Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians
Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Porcins

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Board Newsletter to Members

Autogenous Veterinary Biologics
In late August, CASV-ACVP circulated a notice to member from the Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics (CCVB) announcing an update to Veterinary Biologics Guideline 3.13: Guideline for Autogenous Veterinary Biologics. The change now allows the production of an autogenous veterinary biologic from the same isolate up to 36 months, without additional data and justification. Instructions have also been added for the use of the same isolate for production beyond 36 months, and up to 60 months from the date of its first isolation. The CASV-ACVP Board sent a letter to CFIA and the Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics acknowledging this change and noting this is a progressive change for veterinary medicine.

Vietnam Suspends African Swine Fever Vaccine after Pig Deaths
Excerpt from Swine News

Vietnam has temporarily suspended the use of its NAVET-ASFVAC vaccine after dozens of pigs inoculated with the shots died in August. The vaccine was developed by Navetco, a company owned by the agriculture ministry.

African swine fever was first detected in Vietnam in 2019 and forced the country to cull around 20% of its hog herd the following year. The outbreak has so far this year spread to 753 areas in 47 provinces in Vietnam, leading to the culling of 36,500 pigs.

In June, Vietnam announced it had successfully developed an ASF vaccine with the aim of becoming the first country to commercially produce and export it. The agriculture ministry had earmarked 600,000 doses of the vaccine for domestic use from July this year.

CASV-ACVP AGM - October 7, 2022
The CASV-ACVP AGM is being held on-line on **Friday, October 7, 2022,** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. The connection details, agenda and written reports have been e-mailed to all CASV-ACVP members.

The AGM is also when the incoming Board of Directors for 2022-2023 is elected. We currently have 11 directors but can have up to 15 according to our by-laws. So, we have lots of room 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. Send nominations to susan.tfio@bell.net. Nominations may also be made during the AGM.

African Swine Fever Compartments
Over the summer, CFIA conducted a public consultation on the draft national standards and framework for African swine fever compartments. Over the past two years, the Canadian Pork Council and the CFIA have been working on building these standards for the development and implementation of ASF-Free Compartments. Compartmentalization is different from zoning in that zoning takes in everything within a defined geographic area. Compartmentalization focuses more on business and production relationships. The CASV-ACVP Board sent a general letter of support to CFIA for a compartmentalization program involving a partnership of industry and CFIA.

CIPARS Surveillance Reports
Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) communication products from 2017 to 2020 are now available on their ”Surveillance reports“ web page, which is their new main web click here.

The 2020 Veterinary Antimicrobial Sales Highlights Report is one of the documents available on their site click here Pasted below are a few of the highlights.

- Overall sales of antimicrobials for all animals increased by 6% in 2020 (in total kg sold) compared to 2019.
- For production animals (which includes food-producing animals and horses) there was a 7% increase in antimicrobials sold when accounting for the number of animals and their weights (using an average weight at treatment or slaughter weight).
- Antimicrobial classes that had the largest increase in sales (kg) since 2019 were the tetracyclines, streptogramins and penicillins.
- In 2020, compounders represented 6% of the total kg of antimicrobials sold (64,891 kg).
- The majority of antimicrobials sold by compounders were Category II and III (94%). The top classes reported were diaminopyrimidine-sulfonamide combinations, penicillins and sulfonamides.
- There was an increase in Category I compounded product sales from 1.4% (2019) of total sales to 6.5% (2020), largely attributed to increased compounding of metronidazole in companion animals.
- On average, 84% of the total kg reported to be compounded were intended for use in pigs.

Pen-side ASFV Testing Evaluated in SHIC-Funded Study in Vietnam
Excerpt from
https://www.swinehealth.org/august-2022-shic-enewsletter/

Rapid and reliable detection of African swine fever virus infected pigs is critical for successful control. One desirable property of a diagnostic test is the capacity to detect viral infection, especially during the incubation time, even before the infected animals may be displaying clinical signs. In this SHIC study conducted in Vietnam using funds from a USDA-Foreign Ag Service grant, three pen-side tests for ASFV detection were evaluated – one PCR test for detection of viral genomic DNA and two lateral flow tests for detection of viral antigens. The PCR pen-side test performed better than the lateral flow antigen tests as it can detect infected pigs earlier and for a longer duration after infection. Additionally, the pen-side PCR test was able to detect virus in both whole blood and oral swab samples while the antigen test found virus only in whole blood.

Advertising in the CASV-ACVP Newsletter
The CASV-ACVP newsletter is sent to 180 association members each week. We accept classified advertising (e.g., job postings) in the e-newsletter. For promotional and marketing type ads, we offer one banner ad each week. We will also distribute technical bulletins for veterinary pharmaceutical products and other registered health products. There are advertising packages for companies interested in combinations of classified, banner and technical bulletin advertising.

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

Researchers Develop PRRS-Resistant Pigs
Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus was first detected in the U.S. in 1987. To date, no vaccine has been effective, and the disease costs North American farmers more than $660 million annually. Now, a team of researchers from the University of Missouri, Kansas State University, and Genus plc have bred pigs that appear to be resistant to PRRS.

Previously, researchers believed the virus entered pigs by being inhaled into the lungs, where it attached to a protein known as sialoadhesin on the surface of white blood cells in the lungs. However, subsequent research showed that elimination of sialoadhesin had no effect on susceptibility to PRRS. A second protein, called CD163, was thought to “uncoat” the virus and allow it to infect the pigs. In the current study, the research team was able to stop the pigs from producing CD163. Pigs that didn’t produce CD163 didn’t develop PRRS, and there were also no other changes observed in their development compared to pigs that produce the protein.

The University of Missouri has signed an exclusive global licensing deal for potential future commercialization of virus resistant pigs with the Genus, plc. If the development stage is successful, the commercial partner will seek any necessary approvals and registration from governments before a wider market release. To read the complete article, click here

New Research Defines ASF Stability in Feed
Excerpt from August 2022 Swine Health Information Center Enewsletter

A report in the journal Transboundary and Emerging Diseases entitled, “Stability of African swine fever virus in feed during environmental storage,” details the length of time ASF remains stable in feed at different storage temperatures.

The stability of ASF Georgia 2007 was assessed in complete feed, soybean meal, and ground corncob particles. Feed matrices were held at three environmental temperatures (cool storage at 40°F, ambient storage at 68°F, and hot storage at 95°F) for up to 365 days. Feed samples were tested throughout the one-year period for ASF genome detection on PCR and ASF infectivity on cell culture and in swine bioassay.

The results demonstrate high stability of ASF DNA in feed, with detection by PCR in almost all feed matrices throughout the conclusion of each study, including 365 days after ASF inoculation when stored at 40°F and 68°F. Infectious ASF was most stable in soybean meal, with the virus maintaining infectivity as determined by swine bioassay for at least 112 days at 40°F, at least 21 days at 68°F, and at least seven days at 95°F.

Feed additives were tested for their ability to reduce ASF infectivity in complete feed stored at three environmental temperatures (40°F, 68°F, 95°F). Both medium chain fatty acid and formaldehyde-based feed additives were confirmed to be effective mitigants in tested conditions.

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