



CASV-ACVP AGM

For 2021, CASV-ACVP will host our AGM in conjunction with the Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians fall conference. The CASV-ACVP AGM plus a speaker with national scope will be the focus of the November 12th session (date is tentative). Additional details will be provided later this summer.

Additional Funding Support for CSHIN

We were able to secure a third party to assist in funding the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network. CASV-ACVP and the Canadian Pork Council have been joined by the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System in financially support the work of the network.

Small Scale Pig Farming Manual

The Small Scale Pig Farming Manual is now available and posted on the CASV-ACVP website

<https://www.casv-acvp.com/small-scale-pig-farming.html> It covers a variety of topics including start up considerations, housing and feed management, handling, animal health, and marketing.

Use of Metal Veterinary Staples – Food Safety Issue

The Canadian Pork Council communicated to CASV-ACVP that a pork processor found metal veterinary staples in several pork carcasses. This is a serious food safety issue especially as these staples are not identified by the processing line metal detectors. Staples are sometimes used for hernias and rectal prolapses. You can assist by advising your producers not to use metal staples.

Compendium of Veterinary Products - Available on CPC Website

The Compendium of Veterinary Products is available at no cost on the Canadian Pork Council (CPC)

CASV-ACVP Board Advocacy

During the second quarter of 2021, the CASV-ACVP Board submitted comments to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association on two position statements, one on pain management in animals and the other regarding telemedicine.

CASV-ACVP signed onto a joint submission to the European Union with the Canadian Animal Health Institute, CPC, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians, and the Canadian Meat Council regarding criteria for antimicrobial use. The EU criteria could impact the export of Canadian meat products to member countries

CASV-ACVP has been having discussions with national livestock and veterinarian associations regarding growing concerns related to access to veterinary medical products. These concerns include an insufficient number of labelled products for some species groups and the disappearance of various products from the Canadian marketplace. We feel there may be regulatory barriers that are impacting the continued availability of products that are already approved in Canada for use in large animals and also impacting submission of requests for approval of products that are new to Canada.

We are working on a joint letter with the other national groups to be sent to Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. The letter will ask them to convene a roundtable of Canadian national species-specific veterinary associations, Canadian livestock producer and keeper associations, and Canadian veterinary drug manufacturers. This group would fully explore the impact of the regulatory requirements and propose solutions to the unintended consequences which may restrict access to important veterinary products.

CASV-ACVP Survey – Attracting and Retaining Swine Veterinarians

CASV-ACVP members were asked to complete a survey regarding vacancies, attracting and retaining new veterinarians, what attracted them to the sector, etc. We received 65 responses (40%) with good representation from across Canada.

The top three answers regarding what got respondents interested in swine veterinary medicine were: interested in population medicine (80%); attractive lifestyle in terms of flexibility and work/life balance (55%); and, an intrinsic interest in swine medicine and working with pigs (52%).

Seventy-seven percent of respondents stated it is difficult to find swine veterinarians. The two main reasons given were: students do not have experience working with swine/unfamiliar with swine (79%), and students are less interested in working with food producing animals versus companion animals (77%).

The top three methods used for recruiting new hires were: offering summer student positions and internships (72%); word of mouth via existing employees (56%); and, advertising in professional journals, newsletters, magazines (44%).

New Chief Veterinarian

On June 24th, it was announced Dr. Mary Jane Ireland will take over from Dr. Jaspinder Komal as Canada's Chief Veterinarian. She will also serve as Canada's delegate at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Dr. Ireland is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph and began her career in mixed animal practice in eastern Ontario. In 2002, she joined Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Director, where she held several positions, including director general. Ireland joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2020 as the agency's

website. It can be accessed from the CPC web page for on-farm programs: <https://www.cpc-ccp.com/resources/on-farm-programs>. Or, the direct link to access the compendium is [here](#). Note that only products registered for use in swine are accessible through this link.

New Executive Director at National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council announced the appointment of Dr. Melanie Barham as Executive Director, effective July 15, 2021.

Dr. Barham's most recent position involved being the Ontario Animal Health Network Coordinator. She has over 14 years of experience across the animal health and veterinary industries. She holds a veterinary degree, project management designation, and has completed an MBA from the University of Guelph.

Swine Influenza Variant Cases Detected in Manitoba

In April, two cases of variant influenza viruses were found in two unrelated individuals in different communities in southern Manitoba as a result of COVID-19 testing. The human influenza A (H1N2)v case and the human influenza A (H1N1)v case appeared to be isolated cases. One had a direct link to pigs. The other was a family member of someone who had direct contact with pigs.

A third, single and apparently isolated case of another influenza variant turned up in a Manitoba resident in June (H3N2v). The person sought testing after developing an "influenza-like illness".

These variants are related to influenza viruses that circulate in pigs. While such viruses do not normally infect people, "sporadic" infections with variants have been known to occur. In all cases, there was no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission.

executive director of its animal health directorate.

As the OIE Delegate, Dr. Ireland represents Canada in the OIE standard-setting process for the development and adoption of animal health standards and guidelines. She is also responsible for notifying the OIE of reportable animal disease occurrences in Canada.

Movement of Dogs from China May Pose Risk to North American Livestock Production

Excerpt of March 10, 2021 article by Paul Sundberg, www.aasv.org/news

Dueling animal health priorities converge as US-based rescue groups work to save dogs from the meat trade in China, bringing them to the US and Canada for re-homing. North American pork industry stakeholders worry about the threat of foreign animal disease transmission posed by these pets, particularly African swine fever (ASF) which continues to be a concern in Asia. The supplies used in shipment, such as kennels and bedding materials are of special concern because of their potential to act as vectors for disease transmission.

A February 4, 2021 report, detailed a shipment of 50 dogs flown from China to Los Angeles. After arriving in the US, the dogs were driven to the Canadian border, destined for an unnamed facility. Because there was not a veterinarian available at the Canadian border crossing to check the animals, the dogs were housed at a U.S. kennel. Winter weather extended the stay for a few days until the dogs were transported to Canada. China Dog Rescue has said it plans to bring more dogs into North America.

Veterinarians are the first line of defense against the introduction of FAD and human pathogens with the potential to impact animal health. Veterinary training and knowledge for disease transmission and risk makes the veterinarian the key resource to advise and work with non-veterinary groups toward the protection of animal health. Working closely with all appropriate regulatory agencies and possessing an awareness of international disease threats can prevent unwanted pathogens from negatively impacting clients, farmers and the safety and security of North American animal health.

Canadian Swine Training Development Project

The Canadian Pork Council has been leading a project to develop educational resources for the pork sector. To date, they have completed the following:

- a suite of 15 biosecurity training videos which are publicly available at www.cpc-ccp.com/training;
- eight publicly available fact sheets on the new **humane transport** regulations, available through the same links;
- a poster, as well as five training videos, on assessing **fitness for transport**, which are available through the provincial pork organizations (due to their sensitivity);
- the English version of the Canadian **Small-Scale Pig Farming** Manual and Top 10 Guide, which is available on the CASV-ACVP website <https://www.casv-acvp.com/small-scale-pig-farming.html>. The French version will be available in July 2021.

Other resources which are in development or planned are:

- 11 training videos on **euthanasia** will be completed in July 2021 and available through the provincial pork organizations;
- 10 training videos on **group sow housing** will be available in early 2022;
- 12 to 13 training videos on **barn operational tasks** will be available in spring 2022.
- videos on biosecurity during a Foreign Animal Disease outbreak;
- videos on swine farm workplace health and safety;
- videos on technical procedures, such as piglet processing;
- Consideration for developing a national Learning Management System (LMS) platform to host and track swine stockpersons' training; and,
- small pieces to fill in some remaining gaps, such as online tools, fact sheets and booklets.

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.