

Canadian  
Animal  
Health  
Surveillance  
System



# CAHSS

*The latest news and updates from the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System*



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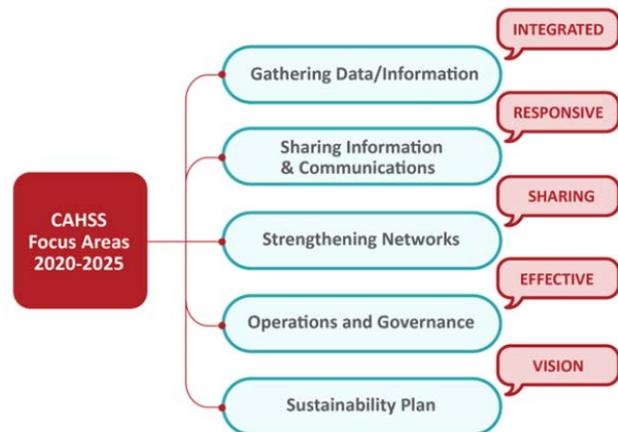
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## CAHSS STRATEGIC PLAN

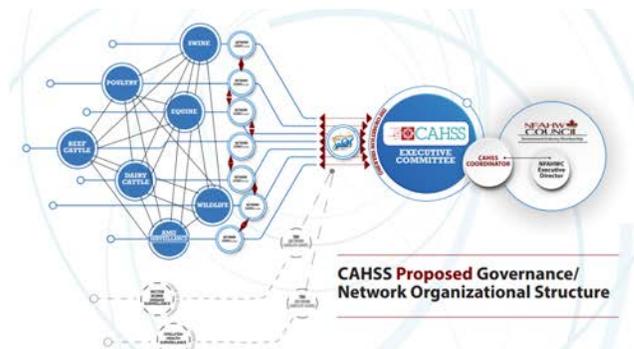
CAHSS has a new 5-year strategic plan to help bring together and utilize data-driven information to demonstrate animal health, minimize impacts of disease and guide surveillance planning from a national perspective. The strategic plan includes 5 key focus areas (see diagram).



Final review of the strategic plan will take place between now and September 30th, 2020. The review process is open to all CAHSS members. Information about where to hear an overview via online podcast, and how to participate in the review process will be sent to CAHSS members by email in the coming weeks.

## GOVERNANCE CHARTER

The new governance charter has been in development for CAHSS. The charter outlines CAHSS' collaborative "network of network" structure, as well as the organization's principles, vision, and purpose. It also defines the roles and responsibilities of its members, the CAHSS steering group, network leads, and members. It documents the relationship between CAHSS and its partners, and how the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) is related to and oversees CAHSS. Final review of the governance charter will take place between late August and September 30th, 2020. The review process is open to all CAHSS members. Information about where to hear an overview via online webinar, and how to participate in the review process will be sent to CAHSS members by email in the coming weeks.



## INITIATIVES AROUND THE NETWORKS

Several new initiatives have been underway since the last update, with the purposes of enhancing collaboration and communication, and information sharing. A few examples of initiatives around the networks include:

**1. CAHSS Small Ruminant network** - The new CAHSS Small Ruminant Network will build a more integrated and coordinated approach to disseminating small ruminant disease surveillance information nationally. Members in this network include producers, industry organizations and governments across Canada, including Yukon.

**2. WeCAHN network** - the Western Canada Animal Health Network was officially established this quarter. We are excited that WeCAHN will join the regional network system that includes OAHN and RAIZO. We welcome Dr. Barb Wilhelm as the WeCAHN coordinator.



**3. CAHSS podcast series - Animal Health Insights** is the new CAHSS podcast set to launch in September. The theme for the first set of six podcasts is "Lessons from a pandemic". The series will feature animal health topics that include respiratory disease, social distancing for animals, zoonotic diseases, and One Health. The goal of the podcast series is to further share information of interest to veterinarians and producers, and engage and strengthen connections between stakeholders.

**4. Atlantic Region** - CAHSS participated in a number of meetings this quarter to learn more information sharing activities in the Atlantic region. Animal health stakeholders from across the region have been active contributors to the CAHSS species network calls, as well as in CAHSS project planning discussions.

**5. Laboratorians** - Working together with the Canadian Association of Veterinary Pathologists, CAHSS organized a Laboratorians Cross-Country Check-up on experiences managing pathology cases where Covid-19 was a differential diagnosis. Thank you to Drs. Andrew Brooks, Glenna McGregor, and Anne Britton for presenting.

## INTRODUCING DR. DORIS LEUNG

Dr. Doris Leung was recently hired as the Communications Lead for CAHSS. She is a veterinarian with her DVM degree from the Ontario Veterinary College (2014) and MPH from the University of British Columbia (2018). She is interested in disease surveillance, health communication, knowledge translation, and veterinary epidemiology. She looks forward to communicating and building strong relationships with the diverse networks and partners of CAHSS.



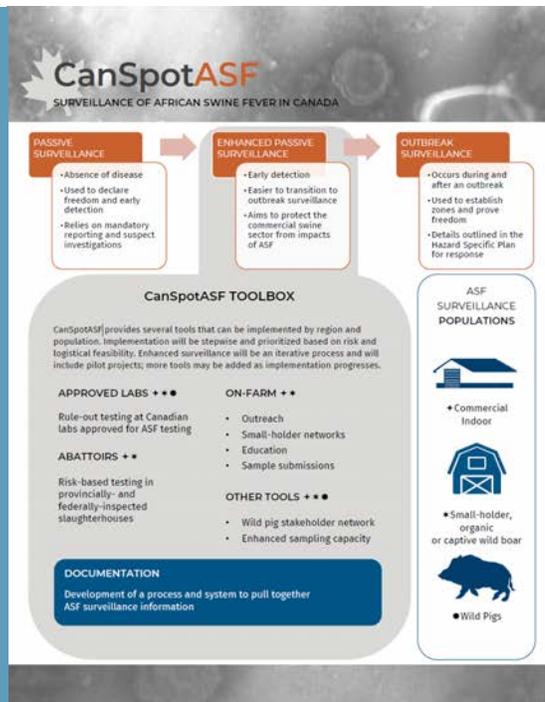
## CAHSS HIGHLIGHT: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

### Enhanced surveillance for early detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Canada

Since April 2020, CAHSS has been supporting the work of the CanSpotASF Technical Committee. CanSpotASF is a collaboration that includes swine industry organizations, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), diagnostic animal health laboratories, provincial governments, CAHSS and the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) including the regional networks; CWSHIN; OAHN; and RAIZO. The work of CanSpotASF is directed by the ASF Executive Management Board. This is a new model for managing serious animal diseases in Canada.

Risk-based early detection testing at approved laboratories was the first new surveillance tool to be implemented as part of CanSpotASF. Testing began in late July. Approved laboratories across Canada can now perform testing to rule-out ASF on pigs with other diseases that might mask ASF. Previous to this initiative, these types of cases have not been tested for ASF. More information on the pilot is available at <https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/african-swine-fever-surveillance-information>, or from the swine network coordinators at CSHIN, CWSHIN, OAHN and RAIZO.

The CanSpotASF technical committee will continue to roll out new surveillance activities over the coming months.



## NEW WEBSITE

We are building a new website for CAHSS. It will have many improved features for accessing animal health surveillance information. Launch of the new website is anticipated for this fall. Stay tuned for more information and 'tours' at upcoming CAHSS network calls.

## GET INVOLVED - JOIN CAHSS

CAHSS is open to those who are involved, affected, or interested in animal health surveillance.

**To join CAHSS**, visit <http://cahss.ca> and send an inquiry to [info@cahss.ca](mailto:info@cahss.ca). **For more information contact Dr. Theresa Burns**, CAHSS Coordinator at [tburns@ahwcouncil.ca](mailto:tburns@ahwcouncil.ca); 604 250-6225.

Funding for this project has been provided through the AgriAssurance Program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.