



*The WeCAHN Dairy Network held a quarterly videoconference meeting on August 21st, 2025, to discuss the animal health events occurring from April to June 2025. Veterinary practitioners, diagnosticians, veterinary college faculty, researchers, and industry representatives attended the meeting.*

## 1) Overview

Data sources in this report include:

1. Clinical Impressions Surveys completed by network practitioners.
2. Data shared by western veterinary diagnostic laboratories: Manitoba Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS) laboratory, Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS), and University of Calgary College of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM DSU).
3. Scan: bovine surveillance reported by other sources or networks.



## 2) Interesting Cases

### i) Clinical case: *Salmonella* Dublin outbreak in pre-weaned calves (British Columbia (BC))

- **History:** A group of 25 12-week-old calves showed respiratory signs and lethargy. *Salmonella* Dublin was diagnosed from a post-mortem and feces. The investigation linked the outbreak to a failed colostrum pasteurization batch.
- **Treatment:** The calves were treated with supportive therapy and antibiotics.
- This is the farm's first *Salmonella* Dublin case since implementing colostrum pasteurization. Genetic analysis revealed a different strain from previous cases, likely influenced by the farm's frequent cattle imports, particularly from the USA.
- **Management:** Footbaths for entrance/exit to the affected pen and designated feeding and watering equipment. Continue pasteurizing colostrum and monitoring effectiveness of the pasteurization process.

### ii) Pneumonia treatment and diarrhea in calves

- **History:** young calves treated with an antibiotic for pneumonia developed diarrhea, and many calves died. Switching the antibiotics resolved the diarrhea.

### iii) Clinical case: Blackleg outbreak (*Clostridium chauvoei*)

- **History:** 7 of 11 youngstock (spring calves and yearlings) on a Hereford hobby farm died in two weeks; a neighbouring dairy farm lost four post-wean calves. Both herds were previously unvaccinated for *Clostridium* spp. The second affected property was a neighbouring, larger dairy farm, where Angus-Holstein crosses were housed alongside Holstein replacements in the same pen. Only the Angus-Holstein crosses developed blackleg; the Holsteins remained unaffected. Notably, both farms shared the same feed source.
- **Treatment:** The herds were treated with antibiotics and vaccinated for *Clostridium* (causes blackleg).
- Blackleg and anthrax cases can look the same. Take precautions and use adequate personal protective equipment (such as a properly fitted face mask or respirator (N95), eye protection, and protective gloves). [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, 2024](#) and the CFIA [anthrax fact sheet](#)

### iv) Abortion Cluster

- **History:** Large dairy farm experienced 30-40 fetal losses (all trimesters were affected) over three weeks. The dams were all healthy. One month prior, the same farm had a *Salmonella* Dublin outbreak in pre-wean calves (25 of 400 affected, all sick but no deaths).
- **Post-mortem:** The abortions were caused by bacteria, but no specific bacteria could be identified.
- **Crop analysis:** High nitrate levels were present in the cover crop fed.
- **Management:** The problem feed was eliminated; abortions ceased.

### 3) Syndromic Surveillance

Important information:

#### Clinical impression surveys

**Never**

**Rarely** = 1-2 times per 3 months

**Commonly** = 1-2 times per month

**Very frequently** = 3+ times per month



#### 'Control charts'

Under the sub-heading 'laboratory diagnoses,' there are multiple mentions of 'control charts,' which present data collected over time. Quarterly results lying outside the control limits of the chart suggest a need for investigation to determine whether/how significant a signal they represent.



### Respiratory system disease

#### Clinical impression survey for respiratory system disease

Respiratory disease was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.

#### Laboratory diagnoses for respiratory system disease

At the Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) laboratory, *Salmonella* Dublin was detected in two cow/calf nursing calves. In all cattle, there were a few detections of *Salmonella* Dublin this quarter, and the detections remained within the control limits of the **control chart**. Other common bacteria and viruses that cause respiratory disease were within control limits.

At the Manitoba Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS) laboratory, there were a few diagnoses of pneumonia of all types.

At the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM DSU), there was a single case of multidrug-resistant *E. coli* in a 2-week-old Holstein calf.

### Digestive system disease

#### Clinical impression survey for digestive system disease

Digestive system disease was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.

- Diarrhea was reported **Commonly**.
- Frothy bloat was reported **Never** to **Rarely** to **Commonly**.

#### Laboratory diagnoses for digestive system diseases

At PDS, *Salmonella* Dublin was found in the intestine of a nursing 2-week-old calf from a cow-calf system. Cryptosporidiosis (i.e., 'crypto') was implicated in the death of a 9-day-old Holstein-Friesian calf; the heifer also had *E. coli* and rotavirus; the history for this case indicated that other young (under 2 weeks old) calves had diarrhea, and two died suddenly. Johne's disease was diagnosed in a 3-year-old cow. Detections of Johne's disease were within the control limits of the **control chart**. Rotavirus cases were within limits for dairy cattle but exceeded the upper limit for all bovines.

At VDS, the calf enteric panel was used frequently. There were no diagnoses of intestinal disease this quarter.

UCVM DSU reported three cases of gastrointestinal disease in young cattle.



## Reproductive system disease

### Clinical impression survey for reproductive system disease

Reproductive disease, excluding the udder, was reported

**Rarely** to **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.

- Uterus disease was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Diseases of the ovaries were reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Non-infectious causes of infertility were reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**.

### Laboratory diagnoses for digestive system disease

At PDS, there were four detections of *Neospora caninum* in dairy cattle, two in beef and one in an unknown commodity this quarter; the detections were within the control limits of the **control chart**.

Ten *Tritrichomonas foetus* cases were recorded in unknown commodities.

VDS reported a few abortion diagnoses.

## Mastitis

### Clinical impression survey for mastitis

Teats and udder system disease was reported **Never** to **Rarely** to **Commonly**.

- Acute mastitis was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Chronic mastitis was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Traumatic udder injuries were reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**.

### Laboratory diagnoses for mastitis

At PDS, multiple mastitis bacteria were within the control limits of the **control chart**. Some cases were mixed infections.

At VDS, staphylococcal and streptococcal mastitis bacteria remained within control limits.

At UCVN DSU, there was one case of *Staphylococcus aureus* mastitis in an older cow (13 years old). Another case had a mixture of bacterial infections.

## Musculoskeletal system disease

### Clinical impression survey for musculoskeletal disease

Musculoskeletal system disease was reported **Rarely** to **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.

- Foot disease was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Arthritis was reported **Never** to **Very frequently**.
- Other trauma was reported **Commonly**.
- Trauma, injury or welfare-related issue was reported **Rarely** to **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Traumatic injury was reported **Commonly**.



## 5) Scan

### i) Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in a Manitoba (MB) dairy herd (Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), 2025)

- June 9, 2025, bovine tuberculosis was identified during testing of tissues collected from a 7-year-old dairy cow in a federally registered slaughter plant in MB.
- The CFIA confirmed bovine tuberculosis on June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Using the DairyTrace system, the CFIA quickly identified a herd in the Pembina Valley region of MB as the herd of origin of the infected animal.
- This herd has been placed under quarantine until testing and depopulation can be completed.
- Western Producer article: [Efforts to control bovine tuberculosis focus on wildlife](#)
- Manitoba Animal Health and Welfare: [Bovine Tuberculosis Facts for Manitoba Livestock Producers](#)



### ii) Lumpy skin disease in France (WOAH WAHIS) and Italy (WAHIS)

First cases of LSD in these European countries. Canada applied restrictions on importations from Italy on May 23 and from France on May 26. ([LINK](#))

- Switzerland (free of LSD) applied preventive vaccination due to the high risk of introduction ([LINK](#)). Restrictions on importations were applied on May 26, 2025 ([LINK](#)).
- [CFIA Fact Sheet](#)

### iii) The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

of concern is influenza A virus subtype H5N1 genotypes B3.13 and D1.1 in dairy cows. H5N1 genotypes D1.1 and D1.2 are currently the most prevalent in domestic and wild birds in North America.

#### USA:

##### • Dairy cattle:

- Between August 17 and September 17, 2025, there was one new confirmed case of HPAI in a Nebraska dairy herd.
- The total is 1,080 confirmed cases in 18 states ([LINK](#)).
- The total does not reflect reinfection of farms. On August 1st, the [California Department of Food and Agriculture](#) posted a Livestock Health Alert indicating 43 herds have beef re-quarantined (shown to have sufficient virus present) after prior release.
- USDA's National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) continues with mandatory milk bulk tank surveillance. A map of the status of each State can be found [here](#).

##### • Poultry:

- Between August 17 and September 17, there were 15 commercial and 5 small flocks affected by HPAI (United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ([USDA-APHIS](#)) [latest confirmed detections](#) in poultry).
- The small flocks are defined as "World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) non-poultry (i.e., do not enter the food supply; e.g., chickens kept by a single household and meat is consumed by owners of that household exclusively)" ([LINK](#)).

##### • Humans:

- Between March 2024 and August 12, 2025, the CDC has confirmed 70 cases of avian influenza A(H5) in people in the USA. No new cases have been reported since April 2025. Forty-one infections (59%) were associated with exposure to affected dairy cows, and 24 (34%) with exposure to infected poultry. The source of exposure for the remaining five human cases was either unknown (n=3) or animal sources (n=2) ([LINK](#)).



## Canada:

- **Dairy cattle:** No HPAI has been detected in Canadian cattle.
  - As of September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) laboratories tested 5,602 raw (unpasteurized) milk samples at processing plants; all samples were negative for HPAI ([LINK](#)).
- **Poultry:**
  - After a break from HPAI cases between mid May and September, 5 commercial premises (4 in Alberta and 1 in Quebec) were confirmed infected with HPAI between September 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> ([CFIA Investigations and orders](#)).
  - The owners of an ostrich farm in BC confirmed infected with HPAI in December 2024 are still involved in a legal battle against the CFIA to prevent the culling of their 400 birds.
    - August 22<sup>nd</sup> interview with Dr. Rasmussen [LINK](#)

## 6) Other Network Updates:

In Alberta, UCVN's bulk tank surveillance revealed that 10% of dairy herds had antibodies for Salmonella Dublin and 25% for Neospora, a sharp rise from previous years, prompting further investigation.

### Producer Takeaways:

1. Certain antibiotics may upset the gut balance of young calves leading to severe diarrhea and even death. Work closely with your veterinarian when choosing treatments for calves.
2. *Cryptosporidium* (i.e., 'crypto') is an intestinal parasite commonly present in calfhood diarrhea. Crypto doesn't usually act alone. Other organisms like rotavirus or E. coli may be involved, too, which make diarrhea cases harder to treat. Early testing and good hygiene are especially important.
3. Canada has not reported any cases of HPAI in cattle, but the virus continues to spread in U.S. dairy herds. With the fall wild bird migration underway, producers should remain alert to increased risk from contact with wild migratory birds.

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