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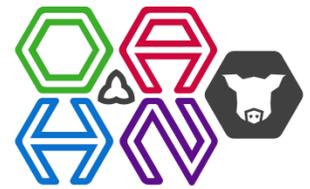
Possible Impacts of African Swine Fever (ASF) What producers need to know...

ASF continues to spread throughout China. The Chinese government has publically released that the initial routes of spread occurred through feeding human food waste to pigs and through swine transportation. The risk of ASF breaching the border into North Korea and Vietnam is high. There have been no new outbreaks of ASF in other countries within Europe. However; Romania, Moldova and Belgium are still being challenged with attempts to prevent further spread of the virus. Transmission through wild pigs has been documented as a major component in spreading this disease.

OAHN was asked to summarize the potential impacts that a foreign animal disease such as ASF could cause to Ontario swine producers. This is a very difficult task. With the assistance of both Laura Eastwood and Jaydee Smith from OMAFRA's Agriculture Development Branch we decided to take on this challenge. Perhaps the best answer to this is that the impact largely depends on how other countries that we trade live pork and pork products with would react. Ontario exports 50-60% of the pork that it produces. The Canadian swine industry is highly dependent on the ability to export. If the borders were closed with no trade of pork product alone the impacts would be devastating. The other important information to consider is the sheer number of pigs that cross from Ontario into the USA on a weekly basis.

Pig Movement Across the Canadian U.S. Border

	Week ending on Friday:					
	31-Aug-18	07-Sep-18	14-Sep-18	21-Sep-18	28-Sep-18	05-Oct-18
Feeder Pigs - Canada Total	73,782	74,036	74,594	83,479	81,750	81,454
- North Dakota	58,709	56,645	60,155	65,879	61,725	63,424
- Michigan & New York	14,763	15,891	14,439	16,100	20,025	18,030
Market Pigs - Canada Total	6,097	6,281	6,067	5,598	6,145	6,076
- North Dakota	727	1,591	1,354	1,278	1,238	826
- Michigan & New York	2,248	1,456	1,199	1,508	1,608	2,039
Number of Sows & Boars Imported from Canada	9,534	7,659	8,092	9,741	8,414	8,823



This chart was taken from OMAFRA's Weekly Hog Market Fact Sheet. You will see that the number of feeder pigs, market weight pigs and the number of cull sows and boars is listed in this table. The data from Michigan and New York would contain pigs sent to the USA from mainly Ontario and Quebec. From this data you can see that on average 16,541 feeder pigs, 1,673 market weight pigs and 8710 cull sows and boars are sent from Ontario to the USA **weekly** during this time period. **If ASF is detected in Canada only and the United States decided to close the border, pigs would not move and Canada would suffer devastating impacts quickly (within days of a border closure).** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is working with multiple partners including the Canadian Pork Council and provincial governments to prepare Canada from an animal health emergency response perspective. The CFIA is also in discussions with our trading partners including the United States and the European Union to determine if zoning or compartmentalization (separating countries into disease-free regions) would be accepted to prevent full border closure if ASF is detected.

The impacts of ASF being detected in Canada should be enough reason for every Canadian farmer to want to prevent this pathogen from entering our country. OAHN recently published two infographics that demonstrate how you can help. Click on the following links: 1) <https://oahn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ASF-prevention-Backyard-FINAL.pdf> 2) <https://oahn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ASF-prevention-Green-FINAL.pdf>

Dr. Bob Friendship shared some interesting facts on ASF including some photographs of clinical lesions that producers should watch for. If you see these lesions on your farm you should immediately contact your herd veterinarian and/or CFIA and let them know what you have seen.

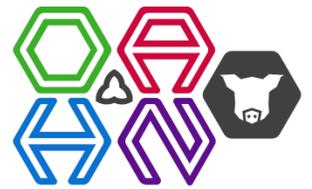


Marked redness of the skin on the limbs



Areas of bleeding and/or dead/ darkened coloured) skin spots

Sourced from the Center for Food Security and Public Health African Swine Fever lesions:
www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/disease.php?name=African-swine-fever&lang=en



Mycotoxin Issues In 2018

2018 is a Bad Year for DON

Both Laura Eastwood and Dr. Christine Pelland reported that a mycotoxin known as DON in the corn crop this year is a real issue. The 2018 Grain Corn Ear Mould and DON survey was released in October by OMAFRA. The big take home message from this survey is that 25% of samples tested had DON levels greater than 5 ppm and another 15% of samples fell between 2-5ppm. Since this report was released, OMAFRA has heard of many samples testing above 5 ppm, and loads being rejected by elevators due to high mycotoxin levels.

Mycotoxins are chemicals produced by moulds or fungi that infect different types of grain. There are over 400 different types of mycotoxins, but only a small number affect swine. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has guidelines for including mycotoxin contaminated grain in livestock feeds. **DON should not be present at levels greater than 1 ppm in the final (mixed) diet for swine.** This means that if your diet contains 50% contaminated corn the corn itself cannot contain more than 2 ppm of DON (2 contaminated grain kernels in a sample of 1 million non-contaminated kernels).

Practical tips for dealing with DON in swine diets:

- 1) Clean and dry grain as soon as possible
- 2) If you have to feed contaminated grain, keep it out of the diets being fed to breeding swine and recently weaned pigs
- 3) If buying DDGS ask if testing has been completed and ask about the use of toxin binders
- 4) Blend contaminated grain with non-contaminated grain to reduce the final concentrations of mycotoxins
- 5) Avoid going above the CFIA recommended levels of 1 ppm in mixed feeds
- 6) DON may reduce feed intake in pigs so increase the nutrient density of the diet

Also remember that mycotoxins can also impact human health. When handling grains contaminated with DON, wear a properly fitted dust mask or respirator.

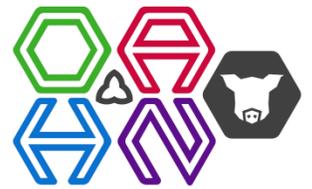
For additional information please visit:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/swine/nutritio.html#MoldsandMycotoxins>

OAHN Erysipelas Project

Announcing the OAHN Swine Network's Erysipelas Project

The OAHN Swine Network discussed the fact that Erysipelas continues to be reported at a higher observation frequency on the veterinary survey. This trend has been observed for the past 11 quarters. A project to investigate the isolation of Erysipelas strains and to further genotype these strains is now underway. **The OAHN Swine Network is encouraging producers and veterinarians to submit fresh or frozen tissue samples of the spleen and liver from suspect Erysipelas cases to the Animal Health Laboratory.** Samples will also be solicited through swine processing plants. So if you are dealing with Erysipelas on your farm, please consider assisting the network with this project. For more information please contact Dr. Tim Pasma tim.pasma@ontario.ca.



How can producers engage in OAHN?

Read our quarterly producer reports and let us know what you think!

Discuss the material included in these reports with you herd veterinarian and other swine producers. Help us spread the word!

Contact Us!

Website: www.oahn.ca
Email: oahn@uoguelph.ca
Twitter: @OntAnHealthNet
Facebook: @OntarioAnimalHealthNetwork

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Have an idea for a podcast you'd like to hear? [Let us know!](#)

Meet your OAHN Swine Network Team:

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Dr. Sue Burlatschenko

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