



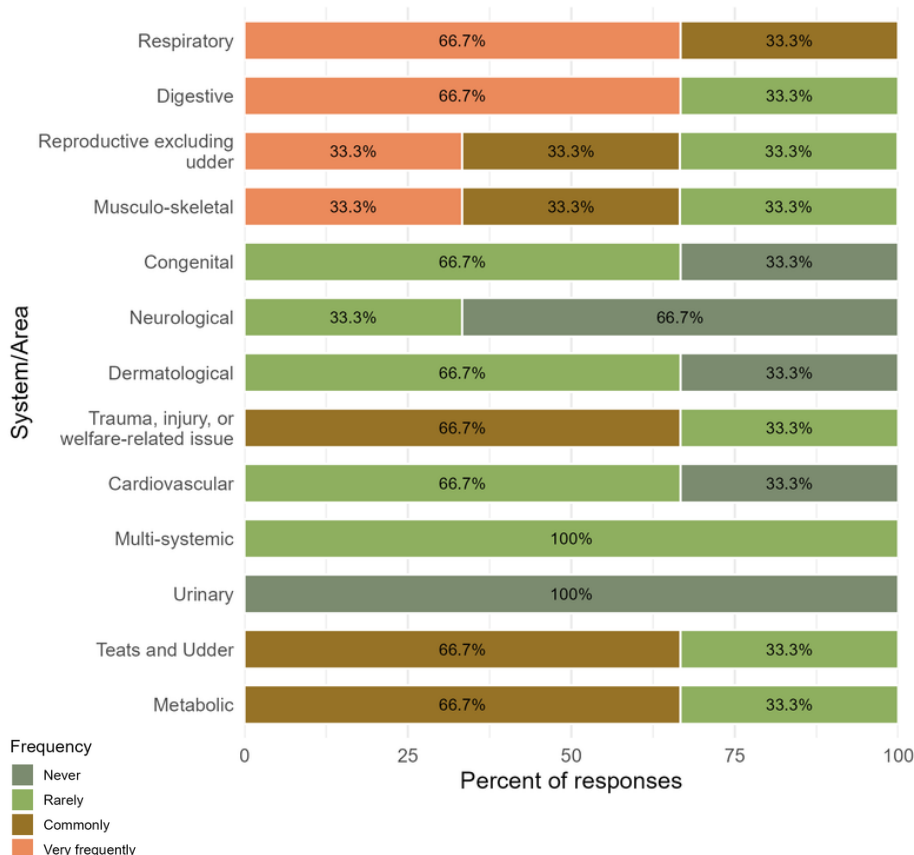
The WeCAHN Dairy Network held a quarterly videoconference meeting on May 7th, 2026, to discuss animal health events from January to March 2026. The session brought together veterinarians, diagnosticians, researchers, and industry representatives. Data were synthesized from clinical impressions surveys completed by practitioners and laboratory submissions from Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) and the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM DSU).

1) Interesting Cases

- **Research update:** Alberta bulk tank milk testing found *Staphylococcus aureus* in many herds at least once over a year (2021-2022), while *Streptococcus agalactiae* and *Mycoplasma bovis* were less common. Herds with higher milk cell counts had more pathogen detections. [ChESS](#) reports are available to producers and their veterinarians to target follow-up testing.
- **Case study:** A 170-cow herd had a fast-moving and severe *M. bovis* outbreak with fever, laboured breathing, severe udder swelling and lower milk production leading to deaths and culls. Testing found *M. bovis*, signs of an earlier respiratory virus infection, and high levels of feed mycotoxins in recently opened corn silage. Management changes focused on feed adjustments, preventive measures, and long-term herd planning (e.g., colostrum pasteurizer).

2) Syndromic Surveillance

Frequency of Disease Diagnoses by System (Q1 2026)



- Pneumonia remained the main respiratory diagnosis, with stable-to-increasing trends driven by BRSV, BHV-1, and *Trueperella pyogenes*.
- Diarrhea remained common and generally stable, and winter dysentery reports increased. Rotavirus detections increased.
- Infectious abortions remained generally low to stable. A practitioner reported an outbreak associated with *Salmonella* Dublin.
- Hypocalcemia and ketosis were frequently reported. Detections of Johne's disease increased across cattle commodities. Septicemia diagnoses were above the historical record.
- Mastitis, acute and chronic, remained common. Practitioners reported stable-to-increasing impressions for *S. aureus*, *Streptococcus uberis*, and *M. bovis*.

3) Scan and other updates

- Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) investigation in Manitoba dairy herd (Canadian Food Inspection Agency [[CFIA, 2026](#)]) update as of April 16, 2026.
- Bluetongue (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease [EHD]) was confirmed in Oregon in Feb. 2026 after an unusual increase in late-term abortions and the birth of dummy calves in beef cattle ([Oregon Department of Agriculture](#)).
- Lumpy skin disease expanded in Europe, with additional outbreaks in a previously unaffected region of Italy ([Plateforme ESA](#) [French]). See the [CFIA Fact Sheet](#)
- Foot and mouth disease (SAT-1) continued to spread in Europe, and activity is suspected in Russia and parts of Asia ([Eurasianet](#), 2026); [WOAH](#) and [FAO](#) called for enhanced preparedness.
- New World screwworm recently expanded westward in Mexico (dashboard [LINK](#) [Spanish])
- Canada has detected no HPAI in cattle, with 9,281 raw milk samples negative ([CFIA, 2026](#)). The U.S. reported five new dairy cattle cases after four months without detections ([LINK](#)).

4) Producer takeaways

1. *Staph. aureus* mastitis is common, can be spread between cows and can develop into chronic infections. Create a plan to manage *Staph. aureus* mastitis in cows with your herd veterinarian. Keep a list of cows with mastitis and update it regularly to help decide which cows should be treated, milked last, segregated, dried off, or culled.
2. *Mycoplasma bovis* is a long-term herd problem, and there is no quick fix even with antibiotics. Build a long-term control plan with your veterinarian that includes vaccinating calves and pasteurizing colostrum.
3. Recent lab results showed higher-than-usual activity for winter 2026 for several respiratory viruses, for example, BRSV. If you notice more coughing, fevers, laboured breathing, treatment failures, or a drop in milk production, call your veterinarian promptly. Use testing to confirm what viruses and bacteria are circulating.

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