



The WeCAHN Dairy Network held a quarterly videoconference meeting on August 27th, 2026, to discuss animal health events from April to July 2026 with veterinary practitioners, diagnosticians, veterinary college faculty, researchers, and industry representatives.

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), Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) laboratory, University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM), and, for the first time: British Columbia Animal Health Centre (AHC).
3. Scan: bovine surveillance reported by other sources or networks.

2) Interesting Cases

i) Case report: *Salmonella* Dublin in a closed herd in a new area

- **History:** Heifers and close-up cows experienced abortions, while weaned calves showed no obvious illness.
- The infection was suspected to have been introduced by a calf buyer visiting the farm, whereas calves were previously transported to the farm gate to meet the buyer.
- **Management:** The farm improved biosecurity and intense cleaning practices. Ordered autogenous vaccine to vaccinate all animals, followed by a rolling vaccination protocol.
- Testing before death has limitations, but blood testing calves and cows was recommended.
- **Alberta project:** *Salmonella* Dublin is also being monitored through bulk tank milk testing through the Alberta Cattle Health Surveillance System (CHeSS) project, with a second phase enrolling 40-50 farms ([LINK](#)).



ii) Case report: Rectal trauma in heifers

- **History:** About 40 heifers developed rectal tears and other injuries while being naturally bred by a large three-year-old Angus bull. Some heifers had internal inflammation (i.e. peritonitis).
- **Management:** The bull was removed, and affected heifers were identified as unsuitable for future breeding.

iii) Case study: Influenza D in adult cows

- **History:** About 20-30 of 150 cows developed pneumonia, with reduced rumination and fever. Only adult cows were affected.
- The first nasal samples were negative, but repeat samples detected influenza D. The source of the virus was unknown.

Illustrates the challenge of needing multiple rounds of testing to identify the virus responsible for the disease.

iv) Case report: Mastitis involving *Serratia marcescens*

- **History:** A third-lactation cow developed clots in milk from several udder quarters.
- **Milk testing:** *Serratia marcescens*, *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* and other bacteria.

S. marcescens can survive and grow in chlorhexidine-based teat dips!



v) Practitioner observations:

Dairy-beef steer management

- Practitioners reported more producers choosing to keep beef/dairy cross steers to heavier weights rather than selling them early.
- Higher animal value and greater feed availability were factors in this decision.
- Limited space and manure-handling capacity remained important constraints.
- One practitioner used animal weight rather than age as a benchmark for management decisions.

Moraxella bovoculi conjunctivitis

- Conjunctivitis (“pink eye”) has been an ongoing problem over the past two years, particularly in beef herds.
- *Moraxella bovis* vaccine does not protect from *M. bovoculi*.
- Results with *M. bovoculi* vaccines (autogenous and requested via [Health Canada’s Emergency Drug Release \(EDR\) program](#)) were inconsistent. One practitioner reported rapid improvement using the US commercial vaccine, another practitioner reported 50% improvement using an autogenous vaccine, and a separate study reported no protection ([O’Connor et al., 2019](#)).
- A practitioner noted rapid improvement of pink eye after treatment, but found no protection against pinkeye using *M. bovoculi* vaccine.



vi) Case report: Severe bloody diarrhea in calves

- **History:** An 8-week-old calf (Q2 2026) and a 5-week-old calf (Q3) developed sudden, severe bloody diarrhea.
- Examination showed extensive bleeding and inflammation throughout the lower intestinal tract.
- *Clostridium perfringens* was found, but it can also be present normally in the intestine. Toxin analysis was not done.
- Low levels of coronavirus and rotavirus were detected. The *E. coli* found did not carry the disease-causing markers tested.
- Coccidiosis was not detected, but repeated or pooled testing from multiple calves may be needed to rule it out completely.
- The exact cause could not be confirmed. *Salmonella* spp. was a top differential but was not cultured in either case.

Highlights the difficulty of identifying the cause of some severe diarrhea cases.

vii) Case report: Diarrhea and deaths in newborn calves

- **History:** Several young calves (1- to 3-day-old) developed diarrhea and died within one to two days.
- Examination of one calf showed severe dehydration, inflamed intestines and damage, and degenerative cardiomyopathy (heart disease).
- Findings suggested that nutritional and viral factors may have contributed.

3) Syndromic Surveillance

Important information:

Clinical impressions surveys

Never;

Rarely = 1-2 times per 3 months;

Commonly = 1-2 times per month;

Very frequently = 3+ times per month.

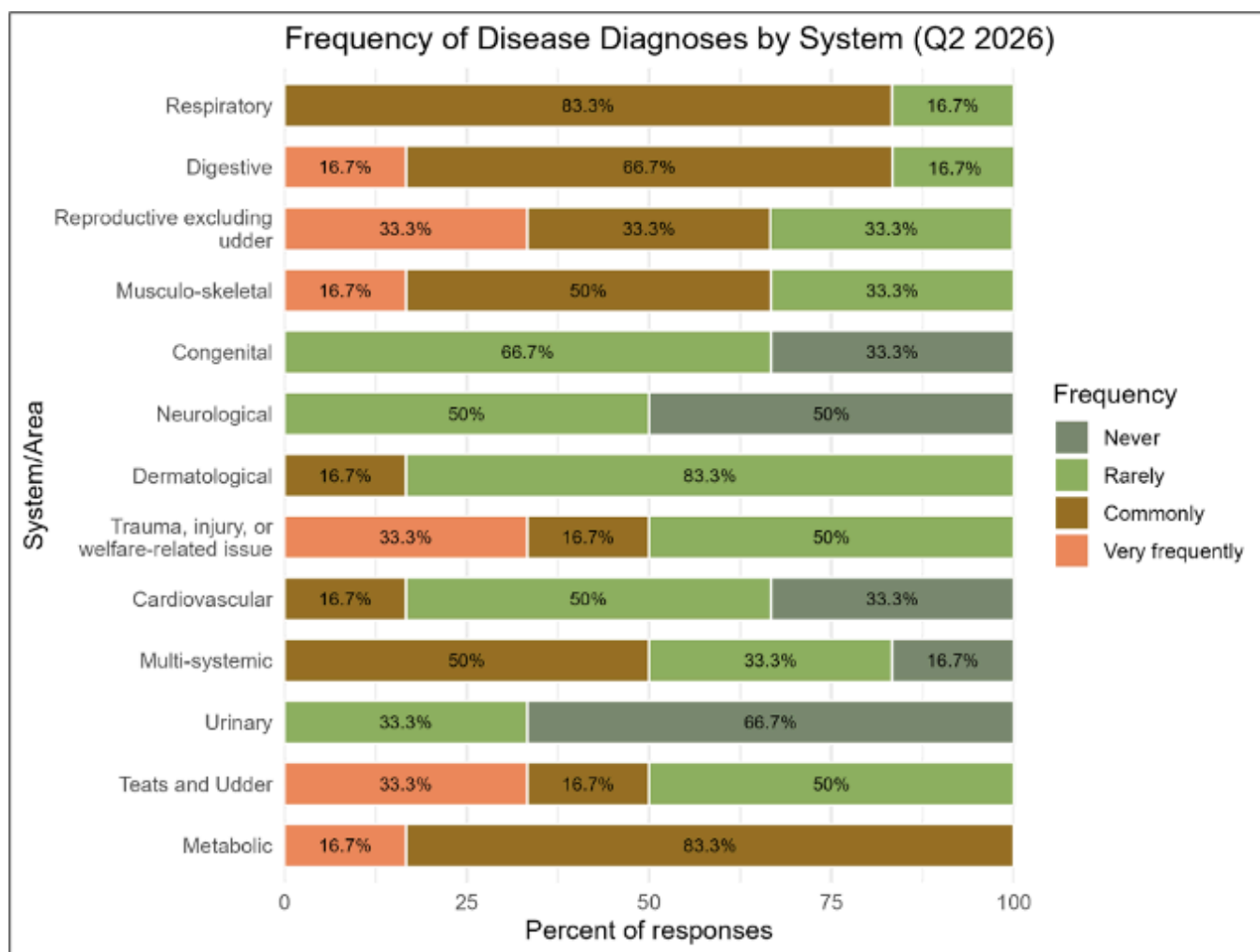


'Control charts'

Control charts are a simple way of presenting data collected over time (e.g., increasing or decreasing detection frequencies). Each data point reflects the number of positive samples or cases reported by a diagnostic laboratory over 3 months (quarter of a year). The upper and lower horizontal lines are called control limits. Individual points lying outside the control limits suggest a need for investigation to determine whether/how significant a signal they represent.

New: Q2 2026 BC Animal Health Centre (AHC) data were included in the analysis for the first time, therefore, visualization of time trends was not possible at this time. Historical AHC data will be evaluated and presented in future reports.

Body Systems Summary



Respiratory system disease

Clinical impressions survey and laboratory diagnostic results

- Laryngotracheitis was reported from **Never** to **Rarely**.
- Bronchopneumonia was reported **Commonly**.
 - *Mannheimia* was reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
 - *Pasteurella* was reported **Never** to **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
 - *Mycoplasma bovis* was reported **Never** to **Rarely**
 - Bovine parainfluenza type 3 (PI-3) was reported **Never** to **Commonly**.
- Fibrinous pneumonia was reported **Never** to **Commonly**.
 - *Mannheimia*, *Pasteurella*, and PI-3 were reported **Commonly**.
- Interstitial pneumonia was reported **Never** to **Rarely**
- Undifferentiated pneumonia was reported **Never** to **Commonly**.

Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS): Respiratory viral detections were few in dairy cattle. Three bronchopneumonia cases in dairy cattle and 15 in cattle of unknown commodity.

Manitoba Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS): Respiratory viral pathogen detections were few. Five cases of bronchopneumonia were reported.

University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM): Respiratory viral pathogen detections were few.

BC Animal Health Centre (AHC): Respiratory viral pathogen detections were few. One case of lung inflammation of unknown cause was diagnosed in a dairy animal.



Digestive system disease

Clinical impressions survey and laboratory diagnostic results

- Oro-pharyngeal disease, cecal dilation, liver disease, and other digestive diseases were reported **Never** to **Rarely**.
- Diarrhea was reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
 - *E. coli*, rotavirus, coronavirus, cryptosporidia, clostridia, and *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis (MAP, Johne's disease) were reported **Never** to **Commonly**.
- Dysentery was reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
- Bloat, grain overload, rectal disease, and traumatic reticulo-peritonitis were reported **Never** to **Rarely**.
- Abomasal ulcers and vagal indigestion were reported **Never** to **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
- Abomasal disease (e.g., LDA) was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Jejunal hemorrhage syndrome was reported **Never** to **Rarely** to **Commonly**.

PDS: Rotavirus, coronavirus, and bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) virus were not detected or were detected infrequently. One *Salmonella* ser. Dublin detection was reported. Yersiniosis (*Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*) was reported in one case. A few cases of inflamed parts of the digestive system and other digestive diseases were reported.

VDS: Diarrhea-associated viruses were not detected or were detected infrequently. Coronavirus detections decreased after the previous quarter's peak.

UCVM DSU: Five cases with rotavirus detections were reported. *Enterococcus cecorum* was cultured in 4 cases. A 2-week-old calf was diagnosed with *E. coli* enteritis and septicemia.

AHC: Diarrhea-associated viruses were not detected or were detected infrequently. Six of 33 cases had antibodies to *Salmonella* ser. Dublin.

A recent publication provided evidence that Salmonella Dublin is being repeatedly introduced onto BC farms, likely through cattle movement from the U.S. (Boyd et al., 2026).

Reproductive system disease

Clinical impressions survey and laboratory diagnostic results

- Abortions or infectious infertility, including *Campylobacter*, were reported **Never** to **Rarely**.
- Primary female reproductive disease, including uterine and ovarian disease, was reported **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
- Non-infectious causes of infertility were reported **Rarely**.

PDS: *Neospora* antibodies were detected in 2 cases. One *Tritrichomonas fetus* detection and two *Ureaplasma diversum* detections in unknown commodity cattle were reported.

VDS: One idiopathic abortion was reported.

UCVM DSU: One case associated with placentitis and one bacterial abortion.

AHC: An abortion with *Neospora*-like organisms was reported. Multiple other abortions were investigated: abortion placentitis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR)-associated abortion, idiopathic (unknown cause) abortion, and an abortion associated with nitrate/nitrite toxicosis (poisoning).

Cardiovascular system disease

Clinical impressions survey and laboratory diagnostic results

- Nutritional myopathy and other cardiovascular diseases were reported **Never**.

PDS: One case of myocarditis and one case of nutritional myopathy were reported.

Musculoskeletal system disease

Clinical impressions survey and laboratory diagnostic results

- Foot disease, digital dermatitis and arthritis from any cause were reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
- Footrot was reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**, and compared to the previous quarter, the frequency of diagnosis was **Stable** to **Increasing**.
- Sole hemorrhage, sole ulcer, post-calving injuries, and arthritis were reported **Never** to **Rarely** to **Commonly**.

Injury or other welfare-related disease

Clinical impressions survey

- Traumatic injury was reported **Commonly**.
- Emaciation was reported **Never** to **Rarely**.



Dermatological disease

Clinical impressions survey

- External parasites were reported **Rarely**.
- Fungal infections, including ringworm, were reported **Very frequently**, and linked to 4-H animals.

Practitioner reported multiple 4-H calves with ringworm. The higher reporting of ringworm may reflect differences in opportunities to observe calves, including through activities involving children and their calves. Ringworm, a zoonosis, is discussed with the kids every year, focusing on detection and infection prevention.

Multisystemic and metabolic diseases

Clinical impressions survey and laboratory diagnostic results

- Anemia, hypocalcemia, hepatic lipidosis, and hypomagnesemia were reported **Never** to **Rarely**.
- Septicemia was reported **Rarely** (3/3).
- Nutritional deficiencies and undifferentiated neonatal loss were reported **Never** (1/3) to **Rarely** (1/3) to **Commonly** (1/3).
- Ketosis was reported **Rarely** (1/2) to **Very frequently** (1/2).

PDS: One case of septicemia in dairy cattle and 7 cases in cattle of unknown commodity. Overall, septicemia diagnoses in cattle exceeded the upper control limit.

A *Staphylococcus* species named *haemolyticus* had an increasing trend at PDS in all cattle commodities but remained within the control limits.

VDS: Six MAP-positive cases were reported. One septicemia diagnosis was reported, with septicemia diagnoses higher than over the past year or so. *S. haemolyticus* was cultured in multiple cases, which was above the upper control limit and continued a high trend.

Staphylococcus aureus cultures were also high, with a peak above the upper control limit.

UCVM DSU: One case of septicemia was reported in a female calf with bacterial enteritis.

AHC: No BLV testing was performed. No MAP cases were reported. Eight *S. haemolyticus* cases and three *S. aureus* cultures were reported.

Mastitis

Clinical impressions survey and laboratory diagnostic results

- Acute mastitis was reported **Commonly**.
 - *E. coli* was reported **Commonly**, and compared to the previous quarter, the frequency of diagnosis was **Stable** to **Increasing**.
 - *Klebsiella* spp. and *Streptococcus uberis* were reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
 - *S. aureus* and *Streptococcus dysgalactiae* were reported **Rarely** to **Commonly**, with diagnosis **Stable** to **Increasing**.
- Chronic mastitis was reported **Commonly**.
 - *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* spp. and *S. uberis* were reported **Never** to **Rarely** to **Commonly**.
 - *S. aureus* was reported **Rarely** to **Commonly** to **Very frequently**.
 - Most agents of chronic mastitis were reported to be diagnosed at a **Stable** to **Increasing** rate, except for *M. bovis*.

PDS: *S. aureus* cultures from milk and mastitis analyses showed a decreasing trend.

VDS: *S. aureus* cultures from milk and mastitis analyses showed an increasing trend. Increasing trends were also reported for *S. haemolyticus*, *S. dysgalactiae* ssp. *dysgalactiae*, and other bacteria.

UCVM DSU: Two cases with *S. haemolyticus* were reported. Two *S. aureus* cultures were reported.

AHC: Thirty cases involving 205 samples had milk analyses performed. Among cultured bacteria, *S. uberis* was the most frequently cultured, followed by *Staphylococcus chromogenes* and *S. haemolyticus*.



4) Scan and Other Updates

New World screwworm (NWS): Cases continue in Mexico (SENASICA dashboard [LINK](#) [Spanish]), Texas and New Mexico ([screwworm.gov](#)). NWS was confirmed in a calf in Texas on June 3, 2026, the first U.S. detection since 1966 ([ABC News](#)). Canada has restricted live-animal imports from affected U.S. states ([CFIA](#)).

Shamonda-like virus: a virus related to the Schmallenberg virus was detected in cattle in Germany, Switzerland and France during the summer *Culicoides* midge season. Cattle had mild diarrhea, fever, depression and drop in milk production. Reproductive effects have not been confirmed but are likely. ([beaconbio.org](#))

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI): HPAI has not been detected in Canadian dairy cattle; all 11,391 raw milk samples tested by CFIA as of July 30, 2026, were negative ([CFIA, 2026](#)). In the U.S., 11 new dairy herds were affected between July 8 and August 7, 2026, bringing the total to 1,171 confirmed cases across 20 states ([LINK](#)).

Producer Takeaways:

1. A *Salmonella* Dublin abortion outbreak in a closed herd highlighted the risk of disease introduction through farm visitors. Strengthen biosecurity, especially by managing visitor access and animal movements.
2. Contact your veterinarian early when multiple adult cows develop respiratory disease. In one outbreak, Influenza D was only identified after repeat testing, showing that some respiratory infections can be difficult to diagnose.
3. Review your pinkeye prevention plan with your herd veterinarian. Vaccination showed variable success, so focus on fly control and reducing environmental risk factors.
4. Shamonda-like virus is spreading in several countries in Europe causing diarrhea, fever and drop in milk production in ruminants. The virus, transmitted by midges, is similar to the Schmallenberg virus and producers are concerned about possible reproductive effects.

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