

Issue 52 June 2020

OLPC 2020

Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are currently tentative.

- August 14, 2020
- October 16, 2020
- December 11, 2020

Biosecurity Stop Signs

The OLPC office now has biosecurity stop signs back in stock and can be ordered by calling the office 519-669-3350 or completing an order form from the website www.ontlpc.ca under the resources tab.

We also have biosecurity videos on DVD and a few poultry biosecurity manuals. You can view the videos at <http://www.ontlpc.ca/videos.php> The videos work well for training non-agricultural staff and for 4-H or school groups.

Cloth Face Masks

Brian's Poultry Services at Mildmay is selling cloth face masks at cost - \$1.75 each. These masks are washable and reusable and come in bags of 50. They are not N95 or surgical rated. If interested in purchasing these masks, contact Brian Herman directly at bherman@brianspoultry.on.ca or his cell phone (519) 881-6250.

Pandemic Reading

What better time to read about pandemics than during a pandemic! Below are some suggested titles all of which are available on-line via

COVID-19 and Animals

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak there have been few confirmed cases of COVID-19 in animals. Below is a current summary of naturally occurring cases as reported via ProMed. It does not include any COVID-positive animals resulting from research into the virus.

Mink – several farm operations spread over 13 locations in the Netherlands. All infected locations will be culled.

Cats – 10 in total – one in Belgium, one in Hong Kong, two in New York (separate cases), two in France (separate cases); one in Germany, one in Spain, one in Russia, and one in Minnesota. Several farm cats at the Netherlands mink farms also tested positive for the presence of COVID. **Tigers** (four) and **lions** (four) at the Bronx Zoo.

Dogs – four – two in Hong Kong (separate cases), one in the Netherlands (unrelated to mink farms), and one in New York state.

Other suspect animal cases were later deemed to be negative.

ARMMI Provides Supplies to Health Care Sector

Agriculture Response Materials Management Inc. (ARMMI) is a not-for-profit organization that maintains an inventory of emergency response supplies to be used in the event of an agricultural disease threat or emergency.

In April, ARMMI was approached by Healthcare Materials Management Services regarding purchasing supplies. HMMS is a joint venture between London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care, London which consolidates purchasing, inventory management and logistics. ARMMI provided HMMS with 450 master cartons at cost. These supplies were provided to long-term care facilities in the London area.

Founding members of ARMMI include Chicken Farmers of Ontario, Egg Farmers of Ontario, Turkey Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg & Chick Commission, Association of Ontario Chicken Processors, Poultry Industry Council and the Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council. Funding for the original stockpile project was provided in part by Agriculture & Agri-food Canada through the Agriculture Adaptation Council CanAdvance Program, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

Ontario – Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT)

There have been six cases of ILT in Ontario small flocks so far this year. Five cases of ILT have been diagnosed in small poultry flocks since May 1. A single expanded Biosecurity Advisory Area has been established for a cluster of four positive flocks made up of parts of southern Wellington County, western Halton and northwest City of Hamilton.

In early June a small flock in the central-west part of Kawartha Lakes tested positive. All birds in the flock have either died or were euthanized.

The April 24 Biosecurity Advisory for Alnwick-Haldimand township in Northumberland county was lifted June 1. All the birds in the small flock died or were euthanized, and the premises has been cleaned and disinfected. New birds are being raised in separate area.

Equine Herpes Virus

At the time of writing, Toronto's Woodbine Racetrack had confirmed a total of 27 cases of the neurologic form of equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). The outbreak began May 16th when two two-year-old Thoroughbreds tested positive.

A Melancthon area horse farm has also had cases of EVH-1. The outbreak at this farm has an epidemiological link to Woodbine Racetrack. There have been four confirmed positive horses at

Chapters - Indigo
<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/> and on Amazon
www.amazon.ca

Spillover: Animal Infections and The Next Human Pandemic by David Quammen, 2013 \$24.95 as a paperback

Pandemic: Tracking Contagions, From Cholera to Ebola and Beyond by Sonia Shah, 2017 paperback \$23.50

Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed The World by Laura Spinney, 2018 paperback \$22.99

Some of these books are also available as an e-book or audio book.

Prefer Video over Print?

TED Talks are videos from expert speakers on education, business, science, technology and creativity. They have compiled a playlist of 19 talks related to COVID specifically and viruses in general. Some are from several years ago while the virtual interviews on COVID were taped within the past couple of months
[Playlist: The fight against viruses](#)

Found a Tick?

If you find any type of tick in your home, on you or one of your animals, www.eticck.ca is a website that provides image-based tick identification. The public can submit a photo of a tick through the online platform and receive visual identification confirmation along with some standard health and awareness messaging.

this location. Two of the horses were euthanized due to severe and progressive neurological signs. The other two horses are receiving treatment. A fifth horse on the farm was euthanized due to severe and progressive neurological signs, but testing to confirm EHV-1 was not conducted.

Rabies Numbers in Canada

As at the end of May, there have been 750 samples submitted in 2020 for rabies testing from across Canada. Of that total, 450 came from Ontario. Nationally, 23 samples tested positive; 10 of the Ontario samples were positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Canada	Ontario
Arctic fox	1	
Bat	13	9
Bovine	2	
Dog	2	
Skunk	5	1
Total	23	10

Antibiotic Residues, Resistance Genes and Zoonotic Bacteria In Soils Fertilized With Pig Manure

A study was conducted in Belgium to determine whether antibiotic residues in pig manure led to antibiotic and resistance residues in the soil. The project looked at six antibiotic residues, nine antibiotic resistance genes, and bacteria (zoonotic bacteria *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., and *E. coli*) on five fields.

The fields were sampled five times beginning before fertilization up to harvest. The antibiotic resistance genes studied were already present at low levels in the soil environment prior to fertilization but, after fertilization with pig manure, an increase was observed for most of them, followed by a decline back to background levels by harvest-time on all of the fields studied.

The results presented in this study also indicate that zoonotic bacteria in the manure could be detected in the soil directly after fertilization but not after one month. [Link to Pubmed 32410188](#)

Asian Long Horned Tick

Robbin Lindsay, Public Health Agency of Canada gave a presentation on the Asian Long Horned Tick (ALT) as part of the INKY 2020 Research Bites webinar series. He noted that the ALT was first reported in New Jersey in August 2017. Within the next year, it had been identified in 45 counties and nine states. This pattern indicates the tick was present in the U.S. much earlier than 2017 and dashed hopes that it might be eradicated. The ALT looks very similar to the Hare Tick and when archived field specimens of Hare Ticks were re-examined, ALTs were found in 2013 collections from New Jersey and 2010 from West Virginia.

The ALT originates from Northeast China, Japan, Korea and Russia. It has invaded Australia, New Zealand and other South Pacific islands. Asexual reproduction makes it easier for new populations to establish and expand. Its hosts are primarily mammals but it will feed on birds. However, the ticks do not readily feed on mice (risk of Lyme disease transmission) and seem not to like human skin. Human bites have been reported but not in proportion to the number of ticks in identified areas.

In September 2017, a beef herd in Virginia was given a diagnosis of anemia and suspected Anaplasmosis. Subsequent testing of the cattle in 2018 detected *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda genotype (2) in blood samples from three unrelated herds in three different counties in Virginia. *T. orientalis* Ikeda genotype was also detected in 12.7% of ALTs collected at the index farm. This is the first detection of a pathogen in exotic ALTs in the U.S. *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda genotype is a parasite that causes a disease in cattle that results in major economic issues in Asia, New Zealand, and Australia. Although other benign *T. orientalis* genotypes are endemic to the U.S., detection of *T. orientalis* Ikeda genotype might represent a risk for the cattle industry in Virginia.

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.