



Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System  
 Equine Health Surveillance Network  
 November 2018



- **Brief introduction, background and update** on the **Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS)**, a collaboration on animal health surveillance in Canada
- **The Equine Health Surveillance Network** – who we are, what we've done, where we're going

## Origin of CAHSS



Some major weaknesses in the present surveillance system in organization and decision making, and in information and data sharing.

*Surveillance in a time of transition in farmed animal health-  
National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (2011)*

### **Collaborative Governance the Best Approach:**

- Several successful components and informal networks operating well but need national leadership and coordination
- Opportunity to create an environment for success
- Animal health, public health and wildlife, antimicrobial usage
- All diseases/issues of interest including production limiting, emerging, zoonotic, notifiable and reportable diseases



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## Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System

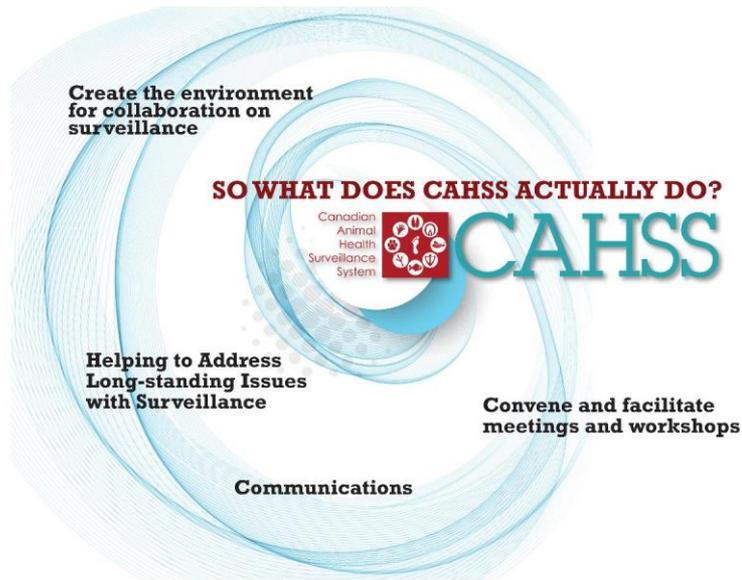
*Effective, Responsive, Integrated Animal Health Surveillance*



- **Federated network of networks**
  - Self-governing: Functions independently but with stable connections
  - United by a common purpose and core principles
  - Guided by a common Directors Group, enabled by a Champions Group, supported by a coordinator and secretariat
  - Communal ownership of the entity
  - Self-organizing: around any activity in line with common purpose
- **Encouraging innovation and creative solutions**
  - Supporting the Emergency Management Framework
  - Building from the ground up
  - Empowering members to lead
  - Ridding ourselves of limiting beliefs



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## Authorities

The governance model operates within existing regulatory authorities and frameworks

- Bringing established networks together on a voluntary basis, encouraging development of new networks and enhancement of all networks.
- Looking for innovative solutions to defragment animal health surveillance delivery and remove barriers imposed by a variety of regulatory authorities

## Costs



- **Coordinator** – supported initially by CFIA
  - CFIA also providing 2 part-time veterinarians, support for workshops, administrative support.
- **Secretariat** – supported initially by AAFC
- **Participating networks** – maintain own costs
- **Projects** – funding programs of the day

## Current Status of CAHSS - Infrastructure

- *Transitioning Coordination to NFAHWC*
  - More appropriate for CAHSS to reside within a government-industry collaborative organization
- *Champions Group*
  - Enable and facilitate establishment of network
- *Directors Group*
  - Create and maintain a healthy environment for collaboration
  - Resolve surveillance irritants and overarching issues
- *Shared purpose statement*
  - “working towards effective, responsive, integrated animal health surveillance in Canada”
- *Core principles*
  - Basic rules on how we organize ourselves and work together
  - Members must sign a declaration (see annex)
- *CAHSS website [cahss.ca](http://cahss.ca)*
  - Valued central point for shared communications



## Current Status of CAHSS - Network Groups

- Building connections among networks and individuals by inviting participants to come together, using facilitated workshops to help groups collectively determine their needs, priorities and next steps. Followed by conference calls and tangible action items

### CAHSS Network Groups

- Swine - February 2016
- Poultry – February 2016
- Antimicrobial Usage on Farm - October 2016
- Equine – November 2016
- Dairy Cattle – February 2017
- Wildlife – September 2017
- Beef Cattle – November 2017
- Linked with CEZD early warning system



### Under Consideration:

- Aquaculture (planning phase)
- Vector borne disease, honey bees, small ruminant, cervids





# Equine Health Surveillance Network



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## Equine Surveillance Workshop

- Equine Surveillance Workshop, co-hosted by Equestrian Canada, was held Nov 3 and 4, 2016
- Goal was to bring together a very diverse industry and government representatives to identify needs, strategies and next steps for equine surveillance
- Shared Purpose:
  - An effective equine surveillance system will protect the health and well-being of horses, other equines and humans, safeguard the Canadian herd and permit movement and continuance of trade, thereby ensuring the prosperity of Canada's equine industry.*
- A network group was formed to help implement identified key priorities, such as:
  - Sharing information on reportable and notifiable diseases; list of equine contacts
  - Explore funding options for equine surveillance, identify potential projects, initiatives
  - Prepare case definitions for diseases of interest
  - Look at mapping options for disease outbreaks
  - Organize summit of decision-makers in equine sector to garner support

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## Equine Network Accomplishments

- Case Definitions
  - Drafted for 10 diseases of interest Sharing Information on Disease Outbreaks
  - Harmonized with USDA and American Association of Equine Practitioners
- Equine Contacts
  - Equine Stakeholder map prepared with links to all organizations of interest at many levels
- Sharing Information on Disease Outbreaks
  - List of notifiable diseases, nationally and provincially
  - Working on a process for provinces to easily share information on CAHSS website
  - Working with CFIA to download non-identified information collected on WNV and EEE
  - Sharing Equine Infectious Anemia information



### Owning Member's Declaration – Individual

Individuals seeking owning membership to the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) agree to collaboratively work towards the shared Purpose, operating in accordance with the Core Principles:

**Purpose** – a shared national vision leading to effective, responsive, integrated animal health surveillance in Canada

#### CAHSS Principles of Practice:

- Work to ensure the quality of life for Canadians by protecting animal health and public health, and supporting economic prosperity.
- Work to ensure scientific rigour and professional and technical competence, acknowledging that other factors must be taken into account in decision making.
- Encourage practices, behaviours and modes of technology that are consistent with the Purpose and Principles. In particular, encourage openness, collaboration and innovation.
- Resolve conflict compassionately, productively, cooperatively and respectfully.
- Freely and fully exchange information relevant to the Purpose while respecting confidentiality.
- Work to ensure clarity in animal health surveillance communications by providing relevant background and contextual information.

#### CAHSS Principles of Organization:

- An Individual or Institution subscribing to the Purpose and Principles of the organization is deemed eligible for Owning Membership and participation.
- Have the right to self-organize around any event or activity consistent with the Purpose and Principles, encouraging innovation and flexibility.
- Participating network members retain full authority to independently manage and implement their own roles, resources and priorities but agree to consult with other network members to find efficiencies and avoid unintended impacts that might affect the operations of other members or the network as a whole.

By signing this declaration, I agree to be a member of the CAHSS in accordance to the purpose statement and principles noted above.

Name:	
Address:	Phone: E-mail:
Primary Network Group:	
Signature:	Date:

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## Reasons for Success?

- **Strong Leadership Support**
  - Several members from various facets of the industry recognized the importance of disease surveillance
  - Leaders are engaged and active
  - National Organization provided funding for the workshop
  - A strong representative group of people gathered together for the initial CAHSS meeting
- **Strong Communication**
  - An established network of communication with Industry and Sport across Canada and with Provinces.
  - Industry collaboration for the development of the Code of Practice and Biosecurity Standard. (Equine health was at the forefront)
  - Monthly National Disease and Welfare Surveillance Calls
  - Prompt posting of disease information that is nationally reportable

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## Reasons for Success?

- Strong *Industry Support and collaboration*
  - Active core group of motivated/qualified volunteers
  - Motivated stakeholders & recognition of the importance in the community
  - Growing support of the Provincial CVOs and Ministries to provide prompt disease information
  - The Equine Disease Communication Centre supports CAHSS's initiative and cross-posts Canadian equine disease reports promptly.
  - Support from Dr. Keith Murch and Cheryl James of the CFIA
  - Collaboration between national & provincial equine organizations
  - Past and present reporting and promotion of the sharing/dissemination of equine health information from established *Provincial Animal Health Networks*
  - Group time determining what submission criteria & report elements we require to post disease information



## Still to do.....

- Explore the Equine Disease Communications Center as a platform for the coordinated sharing of disease notifications.
  - Initial communications, but need to finalize our process on notifiable disease reporting
- Actively engage industry and government stakeholders to gain support for collaborative equine surveillance.
- Identify sources and gather equine surveillance data
  - Identify sources in addition to notifiable diseases
  - Link in to CEZD community
- Develop a roadmap for equine surveillance
  - Concrete surveillance goals, strike a working group to develop tangible goals over the next 6 months.
- Integrated data system
  - Research data systems for flexible, affordable system which will satisfy needs of the equine network.
- Sponsor a summit to discuss equine surveillance plans to seek a high level of support.
- Hire a coordinator, supervised by equine network leaders, to communicate on equine surveillance issues



# Questions?



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For more information please visit  
[cahss.ca](http://cahss.ca)

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