Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians
Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Porcins

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Board Newsletter to Members

ASF Zoning Agreement with Japan

On June 16th, The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food announced that Canada had successfully established an African swine fever (ASF) zoning arrangement with Japan.

Under the new arrangement, pork exports to Japan will continue from ASF-freezones, even if the disease is present elsewhere in Canada. This provision is critical for maintaining trade with Japan - a key market for Canadian pork. In 2025, Canada exports of pork and pork products to Japan were valued at approximately $1.8 billion, accounting for 31% of export values.

Proactively securing zoning arrangements is an important part of Canada's ASF preparedness plan. With the addition of Japan, Canada now has ASF zoning arrangements in place with eight markets: the United States, the European Union, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines and Japan. Together, these markets represent nearly 69% of Canada's pork export value.

New World Screwworm Infographics and Resources

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) has added a new section to their public facing Vector Borne Disease Network page dedicated to New World Screwworm (NWS).

Please find available resources and infographics regarding NWS, here: https://cahss.ca/cahss-networks/vector-borne-diseases?l=en-us

CASV-ACVP Board Update – Q2-2026 Activities and Discussion Items

Communications Pathways re Swine Disease

The ASF Leadership Team asked each organization to establish a stable, long-term communication pathway as part of the Emergency Communication Guide. During the discussion, it became evident that veterinarians were significantly under-represented in existing communication channels, with far greater emphasis placed on informing the Canadian Pork Council and the Canadian Meat Council about ASF developments.

Christine Pelland, serving as the CASV-ACVP representative on the ASF Leadership Team, emphasized that veterinarians are among the first professionals that industry will turn to during a national swine disease event. For that reason, earlier and more direct communication with CASV-ACVP during ASF or any foreign animal disease situation would strengthen national preparedness. CASV-ACVP is well positioned to rapidly disseminate information to veterinarians across Canada.

To support this, the CASV-ACVP Executive Administrator will serve as the primary contact, with the President and Vice President listed as secondary contacts and updated annually.

Feeding Pork Plasma Products

The CASV-ACVP board discussed the possible risk of herd contamination through feeding pork plasma and considered what the association can do to reduce the risk of contamination via pork plasma.

Pork plasma is widely used in swine feed. When properly heat-treated, pathogens should be neutralized. The major concern is cross-contamination at feed mills, since plasma is also used in other livestock feeds. There is no easy regulatory path to restrict its use. It is our understanding that CFIA cannot justify a ban based on current science, so enforcement would have to occur through processors or PigSafe.

Within the ASF compartment program, plasma feeding is already prohibited. One option is to develop guidance for producers who continue to use plasma. The issue remains on the CASV-ACVP board action list for continued monitoring and consideration.

Swine Antimicrobial Prudent Use Guidance

Firstline is a veterinary antimicrobial stewardship app that provides quick, evidence-based prescribing guidance for multiple species. Developed through national veterinary and academic partnerships, it equips clinicians with up-to-date AMU guidelines, treatment algorithms, and stewardship recommendations to support responsible, effective antimicrobial use in practice. The CASV-ACVP Board assisted with the compiling the swine data which is not yet available on the Firstline app. CVMA is awaiting another round of financing to support AMU/AMR activities. Provided financing is received, CVMA may incorporate the swine information into the app. In the interim, we have posted the swine data on the members' only section of the CASV-ACVP website. **Click here** for the Excel spreadsheet with the swine information. This may be a good resource for veterinarians new to swine practice.

CASV-ACVP Bursaries to Veterinary Students

CASV-ACVP offers bursaries to veterinary students which support travel and accommodation costs so students can gain swine experience through conferences and internships. The total amount of bursaries offered is $15,000 every second year during even numbered years (e.g., 2026, 2028, 2030, etc.).

CASV-ACVP Webinars
The links to all webinar recordings are in the members' only section of the CASV-ACVP website https://www.casv-acvp.com/. Click on "More" at the upper right corner of the home page, then select "Login". The access to the members' only site is CanSwine and it is case sensitive. You will see all of the recorded webinars listed there. Once you view a webinar, let susan.tfio@bell.net know and Susan can provide you with a CE certificate.

Advertising in the CASV-ACVP Newsletter
The CASV-ACVP newsletter is sent to 170+ association members each week.

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

The objectives of the bursaries are:

- To develop veterinary students desiring to work in our swine industry;
- To financially complement projects requiring the payment of veterinary students. The objective of those projects must be applied and judged pertinent to swine medicine;
- To provide financial support for travel and accommodation so students can gain or expand swine experience through conferences and internships; and,
- Other activities supporting students to enter or expand their experience of swine veterinary medicine.

In the current round of funding, four bursaries of up to $3,000 were awarded to:

- Yan-Ru Chen, Atlantic Veterinary College
- Rose Anne Del Pilar University of Saskatchewan
- Emily Tulk, University of Calgary
- Alex Wang, Atlantic Veterinary College

Update regarding VDD Reclassification of Antimicrobials

As part of actions under the Pan-Canadian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and Response to the Office of Auditor General of Canada report, Health Canada initiated revisions to the 2009 antimicrobial categorization document. A draft proposal for the reclassification of antimicrobials was issued in 2025 for public consultation. CASV-ACVP commented this draft and we trust that our comments were considered.

Health Canada now proposes:

- Tetracyclines — The class is divided into first- and second-generation drugs.
    - First-generation (chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline, tetracycline) stay in Category III due to limited human use.
    - Second-generation (doxycycline, minocycline) move to Category II.
    - This split addresses the main stewardship concern.
- Phenicols — Remain Category III, but Health Canada's draft Can-AWaRe list proposes chloramphenicol as a Reserve drug.
- Orthomycins (avilamycin) — Newly categorized as Category III.
- Macrolides and aminoglycosides — Will not be upgraded from Category II to I, despite pressure from human-health stakeholders.
- Clavamox, virginiamycin, and bacitracin — No changes; they remain in their existing categories from the 2009 framework.

Public release (web posting) is targeted for Q3–Q4 2026.

Electronic Signatures on Export Certificates

In the fall of 2023, the CASV-ACVP Board sent a letter to Dr. Mary-Jane Ireland, CFIA urging the agency to accept electronic signatures on export certificates. In her response, Dr. Ireland indicated they were working through each suite of export certificates to implement electronic signatures. Equine and bovine export certificates now allow electronic signatures. In April, the CASV-ACVP Board sent a follow-up letter to Dr. Mary Jane Ireland, CFIA asking for an update on their progress regarding allowing electronic signatures on export certificates.

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