Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council

Newsletter

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OLPC 2025 Membership Meetings
In-person meetings will be at Beef Farmers of Ontario, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph.

- February 14, 2025
- April 11, 2025
- June 13, 2025 – in person
- August 15, 2025
- October 17, 2025 – in person
- December 12, 2025

CEZD Species Specific Reports
The Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases produces quarterly reports downloadable from their website. The links for the most recent reports are listed below:
Bovine
Swine
Poultry
Equine
Small Ruminant
Vector Borne Diseases

Free Webinars on FMD Prevention
Animal Health Canada has partnered with the Beef Cattle Research Council to offer two free webinars on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) prevention. January 15 and February 12, 2025. Learn more and register today.

USDA Beef Feedlot Webinar
This summer, the USDA hosted a webinar in their secure beef supply series that provided an overview of the feedlot industry in the US. The second part of the webinar was a frank discussion on the state of preparedness of the US beef industry for a disease like FMD. The webinar recording is posted on the USDA YouTube channel
Feed Yard Industry (youtube.com)

The USDA VS NTEP website has a lot of other FAD preparedness videos – Veterinary Services National Training and Exercise Program (usda.gov)

CFIA Biosecurity Campaign for Small-Scale Farmers
The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has a new biosecurity campaign page, specifically tailored to support small-scale farmers in safeguarding their animals and farms. Whether managing a hobby farm, a

HPAI H5N1 in Cattle
The H5N1 virus is believed to have jumped from birds to cows, maybe only once, in late 2023 and in Texas. The strain circulating in dairy cattle is B13.3. Transmission is cow-to-cow, cow-to-human, and cow-to-poultry. Dairy infections are not currently coming from wild birds. Once the virus is in a dairy herd, there is rapid spread via movement of cattle, people, and equipment, maybe rodents and peri-domestic birds such as pigeons.

In poultry, there is a high death rate with control being depopulation. In cattle, there is low mortality (2% - 5%) and no need for depopulation as animals generally recover. However, 20% production losses have been reported. The animals affected are mainly lactating dairy cows, no reports in beef cattle or feedlots. Pasteurized milk and properly handled beef is safe.

As of December 16, 2024, the USDA had reported H5N1 in 860 dairy herds across 16 states: Nevada (1), Wyoming (1), North Carolina (1), Ohio (1), Oklahoma (2), Kansas (4), South Dakota (7), Minnesota (9), New Mexico (9), Iowa 13), Utah (13), Texas (26), Michigan (29), Idaho (35), Colorado (64), and California (645).

On November 6th it was announced that two pigs on an Oregon hobby farm tested positive but with low levels of virus. It was the same strain of virus circulating in migratory birds and in the domesticated poultry on the farm. For additional details, see the link in the SHIC webinar article below.

In the U.S., there have been 64 confirmed human cases; 39 due to exposure to infected dairy cattle, 22 related to contact with infected poultry, one had other animal exposure, and two with no known exposure. Typical human symptoms are conjunctivitis (pink-eye) and mild flu-like symptoms – treatment may include Tamiflu.

The U.S. announced the first stage of their national milk testing strategy, stage 1 begun on December 16th and includes testing milk at dairy processing facilities. Additional information on the US National Milk Testing Strategy is available at: APHIS National Milk Testing Strategy for H5 clade in 2.3.4.4b in Dairy Cattle and at national-milk-testing-strategy-5-stages.v2

There have been no positive dairy herds in Canada. As of November, CFIA had tested 391 bulk truck samples at processing facilities in 10 provinces. CFIA is no longer doing retail milk sampling as surveillance. The testing of deliveries to processing facilities is ongoing.

SHIC Webinar: H5N1 Influenza Risk to U.S. Swine
On November 20, 2024, the Swine Health Information Center hosted a webinar on H5N1 Influenza Risk to U.S. Swine. That webinar was recorded and is available for viewing at https://iastate.app.box.com/s/aedathyymufg53m4f0ot5vjim3akhlgz The run time is 1 hour 35 minutes. It includes an overview of H5N1 in dairy cattle in the U.S., a case summary of the backyard pigs in Oregon, research on swine risks, and an update on aspirin and sodium salicylate use in swine (concern arose with FDA because of discussions regarding use in H5N1 positive dairy cattle).

Current Active Canadian HPAI H5N1 Poultry Sites
The chart on the following page provides a summary as of December 23, 2024. None of the poultry cases are the B13.3 strain affecting cattle. *Due to the large number of positive premises in B.C., CFIA has implemented a novel approach to zoning there. The Fraser Valley has been divided into 11 permanent zones and restrictions will be

small-scale operation, or simply owning a few farm animals, these resources provide easy-to-follow steps to keep animals and farms safe from diseases. Please visit their web page here.

Free AVMA Guide Helps Small Farms Prepare for Emergencies

The American Veterinary Medical Association has published a disaster preparedness guide that helps small farms be ready to safeguard their farm animals in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

Small Farm Preparedness: Disaster Preparedness for Owners of Farm Animals is a free, downloadable booklet filled with tips, checklists, and important information for farm animal owners.

Podcast on Mosquitos

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) released a new podcast episode as part of their Animal Health Insights series. The episode is titled "Monitoring Malicious Mosquitos" with Dr. Antoinette Ludwig, a veterinarian and epidemiologist with the National Microbiology Laboratory at the Public Health Agency of Canada, and Carleton University PhD candidate Marc Avramov. https://cahss.podbean.com/e/monitoring-malicious-mosquitoes-with-dr-antoinette-ludwig-and-marc-avramov/

Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2024

As of November 30, 2024, there have been 2,329 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 134 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for the vast majority of samples at 1,431 of which 87 bats tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	3	
Bat	123	87
Dog	1	
Skunk	6	
Total	**134***	**88***

*In 2024, Ontario recorded its first domestically acquired case of human rabies since 1967 which is included in the totals.

implemented whenever a case is detected in that zone. There could also be implications for zones if they are within 10 km of a site in a neighboring zone. This approach has been accepted by the U.S. and our major trading partners. Fraser Valley Zoning Project - inspection.canada.ca

Province	Commercial Zones	Commercial IPs	Low Path Zones	Non-commercial Zones
BC*	8*	68*		2
Alberta				1
Manitoba	1	1		
Ontario	4	5		
Quebec			2	

Ministry of Solicitor General, Animal Welfare Services

The OLPC members receive regular updates from the provincial Animal Welfare Services (AWS) at membership meetings. As of September 30th, AWS had triaged 20,232 calls in 2024. Of those, 1,256 (6.2%) involved farmed animals. The breakdown of livestock calls is 246 (20%) poultry, 69 (5%) sheep, 59 (5%) swine, 190 (15%) cattle, 110 (9%) goats, and 581 (46%) horses/donkeys. Poultry tends to be small flocks and backyard birds.

Asian Long-horned Tick

Denise Bonilla, National Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program Coordinator, with the USDA gave a very interesting presentation to the OLPC members during their December meeting. The Asian long-horned tick (Asian may be dropped from the name) is parthenogenetic meaning the females clone themselves, they don't need a male to reproduce. There has only been one documented male tick in the U.S. compared to thousands of females collected. One female may lay between 4,000 and 8,000 eggs.

The tick was likely introduced to the U.S. in 2010 through at least three separate introductions from northeast Asia as there are three different populations across 21 states. Of the counties finding a Long-horned tick, 52% are considered to have an established population.

These ticks will bite just about anything but prefer deer, raccoons, opossums, and cattle. They don't like mice or people but will bite people. They love dogs so pet movement is a high risk of spread. Birds are also important as they contribute to tick spread. Denise showed a map modelling potential spread. Southwestern Ontario is rated as high.

There have been cases in the U.S. of cattle and deer dying from tick infestation either due to exsanguination or tick toxicosis. The primary concern is these ticks may be a vector for many diseases. In U.S. field collected ticks, there were a number of pathogens of concern found including Cattle Theileriosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

There has been no pesticide resistance detected so regular treatment for ticks should be effective. There are environmental treatment options as well but not all are appropriate to use on land where animals are grazing. Multiple applications are required for control.

The detection of these ticks tend to arise from people finding them on livestock or themselves. Farmers should be advised to report any large infestation of ticks on their animals.