

This report is a professional communication for swine producers and industry representatives, compiled by the OAHN Swine Network. It includes information obtained from the OAHN quarterly survey of clinical impressions provided by practicing veterinarians in Ontario, and laboratory data from the Animal Health Laboratory and Gallant Custom Laboratory.



## Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Swine Producer & Industry Report

October-December 2016

Report #6

### Highlights

- *Erysipelas cases continue to increase in Ontario, Quebec and the western provinces. What producers need to know about this disease...*
- *OVC Swine Research Update- What's new in swine research*
- *No new cases of PED in Ontario in Q4!*
- *Get Involved in OAHN by use of our social media tools:*



### Erysipelas Increase- Update

A year ago the OAHN swine network noted an increase in Erysipelas within Ontario. A higher than normal level of Erysipelas has continued since then. Both Quebec and the western provinces have reported a similar trend. Swine practitioners and provincial slaughter plants within Ontario have noted an increase in Erysipelas lesions in the fourth quarter of 2016. We have put together this fact sheet with important information for producers about this disease.

**Causative Agent:** Gram-positive, rod-shaped bacteria.

**Sources of Infection:** The most important source is from other pigs. 35 percent of healthy swine carry this organism. Spread is through nasal discharge, saliva, urine and in feces, and by rodents and wild birds.

**Susceptibility:** Usually affects pigs between 3 months and 3 years of age.

**Resistance:** Remains viable for up to six months in tissues and feces.



Picture Courtesy of Dr. Pat Halbur

**Clinical signs:** Acute disease can cause sudden death, high fevers (104-108 °F, 40-42 °C) for up to seven days, and pigs appear sick and chilled. Affected animals walk with a stiff gate and are unwilling to eat. Infection can cause abortion in sows. "Diamond shaped" skin lesions that are dark purple, raised and firm in appearance (see photo above). Chronic disease causes pigs to have arthritis that leads to stiffness and swelling of joints. This affects growth rates and is responsible for significant losses in prime cuts at packing plants.

**Treatment:** Sensitive to penicillin and usually tetracycline and killed by common disinfectants. Marked improvement should be seen within 24 hours of beginning treatment.

**Prevention:** Herd health management and implementing a vaccination program. Contact your herd veterinarian to set up a vaccination control program.

**Note:** Pigs that are exhibiting clinical signs of Erysipelas are often condemned at slaughter. Producers should not send these pigs to slaughter.

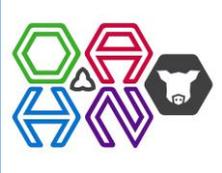
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## Your OAHN Swine Network Team:

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## What's new in Swine Research at OVC

Dr. Bob Friendship shared some upcoming research defenses that we thought would interest producers.

**Peter Park** MSc: Investigation on the Efficacy of Non-nutritive Adsorbent Binders on Decreasing Skatole and Androstenone Concentrations in Boars. Conclusion: this appeared to be a potential approach to reducing boar taint but products used in the research trials were not effective and therefore this area requires further study.

**Maggie Ainslie** MSc: An Epidemiological Study of Diet, Farm Management, and Innate Immune Genotype on Salmonella Shedding and Colonization in Pigs. Conclusions: a genetic variant associated with increased Salmonella shedding was identified and therefore geneticists might be able to apply this research approach in the selection of increased disease-resistant breeding stock.

**Heather Reinhardt** MSc: The effects of nursery diet complexity on growth performance and carcass quality in various commercial swine settings. Conclusions: were that pigs fed a cheaper diet without animal proteins during the nursery phase demonstrated compensatory growth and reach market at a similar age to pigs receiving a high complex starter diet. There is a potential for savings by feeding a lower cost nursery ration.

**Emily Arndt** MSc: An investigation into distribution of serotypes and antimicrobial resistance patterns of *Streptococcus suis* isolates from clinical cases and healthy-carrier pigs. Conclusions: were that this study found multiple serotypes of *S. suis*, even from an individual pig and that if a farm was to use an autogenous bacterin care would be needed in selecting the right serotype.

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## No new on-farm cases of PED in Q4

No new PED cases were detected in Q4 on farm. There have been a few positive tests from the loading dock sampling conducted by Ontario Pork, so producers need to remain vigilant. In Ontario in Q4, we have currently the lowest prevalence of PED since the initial diagnosis in January 2014. Elimination is possible with producer buy-in and support!

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## OAHN Swine Network Nursery Project

Are you a swine producer who currently has a nursery that contains Raised Without Antibiotic (RWA) pigs? Or are you a swine producer in Eastern Ontario? If so we need your help! Contact us to enroll in the OAHN Swine Network Nursery project. A limited amount of laboratory testing will be complimentary for those enrolled. Please contact Dr. Bob Friendship at [rfriends@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rfriends@uoguelph.ca)

