



Canadian Swine Health
Intelligence Network

Réseau canadien de
surveillance de la santé porcine

Year in Review

The Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) would summarize that this past year focussed on review, reflection, consultation and change. The year 2019-2020 was filled with several request for CSHIN member involvement to speak at events and to be involved in committee work. The CSHIN team was not able to action all of these request due to our limited budget, but we did action the majority of them. I would like to take this opportunity to send a huge thank-you out to the regional network co-leads that are always available to help out with these requests and to sit on committees when needed! This group includes Dr. Jette Christensen from CWSHIN (western provinces), Dr. George Charbonneau from OAHN (Ontario), Dr. Claudia Gagne-Fortin from RAIZO (Quebec) and Dr. Dan Hurnik from the Maritimes.

Representation on the quarterly CSHIN calls is decided by each regional network. The Canadian West Swine Health Intelligence Network (CWSHIN) decided to send different representation to each call depending on what discussion points were sent up for discussion. Other regional networks such as Réseau d'alerte et d'information zoonitaire (RAIZO) and the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) decided to send the same representation to each CSHIN call for consistency. The Maritimes recruited Dr. Ryan Tenbergen to regularly attend calls along with Dr. Dan Hurnik. Each regional network provides the data, information and context of discussion to each topic that they bring forward. Therefore, it is important that decisions made at the CSHIN level will work for the regional networks.

Representation from all participating organizations including CFIA, AAFC, CPC, CASV and now from the National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) stayed relatively constant over this past year. Rarely does CSHIN have a representative attending from AAFC, but two individuals from CFIA routinely attend CSHIN calls and are active participants. For any network to function to the best of its ability, trust must be given from all participants. As manager of this network I think we have achieved this now on our quarterly calls. In turn this has enabled willingness to share information and reliance on others to provide context. For participants to feel that they can give their trust to other participants, all must abide by a strict level of confidentiality and understand that their input is valuable.

The CSHIN goes through a step wise process that is repeated quarter and understood by all team members that routinely participate in calls. Each regional network puts forth a list of topics for CSHIN discussions and they are asked to lead the discussions that take place on CSHIN calls surrounding these topics. The quarterly reports are generated directly from this discussion, so it is important for network participants to review the content and provide input into these reports before they are further disseminated. The reports produced are targeted at 2 audiences; veterinarians and producers. During the next year, more focus will be placed on ensuring that these products are meeting the needs of these 2 target audiences. In 2020, focus will be put into creating and developing a website for CSHIN where information can be posted and the great work that we do can be shared with others. Once completed, reports can be posted to this website for reference and basic information on the network will be displayed. Basic website tracking information will provide information that will be circulated back to CASV and CPC on the number of people from our two target audiences that click on the CSHIN reports

when released. This will provide the network with more information on engagement levels in the products that we produce.

Throughout 2019-2020 CSHIN representation and/or regional network representation has provided input into the CanSpot ASF surveillance initiative being led by the CFIA. We have provided expertise into how this surveillance pilot project can be successfully implemented in different regions across Canada as well as expertise into how best to communicate this information to private practicing veterinarians and Canadian swine producers. A lot of time has been denoted to this initiative over the past year and CSHIN is happy to announce the launch of the first CanSpot ASF surveillance tool in early August allowing Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN) approved laboratories to now test for ASF for enhanced passive surveillance purposes. This has also increased laboratory capacity in advance of need now having CAHSN labs approved by CFIA to perform this foreign animal disease testing. This is an enormous achievement that CSHIN and all involved should feel very proud of!

Dr. Christa Arsenault was asked as CSHIN's manager to speak at the NFAHW council meeting that was held in November of 2019. An overview of CSHIN was provided at this meeting and what we have accomplished with this network has been used by several others since this presentation as an example of how a national surveillance network can function for other species groups.

Time was also dedicated to working with the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) throughout this year. Discussions were centered around how CSHIN and CAHSS complement each other and how one could benefit the other. It was also noted that replication of tasks between these 2 networks must be avoided. Now with the transfer of CAHSS under the leadership of the NFAHWC new conversations have been had on this topic with their newly named manager Dr. Theresa Burns.

In summary, the year 2019-2020 was a year for review, reflection, consultation and change. We look forward to the upcoming year to be able to continue with some of these ongoing initiatives and we are excited to share this information with the CASV membership.

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