The CAHSS Resource Library dashboard allows users to filter various resources on the CAHSS website based on animal type, disease agent, organization, region, and topic. The dashboard is available in English and French.



The CAHSS Surveillance Initiatives dashboard allows users to filter various initiatives on the CAHSS website based on animal type, disease agent, organization, region, topic, and production system. The dashboard is available in English and French.

AROUND THE NETWORKS FEATURE

Our Around the Networks feature brief updates on CAHSS' networks. Currently, CAHSS has **seven species-specific network groups** and **two special topic network groups**. For more information on the different networks and how our "network of networks" structure works in action, visit <http://cahss.ca>.

CAHSS Network priorities survey

In the past few months, CAHSS administered surveys to its networks to identify each group's priorities. Each CAHSS network brings together participants from various sectors - from government, industry, laboratory, veterinary groups, and academia; to discuss disease challenges and organize surveillance activities to maintain the health and welfare of different animal species, as well as address topics of vector borne diseases (VBD), as well as antimicrobial use/antimicrobial resistance (AMU/AMR) in Canada.

Based on discussion at the network meetings over the previous year, CAHSS staff compiled a list of surveillance topics of interest in each CAHSS network. The electronic survey invited network members to participate in a process to develop a prioritized list that will be used to inform surveillance planning for each network moving forward. Surveys have been completed across the CAHSS network groups, with analysis and next steps communicated with network members in upcoming months.



AQUATIC SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

The network is continuing to look at ways to generate awareness of the **Fish Health Tracker Tool**, created in collaboration with CAHSS, CWHC, and CFIA. The objectives of the tool are to: add important data on fish sightings from across Canada, provide important information about fish health, and to increase our understanding of fish species and where they are found across Canada.



BEEF SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

The network is looking into continuing to share resources and information pertinent to beef cattle health in Canada, and to investigate whether there could be increased synergy across different sectors and CAHSS network groups, such as the CAHSS dairy surveillance network.



COMPANION ANIMAL SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

A first of its kind **webinar** on companion animal surveillance with multiple experts from the network group garnered over 100 participants in March 2022. The network has developed an important **stakeholder map** to visualize the different data providers and users related to companion animal surveillance in Canada.



DAIRY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

CAHSS staff have been in the process of developing an inventory of information regarding Salmonella Dublin epidemiology across Canada. Additionally, there have been an increase in resources published in the CAHSS **Resources Library** relevant to dairy cattle health and surveillance.

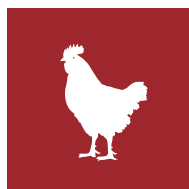
AROUND THE NETWORKS FEATURE

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EQUINE SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

New infographics related to equine antimicrobial stewardship and equine infectious anemia (EIA) have been posted on the [equine page](#). The equine disease dashboards are regularly updated thanks to CFIA staff, with information on reportable equine diseases sent to equine network members in near real time by email and social media posts on CAHSS' [Twitter page](#).



POULTRY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

Updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) are on the [CAHSS Disease Alerts](#) page. Relevant information on HPAI and other poultry diseases of interest are found on the [CAHSS Resources Library](#) and have also been distributed to the poultry network on an as needed basis.



SMALL RUMINANT SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

The network collaborated on creating an inventory on the portal side of the [CAHSS small ruminant page](#) on relevant small ruminant research projects. Information includes collaborators, topic, project status, project summary, and more.



AMU/AMR SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

In collaboration with network members, CAHSS created a [snapshot](#) of AMU/AMR surveillance initiatives across Canada. This network prioritizes bringing information to other relevant CAHSS species specific surveillance groups.



VECTOR AND VECTOR BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

CAHSS has created a [preparedness document](#) for Canadian stakeholders on Asian longhorned tick (ALHT). This report was reviewed by the network, with opportunities to share findings from the report at future conferences. An infographic that details vectors and vector borne diseases with overlaps with CAHSS species surveillance groups is currently underway.



SMALLHOLDER WORKING GROUP

The working group met regularly to discuss sharing of resources and information related to small flock and small scale pig production. The working group helped to promote the four part course created by CAHSS with over 200 veterinarians and veterinary technicians registered across Canada. The series, "Smallholder pig course for veterinarians" is now available on [CAHSS' Youtube channel](#).

ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA (AHC) UPDATE

AHC welcomes new staff with the African Swine Fever (ASF) national project (with Dr. Rayna Gunvaldsen leading), this includes Drs. Danielle Julien and Lucie Verdon. The two project leads support the ASF national project by providing facilitation, preparing for meetings, and maintaining project timelines. In its third year of work, the ASF national project works to tackle the risk of ASF introduction to the Canadian swine population. The project is an excellent example of the work done by AHC; at the intersection of One Health and collaborative problem solving.

ASF project lead Dr. Danielle Julien and CAHSS staff Dr. Doris Leung will be supporting CanSpotASF, an enhanced surveillance program to protect the swine sector from the impacts of ASF, as part of AHC's ASF pillar 2 in preparedness and planning. More information on CanSpotASF can be found here: <https://animalhealthcanada.ca/pillar-2-preparedness-planning>.



Dr. Rayna Gunvaldsen (left), the national ASF project manager welcomes two new staff to her team, including Dr. Danielle Julien (centre) and Dr. Lucie Verdon (right).

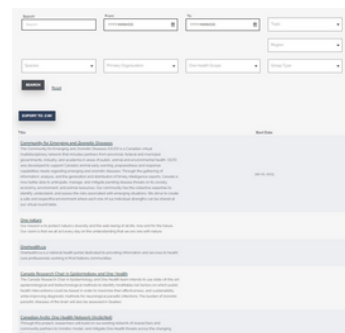
REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (CEZD)

With support from CAHSS, a webpage on animal susceptibility to **SARS-CoV-2** has been published on the CEZD website. In addition, information on **Monkeypox and animals** and **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza** have been created, along with an Infobulletin on **Japanese Encephalitis** and **Bluetongue Virus-Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease**.

Additionally, CAHSS and CEZD staff have worked together to create a **One Health Initiatives Tool** for the CEZD website. The tool allows searching for One Health Initiatives in Canada, along with the ability to filter the initiatives by name, topic, scope, species, region, lead organization, and group type as well as by date range.

Dr. Andrea Osborn presented on behalf of CEZD, CAHSS and WeCAHN at the Joint Symposium on Infectious Disease Management at the UCVM on October 13, 2022 with a presentation entitled: **"Collaboration across Disciplines to Protect the Health of Animals and Humans"**. Talia Strang represented both CAHSS and CEZD at the BC One Health and Zoonoses Symposium on November 2, 2022 with a presentation entitled **"The one health toolkit: what does this look like in the face of COVID-19?"**. Dr Nancy DeWith presented a **CEZD poster** at the ISVEE conference in Halifax in August of 2022 on behalf of the community.



REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN)

OAHN Update as of April to August 2022 is below. For more information, visit <http://oahn.ca>.

Companion Animal Network

- Introduction of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease virus 2 into Ontario
- A 2nd alveolar Echinococcosis case identified. *Echinococcus multilocularis* has become endemic in Ontario
- New Lyme disease, *Paragonimus kellicotti*, and Canine distemper infographics published
- Checklist for dogs imported from Ukraine

Equine Network

- Clinical impressions survey: Increase in equine asthma, lice, and hypersensitivity reactions
- New equine webinars on topics of special interest

Bovine Network

- Outbreaks of *Mannheimia hemolytica* associated pneumonia in lactating cows.
- New Bovine Leukemia virus podcast with Dr. Ron Erskine

Poultry Network

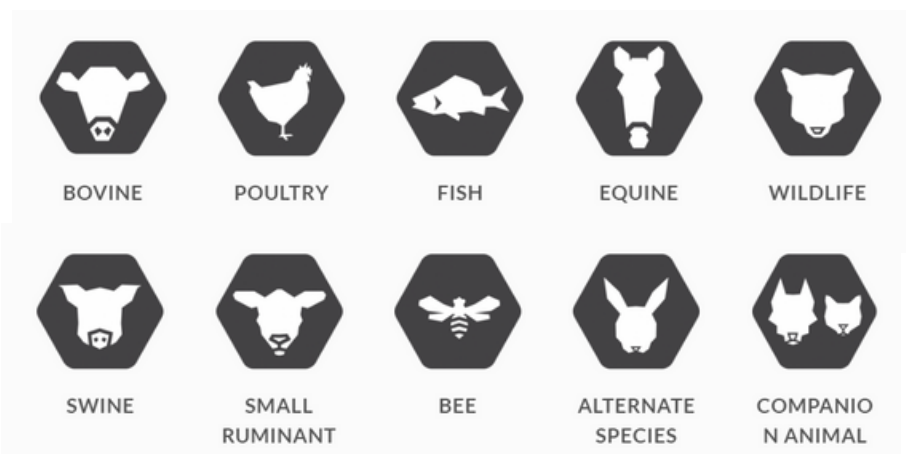
- Clinical impressions survey: Increase in late systemic bacterial infections in broiler chicks.
- Increase in Inclusion body hepatitis (IBH) cases from last quarter
- Focal duodenal necrosis (FDN) incidence increasing in layers
- Increase in Marek's disease in non-quota flocks

Swine Network

- Clinical impressions survey: Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS) elimination programs becoming more challenging. Most difficulties are associated with 1-8-4 strains.
- Active year for influenza. Most common strains: H1N2 followed by H3N2
- Increased number of enteritis condemnations

Bee Network

- 2022 Ontario Varroa Mite Monitoring campaign underway. Please visit the [OAHN website](#) for information.



REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

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

Here are the top diseases or issues of interest for the RAIZO 7 species specific networks from April to August 2022:

Bee Network

- Winter mortality (49 %), Small hive beetle cases

Bovine Network

- Decrease of winter dysentery (more severe cases at fall 21-winter 22)

Equine Network

- Salmonellosis (diarrhea, septicemia)

Fish Network

Partnership with the Faculty of veterinary medicine and the Quebec aquarium (diagnosis and 2nd line services)

Small Ruminants Network

Launch of PISAQ campaign No. 12 on health and drug usage, more producer support on milk quality issues

Swine Network

Swine dysentery due to *Brachyspira hamptonii* (3 outbreaks, the biggest with 27 contaminated sites)

RAIZO celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022. There was a presentation at the annual meeting of the partners of the Stratégie Québécoise de santé et de bien-être des animaux about the history and the challenges for the future of RAIZO. There is also a planning exercise that is about to start for RAIZO.

More about RAIZO at <http://mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/RAIZO>.



RAIZO

RÉSEAU D'ALERTE ET D'INFORMATION ZOOSANITAIRE

REGIONAL NETWORKS & OTHER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK UPDATE

Western Canadian Animal Health Network (WeCAHN)

WeCAHN update is below. For more information, visit <http://wecahn.ca>.

Beef Network

- Cases: Sunday morning blackleg outbreak; *Yersinia enterocolitis* in breeding bulls. Time trend to increasing lab detections of several pathogens including BRSV and rotavirus.

Dairy Network

- Cases: Jejunal intussusception in a mature cow; Curly Calf syndrome.
- While feed quality/limitations were a challenge this year the cows have been impressive in finding a way to convert that into fat and milk!

Poultry Network

- Cases: Mortality due to *E. coli*/ *Enterococcus* started as omphalitis, yolk sac infections, culled well and continued despite three different antibiotic regimens; Varied clinical presentations of HPAI. In contrast to last year, IBH is currently rated Stable to decreasing by network practitioners, although occasional detections of genotype 8c have been reported.

Small Ruminants Network

- Cases: multiple pinkeye outbreaks; Chlamydial abortion outbreaks.
- The network created a factsheet on infectious abortion, in collaboration with CAHSS and the Canadian Small Ruminant Veterinarians, and a decision tree for producers in how to handle abortions and when to submit lab samples.

WeCAHN has compiled a list of veterinarians accepting small scale producer clients across the four western provinces, available at <https://www.wecahn.ca/wecahn-networks/small-scale-producers>.

Anthrax has been reported in Saskatchewan and Alberta, occurring in cattle and bison, over the summer.



Smallholder animal health surveillance information

Animal health and surveillance information for smallholder/small-scale producers of poultry, swine, sheep and goats, and their veterinarians

◀ WeCAHN Smallholder Animal Health and Surveillance Information ▶

Smallholder or "backyard" producers face unique challenges in maintaining and promoting the health of their animals. WeCAHN supports smallholder producers, and the veterinarians who serve them, in a variety of ways: updates on emerging issues, timely infographics and reports on important topics, and podcasts, for both producers and veterinarians. For full access to these materials, please [join us](#).

Veterinarians are also invited to subscribe to WeCAHN listservs in which the questions of non-specialist veterinarians serving smallholder clients are answered by swine and poultry experts. To subscribe, please [contact us](#)

THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE SURVEILLANCE BOX

WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKS OF DR. YANYUN HUANG

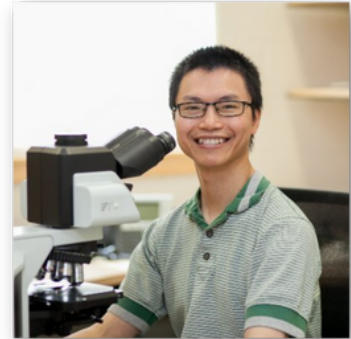
As CAHSS continues to expand its networks, there is a need to increase communications capacity to its members and other stakeholders, particularly with the creation of CAHSS newsletters, reports, and infographics. CAHSS hopes to feature the works of its members with each newsletter.

This issue features the work of **Dr. Yanyun Huang**, an anatomic pathologist and CEO of Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc. (PDS). He is interested in photographing just about everything, particularly wildlife, birds, and the majestic and vast landscapes of the Canadian prairies around Saskatoon, SK.

To see more of Dr. Huang's photos, please visit:

<https://twitter.com/YanyunH>.

If you have any artwork, photography, or other forms of visual media that you would like highlighted in our CAHSS resources, please email cahssinfo@animalhealthcanada.ca.



*House finch couple at the neighborhood.
Photo credit: Yanyun Huang*



*Blue jay showing off her pretty wing at the peanut feeder.
Photo credit: Yanyun Huang*

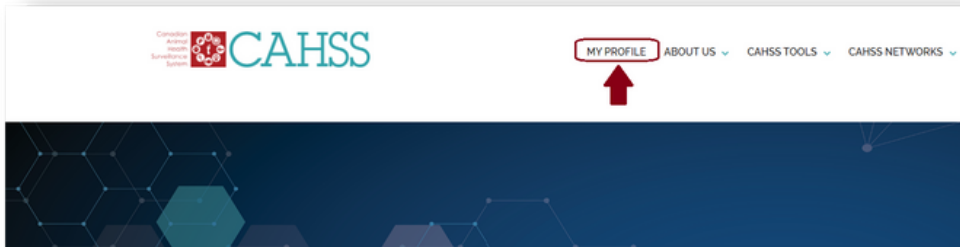


*Thanksgiving Day Aurora 2021.
Photo credit: Yanyun Huang*

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@animalhealthcanada.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.



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