

Swine Health Surveillance

3rd Quarter 2023

Producer Report

CWSHIN serves western swine producers, swine herd practitioners and governments to improve swine health, production, and the economic prosperity of the sector.

Our surveillance objectives are to:

- Detect new emerging swine health issues,
- Detect unusual clinical presentation of known diseases,
- Provide information about endemic diseases, and
- For diseases absent in western Canada (such as Foot and Mouth Disease and African swine fever) the objective is to help provide evidence of absence of disease to support trade.

www.cwshin.ca

NOVEMBER 16

By: Jette Christensen, CWSHIN Manager



Messages

Congratulations to Manitoba!

The 2021-2023 Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) outbreak is over, and all premises have achieved presumptive negative status. However, high traffic facilities such as abattoirs should still be considered contaminated, and producers should take care when vehicles return from these facilities.

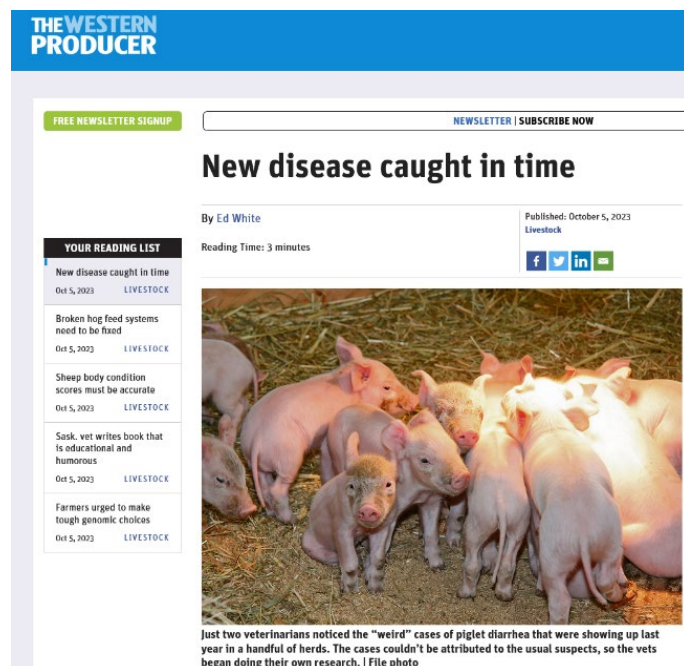
Practical tips

- Your veterinary practitioner can help diagnose diarrhea (including Sapovirus) with relevant laboratory submissions
- To be prepared for the influenza season this year and in particular more pandemic H1N1:
 - barn staff should get vaccinated with the seasonal flu-vaccine
 - you should review vaccination protocols for the pigs with your veterinarian.
- On sow herd instability: if you see increased disease and suspect less protection of vaccines -call your veterinarian
 - for a review of vaccine procedures and timing and / or
 - submission to a laboratory for diagnosis
- If you see blisters in pigs call your veterinarian or the local CFIA

Digestive syndrome

Sapovirus

We have discussed Sapovirus at quarterly calls since January 2023. A good collaboration between herd practitioners, Prairie Diagnostic Service (PDS) and CFIA has resulted in remarkable progress (See Western Producer [Link](#)).



The screenshot shows a news article from 'THE WESTERN PRODUCER'. The article title is 'New disease caught in time' by Ed White, published on October 5, 2023, in the 'Livestock' category. The reading time is 3 minutes. The article features a photo of piglets in a barn. A 'YOUR READING LIST' sidebar on the left includes several other articles: 'New disease caught in time', 'Broken hog feed systems need to be fixed', 'Sheep body condition scores must be accurate', 'Sask. vet writes book that is educational and humorous', and 'Farmers urged to make tough genomic choices'. Below the photo, a caption reads: 'Just two veterinarians noticed the "weird" cases of piglet diarrhea that were showing up last year in a handful of herds. The cases couldn't be attributed to the usual suspects, so the vets began doing their own research. | File photo'.

We don't know exactly what the role of Sapovirus is. The first testing results indicate that Sapovirus is present in a high percentage of diarrhea cases (68%). However, we have no information on cases without diarrhea. Therefore, we don't know if Sapovirus is just present in 70% of all herds regardless of their health status.

Sapovirus

Sapovirus has been detected in swine herds since late 2022.

- It may contribute to scours in young pigs, but we don't know to what extent
- It has been detected in MB and SK

Practical tips

- Your veterinarian can help diagnose diarrhea (including Sapovirus) with relevant laboratory submissions
- Stay tuned for more information on Sapovirus

Respiratory Syndrome

Surveillance result

For both *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* and PRRS the proportion positive was low. In addition, Influenza was reported to be well controlled resulting in less respiratory diseases in general.

Discussion

We expect the influenza season to start about 2 weeks after the first snow. This year that may be November.

Pandemic H1N1 has been predominant (90%) in humans since July. Therefore, we may expect human to pig transmission in November/December with more pH1N1 in pigs starting in January.

While in general, all people interacting with pigs should take precautions to reduce the exposure of pigs to any disease, there are specific actions you can take to prepare for the influenza season.

Preparation for the influenza season

Barn staff should get vaccinated for the seasonal flu to minimize the risk of transmission from people to pigs or pigs to people.

For pigs the commercial vaccines still have some effect on the pandemic H1N1.

Respiratory Syndrome

Influenza was reported to be well controlled resulting in less respiratory diseases in general.

The Influenza season may start late (November) this year

Practical tips

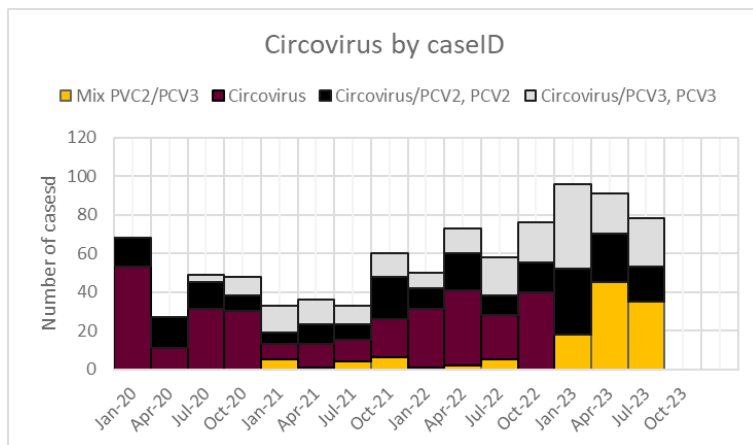
To be prepared for more H1N1 in pigs this season

- barn staff should get vaccinated
- you should review vaccination protocols for the pigs with your veterinarian.

Systemic syndrome

Surveillance Results

The last 3 quarters have seen more mixed (PCV2/PCV3) cases diagnosed at laboratories reporting to CWSHIN.



Discussion

PCV2 has been around for some time and though it has been a stable virus we do not know if it has changed enough lately to impact the efficacy of vaccines. Clinical PCV2 may have increased due to sow herd instability but this instability may be caused by changes in the virus OR lapses in application of the vaccines OR timing of vaccination.

Other PCV types: The role of PCV3 in clinical disease is still unclear. In addition, more PCV species may be reported over the next years – again their role in clinical disease will be uncertain at first.

Circovirus

Outstanding questions

- What is the role of PCV3 in clinical disease?
- Has PCV2 changed (after 10-15 years) so vaccination is less effective?
- Is sow herd instability due to lapses or timing of in vaccine application?

Practical tips

If you see increased disease and suspect less protection of vaccines (sow herd instability) -call your veterinarian

- for a review of vaccine procedures and timing

and / or

- submission to a laboratory for diagnosis

Skin Syndrome

The Skin syndrome includes Seneca Valley Virus (SVV) and blisters that are of special interest.

The voluntary active SVV surveillance at cull sow assembly yards (in MB) with environmental samples is ongoing and confirmed that assembly yards were still contaminated with SVV (positive environmental samples). Clinical inspection of sows at assembly yards is also ongoing and this may lead to traceback to herds. However, it is important to keep in mind all blisters are not caused by serious foreign animal disease (see article in Canadian Hog Journal)



Featured



Producers should take blister cases seriously

October 1, 2023

If a producer notices blisters in the barn, how likely is the cause a reportable disease? The causes and consequences of blisters can vary widely.

Featured



Ukrainian farmers defy odds during war

October 1, 2023

The war in Ukraine has taken a toll on farmers. The situation highlights the need for emergency planning and preparedness in Canada.

Seneca Valley Virus

Assembly yards are still contaminated with Seneca Valley Virus (SVV)

Blisters

A reminder that blisters in pigs are reportable to CFIA

Investigations of blister cases are complex but an important tool in surveillance for FMD and SVV.

Practical tips

If you see blisters in pigs call your veterinarian or CFIA

CanSpotASF

At approved laboratories the “rule-out testing” continued with 25% pathology cases tested for ASF the last quarter which is also the average for 2021 and 2022.

At abattoirs the selection of cases for ASF testing has started at federally inspected plants (data not included). Provincially inspected abattoirs have also started in all 4 provinces in the west.

Acknowledge

CWSHIN would not exist without

- The participation and support of swine practitioners, laboratories, governments and swine health experts
- Funding from pork boards and governments

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