CAHSS PODCAST PEARLS

"Animal Health Surveillance in Action: CanSpotASF"

WITH DR. KARINE TALBOT

CanSpotASF is a national surveillance program for the early detection of **African Swine Fever** in Canada.

Listen to this episode here. Our other podcast episodes are found here.
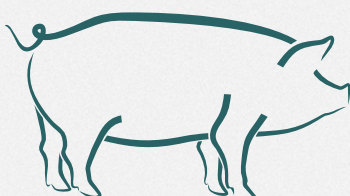
What is ASF?

African Swine Fever is a swine disease that causes the following symptoms: high fever, appetite loss, weakness, inability to stand, reddening of the skin, internal bleeding, vomiting and diarrhea, abortions in pregnant sows, and death. It is a contagious disease and causes high mortality in domestic and wild (feral) pigs. ASF is not a threat to human health, and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans

What is the Impact of ASF?

Significant negative impact on producers due to high mortality, as well as on the export of live animals and meat due to the high risk of transmission.

What is CanSpotASF?

CanSpotASF is the Canadian African Swine Fever (ASF) surveillance system. It is a combination of surveillance activities aimed at protecting the commercial swine sector from the impacts of ASF. ASF rule-out testing was the first new activity that started in 2020.

How does the CanSpotASF rule-out testing work?

The rule-out testing improves **early detection**. It is for cases with a disease that may look like and disguise ASF. Therefore, ASF is not highly suspected, but the symptoms fit the description of ASF.

- Veterinarians and pathologists at laboratories and slaughter establishments can submit samples for ASF testing.
- Producers, including smallholders, can submit samples through their veterinarian.
- Testing through CanSpotASF is **free of charge**.
- CanSpotASF builds confidence that Canada is truly free of ASF.

Suspected Case of ASF?

Must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and testing is performed through the national foreign animal disease laboratory, **not** through CanSpotASF.

Links of Interest

Visit Animal Health Canada's Pillar 2 - Preparedness Planning page or the CAHSS podcast webpage to learn more about CanSpotASF.