

# IN THIS ISSUE

- Quarterly Teleconference
- OAHN AGM
- AHL data
- Calf Mortality Project
- AHL Milk bacteriology

## Quarterly Teleconference

Participants on the call noted that the poor quality crops last year are affecting animals across the province this year. Participants in the call noted higher levels of mycotoxins in feed, increases in metabolic disease, reproductive challenges and reduced milk yields.

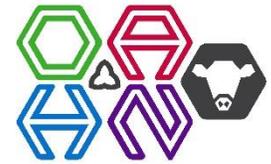
The veal industry is undergoing changes because of the loss of white veal slaughter facilities in Quebec, and more red veal is being produced.

## OAHN Annual General Meeting

The Ontario Animal Health Network had its AGM January 31st in Guelph. All species networks were present and industry was represented. The Bovine Network discussed how to increase industry awareness of OAHN as a source of information and leadership in surveillance. They also discussed the changes to antimicrobial prescription and use in Canada and the impact on cattle industries, and potential opportunities to do surveillance on bulk tank milk samples.

## Animal Health Lab Data

Dr. Andrew Brooks presented a summary of bovine submissions through the AHL with associated data. Submissions were grouped as under 2 months, 2 months to 2 years, greater than 2 years and abortions.



## Animal Health Lab Data Continued...

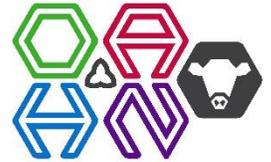
Summary of AHL bovine pathology submissions from Nov. 1 2017 - April 30 2018

In calves under 2 months of age, enteritis was the most common diagnosis followed by pneumonia and septicemia. The most common causes of enteritis in calves were *Cryptosporidium*, rotavirus, coronavirus and enterotoxigenic *E. coli*. Causes of pneumonia in calves included common respiratory viruses and bacteria. *Salmonella* Dublin continues to be an important cause of septicemia in young veal and dairy calves. Bovine herpesvirus-2 was identified as the cause of ulcerative dermatitis in dairy calves on two farms.

Pneumonia was the predominant diagnosis in older calves (up to 2 years of age) and adult cattle, including respiratory viruses and bacteria. Traumatic lesions, such as bone fractures and hip joint luxations, were also common in adult cattle.

Bacteria were the most frequent infectious agents associated with abortions. Nearly half of the abortion submissions where no cause was identified had insufficient samples submitted for testing. Helpful guidelines are published in the AHL User's Guide, and sample collection templates are also available from the Ontario Animal Health Network.

Age Group	No. of Cases Q4 2017	No. of Cases Q1 2018	Top Reasons for Submission	Top Diagnoses
<2 months	85	68	Diarrhea, sudden death, respiratory disease	Enteritis, pneumonia, septicemia
2 months-<2 years	61	40	Sudden death, respiratory disease, neurological disease	Pneumonia
>=2 years	32	41	Musculoskeletal issues, respiratory disease	Pneumonia, trauma
Abortions	42	30	Abortion workup	50% have no diagnosis, often insufficient history



## Calf Health Surveillance Project

The calf surveillance project was completed in Dec 2017. In the 14-month project, 108 calves from 95 farm operations received a post mortem either on farm (36 calves) by the referring vet or at AHL (72). The project involved 43 practitioners from 34 practices across Ontario. By commodity, calf numbers in each group were 52 dairy, 25 cow-calf, 14 veal and 10 that were not assigned a commodity type. One dairy and one veal calf from two different farms were positive for *Salmonella dublin*, isolated from lung and lung & spleen respectively. The take home from this project was the opportunity for practitioners to have increased dialogue with producers around calf health.

Testing of 159 bulk milk samples using a *Salmonella* Dublin ELISA in Feb 2017 identified one positive herd where findings were confirmed by individual cow serology (2 of 92 cows positive). Testing of 450 randomly selected bulk tank samples in November 2017 identified 3 positive herds.

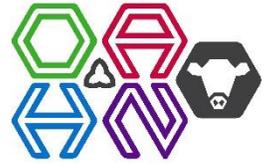
## AHL Milk bacteriology Quality Assurance project

Although the project portion of this project has wrapped up - it will be carrying on as a program on a fee-for-service basis.

Take home messages from the Project:

Best Practices:

1. Culture only samples collected from quarters with clinical mastitis.
2. Quarter and composite milk samples yielded different results.
3. Proper sample collection is critical, especially between quarter and composite milk samples.
4. Confirm in-clinic results in an accredited laboratory before final culling decisions are made.
5. Consider regularly submitting paired samples to an accredited laboratory to ensure validity of results.



# Ontario Slaughter and Community Sales Barn data

The OAHN Bovine network has had the privilege of access to both provincial slaughter condemnation data and community sales barn disposition data.

The major “take home” from this data is there are still areas for addressing proper culling decisions surrounding both slaughter and sale. It is important to consult your herd veterinarian about appropriate culling decisions. For bob calves, please ensure they do not have navel infections when they leave the farm. There have been considerable educational materials developed on this subject.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/dairy/facts/cullcowdecision.htm>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/stats/livestock/index.html>



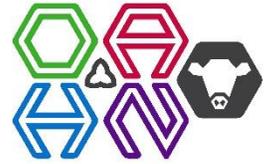
## Bovine Medicine News Links

[Bovine Tuberculosis News from Michigan: Michigan Updates TB Zoning Orders](#)

[Cow Tests Positive for Rabies in Perth County, Ontario](#)

[Teenager's cowpox diagnosis surprises doctors](#)

[Updated Ontario Rabies Map](#)



## Meet your OAHN Bovine Network Team:

### Ontario Veterinary College

Dr. Jessica Gordon  
Dr. David Kelton  
Dr. Dan Kenney  
Dr. Steve Leblanc

### OMAFRA

Dr. Ann Godkin (retired July 2018)  
Dr. Tim Pasma  
Dr. Alexandra Reid

### Network coordinator

Dr. Melanie Barham

### Southern Ontario

Dr. Dan Shock  
Dr. Jessica Retterath

### Eastern Ontario

Dr. Dave Douglas (to June 2018)  
Dr. Scott Robertson

### Northern ON

Dr. Crystal Throop (to June 2018)

### Animal Health Lab

Dr. Andy Brooks  
Dr. Jim Fairles

---

## Contact Us!

Web:

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

email:

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

Twitter:

@OntAnHealthNet

Facebook:

Ontario Animal Health Network

Podcasts:

[www.oahn.podbean.com](http://www.oahn.podbean.com)

