



African Swine Fever (ASF)- Dominican Republic Update

Craig Price from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) provided an update on the status of ASF in the Dominican Republic and measures that the government of Canada has taken to decrease the risk of ASF being spread to Canada.

Notifications

- On July 28, 2021, the USDA made a public announcement that ASF had been detected in samples that were submitted from pigs in the Dominican Republic.
- On July 29, 2021, The Dominican Republic confirmed that they had an outbreak of ASF.
- This is the first time in 40 years that ASF has been detected in a country located in the Americas. Geographical location has increased the risk of this virus being able to make its way into mainland North America.
- The U.S.A. announced they will [create a protection zone](#) for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

Preventative Actions Taken

- Immediately following notification, the CFIA along with Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) put into effect a border lookout (enhanced screening of travellers and goods under a trade restriction) for travellers and commercial products coming from the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Canada made the decision to treat the island as one from a risk perspective.
- Immediately following notification, the CFIA began an in-depth risk assessment on this situation. The risk assessment looked at things like travellers (this included foreign workers) and international mail that were both deemed to be higher risk. The decision was made that the best risk mitigation measure was to implement the border lookout as described above and to assign detector dog teams to prioritize inspections on travellers originating from these regions that may be carrying agricultural goods.
- Canada has 3 International mail centres located in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal. International mail coming from Caribbean countries is now segregated at these centres and is supplemented with X-ray evaluation. Detector dog teams are also brought through these centres looking for high-risk items.
 - Two years ago, CFIA and CBSA did a blitz on international mail and found 100 % compliance from products that originated from Asia at this time.
- Plant-based feeds were also included in this risk assessment and was placed on the government of Canada's enhanced inspection list. It is important to note that plant-based feed ingredients were not deemed to be a high-risk pathway due to an extremely low frequency of imports. CFIA also looked at the importation of feeds and determined that minimal feed imports occurred for all countries in the Caribbean.
- CFIA also assessed the risk from the importation of international wastes (how international waste products are disposed of at our borders) and found that all existing border controls completely mitigate this risk pathway.
- Canada does not import any live swine or swine products from the Dominican Republic or Haiti so this was not a risk pathway of concern.
- CFIA also investigated into the risk of dogs being imported from the Caribbean. There is a combination of events that would have to occur for live ASF virus to enter Canada via this pathway. CFIA concluded that this is a series of unlikely events and that the risk of entry through this risk pathway was extremely low.



ASF- Dominican Republic Update Continued...

Collaborative Partnerships

- CFIA continues to work with the CBSA to ensure that inspectors at our borders and detector dog teams continue to receive information on ASF and the importance of mitigating the risk of this virus entering Canada. This is important as it is anticipated that more travel will be seen with COVID-19 border restrictions easing.
- CFIA continues to work with the United States Agricultural Department (USDA) to ensure consistency and to have a perimeter protection approach to North America.
- CFIA has also been working with the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) in the Americas (regional steering committee of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE)).

Gathering More Information

- There is a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mission that should be completed soon, that will disclose gaps of what is needed in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti to contain the spread of ASF.

What has been communicated thus far:

- There is almost no diagnostic capacity within the Dominican Republic and in Haiti so the USDA is working closely with Canada to provide this support where needed.
- There is no known source of ASF infection determined to date.
- The epidemiological investigation has not been strong in the Dominican Republic. The virus was genotyped but this provided no clues as towards where it originated from.
- There is a large population of domestic escapee pigs in Puerto Rico due to previous weather events such as hurricanes. These pigs live off garbage feeding so this will complicate control measures to reduce feral swine in Puerto Rico.

Communications

- CFIA and the CBSA have ensured in-flight messaging of “Don’t pack pork” is in place in both major and minor airlines for travellers returning to Canada from the Caribbean.
- Any traveller coming from the Caribbean that discloses to a border agent that they are travelling to or from a farm also will receive more information from border agents on this topic.
- Social media campaigns have targeted providing information on how to mitigate the risk of bringing ASF into another country.
- **Take Home Message: Help communicate this message of “Don’t pack pork through international travel or by mail” to others. Especially ensure that swine producers and those who own pigs understand the importance of this message.**

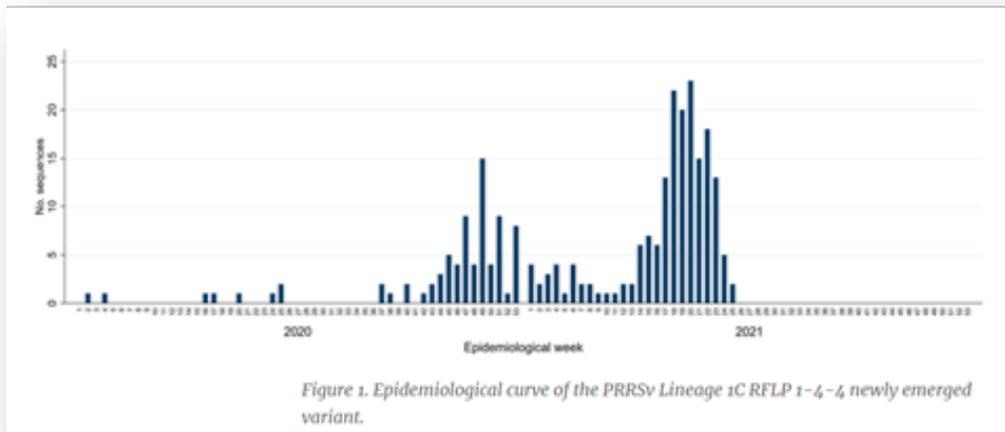
CEZD Disease Signals of Interest from Q2

Dr. Andrea Osborn provided a review of disease signals that presented to the Community of Emerging and Zoonotic Disease (CEZD) over the past quarter.

PRRS 1-4-4 in the U.S.A.

To date PRRS 1-4-4- has not been detected in Canada.

A second wave of outbreaks was reported of PRRS 1-4-4 in the U.S.A. in April and May 2021, in a wider geography. The second wave shows higher number of cases than was seen in the first wave (see Figure 1 on the next page):



“Figure 1 demonstrates the epidemiological curve of the number of cases per week in the U.S.A. A total of 259 sequences from 14 production systems and includes detections in 227 sites (84 growing pig farms, 57 breeding herds, and 86 with no information on site type). This strain continues to be detected in MN, IA, IL, SD, and WI. The number of cases detected in this second transmission peak has already surpassed the number of cases in the first peak. However, although weekly number of cases seems to be decreasing, as new datasets come in monthly a few weeks lag in identifying cases is expected”. (UMN Swine News)

Greasy Pig Disease (Exudative Epidermatitis)

RAIZO (Quebec)

RAIZO reported that 50% of veterinarians responding to the clinical impression survey reported an increase in Greasy Pig Disease during Q2. In one case a veterinarian reported that pigs coming from the sow barn into a nursery barn had a 25% mortality rate. Most of the cases seen in Quebec are associated with a bacteria known as *Staphylococcus hyicus*. Antibiotic resistance panels were highlighted in the Q2 RAIZO report to help producers choose the correct antibiotic. Dr. Martine Denicourt commented that antibiotic resistance hasn't changed for this pathogen, but veterinarians are reporting cases that aren't responding well to treatments. Some veterinarians have tried autogenous vaccination, but success with this is difficult in nursery aged pigs. Autogenous vaccines can only be produced for 2 years and then the producer must go through another outbreak of disease to generate more vaccine. **Take Home Message: The CSHIN Q2 team would support a review by the federal government of the policy that governs autogenous vaccine usage. Preventative medicine needs to be the focus. No producer should be forced to have to experience a disease outbreak in their animals to receive approval for the production of an effective autogenous vaccine.**

Clostridium difficile and *Salmonella*

CWSHIN (Western Provinces)

Dr. Kurt Preugschas reported that during Q2 the western provinces saw an increase in the bacteria known as *C. difficile* and *Salmonella*. *C. difficile* was seen more often as a cause of nursing piglet diarrhea whereas *Salmonella* was seen more often as the cause of post-weaning diarrhea. There were many different types of *Salmonella* seen and primarily this pathogen was found in nursery aged pigs. In the past the primary diagnosis of the nursing piglet diarrhea was Rotavirus, whereas in Q2 we found the Rotavirus in conjunction with *C. difficile*.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea and Porcine Deltacoronavirus (PEDV & PDCoV)

OAHN (Ontario)

Swine Health Ontario (SHO) reported that there has been one case of PEDV in Q2. This case occurred on May 3, 2021, in a farrow-to-wean herd. There have been no cases of PDCoV since January 15, 2021. The PED and PDCoV tracking map is available at the SHO website and shows the current and annual cases by county. <http://www.swinehealthontario.ca/Disease-Information/PED-PDCoV-Tracking-Map>

RAIZO (Quebec)

At the beginning of Q2, there was still one PED positive site from the 2020 spring outbreak. In addition, 2 new PED cases were detected in finishing units in May. As of September 2nd, those 3 sites did succeed to eradicate the virus and **Quebec is now considered free of PED and PDCoV again.**

CSHIN Manager Update

I would encourage everyone to check out the CSHIN website if you haven't already done so: [CSHIN website](#). All CSHIN producer/swine industry reports are posted on this website.

Thank you for your continued engagement in CSHIN!

Christa Arsenault DVM, CSHIN Manager

This information is a professional communication for swine producers. The information was obtained from a survey of the clinical impressions of participating practising veterinarians with input from other swine health professionals. This information is not validated and may not reflect the entire clinical situation. Your judgment is required in the interpretation and use of it. It is the intent of CSHIN to improve the health of the national swine herd. CSHIN is funded jointly by the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV) and Canadian Pork Council (CPC).

MEET YOUR CSHIN Q2 NETWORK TEAM

Quebec RAIZO Representation

Dr. Claudia Gagné-Fortin
Dr. Martine Denicourt
Dr. Isabelle St-Pierre

Western Provinces CWSHIN Representation

Dr. Jette Christensen
Dr. Glen Duizer
Dr. Susan Detmer
Dr. Kurt Preugschas
Dr. Jessica Law
Jenelle Hamblin

Ontario OAHN Representation

Dr. George Charbonneau
Dr. Jim Fairles

Maritimes Representation

Dr. Dan Hurnik

Canadian Pork Council (CPC)

Gabriela Guigou
Dr. Egan Brockhoff

CSHIN Manager

Dr. Christa Arsenault

Christa.arsenault@outlook.com

Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV)

Dr. Christian Klopfenstein

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Dr. Sonja Laurendeau
Dr. Andrea Osborn
Craig Price

Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS)

Dr. Theresa Burns