



Pig Code Review

In March 2019, a Technical Panel was established to undertake the five-year review of the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs.

The Technical Committee Report is now available on the National Farm Animal Care Council website

<https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/pigs> There are eight recommended changes of which five will result in changes to the Code.

Deadline for public comment is November 19, 2020.

ASF Surveillance

All Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN) labs can test for ASF. The Surveillance Technical Committee has developed CanSpotASF for enhanced ASF passive surveillance. This was launched in August.

The primary goal of CanSpotASF is early detection so that ASF can be quickly contained. It will allow approved laboratories to conduct ASF testing on certain diagnostic cases when requested by a veterinarian or pathologist.

There are two webinars on CanSpotASF planned, October 21st in English and October 28th in French, each beginning at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time.

ASF Webinars

CVMA will be hosting ASF webinar presentations in late October and early November. English (en) and French (fr) language dates are:

Time Change - CASV-ACVP AGM - October 29, 2020

Due to two other conflicting meetings, the CASV-ACVP AGM will now be held on-line on **Thursday, October 29, 2020** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. The detailed agenda and written reports will be mailed to all CASV-ACVP members and posted on the CASV-ACVP website www.casv-acvp.com under communications.

The AGM is also when we elect the incoming Board of Directors for 2020-2021. We currently have 10 directors but can have up to 15 according to our by-laws and at least one director will be retiring this year. So we have lots of room on the Board for members who may be interested in becoming a director. Terms are typically for three years. You may nominate someone you feel would be a good director or volunteer yourself. Please send nominations to susan.tfio@bell.net. Nominations may also be made during the AGM.

CVMA Position Statement – Humane Slaughter of Farms Animals

The CASV-ACVP Board provided comments to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association regarding two recent position statements: Humane Slaughter of Farm Animals and Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine. In relation to their position paper on the Humane Slaughter of Farm Animals:

- We agreed there are gaps between provincial and federal slaughter requirements and regulations within provinces and across the country. We suggested CVMA should put more emphasis on harmonization of provincial and federal meat hygiene inspection and regulation throughout Canada rather than suggesting the creation of new regulations. This would impact both food safety and animal welfare outcomes in a positive way.
- We supported the idea that all operators of abattoirs and individuals involved in slaughtering animals for food are responsible for ensuring that animals are treated humanely and minimize the risk of distress throughout the process.
- We disagreed with the need for third-party video surveillance in federally inspected facilities as the CFIA is already the third party responsible for oversight of slaughter processes.

CVMA Position Statement - Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine

Overall, the CASV-ACVP Board felt the position statement on Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine is a good document. CVMA recognizes and promotes veterinarians as the key players in antimicrobial use stewardship.

One area of concern was a statement that antimicrobials should not be used in an extra-label manner unless there is evidence-based support for efficacy, dosage regimen, indication, and withdrawal times. We pointed out that, in Canada, veterinarians are legally permitted to prescribe drugs in an extra label manner, and in some cases, this may be the most prudent option available. Extra-label may simply mean the product is to be used for diseases, doses or duration of treatments that are different than the approved drug labelling or in combination with other drugs. Other reasons for antimicrobials being prescribed in an extra-label manner include:

- some label claims being dropped from pharmaceuticals resulting in continued use being considered extra label; and,
- a lack of pharmaceuticals registered in Canada for minor use whether on a species basis (e.g. small ruminants) or a treatment basis.

National Species Group Letter to CVMA

The CASV-ACVP Board of Directors has discussed that when CVMA has a food animal issue,



Disease overview and recognition

en - October 20, 12:00

fr - October 22, 12:00

Disease response

en - October 27, 12:00

fr - October 29, 12:00

Prevention and preparedness

en - November 3, 12:00

fr - November 5, 12:00

Registration details will be forthcoming.

Consultation on proposed regulatory framework for livestock feeds

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is launching a 45-day consultation period from September 30, 2020, to November 15, 2020, to seek feedback and to inform upcoming changes to the *Feeds Regulations*.

[Participate in this consultation](#)

and send your feedback by November 15, 2020.

Rabies Numbers in Canada

As at the end of September, there have been 2,267 samples submitted in 2020 for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 94 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 1,265 samples of which 46 tested positive (37 were bats). Provincial data can be viewed [here](#). The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Total Sept. 30, 2020
Arctic fox	1
Bat	69
Bovine	2
Cat	1
Dog	3
Raccoon	4
Skunk	14
Total	94

they should be sending out information to the national species groups for comment. Currently, their information is sent to the individual members of CVMA. Recent examples include the position statements on the humane slaughter of farm animals and antimicrobial use as mentioned in the articles above.

A joint letter has been sent with the Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians, Canadian Association of Poultry Veterinarians, and the Canadian Small Ruminant Veterinarians to CVMA urging them to formalize a process for including the national veterinarian associations in their consultation process. The members of the four national associations are involved in all segments of the Canadian agriculture production system and are able to provide broad perspectives on issues impacting food animal production.

China's Pig Herd Rebounds after ASF but Pork Supply Slow to Recover - Excerpt from Reuters article on [Financial Post](#)

China's pork output fell to its lowest level in 16 years last year after African swine fever swept through farms nationwide beginning in 2018. With as many as 60% of its breeding sows gone by the second half of 2019, production of market pigs plunged and pork prices soared to new highs, where they have hovered for much of this year.

In July, the herd grew for the first time in more than two years, and in August it jumped by 31% over the same month last year. But the large numbers mask a less productive herd. With such a severe shortage of breeding stock, many new farms are keeping back females for breeding that would normally have been market hogs. Also known as "three-way cross" females, they typically have two pigs fewer per litter, or about five fewer a year based on around 2.4 litters over 12 months. Some will be replaced as soon as more efficient sows are available. Many companies are importing pure line breeding stock this year, which will produce more sows from next year.

Pseudorabies Detected in Oregon Feral Pig – excerpt from [KTVZ.com](#)

In June, a feral pig from central Oregon sampled as part of a disease surveillance program tested positive for pseudorabies. This is the first detection of PRV in a feral pig in Oregon since the surveillance program began in 2007. The U.S. commercial hog industry has been PRV-free since 2004.

Pseudorabies (also known as Aujeszky's disease) is a contagious, infectious, and communicable viral disease of livestock, causing neurologic, respiratory, and reproductive disorders. The disease does not affect humans. Although other livestock species have been known to occasionally become infected, the pig is the only natural host. The disease may also be transmitted to raccoons, bears or other susceptible species that may come into contact with an infected feral pig. However, there is no evidence the disease has ever affected wildlife populations in Oregon.

Oregon has an aggressive program to capture and remove any feral pigs in the state. Land owners are required to notify the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) within 10 days of becoming aware of free-roaming feral swine on their property. They then have 60 days to submit a feral swine removal plan for approval, with ODFW providing technical assistance.

Beyond their potential to transmit disease, feral pigs cause damage to agricultural crops and fish and wildlife habitat. Their destructive rooting and grubbing activities increase erosion and degrade water quality in streams; encourage the growth of noxious weeds; and can cause millions of dollars in agricultural, environmental and property damage.

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.