

OLPC 2023 Membership Meetings

- October 13, 2023 – in-person at Beef Farmers of Ontario in Guelph
- December 15, 2023, virtual

OFA Factsheet - Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animal

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has produced a factsheet entitled, "Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animals". You can access the OFA factsheet at

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/emergency-preparedness-for-farm-animals/>

It is also available for downloading from the "News" section of the OLPC website

<https://www.ontlpc.com/news.html>.

Government Cost-Share Funding Programs

[Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative](#)

Up to \$7.5 million administered by OMAFRA. Applications accepted starting September 19 and accepted on an on-going basis, but subject to funding availability. Projects will help eligible producers, processors, and other industry partners to enhance animal health and welfare, plant health and food safety.

[Increasing Deadstock Capacity Initiative](#)

Up to \$1.5 million in cost-share funding support to enable the deadstock industry to address service gaps through increasing capacity and improving service options.

Administered through the Agricultural Adaptation Council, application intakes were accepted starting September 21, 2023, and will close September 15, 2024, or when funding has been fully allocated.

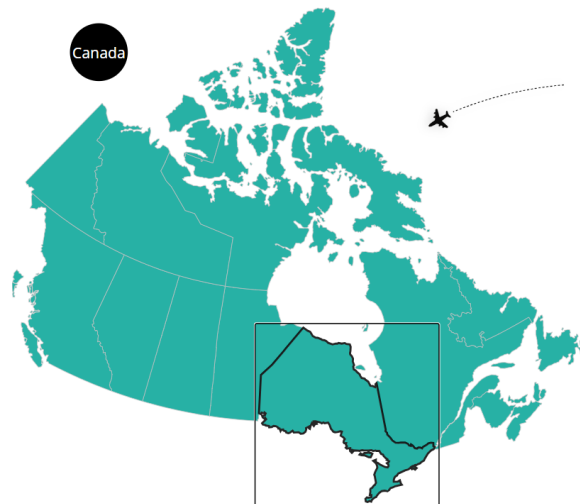
New report reveals global decrease in antimicrobial use in animals

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) released a landmark report showing encouraging progress in combatting antimicrobial resistance. Global antimicrobial use in animals has declined by 13% in three years, marking a significant shift in the continuous efforts to preserve the efficacy of these critical medicines. Less than 20% of antimicrobials used in animals in 2019 were of highest priority and critical importance for human health. Going further in the fight against this threat to global health, WOAH has recently fully digitalized its global database into an online platform: ANIMUSE. This new system facilitates open access to global and regional data in an interactive way, while also featuring easier reporting, error checks, and data visualization tools for Members providing the information.

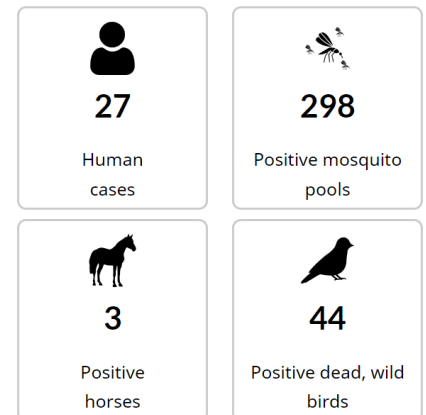
September 6, 2023/ WOAH. <https://rr-americas.woah.org> **Source:** September 8, 2023, Pig 333

West Nile virus (WNV)

The Government of Canada website publishes a map of WNV human cases, positive mosquito pools, and infections in horses and dead wild birds in Canada, by reporting province or territory. <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/zoonoses/mosquito/> Below are the stats for Ontario as of September 16th.



27 cases of WNV have been reported among Ontario residents who became infected in Canada. WNV has also been found in mosquito pools (298), horses (3), and dead wild birds (44) in Ontario.



Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus

The Ontario Animal Health Network has reported nine cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and four equine cases of West Nile Virus this summer/fall. The EEE cases were located in Lanark County, Ottawa, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough, and Muskoka. Equine WNV was reported in Niagara, Simcoe County, Kawartha Lakes, and Thunder Bay (number varies from graph above due to timing).

All of the species networks within the Ontario Animal Health Network can be accessed at <https://www.oahn.ca/#>

Rabies Numbers in Ontario and Canada for 2023

An interactive case map of rabies cases and surveillance in Ontario is available here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/wildlife-rabies-outbreaks-and-control-operations#section-1>

As at August 31, 2023, there were 1,705 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 85 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 1,027 samples of which 39 tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

| | Can. | Ont. |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Arctic fox | 7 | |
| Bat | 53 | 32 |
| Bovine | 1 | |
| Cat | 1 | 1 |
| Dog | 3 | |
| Raccoon | 6 | |
| Red fox | 3 | |
| Skunk | 11 | 6 |
| Total | 35 | 39 |

Probable Case of Tick-borne Anaplasmosis

A probable case of human anaplasmosis was identified in the Hastings Prince Edward Public Health region in July 2023. Anaplasmosis is caused by a type of bacteria that is transmitted to humans by the bite of a blacklegged tick, the same kind of tick that transmits Lyme disease.

This is the first probable case of anaplasmosis identified in the region since the disease was identified as a reportable disease of public health significance in Ontario on July 1, 2023. A case is considered probable when an individual has compatible signs and symptoms of the disease and is likely to have had exposure to the disease.

For most people, anaplasmosis is a mild illness. Symptoms usually resolve within 30 days, even without treatment; however, it can be more severe in certain individuals. Those at greater risk for severe illness include older individuals and those who have a weakened immune system. A delay in diagnosis and treatment may also result in more severe illness.

Bovine Tuberculosis Linked to Saskatchewan Herd

Bovine TB is a reportable disease in Canada and has been subject to a mandatory national eradication program since 1923. While Canada is considered to be officially free of bovine TB today, isolated cases in cattle may occur.

On February 23, 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture notified the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that tissues collected at slaughter from a heifer originating from Canada tested positive for bovine tuberculosis. The animal was exported from Saskatchewan in September 2022 and was in a US feedlot until its slaughter.

In May 2023, all animals over six months of age in the Saskatchewan herd of origin were tested for bovine TB and the reactor animals were removed for slaughter and post-mortem examination for signs of the disease. Tissues from the suspect animals were shipped to the CFIA's Ottawa Laboratory where PCR testing confirmed two cases of bovine TB on June 19, 2023.

This finding should not affect Canada's current international status in which all provinces are considered bovine TB-free. This status supports international trade for Canada's beef industry.

Avian Influenza

The first fall case of Avian influenza was announced on September 11th in a commercial poultry flock in Alberta. As of September 30th, CFIA lists four infected premises in Alberta (two non-commercial, non-poultry) and one in Saskatchewan.

Our Mission

Provide a forum to facilitate the development and coordination of an Ontario strategy to deal with foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.