

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

July-September 2017

Report #9

### Highlights

- **Keeping African Swine Fever Out of Canada article highlights:**
- Clinical signs of this Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) closely mimic the clinical signs of other diseases, e.g. Erysipelas, so could easily be overlooked
- Science has proven that this virus can survive a simulated transoceanic transport overseas through feed ingredients, illegally imported meat products and wild boar or alone without any transport media at all!
- **Senecavirus A (SVA) update for producers-SVA is a good reason to practice heightened biosecurity, both on-farm and with transportation**
- **Leptospirosis cases are on the rise. What producers need to know...**
- **OAHN social media:**



### Keeping African Swine Fever Out of Canada

African Swine Fever (ASF) virus is a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) that can resemble several other diseases of pigs including Hog Cholera and Erysipelas. Acute clinical signs of disease can include: loss of appetite, high temperatures (40-41 degrees C), depletion of white blood cells, hemorrhages in internal organs and of the skin along with high mortality. Laboratory testing must be used to confirm if ASF virus is the causative agent.



Source: Image above shows skin lesions caused by ASF that could be mistaken for Erysipelas  
<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/disease-images.php?name=african-swine-fever&lang=en>  
Image: ASF\_005

An outbreak of ASF in Europe has continued through the spring and summer of 2017 with the disease having moved into Romania and the Czech Republic. Most cases affect wild boar or back yard herds with poor biosecurity. On occasion larger commercial herds may be affected. This disease has been associated with illegal movement of infected wild boar and contaminated meat products. **North American production could be at risk from illegally imported meats that make their way to a pig farm. Producers and staff should be reminded that they should not bring uncooked meat into their barns, as outlined in the National Swine On-Farm Biosecurity Standards.**

Countries in Europe are on alert for this disease. Recent research by Dr. Scott Dee at Pipestone found that ASF was the only virus that was able to survive a simulated transoceanic transport event in the absence of supportive media such as feed ingredients. This is a scary virus! Everyone must do their part to keep this virus out of Canada.

### Senecavirus A (SVA) – Update

SVA continues to routinely circulate within the 3 primary assembly sites in Ontario. SVA has been detected sporadically in 2 of the secondary assembly sites. **To date, SVA has not been detected on any farms in Canada.** Lori Moser from Swine Health Ontario (SHO) reported that SVA PCR testing has been completed routinely on environmental samples submitted from the loading docks at one federally inspected plant in Ontario. This testing began in April, 2017 and **to date there continues to be no evidence of SVA on the loading docks at**

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**the plant.** OMAFRA in partnership with the Animal Health Lab has funding to complete an on-farm surveillance project for SVA. This project is waiting to have access to the new SVA ELISA that was developed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). This testing will complement industry-led testing and will provide knowledge to help us make future decisions with regards to pig movement and biosecurity.

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.** As a reminder to producers that if you see clinical signs of blisters (vesicular lesions) or lesions associated with the hoof that are causing lameness, you should **NOTIFY YOUR VET ASAP. DO NOT SHIP THESE ANIMALS!**

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## Sow Site Incidence Report

Lori Moser, Manager of Swine Health Ontario (SHO), highlighted that the first Sow Site Incidence Report will be disseminated with the OAHN Swine Network Reports starting this quarter. These quarterly reports will be included with future OAHN communications. Don't forget to look for this new report this quarter!

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## An Increase in Leptospirosis Cases

There were 3 cases of suspect Leptospirosis in Q3 at Animal Health Lab (AHL), which is very unusual. Dr. Al Scorgie presented a case report that involved suspected Leptospirosis. In the case presented, the sows were affected by late term abortions or delivered almost 100% stillborn pigs. A number of herds are vaccinating gilts pre-breeding, while vaccinating sows once a year instead of at the time of re-breeding with Lepto vaccine. This may explain why only mature sows were affected. Dr. Josepha DeLay from the AHL reminds both practitioners and producers that leptospiral abortions can be challenging and rely on multiple test methods. Leptospirosis is a bacterium that can be found from the fluid surrounding the lungs and in the tissues of the kidney and placenta from aborted fetuses. If Leptospirosis is suspected, it is also valuable to take a blood sample from affected sows to evaluate their titer that could indicate exposure to this pathogen. Blood samples from 5 affected (aborting) and 5 unaffected cohorts (at the same time) may be submitted for Leptospirosis testing to the lab. There are many different types (serovars) of Leptospirosis and cross-reactivity among these serovars is common. It is important to note that only the serologic test will provide information on specific serovar involved. For all infectious causes of abortion in swine, examination and testing of multiple fetuses from multiple litters will increase the likelihood of identifying an infectious agent, if present. Laboratory submission for postmortem of 3 fetuses from 3 separate litters is recommended. Samples will be pooled by litter for efficiency and economy.

Dr. DeLay also recommended that an entire aborted litter can be frozen and submitted to the lab. The lab will then select the best samples from the frozen litter. It is important to remember that this is a potentially zoonotic pathogen therefore can be spread from animals to people, so those handling aborted fetuses must use caution. If you are experiencing an increase in abortion or stillbirth rates on your farm it is recommended that you consult with your herd veterinarian as well as review your vaccination protocols.

