DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PLAN WORKSHOP

Final report

Guelph, Ontario

October 5, 2016
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# AGENDA

**Disease Surveillance Plan Annual Workshop**

8:30am-1:00pm  
October 5th, 2016  
Holiday Inn Guelph, ON  
601 Scottsdale Dr, Guelph, ON N1G 3E7  
[http://www.higuelph.ca/](http://www.higuelph.ca/)

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 9:00-9:10 am  | Welcome                      | Dr. Grant Maxie (DSP project manager, director Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph)  
Dr. Leslie Woodcock (Chief Veterinarian for Ontario, OMAFRA) |
| 9:10-9:15 am  | Review objectives            | Dr. Melanie Barham (Ontario Animal Health Network Coordinator)       |
| 9:15-10:00am  | Network Summary Presentations | 2 minute “lightning round” presentations featuring interesting applications of OAHN to emerging animal health issues. |
| 10:00-10:30am | Coffee break                 |                                                                      |
| 10:30-11:45am | Network Discussion           | Guided discussions amongst network groups.                           |
| 11:45-noon    | Conclusion/wrap up           | Dr. Grant Maxie and Dr. Leslie Woodcock                              |
| Noon-1pm      | Lunch                        | Hot lunch                                                            |
| 1:00-2:00pm   | Optional network meeting time | (Optional) Networks may have additional meeting time                 |
Disease Surveillance Plan (DSP) and Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN)

The Animal Health Laboratory was awarded funding for a Disease Surveillance Plan (DSP) by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, as part of the OMAFRA - UofG Agreement for 2013-2018.

As part of the disease surveillance plan and stakeholder feedback, the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) was developed.

Ontario Animal Health Network

Vision: Public trust and confidence from a collaborative animal health network in Ontario.

Mission: Coordinated early detection, preparedness and response of animal disease through sustainable cross-sector networks.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With 18 months to go in the 5-year 2013-2018 Disease Surveillance Plan, we’re well along in fine-tuning an enhanced and sustainable model of animal health surveillance in Ontario. As detailed in the following pages, the OAHN expert networks are maturing and demonstrating a range of successes. The multimedia approach of OAHN to information dissemination is proving to be effective, and we receive encouraging feedback from participants. The Ontario networks are also feeding into the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System - the developing Canada-wide “network of networks”. DSP funding has also supported disease testing surge capacity through the purchase of advanced technology, as well as expanded disease investigations, including detection and gene sequencing of various viral pathogens.

Our annual report 2015-2016 details the successes and challenges of the program, and what happened in the previous fiscal year. The report can be found here: http://oahn.ca/resources/general/disease-surveillance-plan-annual-report-2015-2016/

Proceedings from the prior years’ meetings can be found here: http://www.uoguelph.ca/omafra_partnership/en/partnershipprograms/DiseaseSurveillancePlanDSP.asp

2015-2016: OAHN network-wide executive summary

The Ontario Animal Health Network has evolved since last year’s meeting, with several notable changes. First, the advent of network co-leads. Almost all networks have both a designated OMAFRA co-lead and a private practice or industry member co-lead. This change has been integral in tailoring the networks to the individual species groups, in continual improvement of the veterinary and producer reports, and in sustainability of the program. Following feedback from last year’s workshop, many networks met with industry groups, seeking feedback and continued conversations to meet the needs of each sector. Our research projects, the call for which was announced at last year’s annual workshop, are underway. $50,000 of funding was provided to each sector to address a surveillance gap (page 7). Finally, together with OMAFRA, we developed a series of outcomes-based key performance indicators that are monitored closely to determine if the desired objectives of the OAHN program are being met.

OAHN: 2015-16 in numbers
What is included in the network pages?

Each network was asked to work with their network group and industry to answer a specific question related to how value has or has not been realized with their OAHN species network. The answers are summarized by species in the following pages.

Other initiatives of interest:

- **Website:** Our website, [http://oahn.ca/](http://oahn.ca/), houses veterinary and producer reports, disease alerts, resources, news items. There is a veterinary log-in side of the website, and veterinarians across North America, and Registered Veterinary Technicians in Ontario can register for a free account for veterinarian-only information. *Note that licensure as a veterinarian in North America, or RVT in Ontario must be verified to obtain an account.*
  - The site remembers your preferences for which species you visited, and takes you there right away. No searching!
  - We have free on-line training for small flock veterinarians, and also mink veterinary training; see the password protected side of the site.

- **Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Pinterest:** Follow us for animal health news, disease alerts, and newest reports/surveys, and podcasts. If you use social media for your clinic or organization, follow us for easy sharing with your clients/members.

- **Newsletter:** We publish a quarterly newsletter for OAHN in the AHL newsletter ([http://www.guelphlabservices.com/AHL/Newsletters.aspx](http://www.guelphlabservices.com/AHL/Newsletters.aspx)), and we also send one to all interested parties. Sign up on our website with one click ([www.oahn.ca/newsletter/](http://www.oahn.ca/newsletter/))

- **Podcasts:** Our podcasts are quick and easy to listen to, typically <30 min in length. Veterinarians have commented they are great to listen to in between calls. ([www.oahn.podbean.com](http://www.oahn.podbean.com))

- **International publications:** OAHN activities have been featured in abstracts presented at the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. An evaluation of the OAHN program using the SERVAL evaluation tool (a tool to objectively look at surveillance systems worldwide, developed and published in Europe), is being completed this fall as a pilot for the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System.
  - Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System: [www.cahss.ca](http://www.cahss.ca)
  - WAVLD abstract: Development of collaborative animal health networks to improve surveillance and emergency preparedness in Ontario, Canada
  - AAVLD abstracts:
    - Development of collaborative animal health networks to improve surveillance and emergency preparedness in Ontario, Canada
    - Podcasts as a tool to enhance communications, lab sample quality, continuing education, and emergency preparedness with practicing veterinarians (accepted abstract, to be presented October 2016)
    - Small flock poultry diagnostics and veterinary training: a new approach to a capacity and emergency preparedness issue (accepted abstract, to be presented October 2016)
OAHN research projects

As mentioned above, each network was given the opportunity to apply for up to $50,000 of funding to address a gap in surveillance in their industry. A summary of the projects can be found below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OAHN project #</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>OMAFRA co-lead</th>
<th>Principal Investigator - signing authority</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<td>OAHN-01</td>
<td>Bovine</td>
<td>Dr. Tim Pasma</td>
<td>Dr. Ann Godkin</td>
<td>Surveilance for bovine calfhood diseases including Salmonella Dublin</td>
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<td>OAHN-02</td>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Dr. Csaba Varga</td>
<td>Dr. Michele Guerin</td>
<td>Evaluating virulence genes and antimicrobial susceptibility of avian pathogenic Escherichia coli from Ontario broiler and broiler breeder flocks</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAHN-03a</td>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>Dr. Christa Arsenault</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Friendship</td>
<td>The creation of a network of sentinel pig farms to enable coordinated preparedness, early detection, and response to animal disease.</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<td>OAHN-04a</td>
<td>Small ruminants</td>
<td>Dr. Jocelyn Jansen</td>
<td>Dr. Paula Menzies</td>
<td>Prevalence and risk factors of Toxoplasma infection in Ontario sheep flocks and goat herds</td>
<td>7,500</td>
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<td>OAHN-04b</td>
<td>Small ruminants</td>
<td>Dr. Jocelyn Jansen</td>
<td>Dr. Maria Spinato</td>
<td>Investigation of adult small ruminant mortalities</td>
<td>42,000</td>
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<td>OAHN-05b</td>
<td>Equine</td>
<td>Dr. Alison Moore</td>
<td>Dr. Memo Arroyo</td>
<td>Seroprevalence of Borrelia burgdorferi and Anaplasma phagocytophilum infection in Ontario horses.</td>
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<td>OAHN-06</td>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>Dr. Marcia Chiasson</td>
<td>Dr. Marcia Chiasson</td>
<td>Antimicrobial resistance in Ontario aquaculture</td>
<td>25,200</td>
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<td>OAHN-07</td>
<td>Bees</td>
<td>Wael Haddad</td>
<td>Dr. Durda Slavic</td>
<td>Culture, antimicrobial susceptibility and molecular typing of Paenibacillus larvae, a causative agent of American foulbrood (AFB)</td>
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<td>OAHN-08</td>
<td>Wildlife zoo</td>
<td>Dr. Claire Jardine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Developing and piloting a web-based reporting system to enhance wildlife disease surveillance in Ontario</td>
<td>48,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAHN-09a</td>
<td>Companion animals</td>
<td>Dr. Maureen Anderson</td>
<td>Dr. Andrew Peregrine</td>
<td>Investigation of the prevalence of Echinococcus multilocularis and risk of infection in wild canids in Ontario, Canada</td>
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<td>OAHN-09b</td>
<td>Companion animals</td>
<td>Dr. Maureen Anderson</td>
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<td>Companion animal veterinary infographics</td>
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<td>OAHN-10</td>
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<td>Dr. Pat Turner</td>
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<td>Developing a health and disease surveillance network for Ontairo mink farms</td>
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## Attendees at the 2016 DSP Workshop

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<td>Canada Mink Breeders Association and North American Fur Association</td>
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ALTERNATIVE/MINK NETWORK

Question 1: Share an example of how the OAHN network has been valuable to your industry and veterinarians. Include industry's response.

The Alternative species network, currently focused on mink, has worked together on a number of initiatives to create value to both industry and veterinarians since spring of 2015. They are outlined below:

**Veterinary training course on mink health:** This workshop was jointly organized and funded by industry, government, and OAHN, and was a full day workshop at the University of Guelph. Veterinarians from Ontario were offered in-person or remote (virtual) attendance. The day featured lecturers from the US and Canada, speaking about practical veterinary aspects of mink health issues, as well as an overview of the mink industry. There was no charge for attendance, and 24 veterinarians were trained. This training increased capacity for veterinary care within Ontario significantly, a need identified by both national and provincial industry groups in initial exploratory meetings. Industry contribution was crucial to success of this meeting, as they provided input on speakers, topics required, as well as funding.

- **Value to industry:** Increased number of trained veterinarians who are willing and able to treat and consult on mink cases.
- **Value to veterinarians:** Increased knowledge on a species and industry, no-cost continuing education, opportunity to develop private practice.

**OAHN mink calls:** The alternative species group meets every 3-5 months, and is structured differently than most OAHN networks, as industry needs are different. Thus far, mink has been the focus, but this is open to change. There are few veterinarians available to work on mink in Ontario, and mink make up a small portion of caseload in most of said practitioners' practices. As such, no veterinary survey is completed. Veterinarians are invited to call in from across Ontario to discuss anonymized cases, and stay apprised of recent outbreaks or concerns. A mink veterinary expert, Dr. Hugh Hildebrandt, joins the call from the US, and provides a presentation on recent disease or management issues seen. Updates are also provided by OMAFRA, the Animal Health Laboratory on recent cases submitted, and the Ontario Veterinary College on research projects. The network also maintains a listserv for interested veterinarians, which may be used to discuss cases or trade information outside of the call. Dr. Hildebrandt is also on retainer with the Canadian Mink Breeders Association and is available to consult with veterinarians who are dealing with mink farms. This is another excellent example of industry support for specific needs.

- **Value to industry:** Increased depth of knowledge of trained veterinarians in Ontario for the mink farming industry, standardization of information being shared.
• Value to veterinarians: Increased knowledge on a species and industry, no-cost continuing education, and mentorship.

OAHN research project: Developing a Health and Disease Surveillance Network for Ontario Mink Farms

The project seeks to provide partial support for semi-annual on farm veterinary herd health visits to Ontario mink farms in 2016 and 2017 and support for diagnostic pathology work up (including ancillary testing) of a subset of animals found dead on participating farms; using validated assays to test tissue samples from mink pathology submissions for emerging or known disease-inducing viruses; and to conduct mink welfare audits with producers to ensure that their management practices support optimal mink health. This is a collaborative project also funded by the International Fur Trade Federation and the Canada Mink Breeders Association.

Value to industry: Increased veterinary care at reasonable cost, establishing relationships with a local veterinarian with training, subsidized lab testing, and welfare assessment.

Value to veterinarians: Increasing relationship with mink ranchers, increased ability to perform needed tests.

Question 2. a) Discuss how industry members have been involved in OAHN over the past year, b) how did it go, and c) what could make it work better?

a/b. Research project

• There are 15/45 industry members participating in the testing program (representing 33% of Ontario industry).
• IFT – Herd health – Pat Turner is expanding the testing for herds

c.

• Disseminate information from vet meetings – do summary to send to CMBA to 45 producers
• Relationship between swine influenza and people – sequence influenza from mink?
• Provide info on influenza
• How to ID in minks
• Interactions between staff and livestock
• Kit time – influenza could be a problem
• Hugh Hildebrandt
  o Discuss source of info
  o Nova Scotia
  o Wisconsin
  o Where to get seq. info
  o Hugh presented on AI at AGM of CMBA
From National level – get relationship with veterinarian

Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?

- The project includes performing postmortems, herd health visits, and Aleutian disease CIE testing
- Benefits
  - disease surveillance
  - baseline disease info
  - herd health
  - develop vet expertise/interest and interchange of information/expertise
  - Public perception
  - 2020 – all skins sold as welfare certified
- Stage of completion
  - Initial stages – starting PMs and CIE AD testing. ½ way
  - October 18 summary cost of testing
  - Brief summary of project, what it is, 3 paragraphs, where we are at, timeline
- How has industry been involved?
  - 15/45 farms signed up to submit testing
  - Free is better
  - Prevention is better
  - Herd health benefit
- How does industry wish to receive the information from the study?
  - Summary of testing
  - Go to CMBA meetings (2 meetings per year, in person)
  - Summary of testing and vet meetings
  - List of vets that were at vet training available for ranchers to contact
  - Compile AHL field and field vets – send out disease summary
  - List what vets were on the conference calls, with their permission

Question 4. a) List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

- Fish are a food source – cross over diseases?
- Zoonotic and emerging disease – plan vs. response
- Important of herd health program for the entire industry
- Point out this is mandated, so pelts are welfare certified by 2020
• Improved participating in testing program/research
• Intergenerational change – succession flan of farms, as well as service providers
• Transfer of knowledge/expertise

4. b) How could your industry leverage the OAHN program for information from OAHN to increase public confidence in your industry and its products?

1. Herd health program and welfare (2020 welfare certified)
2. Encourage vet involvement – vet approval of processes, more transparency in the industry
3. OAHN reports available on website
4. OMAF monthly newsletters – include OAHN info, provide links to OAHN website or have network leads submit articles
5. One Health – Larger question, getting out message out, proactive communication of what we are doing in agriculture.
Question 1: How has OAHN been of value, and how is the network differentiating itself from other similar groups? Include industry response.

The OAHN bee network has been of value in a few different ways. First, it provides a venue for industry, academia and OMAFRA reps to meet on a regular basis to discuss upcoming issues and trends. However, the OAHN bee network is not necessarily unique in this sense. Currently, we have great representation in the network considering all of the right players are at the table. Not as many politics are at play in this group and we are able to determine goals and work towards them without the feeling of hidden agendas. We also have the ability to bring in other members or expertise when needed. There is added value in the administration of the project money coming through the DSP to ensure that funds go towards projects which are backed by industry, academia and government.

The group has not currently differentiated itself from other similar groups. One group which comes to mind is the Pollination Apiculture and Advisory Committee of Ontario (PAACO).

There are some challenges which the OAHN bee network is facing which may hinder us from differentiating ourselves. For example, it is difficult for some members to dedicate time or resources to this group as there is no funding allotted for being part of the network. Additionally, we are limited in the number of times we can meet each year due to the nature of the apiculture industry and availability of industry representatives. Finally, OAHN is relatively new, and it is challenging to effectively communicate and provide information to industry. One of our main goals is to build our brand and reputation with producers and the public. We will be discussing ways in which we can differentiate the bee network at our next meeting.

Question 2: How have industry members been involved?

- Taking in information and providing information at meetings (e.g. providing updates on national and provincial initiatives such as the antimicrobial use policy, CHC).
- Disseminate information to the industry (OBA) through email and the website and also to the general public.
- Review and provide input on materials that will be disseminated
- **CHALLENGE:** Difficult to make contributions to the OAHN during the active beekeeping season (Both for industry members and academic members)
Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?

- Benefit to the industry:
  - Being able to report on the viability of currently registered antibiotics.
  - Determine distribution of P. larvae spores across Ontario in clinically healthy colonies/yards.
  - Developing sampling technique, how to sample, and the lab methodology
  - Can lead to other, more refined, projects

- Stage of Completion
  - Completed testing that was originally proposed. We have added additional testing to the project due to some left over money. All samples are ready to test and will be tested over the winter. Roughly 50% complete.

- How would industry like to be involved?
  - Communicate the project to industry at local association meeting in November
  - Industry was collecting and submitting samples to the AHL

- Quick Update/summary
  - Can we recover P larvae from clinically health colonies?
  - Eric 1 – kills larvae at 12 days of age. Less virulent for the larvae. Huge problem for the disease spread because there are more spores
  - Eric 2 – Kills larvae a lot quicker. Do not see clinical signs as easily. Originally thought to only be in Europe. One study found it in North America
  - Initially we did not recover any P. larvae isolates from clinically healthy yards. This was a surprising find: Could be due to seasonability. Brings up the question: Where is the AFB coming from to infect colonies if spores are not present in healthy colonies. Does this initial finding (or lack thereof) have any repercussions on prophylactic AFB treatment with antibiotics?
  - Also testing colonies showing clinical signs of AFB for antimicrobial susceptibility. Currently no resistant strains of AFB in Ontario. Beekeepers in Ontario have been doing a good job of managing their colonies and using the AFB treatments properly. It has been about 15 years that beekeepers have been using currently registered antibiotics.

Question 4. a) List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

1. Surveillance and monitoring of wild pollinators. Wild pollinators can largely indicate the status and health of managed pollinators. Do not currently know the state of wild pollinators.
2. Building brand awareness. Do this by diversifying our network and differentiate ourselves from similar groups. Reduce the duplication of work between similar groups.
3. Discuss and review data from field to identify any emerging trends and crate useful information for producers.
4. Discussing new/potential regulations on AMU

4. b) How could your industry leverage the OAHN program for information from OAHN to increase public confidence in your industry and its products?

- Public is confident in Ontario honey, but we could increase confidence in Ontario’s beekeepers. There is a lot of work being done in Ontario that could promote the quality of beekeeping and honey bee research. Government, industry and academia are working together very well and seem to share the same goals. Ontario beekeepers are probably the most organized of any jurisdiction. Ontario beekeepers are often viewed as a one-issue group (pesticide use), however this is not accurate. E.g. Industry and government worked very closely together on the recent small hive beetle strategy.
**Q1 a) (for network members):** Share 1 example from the past year of how your OAHN network responded to an animal health or welfare issue (this can include detection, response or communication). Explain how your associated industry was included in this response.

**Q1 b) (for industry representatives):** Share 1 example of how your group/association has made use of OAHN information/reports in the past year. Describe how you are disseminating OAHN information to stakeholders.

Highlights for the OAHN Bovine Network this year include the Bovine Surveillance Project on Calf Health and our podcasts on Bovine Respiratory Disease.

The network monitors for disease in cattle through quarterly surveys as well as through its connections with private practitioners, academic, and government veterinarians. Fortunately, the network has not had any major issues in the bovine industry to respond to, but the network is monitoring *Salmonella* as well as *Salmonella Dublin* through its surveys and through the Bovine Surveillance Project on Calf Health. This project has increased the awareness of *Salmonella Dublin* and calf health in general. The project has given practitioners the opportunity to review calf health protocols with clients as well as further case workup through postmortems and lab testing. The surveys are continuing to be used for outbreak monitoring. The network also monitors condemnation data for areas of condemnation improvements.

The podcasts on Bovine Respiratory Disease have been very successful. The series of 4 podcasts was released in the fall of 2015, covering topics including disease management, clinical aspects, and lab testing. These podcasts have been the most listened to of all OAHN podcasts, averaging over 500 downloads for each of the 4 podcasts.

OAHN information and reports are being distributed via magazine, website, and email to the bovine (dairy, beef, and veal) industry.

**Question 2. Discuss how industry members have been involved in OAHN over the past year, how did it go and what could make it better?**

- Dairy – no distribution of OAHN reports
- Beef - Some distribution of OAHN reports—newsletter, magazine
- Veal – some distribution of OAHN reports, via newsletter and magazine

- Concern over the value of the quarterly reports
• How much beef information is being included?
• Dissemination of reports? Usefulness of reports?

Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?

• Calf Health Project
  1. Bulk tank surveillance (Salmonella Dublin) – Less submissions to the lab
  2. Calf Health – Dairy, beef, and veal have all seen some submissions.
  3. Concern over the communication from the project. Have to figure out how OAHN Bovine network can better communicate with producers and vets, and how vets can better communicate with the bovine industry.
  4. Stimulate VCPR
  5. Actual Diagnosis:
     ▪ Some surprises – diarrhea, pneumonia
     ▪ Also: septicemia, torsions
• Bottom Line: how to get denominator info?
• AMR regs – how will this impact VCPR

Question 4. a) List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

• Communication between OAHN and Vets/Producers, and between vets and producers
  1. How to get vets more involved?
  2. Get industry involved – define to them what OAHN is about. A goal is needed.
  3. Get vet/industry involved in targeting endemic disease e.g. Leucosis, strawberry foot
  4. Define issues – disease of interest for industry and vets

4. b) How could your industry leverage the OAHN program for information from OAHN to increase public confidence in your industry and its products?

Communication?
Question 1. a) (for network members): Share 1 example from the past year of how your OAHN network responded to an animal health or welfare issue (this can include detection, response or communication). Explain how OVMA was included in this response.

Issues around ticks and Lyme disease feature prominently in the network survey responses over the last year. The network responded by creating a Lyme infographic for veterinarians to use in-clinic when discussing these issues with clients, and it has gotten good traction on social media. More recently the network initiated a series of podcasts on ticks and Lyme disease as well to inform practitioners. OVMA has been very helpful by using its own network of Newshound subscribers to promote these materials, as well as OAHN reports, surveys and other updates.

Several *Echinococcus multilocularis* infections have been detected in animals in Ontario in the last few years, and the network responded by opting to provide funding for a seminal prevalence study of this parasite in wild canids.

Question 1. b) (for OVMA): Share 1 example of how your group/association has made use of OAHN information/reports in the past year. Describe how you are disseminating OAHN information to stakeholders.

One of the major strengths of the OAHN network is its collaborative nature. OAHN brings together a number of different perspectives and resources (e.g., practitioners, specialists, multiple laboratories, government) to help determine the relevance of the data that is currently available and to help interpret it and make it more accessible for front-line practitioners.

To help ensure that veterinarians in Ontario are given the opportunity to keep up-to-date on any developments from OAHN, OVMA has been regularly disseminating OAHN’s reports and surveys to its membership via the Newshound e-newsletter. Resources such as the rabies and Lyme disease updates and the leptospirosis resources are useful, well done, and very timely for veterinarians to have.

Question 2. Discuss how OVMA has been involved in OAHN over the past year, how did it go and what could make it work better?

- Involvement:
  - Dissemination of surveys and reports through Newshound
  - OVMA Conference
• Feedback
  o Communication is the OVMA’s strength
  o OVMA conference – Breakfast bites, opportunity to mention OAHN
  o Question on survey: Where did you hear about the OAHN survey?

• Improvements
  o OVMA booth lottery
  o OVMA proceedings (electronic)
  o Corporate Partners (e.g. Vaccination companies) Breakfast annually (industry)
  o Focus Magazine (traditional communications)

**Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?**

**Project #1 – Echinococcus multilocularis (fox tapeworm)**

• Why is it of benefit?
  o 5 cases of alveolar Echinococcus in ON dogs (no travel) + 2 lemurs + chipmunk
    • ~1/3 dogs with tissue infection also shed in feces (zoonotic risk)
  o No cases in ON prior to 2012
  o Andrew Peregrine – with Bayer and OAHN
  o Fox/coyote carcasses from across Ontario
  o Echinococcus – tissue is sent to Switzerland and to the AHL; fecal samples sent to Sweden
  o 4DX+testing on lung – Ehrlichia Anaplasma Heartworm and Borrelia
  o Preliminary results (year 1): 16.8% fecal positive

• Stage of completion
  o 2 year study
  o Repeating next summer
  o Still awaiting 4 DX+ results

• Improve communication
  o Worms and Germs blog
  o Quarterly report
  o Partner with other networks
  o Infographic
  o Survey questions re: reach

**Project #2 Infographics**

• 3 Infographics made so far (1 more to go!)
Question 4. List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

1. Continued promotion of OAHN and recruitment of vet members
   - OVMA Conference – hard copies of reports and infographics. Laminated infographics.
   - Partnership/collaborations with industry
   - Partnership/infiltration of local CE groups
   - OAVT
2. Become a leader in Animal Health Information for companion animals. Identify how OAHN is a necessary and unique network
   - Communication between groups/stakeholders
   - Facilitators of communication
   - Prioritizing the info shared and directing vets to more info
3. Encouraging Public Health Involvement
Question 1. a) (for network members): Share 1 example from the past year of how your OAHN network responded to an animal health or welfare issue (this can include detection, response or communication). Explain how your associated industry was included in this response.

In August, 2016 a veterinarian contacted Dr. Moore at OMAFRA regarding an issue with hoary alyssum toxicity on a farm in Norfolk County. The clinical signs of limb edema, lameness and laminitis were described and pictures of the weed were sent electronically. During the same week, Dr. Moore also received an email from a second veterinarian regarding similar signs attributable to hoary alyssum toxicity in Simcoe County. The information from both incidents was sent to the OAHN equine network members who supported sending an alert along with information on the weed to the OAEP and CCVA list-serves. An information sheet is in the process of being developed and is awaiting information from the OMAFRA weed management specialist who attended the farm in Simcoe County. The information sheet will be disseminated through the OAHN distribution channels which include equine veterinarians and equine industry participants.

Question 1. b) (for industry representatives): Share 1 example of how your group/association has made use of OAHN information/reports in the past year. Describe how you are disseminating OAHN information to stakeholders.

OAHN equine reports have been posted to a multitude of equine industry websites; Ontario Racing, Ontario Harness Horse Association, The Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association of Ontario, the Ontario Equestrian Federation (Facebook), Equine Guelph, Standardbred Canada, and Woodbine Entertainment. These websites have distribution lists that include many sectors of the Ontario equine industry including participants in the competition and pleasure horse industry as well as in all three breed sectors of the horse racing industry. OAHN reports are also being distributed to magazine websites such as Horse Canada. Although the equine industry has not had to respond to an immediate health or welfare crisis as of yet, maintaining these communication channels, as a method for information dissemination, is crucial for future emergency response and preparedness.
Question 2. Discuss how industry members have been involved in OAHN over the past year, how did it go and what could make it better?

Industry has been involved in one-way information dissemination from the network to the industry participants. The reach is pretty far and wide but now we would like more interaction with industry on health/disease issues. There are a lot of challenges with respect to demographics within each sector of the industry so multiple information channels are likely needed.

Potential channels:
1) A dedicated OAHN equine Facebook page – this would engage younger owners/industry participants and predominantly female participants. Facebook posts could be easily shared amongst owners etc. but also amongst associations. It could be a useful tool to quell angst about certain diseases as well e.g. Strangles, EHV-1
2) Utilize email lists such as OEF’s member list (e-blast) and possible AGCO licensees (although this would have to be discussed with them and rolled into their policy)
3) Sales catalogues – page on biosecurity etc.
4) Brand information/best practices with OAHN and industry e.g. a best practices product may have the OAHN and Ontario Racing/OHHA logo on it for the racing sector and OAHN and OEF for the sport horses to get more buy in. – the “product” could be a one pager, poster, infographic etc.

We would like to hear from industry when health/disease concerns arise so that we can proactively discuss how to handle them.

Action Items: OEF, OHHA and Ontario Racing – determine what disease issue is of most concern with your industry/board (e.g. Strangles, rhinitis, EHV-1 (herpesvirus), Potomac Horse Fever, West Nile Virus etc.) – if a tool kit is devised to assist owners/trainers, what’s in the kit? Is it strictly information in different forms or is it an actual kit (e.g. for biosecurity, a box with a chart to record temperatures, gloves, hand sanitizer, their own towel, etc.) – could call it the Yearling (or New Horse) Investment Protection Kit or something catchier to target its use)

Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?

The OAHN equine network project involves the testing of serum samples from horses across Ontario for the causative agent of Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis to determine how frequently horses are exposed to these organisms in the province. Lyme and Anaplasmosis are tick borne diseases (both organisms involved are transmitted by the deer tick). These diseases are important to horse owners/trainers because they both can cause serious illness in the horse
and Lyme disease is anecdotally implicated in a number of performance horse lameness diagnoses.

We have just over 100 veterinary clinics signed up to sample horses and each clinic has received 10 sample kits. We have received 470 samples so far and will likely end the sampling period at the end of October. Testing of all samples will then take place. Surveys have been submitted with the samples to gather the risk factors for Lyme and Anaplasmosis. The results of the testing and the risk factor data will be released to stakeholders when completed.

Suggestions for release of the information to industry include:

- a podcast on the project findings and prevention practices
- an article in a horse magazine e.g. horse sport
- information in the race office
- maybe some speaking events
- get info to farriers, feed suppliers, tack stores to disseminate
- co-branding with industry on info sheets and best practices to mitigate the risk of Lyme/Anaplasmosis
- use it as a platform to discuss antibiotic use/misuse – bring in the concept of antibiotic stewardship

**Question 4. a)** List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

4. **b)** How could your industry leverage the OAHN program for information from OAHN to increase public confidence in your industry and its products?

- a) Information dissemination – Use the results of the Lyme/Anaplasma project to test and measure, where possible, different communication methods with industry
- b) Biosecurity awareness – use Strangles and/or Rhinitis virus as a topic around which to develop a biosecurity tool (need to decide if this refers to different forms of information or an actual product or kit)
- c) New project – decide if the development of tools or tool kits as above would be a project or look to do another small research project that fits with industry’s needs e.g. anthelmintic resistance etc.
Question 1. a) (for network) How would the fish network respond to an animal health or welfare issue & explain how the associated industry would be included in this response?

Currently, we are being proactive in dealing with health issues, for example the network is actively investigating antibiotic resistance in the Ontario aquaculture sector. Additionally, members of our group attend regular meetings and strive to stay up to date on emerging issues. To date, the network has established good communication among members which will be valuable should an emergency arise and will allow for timely response to health or welfare issues.

In the case of an aquatic animal disease outbreak, the network would, with the appropriate government agencies (e.g. OMAFRA or CFIA), support as needed and disseminate information to industry members. We are aware that the CFIA only responds to foreign animal diseases, non-endemic reportable disease, and emerging diseases. With its relatively new Animal Health Act, OMAFRA has the opportunity to be engaged in disease response, but this has not yet been tested for aquatic animals.

We have established an extensive list of industry members and will soon have an email distribution list. Additionally, we could use the OAHN producer report and website to provide updates and inform industry of fish network activities and responses to issues. With industry members involved in our group, we can consult with them directly on how best to include other industry stakeholders in our responses.

Question 1. b) (for industry) How would OAA make use of OAHN information and how should this info be disseminated to stakeholders?

The challenge for our industry is knowing how to respond or whether a response from the industry is needed for specific aquatic animal health issues. Presently, the industry does not know what will occur in the case of an outbreak or what we can do about it. For the Ontario Aquaculture Association (OAA), it would be worthwhile to have a flow chart indicating responses for 'Industry' (hatcheries and grow-out), 'Government', and an 'Other' category which shows appropriate actions by each group (example: of lessons learned from VHS). If this information was available, the OAA would promote it at our annual meeting and share with our membership.
Question 2. Discuss how industry members have been involved in OAHN over the past year, how did it go and what could make it better?

- Since the fish expert group began in 2014, we have had industry representation from the grow-out producers. Recently, in 2016, we added industry representation from the hatchery production group.
- Overall, industry involvement has been a positive addition to the fish network. Producers have brought forward a number of concerns that network members have tried to address (this is a work in progress.
- We would like to have a greater reach to industry members, particularly with commercial agriculture producers. Creating an email list would assist with this. We also want to do more outreach to the industry.

Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?

- Benefit
  - Narrow: in the immediate sense, the aquatic vet has used the results of MIC testing to recommend treatment options
  - Broad: long term, assists industry to be aware of developing resistant issues. Additionally, can be as a lobbying tool to bring new products to Canada

- Project Stage
  - Still in early stages of project. Tested 10 isolated to date. Currently working with MNRF and UofG to get archived specimens for additional testing.

- Industry
  - Currently not involved of knowledgeable about the project. Aside from industry network members and veterinary-client relationships, the rest of the industry is unaware. We would like to promote the project through the producer report and presenting at the annual general meeting.

Question 4. a) List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

1. Improved communication with industry
   - Reach out via mailing campaign and email to create interest
   - Start a survey to find out what industry wants

2. Define our industry
   - There are multiple facets of the aquaculture industry in Ontario
   - Need to define who we’re primarily interested in reaching out to
3. Connect with associated groups
   - Reach out to federal groups for sharing
   - Publish an article on Canadian aquaculture Association materials
Question 1. a) (for network members): Share 1 example from the past year of how your OAHN network responded to an animal health or welfare issue (this can include detection, response or communication). Explain how your associated industry was included in this response.

Poultry veterinarians reported an increased numbers of reovirus associated lameness cases. Leg deformities especially splayed legs, slipped tendons, tenosynovitis in chickens 7-30 days of age were the main clinical signs in addition to higher numbers of birds unsuitable for loading at the end of the grow out. Increased culling was the main concern and flocks composed of non-domestic chicks were at higher risk. The OAHN and OAPV organized a reovirus information gathering phone call on August 5th, 2016 to better understand the current reovirus situation in Ontario. The follow-up action steps resulted in financial support for the AHL virologist to conduct a retrospective genotyping on all reovirus positive cases from Jan 1st, 2016 to better understand what strains of reovirus are circulating currently in the Ontario broiler population. Moreover, all upcoming reovirus PCR positive samples will be genotyped free of charge until the end of the year, which will provide incentive for the field practitioners to continue to submit their samples. Preliminary AHL genotyping results indicate that since Ontario’s first exposure to variant reoviruses in 2012, there has been a shift in the genetic composition of the variant reovirus strains with greater divergence and the development of multiple phylogenetic groups of variants.

Question 1. b) (for industry representatives): Share 1 example of how your group/association has made use of OAHN information/reports in the past year. Describe how you are disseminating OAHN information to stakeholders.

The Feather Board Command Center, whose main role is poultry emergency preparedness and control, distributes each OAHN Producer Report to the 4 poultry feather boards (Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada, Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission, and Turkey Farmers of Canada) encouraging them to distribute it to their poultry farmer members. Positive feedback on the disease reports was received from poultry farmers.

Question 2. Discuss how industry members have been involved in OAHN over the past year, how did it go and what could make it better?

1. Producer report sent to all Feather boards, but generally goes no further. How can OAHN/OMAFRA send directly to boards with specific request for distribution (& OABA)
2. Have had meeting/contact with vets interested in small flock diagnostics. Have list of vets and list of expert vets in commercial industry. Need better method of distributing list and encouraging collaboration – RAIZO, CAHSS, OABA, Al’s Twitter?

3. Developed Best Practice Documents with OAPV on best method to submit samples for vet and lab, and one for medicated feed withdrawal. Need to better distribute to producers and small flock people – OABA? Producer Update meeting?

**Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?**

AP *E. coli* pathogenicity factors &

1. Prevalence
2. Genotyping of emerging variant *Infectious bronchitis virus*
3. Subsidizing post mortem submissions and diagnostic testing of samples for infectious disease surveillance of small flocks in Ontario

All of these project requests came from the industry as a need to find solutions and to develop preventative measures.

The APEC project Quarter 3 and started Q4 – analysis of data will occur at the end of completion.

Genotyping is ongoing. Had short summaries of findings that were presented in the OAHN Vet and Producer Reports.

Small flock project is at the end of first of 2 years. Reporting at the end of project. Until short reports in OAHN reports.

Best way to communicate results - ? multiple level
- Commercial poultry industry – veterinarians and poultry service people
  - Producer updates
  - Poultry board meetings
  - Poultry shows email through poultry boards
- small flocks – through social media / veterinarians / presentations / email list servers

**Question 4. a) List 3 things that your network and industry would like to focus on over the next year.**

Continue with current projects and continue to approve future projects if new emerging issues appear.

The projects have been very successful, informative, and very good collaboration was seen. Establishing good methods and conduits for dissemination of information and feedback.
- What do commodity groups want to hear?
• What method – consultations

4. b) How could your industry leverage the OAHN program or information from OAHN to increase public confidence in your industry and its products?

Establish a method to show/track trends of disease occurrences that were collected through disease surveys of practicing poultry veterinarians. Surveillance proactive for bird health, welfare and food safety. Combined effort of all key players - sell to the industry so they can sell it to consumers.
**Question 1. a) (for network members):** Share 1 example from the past year of how your OAHN network responded to an animal health or welfare issue (this can include detection, response or communication). Explain how your associated industry was included in this response.

The small ruminant network team is a small, collegial group that has frequently worked closely together in the past and continues to do so. Members of the group also have strong working relationships with small ruminant industry representatives. OAHN provides a platform to disseminate information on focused topics, based on quarterly findings, to veterinarians and industry stakeholders.

Cache Valley virus (CVV) was diagnosed in Ontario flocks during the last week of December 2015 and the start of 2016. While CVV infection is endemic across North America, the scope of this outbreak was larger than previously recorded with an unexpected number of lambs being affected within flocks. On December 31, 2015 the initial communication that AHL had detected suspected cases of CVV abortions was distributed via the Small Ruminant Veterinarians of Ontario (SRVO) listserv (this includes all OAHN small ruminant network participants). This information (background, clinical signs, transmission, diagnostic features, submission of samples, confirmatory testing) was then further disseminated via OAHN reports and SRVO veterinarians to producers and industry. Subsequent extension included: articles in newsletters (AHL, Ceptor); the development of a survey by OSMA and OVC to determine the extent of the infection, potential risk factors and sharing of results with producers and veterinarians; and newspaper articles regarding the disease and its impact (Toronto Star, Ontario Farmer, Waterloo Record).

**Question 1. b) (for industry representatives):** Share 1 example of how your group/association has made use of OAHN information/reports in the past year. Describe how you are disseminating OAHN information to stakeholders.

**Ontario Goat**  
This year we published the OAHN small ruminant producer report both in our quarterly magazine and on the Ontario Goat website.

**Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency**  
We circulate the OAHN small ruminant producer reports to our membership via the Messenger (our electronic newsletter) and the reports are also circulated to the Board. This winter, we
used the information to help inform producers about Cache Valley virus and it also helped with our own communication pieces.

**Question 2. Discuss how industry members have been involved in OAHN over the past year, how did it go and what could make it better?**

- **OSMA and Ontario Goat**
  - both are involved with podcasts (industry update, structure challenges)
  - Both have received and distributed reports
  - Involved in discussing on BT and CVV
  - Struggling with producers actually reading the reports, even though they want the info (OSMA has had more feedback than OG)
  - OSMA has a lot of people interested in the CVV reports
  - OG and OSMA like that they are asked quarterly for updates from their side or what they are hearing from producers
  - How could the network get more exposure to producers at more of a district level – how can we engage them to read the reports?
  - Talk about it at annual meetings
  - Let OSMA and Ontario Goat tweet out tidbits of info as OSMA has an active social media following (also tweet links to podcasts)
  - Get industry and producers to do podcasts (more involved – what industry thinks is important, compare to vets)

**Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?**

**Industry would like to be involved earlier in project development, as it could provide funds**

**Project 4a - Toxoplasmosis**

- **Toxo** – Need additional funding ($7500), have applied for Gartshore funding
- Prevalence and risk factor info based on stored serology to help with toxo vaccine development
- Toxo is one of the main caused of abortion in sheep – so it’s an important disease
- Risk of human toxoplasmosis (beyond just congenital defects associated with mental health issues)
- Industry was involved with samples
- Presentations, articles, development of vaccines

**Project 04b - Mortality**
- Will launch in October, vets will pre-register starting Oct. 15 (vendor ID, send out kits)
- Receiving cases by Nov. 1
- Will send out information to producers to let them know about the project and encourage participation
- Put need for premises ID out in communications
- Presentations, articles, updates to their boards, twitter

**Question 4. a) List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year**

- Disease surveillance
  - Vector-borne/emerging diseases (i.e. Blue Tongue)
  - Nicole Nemeth has a funded project – see what she is doing next year
  - Reminder of clinical signs of BY sent out to vets and producers
  - Waiting for an approved serology test, have a PCR
  - CFIA is doing some surveillance (trapping, but not sure how much)
- Kid mortality and morbidity
  - Are colostrum replacement products associated with FPT – some suggestions there might be
  - Crypto control/management
  - Need dollars for research
  - High density, FPT, labour issues (combined)
  - Cleaning of equipment – is it a problem?
- Transitional doe management (nutrition)
Question 1. a) (for network members): Share 1 example from the past year of how your OAHN network responded to an animal health or welfare issue (this can include detection, response or communication). Explain how your associated industry was included in this response.

The OAHN swine network members came up with several great examples in response to this question that have been summarized below:

The first example was the network’s detection of an increase in clinical cases of erysipelas within Ontario. This was accomplished through review and discussion from several sources of surveillance information including veterinary clinical impression scores, Animal Health Lab (AHL) data, and Ontario provincially inspected slaughter data. This disease detection should be highlighted due to the fact that it normally wouldn’t have been on the “radar screen” or included in routine surveillance. The increased frequency of this disease was substantiated by signals coming from multiple sources without any prompting. The network was then able to further discuss this information within the Canadian Swine Health Information Network (CSHIN) where a similar disease trend was noted in the province of Quebec. This information was included in producer/industry and veterinary reports to inform stakeholders. A fact sheet for producers was produced to remind producers of the clinical signs associated with this disease outlining how to prevent the spread of it and what to do if clinical signs are seen at your farm.

The second example was that the OAHN swine network was able to bring together a number of resources to provide veterinary information on Influenza A viruses through veterinary reports and an influenza podcast series. Influenza viruses are always changing and new cases are consistently reported by swine veterinarians on the clinical impression surveys each quarter. Through OMAFRA funding, the AHL has been able to run genetic sequencing on influenza positive samples. Information generated from this testing could lead to a better understanding of what is actually happening in the pig, in the barn, in Ontario and further across Canada with regards to Influenza virus.

A third example was the Senecavirus A (Seneca Valley Virus) fact sheet that the OAHN swine network in collaboration with SHO created. This document contained information as well as pictures demonstrating lesions that are associated with this virus. Senecavirus A mimics the clinical signs of foot-and-mouth disease and has been seen in increased frequency throughout the USA over the past year.
Question 1. b) (for industry representatives): Share 1 example of how your group/association has made use of OAHN information/reports in the past year. Describe how you are disseminating OAHN information to stakeholders.

The industry representatives for the swine industry invited to attend this workshop were from Ontario Pork, Ontario Pork Industry Council (OPIC) and Ontario Swine Health Advisory Board (OSHAB), as well as Swine Health Ontario (SHO). An example of how industry has made use of OAHN information was clearly demonstrated with the creation and dissemination of the Senecavirus A (Seneca Valley Virus) fact sheet for producers. The OAHN swine network worked in collaboration with industry partners to create this fact sheet for Ontario swine producers. The ultimate goal was to provide education of how to prevent this disease from entering Ontario swine herds as well demonstrating clinical signs that are associated with this disease for early disease detection. This fact sheet explained what a swine producer should do and who a producer should contact if clinical signs are seen on their farm.

The OAHN swine network producer/industry reports are disseminated through the Ontario Pork and OPIC email list serves which contain all registered Ontario Pork producers. SHO has also posted OAHN generated information on their new website www.swinehealthontario.ca as a resource for industry stakeholders. OMAFRA’s Agriculture Development branch (ADB) has posted OAHN swine network generated information to the ONSwine blog with a link sent out through the ONSwineInfo twitter account as well as publishing OAHN information in the Pork News and Views. The Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians disseminates the veterinary reports to Ontario swine veterinarians through their list serve quarterly.

Question 2. Discuss how industry members have been involved in OAHN over the past year, how did it go and what could make it better?

How members have been involved and how it’s gone well

- Industry members received OAHN communications regarding health issues through direct dissemination by Ontario Pork, OSHAB, OASV.
- Industry also contributes to network – groups of nursery barn producers currently involved in OAHN project
- Communications/info dissemination working well, but room for improvement

Improvements

- Define the process for rapid dissemination of health alerts to vets and industry partners
- Consolidate email lists for vets and industry partners, to reach all members and avoid duplication
- Improve producer contact, especially regarding contract barns, potentially by working with system managers through Ontario Pork
Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project, including why it is of benefit to the industry, what stage of completion is the project in, how would industry like to be involved and how would industry like the results communicated to them?

Background

- Benchmarks/disease surveillance in 50 Ontario nursery herds.
- Nursery herds as prime targets for disease (mixing and low immunity) – multiple parameters investigated.
- Individual hear benefit from increased herd health interventions, but also provide info on Ontario herd
- Global benefit – establishing benchmarks for producer parameters

Stage of Completion

- 50 herds enrolled
- Survey results presented at recent meetings (Shakespeare)
- No disease
- Media theme – there will be dissemination

Industry

- Has funding in place, so vested interest
- Benchmarks important – producers can use for comparison/improvement

Communication

- Plan to include results in OAHN reports

Question 4. a) List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

- Linking knowledge of proposed or ongoing research projects between various industry partners
- Establishing a more formal process for coordinated communication in both disease information emergency and non-emergency situations
- Determine how “surveillance pieces” from separate industry partners fit together efficiently for OAHN for the benefit of all groups

4. b) How could your industry leverage the OAHN program for information from OAHN to increase public confidence in your industry and its products?

Ran out of time
Question: How will your network be set up? What goals do you hope to accomplish?

The OAHN wildlife network is newly formed (late spring 2016), and comprises representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, the Ontario Veterinary College, and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The group will meet 3 times per year (spring, summer, fall). As there are multiple groups working on similar initiatives, the purpose of the network is to share information and expertise while supporting the mandate of the individual organizations.

Meeting discussions will focus on a central theme such as a seasonal disease or emerging issue which will impact the organizations involved at the wildlife/domestic animal/human interface. Presentations will be followed by a round-table discussion to determine if collaboration or information sharing amongst organizations is beneficial to the issue at hand for future work and policy development.

What goals does the OAHN wildlife network hope to achieve?

- Sharing information amongst the main organizations working on wildlife health and disease surveillance.
- Determine if and how projects or initiatives may benefit from collaboration.
- Communicate and collaborate while maintaining autonomy of each organization.

Question 2. What benefits do you see in formalizing communication between network members through developing an OAHN network?

- Formal communications – better understanding of government policy priorities (OMAFRA, OMNR, MOHLTC)
- Formal communications “force” discussion
  - Helps with strategic decision on disease surveillance priorities
  - Best allocation of resources for the “public good”

How would you like to be involved with other networks?

- Sessions like this help
- Need to ensure all networks are aware or the other’s interests and concerns
• For us – if a particular pathogen has a wildlife component – we want to hear about it!
• Always willing to lend advice

Question 3. Discuss your OAHN network project including why it is beneficial, what stage of completion is the project in, how will results communicated to stakeholders?

Project

• Web-based reporting tool for sick and dead wildlife observed by hunters and biologists – wildlifetracker.com Beta version is online, expert to go live within 2 weeks (Oct. 19)

Benefits

• Augment current surveillance activities – additional observations (track trends)
• Assess value of this type of citizen science surveillance by comparing with our current surveillance activities
• Engage hunters/biologists in wildlife health surveillance activities

Communication

• Launch of tool will be announced by OAHN, CWHC
• Map of observations will be available to view online
• Report at end of project

Question 4. List 3 things that you network and industry would like to focus on in the next year

1. Fungal diseases
   • chytrid fungus, salamander, snake fungus, WNS
   • establish surveillance capacity
   • support CWHC in establishing testing capacity
   • Determine prevalence of the pathogens in the wild

2. EHD
   • Anticipating confirmation in ON at “any time”
   • Develop basic messaging for public, (indecipherable)

3. Rabies
   • Ongoing Hamilton outbreak management + “related research initiatives”

4. E. multilocularis
   • Consider developing public policy direction and messaging – agency responses
   • MOHLTC – MNRF – OMAFRA
   • Very much and emerging issue among agencies