

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

April-June 2017

Report #8

### Highlights

- **Making the decision of which pigs to ship and which pigs not to ship to slaughter. What producers need to know...**
- **Senecavirus A (SVA) update for producers- This virus thrives in warmer weather and in the early fall so heightened biosecurity, both on-farm and with transportation, is still needed**
- **Three new cases of PED in Ontario in Q2!**
- **Get Involved in OAHN by use of our social media tools:**



### Deciding which pigs to ship?

Dr. Alex Reid reviewed photographs of common lesions seen at provincially inspected slaughter facilities.

**Intestinal adhesions and peritonitis** are commonly associated with even very small umbilical hernias. This significantly slows down the processing time as these animals must be handled carefully in order to avoid cutting into the intestine.

**Abdominal distension** is often associated with megacolon. These pigs often arrive at the plant in emaciated condition. Because the intestines are very friable it is difficult to eviscerate these animals without rupturing the intestine. Most of these pigs with severe abdominal distension are condemned.

**Arthritis** usually causes condemnation when multiple joints are affected or when arthritis is concurrent with septicemia. Small BBQ pigs with a single arthritic joint are sometimes condemned by the plant operator as it is not worth the time to do the trimming.

**Hygromas** are fluid filled sacs or bursae located over the joints. They can become inflamed due to trauma from hard flooring surfaces. Many of these fluid filled hygromas can become infected and subsequently become abscessed.

**Erysipelas** lesions on the skin can be observed at the plant as the "Classic Diamond Skin" presentation. The lesions are more easily seen after scalding. Those cases that show systemic clinical signs such as an enlarged spleen and/or enlarged kidneys are condemned. Processors/operators reserve the right to voluntarily condemn any carcass before inspection and a few provincial plants do this when Erysipelas is suspected due to the possible associated human health risks.

**Ascarids (Roundworms)** continue to be an issue with even small pigs at the plant and there can be massive numbers of adult ascarids in intestine and even the bile duct. Some pigs show evidence of green areas in lungs due to "eosinophilic pneumonia".



Lesions found on post mortem associated with roundworm infection (Source South West Ontario Veterinary Services)

**Take Home Message:** Producers need to make management decisions early on about culling some of these pigs. Continuing to feed these severely affected animals is not usually a good investment. From an animal welfare perspective, animals that are emaciated should not be loaded for transport to the processor. Initiate the conversation with your herd veterinarian concerning which pigs to ship and which pigs not to ship.

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## Senecavirus A (SVA) – Update

Senecavirus A (SVA) incidence is currently at or below traditional seasonal lows in the USA. **However, we are currently in a higher risk period due to seasonal effect for SVA cases, so producers need to stay vigilant with on-farm and transport biosecurity.**

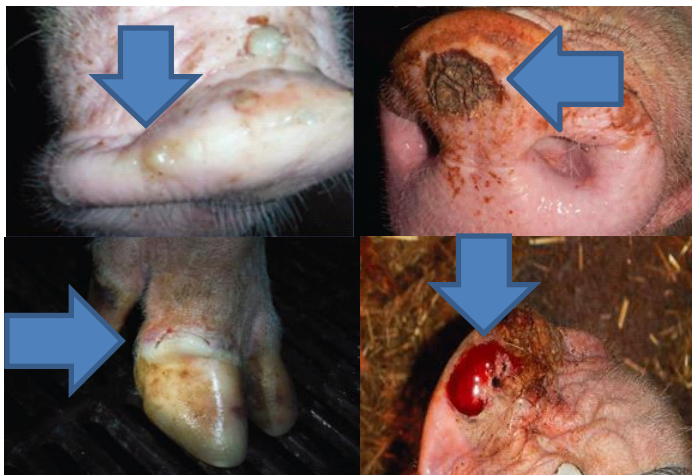
OMAFRA has funding to complete a farm surveillance project for SVA. A decision tree for actions and communications will be developed in advance of on-farm SVA testing. This testing will complement industry-led testing and will provide us with more knowledge allowing us to make educated future decisions with regards to pig movement and biosecurity.

One good news story is that there have been no SVA positive results from environmental samples taken from loading docks at a federally inspected processor in Ontario. Testing at this facility began in late April, 2017.

Whether due to good luck, good biosecurity, or a combination of the two, **there is still no evidence of clinical signs of SVA in any Ontario pig farms.**

What should producers look for?

Below are some pictures of vesicular lesions that were associated with SVA infection seen in cull animals at Ontario assembly yards. If producers see lesions similar to these **NOTIFY YOUR VET ASAP. DO NOT SHIP THESE ANIMALS!**



*Pictures Sourced From Dr. Martin Misener & Swine Health Ontario*

## Three New On-Farm Cases of PED and One new case of PDCoV in Q2

Three new PED cases were detected in Q2 and one of these cases was co-infection with porcine deltacoronavirus (PDCoV). There have also been positive tests from the loading dock sampling conducted by Ontario Pork, so producers need to remain vigilant. This is up slightly from Q1 when two new PED cases were found. Elimination is possible with industry buy-in and support! These past 2 quarters serves as a reminder that the threat of this pathogen is still present.

