



The WeCAHN Dairy Network held its quarterly meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to discuss dairy cattle animal health between April and June 2025.

## 1) Overview

This report draws data from Clinical Impressions Surveys completed by network practitioners, diagnostic results from western veterinary laboratories (VDS, PDS, and UCVN DSU), and dairy surveillance reports from various sources and networks.

## 2) Interesting Cases



1. An outbreak of *Salmonella* Dublin in 12-week-old calves in British Columbia was traced to a failed colostrum pasteurization batch. The investigation revealed the *Salmonella* Dublin was distinct from previous cases. The farm frequently imports cattle.
2. A respiratory disease outbreak in calves treated with one antibiotic led to severe diarrhea and high mortality, which resolved after switching to another antibiotic. Certain antibiotics can cause diarrhea, possibly due to changes in the gut microbiome.
3. A blackleg outbreak led to high mortality in unvaccinated youngstock across two neighbouring farms. Angus-Holstein crosses were affected while Holsteins remained unaffected despite shared housing and feed.
  - a. Blackleg can look like anthrax. Take precautions to prevent being infected by anthrax: [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, 2024](#) and the CFIA [anthrax fact sheet](#).
4. A large dairy farm experienced multiple abortions over three weeks (all pregnancy stages). It was diagnosed as bacterial abortion with suspicion of *Listeria* spp. Interestingly, when high nitrate cover feed was removed, abortions ceased.



## 3) Syndromic Surveillance

1. **Respiratory disease:** Clinical impression surveys (CIS) reported respiratory disease commonly to very frequently. Laboratory findings included *Salmonella* Dublin and multidrug-resistant *E. coli*.
2. **Digestive disease:** CIS reported digestive disease commonly to very frequently, with diarrhea being the most prevalent issue. Lab findings included *Salmonella* Dublin, crypto, rotavirus, and multidrug-resistant *E. coli*.
3. **Reproductive disease:** CIS reported reproductive disease was rarely to very frequently diagnosed. Lab findings included *Neospora caninum* detections.
4. **Mastitis:** CIS reported mastitis rarely to very frequently, with acute and chronic forms commonly observed. Laboratory diagnoses confirmed multiple cases across diagnostic labs, including mixed infections.
5. **Musculoskeletal disease:** CIS reported musculoskeletal disease rarely to very frequently. Arthritis and welfare-related trauma were also reported frequently.

## 4) Scan

1. Bovine tuberculosis in a Manitoba dairy herd confirmed in June ([CFIA, 2025](#)).
  - a. Western Producer article: [Efforts to control bovine tuberculosis focus on wildlife](#)
  - b. Manitoba Animal Health and Welfare: [Bovine Tuberculosis Facts for Manitoba Livestock Producers](#)
2. First cases of lumpy skin disease reported in France ([WOAH WAHIS](#)) and Italy ([WAHIS](#)). Restrictions on importations were applied in May ([LINK](#)). [CFIA Fact Sheet](#)
3. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle remains a concern in the US, with continued milk testing for viral presence ([LINK](#)). HPAI cases in poultry have been reported recently in the US.
4. No HPAI cases have been found in Canadian cattle or milk, but HPAI was confirmed at five commercial poultry premises in Canada in September 2025 ([LINK](#)).
5. 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 disrupt the gut balance in 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, while 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 migratory birds.

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