



Greetings from the WCASV!

I was recently commiserating with a farm client about the year so far; Covid-19 sucks, hog market was terrible, parenting school age children is challenging, the current international political scene is scary...it's easy to focus on the negative. We also laughed at some of the really positive things that have come out of 2020! Before March, I'm not sure I had even heard of Zoom, and now it has become a "go-to" (not preferred mind you) mode of client, association, business, and even extended family communication! So, yeah, not all bad, right?!

The WCASV executive spent time this year focusing on our five-year strategic plan which centres on our vision:

We will foster the development of swine veterinarians and strengthen our profession through education, networking and communication.

We had several initiatives planned and like many other things in life have had to "pivot". Our two-day, in-person ASF Workshop planned in partnership with CWSHIN for late March in Winnipeg became an ASF seminar series in June/July having a varied line-up of expert speakers on all things ASF in one-hour Thursday morning sessions. These were well attended, very informative for our members and swine sector colleagues and laid the groundwork for further ASF preparedness discussion.

Last fall, the WCASV Executive held our first Swine Sector Liaison meeting, getting together to network, share ideas and explore opportunities for collaboration between WCASV, the western provincial pork boards and CVOs. Our 2020 plan, in lieu of an in-person meeting is to Zoom-liaise (is that a thing?) in November.

Our Fall Conference, held in Saskatoon in late October each year has been postponed to 2021, and as a result, we are shifting like many other organizations to on-line delivery of high-level and highly valued CE for our membership.

We continue to work on other WCASV initiatives, as we can, including streamlining communication to our membership through WhatsApp, email list-serve and our website.

Stay safe, stay healthy and hope to Zoom ya later! (see, that wouldn't even make sense last year ;)

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