

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 2016

Report #4

### Highlights

- *Erysipelas cases increase in Ontario and Quebec. What producers need to know about this disease...*
- *New virus isolated in the USA called Porcine Sapelovirus...*
- *Senecavirus A (Seneca Valley Virus) What producers need to know...*
- **Get Involved in OAHN by use of our social media tools:**



### *Erysipelas Update- What producers need to know...*

**An increase in cases of Erysipelas has been noted by the OAHN swine network. Quebec has seen a similar trend.** We have put together this fact sheet with important information that producers need to know about this disease.

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

**Sources of Infection:** The most important source is from other pigs. Thirty-five percent of healthy swine carry this organism within the tonsil and in lymphoid tissues. Spread is through nasal discharge, saliva, urine and in feces. Rodents and wild birds can also spread infection

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

**Resistance:** Remains viable for up to 6 months in tissues and feces



Erysipelas Skin Lesions: Gross Lesions  
Source: Pathology lecture (4th year vet students), contributed by Pat Halbur.

**Clinical signs:** Acute disease can cause sudden death, high fevers (104-108<sup>0</sup>F 40-42<sup>0</sup>C) for up to 7 days, 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 in colour, raised and firm in appearance (see photo above). In dark-skinned pigs skin lesions can be easily palpated. Sub-acute disease usually causes less severe clinical signs than acute disease. These animals do not appear as sick and fevers are not as high. Appetite of these pigs may be non-affected and skin lesions can

## Contact Us

Web:

[www.oahn.ca](http://www.oahn.ca)

Email:

[oahn@uoguelph.ca](mailto:oahn@uoguelph.ca)



## Your OAHN Swine Network Team:

### Practitioners

Dr. Mike DeGroot  
(Network Co-Lead)  
Dr. Allister Scorgie  
Dr. Sue Burlatschenko

### Animal Health Lab

Dr. Josepha DeLay  
Dr. Jim Fairles

### Ontario Vet College

Dr. Bob Friendship  
Dr. Terri O'Sullivan  
Dr. Zvonimir Poljak

### OMAFRA

Dr. Christa Arsenault  
(Network Co-Lead)  
Dr. Tim Blackwell  
Dr. Janet Alsop  
Dr. Tim Pasma  
Dr. Jaydee Smith

### CSHIN Rep

Dr. George Charbonneau

### Network coordinator

Dr. Melanie Barham

### Gallant Custom Labs

Jackie Gallant

### Swine Health Ontario

Lori Moser

### OSHAB

Dr. Doug MacDougald

be easily overlooked. 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. Clinical signs tend to worsen when combined with other infections as well as with overcrowding and other environmental stressors

**Treatment:** Sensitive to penicillin and usually tetracycline and killed by common disinfectants. Resistant to neomycin, streptomycin and sulfonamides. Marked improvement 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 for your herd.

**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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## *\*New Virus\* Porcine Sapelovirus (PSV) Isolated in the USA*

A new RNA virus called Porcine Sapelovirus (PSV) has been isolated from a pig presented with neurological signs in the USA. No other causes of infection were isolated in this case. PSV infections usually cause no clinical signs, but can cause neurological signs, diarrhea, pneumonia and reproductive failures in sows. This virus is usually spread through fecal-oral transmission, but insects, birds and wildlife vectors may also play a role in transmission. Sapelovirus survives well in the environment. Sodium chlorite or 70% ethanol will kill this virus. More research needs to be completed to investigate this virus in commercial swine. For more information please visit the Swine Health Information Centre website: [www.swinehealth.org](http://www.swinehealth.org) Go to emerging disease/information/fact sheets

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## *Senecavirus A: Producer Fact Sheet*

In July 2016, 12 new cases of swine vesicular disease were noted at US slaughter plants. Seventy-five percent of these cases were confirmed to be Senecavirus A infections. **It is important that Ontario swine producers stay vigilant with biosecurity.** The OAHN swine network has published a fact sheet for producers on Senecavirus A: <http://oahn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2016-08-25-FINAL-OAHN-Senecavirus-A-news-release.pdf>

