



## OASV Annual Conference Open to CASV-ACVP Members

The Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians annual conference is being held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. All interested swine industry stakeholders are welcome. The conference will be offered in a hybrid format, so you do not have to travel to Ontario in order to attend. Below is the preliminary agenda. More details will follow on the website [www.oasv.ca](http://www.oasv.ca).

### Preliminary Agenda

- Case studies
- Sampling and diagnostic testing
- OVC research update
- Bob Friendship's trivia!
- Vaginal prolapse tips
- Influenza
- PCV3
- Rotavirus and more!

## Watch for Erysipelas in Grow/Finish Barns

Erysipelas can affect all ages of pigs, however grow/finish facilities are of particular concern. Newborn pigs receive maternal antibodies from sows via colostrum however these passively acquired antibodies decline by the time the pig reaches the finishing barn. There have been recent cases of Canadian market hogs being shipped to the U.S. with Erysipelas. This is not a difficult or expensive disease to control on a per farm basis through vaccination. We want to avoid the potential for increased CFIA and USDA concern which could possibly lead to a nationwide obligation to vaccinate export pigs.

Quite often producers are not aware of clinical signs of Erysipelas in the finisher and only become aware of the problems when they review their condemnation reports or receive a call from their processor. Erysipelas carcass condemnations constituted 7.4% of all carcass condemnations in Ontario in the first quarter of 2023 and last quarter of 2022.

## CASV-ACVP AGM - October 27, 2023

The CASV-ACVP AGM is being held on-line on **Friday, October 27, 2023**, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. The agenda and connection details have been e-mailed to all CASV-ACVP members. The full meeting package with reports and last year's minutes will be sent to all members closer to the date.



Other than the formal business portion, we have some great presentations lined up. There will be a CSHIN update, an overview of CVMA initiatives to attract and retain veterinarians, Dr. John Harding will talk about his swine medicine recruitment program, and Dr. Al Chicoine will give a presentation on why international veterinary pharmaceutical withdrawal times are different.

The AGM is also when the incoming Board of Directors for 2023-2024 is elected. We currently have 12 directors but can have up to 15 according to our by-laws. So, we have 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](mailto:susan.tfio@bell.net). Nominations may also be made during the AGM.

## CASV-ACVP Board Activities – Q3 2023

Some of the items on which the Board has been working during the third quarter of 2023 included:

- provided comments to CVMA on two position statements: Animal Sentience and Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine;
- sent a letter to Health Canada regarding drug shortages and implications for animal health;
- sent a letter to CFIA urging them to utilize electronic signatures for export certificate endorsements and encouraged other national species groups and CVMA to submit similar comments;
- representatives of CASV-ACVP virtually attended the 2023 North American ASF Forum hosted by the U.S. on August 29 to 31, 2023;
- in conjunction with the other national veterinary species associations, have continued to hold meetings with the CVMA and the Canadian Veterinary Journal regarding greater input from and engagement with food animal veterinarians on position statements and journal content;
- President Noémie Van Vyve attended the CVMA Presidents' meeting in July; and,
- continued monthly meetings with CPC including review and comments on the CPC Piglet Pain Management document.

## Drug Shortages Task Force, Health Canada

In July, Health Canada launched a consultation on drug and other health product shortages. While this consultation focused on human medicine, the Canadian animal agricultural sector faces many of the same issues when it comes to veterinary health products.

The overall challenge is we are losing products from manufacturers and are also not getting new products registered in Canada that we see in other countries. This includes biologicals, antimicrobials, and medications. We feel there may be regulatory barriers

For producers, it can be frustrating to find that pigs are being condemned without clinical signs in the barn. Over half of pigs in a barn can have *E. rhusiopathiae* on their tonsils without causing disease. Erysipelas can then be shed in their feces or nasal secretions as a source of infection for other pigs. The organism can remain viable in manure for months.

Talk to your producers about common clinical signs of Erysipelas and options for control.

### **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 Susan Fitzgerald in the CASV-ACVP office at [susan.tfio@bell.net](mailto:susan.tfio@bell.net), 519-787-4322.

that are impacting the continued availability of products that are already approved in Canada for use in livestock and poultry and also affecting submission of requests for approval of products that are new to Canada. This has led to an insufficient number of labelled products for some species groups and the disappearance of various products from the Canadian marketplace.

Canada is a lower tier commercial market for veterinary pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and health products. Representing just 10% of US sales and 2.5% of global sales of these products, the Canadian market already offers a lower return on investment for pharmaceutical companies. To compete globally, Canada needs to prioritize a lower cost of entry to the marketplace as compared to larger markets, e.g., joint reviews and approvals of new products. Canada is not aligned with other countries, so companies are not bothering to pursue registration for new products or renew existing registrations as our market does not warrant the additional effort and cost.

The CASV-ACVP Board submitted comments to Health Canada expressing these concerns and encouraged efforts to create new and more agile regulations to better align with other regulators and leverage foreign decisions to inform drug reviews based on risks. Recommendations contained in our submission included:

- Reduction of fees for regulatory reviews of products already approved and licensed by trusted regulatory authorities in other jurisdictions by recognizing foreign decisions.
- Permanently adopt temporary COVID regulatory flexibilities that have proven to be both effective and more cost efficient and reflect these cost efficiencies in revisions to regulatory fees.
- Align Canadian regulatory requirements for studies and testing of products with those of trusted regulators to reduce costs of entry into the Canadian marketplace.

### **Electronic Signatures on Export Certificate Endorsements**

Currently, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires original signatures on CFIA endorsements on swine export certificates. The CASV-ACVP Board sent a letter to CFIA urging them to accept electronic signatures on these documents.

From a business and human resources perspective, the requirement for original CFIA signatures on endorsements adds additional time and expense to the export process. Veterinarians first inspect the animals on-farm, prepare and sign the export document, they have to travel sometimes several hours to have the document endorsed by a CFIA veterinarian, then make the return trip to the barn or transporter location. Additionally, there is a shortage of veterinarians in all food animal sectors and also fewer CFIA veterinarians readily available.

In animal health, and especially swine health, there are added biosecurity concerns related to herd veterinarians seeking paper-based signatures. For example, if the CFIA veterinarian is located in a processing facility.

The CASV-ACVP Board feels there is sound rationale for allowing electronic CFIA veterinary signatures on export certificate endorsements. This includes the biosecurity, business, and human resource concerns noted above. Changes in this area would be extremely beneficial to Canada's live animal export activities.

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*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.*