



African Swine Fever in China

China is experiencing a surge in ASF infections, which began around the Lunar New Year holiday in January; data from ASF virus testing companies shows that the order of magnitude in a single month has reached the level of the whole year of 2022. The northern provinces have been more seriously affected.

Update on ASF in the Caribbean

Excerpt from [Feedstrategy.com](https://www.feedstrategy.com)
Almost exactly two years ago, the first cases of ASF in four decades were confirmed in the Dominican Republic. Within a few months, the infection had spread to the adjacent state on Hispaniola, the Republic of Haiti. Since 2021, official reporting to WOA from both nations has been sporadic.

Up to March 2022, 31 outbreaks had been confirmed in Haiti, involving a total of around 600 pigs. Meanwhile, the authorities in the Dominican Republic have notified WOA of about 247 outbreaks. Occurring in 26 of the country's 32 provinces up to January 2022, these had directly affected more than 19,500 domestic swine.

Despite efforts to control the disease, it has not yet been eradicated in the Dominican Republic. As a result of continuing losses of pigs, the USDA forecasts that the Caribbean nation's domestic production will be 30% lower in 2023 than in 2021.

CAHSS Podcast Series – Animal Health Insights

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) has produced a series of podcasts covering a wide range of animal

Federally Reportable Disease Information Sharing Agreement Template

CASV-ACVP has developed a template for an information sharing agreement that could be used by producers to give the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permission to share information with their herd veterinarian in the event of a federally reportable animal disease outbreak. The template could be used by other species groups as well.

This was identified as a need as a result of recent experiences of veterinarians dealing with Avian influenza. In some provinces, individual poultry boards have Memorandums of Understanding for sharing information with CFIA but even those do not cover CFIA sharing information with individual flock veterinarians.

CFIA assisted by providing suggested wording that should appear on a consent document. However, acceptance of this information sharing agreement by CFIA will be on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific disease scenario and the CFIA region involved (there are four CFIA regions: western Canada, Ontario, Québec and Maritimes).

CFIA has also made changes to their initial premises investigation questionnaire, by including a portion that specifically deals with inspectors discussing outreach to veterinarians as part of their initial contact with producers. So, there are active efforts to seek engagement of private veterinarians by CFIA.

CASV-ACVP hopes the template is beneficial but cannot guarantee its acceptance by CFIA in every disease case. To download a copy, visit the CASV-ACVP website at <https://www.casv-acvp.com/communications.html> (below current news).

CASV-ACVP Board Activities – Q1 2023

Some of the items on which the Board has been working during the first quarter of 2023 included:

- Sent a letter to provincial governments, provincial pork boards, and regional veterinary associations urging them to consider allocating or accessing some of the federal ASF funds for a program to support enhanced biosecurity at assembly yards;
- In conjunction with the other national veterinary species associations, have held meetings with the CVMA and the Canadian Veterinary Journal regarding greater input from and engagement with food animal veterinarians on position statements and journal content;
- Recommended Dr. Cordell Young to represent CASV-ACVP on the CVMA Working Group – Position Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine;
- Provided a letter to the National Working Group on Animal Transport supporting concerns about negative animal welfare implications of less flexibility in calculating commercial drivers' hours of service;
- Finalized a template for an information sharing release between CFIA, individual producers and their herd veterinarian that could be utilized if there is a federally reportable animal disease;
- Continued to participate in discussions with the Veterinary Drug Directorate,

health topics. Each podcast is approximately 30 minutes in length and features discussions with veterinarians or other animal health experts. The most recently posted one is Problem-solving for PRRS 144-1c with Dr. Doug MacDougald, a swine veterinarian with Southwest Ontario Veterinary Services. [Click here](#) for the complete list of podcasts.

Advertising in the CASV-ACVP Newsletter

The CASV-ACVP newsletter is sent to 180 association members each week. We accept classified advertising (e.g., job postings) in the e-newsletter. For promotional and marketing type ads, we offer one banner ad each week. We will also distribute technical bulletins for veterinary pharmaceutical products and other registered health products. There are advertising packages for companies interested in combinations of classified, banner and technical bulletin advertising.

If you are interested in any advertising opportunities, please contact Krista Bates in the CASV-ACVP office at krista.tfio@bell.net, 519-787-4322.

other national species-specific veterinary associations, livestock producer associations, and veterinary drug manufacturers regarding access to important veterinary products; and,

- Continued monthly meetings with CPC including review and comments on the CPC Piglet Pain Management document.

Proposed Amendments to Livestock Traceability Regulations now in Canada Gazette I

The proposed changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations are now in Canada Gazette I. The 90-day consultation period is from March 18 to June 16, 2023. Below, is the link to CFIA's main consultation webpage as well as the direct link to the proposed regulations in Canada Gazette I.

One significant change for pigs is that slap tattoos will no longer be an acceptable animal identifier for animals moving through assembly yards.

1. [Share your thoughts: Consultation on proposed changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations \(Identification and Traceability\) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)
2. [Canada Gazette, Part 1, Volume 157, Number 11: Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations \(Identification and Traceability\)](#)

Humane Transport – Infographic on Animals Arriving at Assembly Centres

An infographic entitled, [Compromised or Unfit Animals at Assembly Centres](#), has been published by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This tool has been prepared to clarify the decision-making process and options available when compromised or unfit animals arrive at assembly centres.

Susan Fitzgerald on behalf of CASV-ACVP Board of Directors.

Mission: *To be a responsive, proactive voice for veterinarians involved with the swine industry in Canada.*