



The WeCAHN Smallholder Network held a quarterly videoconference meeting on June 11th, 2026, to discuss animal health events occurring from January to March 2026 with veterinary practitioners, diagnosticians, veterinary college faculty, researchers, public veterinarians, 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 Laboratory (VDS), Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS), and University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM DSU).
3. Scan: smallholder surveillance reported by other sources or networks.



2) Interesting Cases

i) Case Study: Toxoplasmosis outbreak in goats

- A veterinarian requested advice after a toxoplasmosis abortion outbreak in a small goat flock.
- The discussion focused on future abortion risk and immunity after infection.

ii) Case Study: *Coxiella* spp. detected in goats

- *Coxiella* spp. was detected in a herd of about 40 goats.
- The herd did not experience a large abortion outbreak.
- Good biosecurity and personal protection practices during kidding were already in place.



iii) Case Study: Porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) in outdoor swine

- A 15-sow outdoor operation experienced an outbreak of PED, resulting in the loss of two litters.
- Later litters appeared healthy, suggesting the herd was developing immunity.
- The infection was thought to have been introduced by a transport vehicle returning from a slaughter facility.
- PED is a provincially reportable disease in Manitoba ([LINK](#)), and Alberta ([LINK](#)).

3) Syndromic Surveillance

Important information

Clinical impression surveys

Quarterly surveys are completed by network practitioners. Answers:

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.



Small poultry flocks

Clinical impression survey

- **Multisystemic disease:** Early mortality was **Rarely** reported and **Increasing**. Aggression/cannibalism, bacterial septicemia, and Marek's disease were reported **Rarely** to **Commonly** and remained **Stable**, while fowl cholera, fowl pox, and *Salmonella* were **Never** reported and **Stable**.
- **Digestive disease:** Coccidiosis was reported **Rarely** and **Stable**, while peritonitis was **Commonly** reported and **Stable**.
- **Reproductive disease:** Ovarian adenocarcinoma was **Commonly** reported and **Stable**. Hatchability problems, yolk sac infections, and infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) were **Never** reported and **Stable**.
- **Respiratory disease:** *Mycoplasma* was **Commonly** reported and **Stable**, while histomoniasis, respiratory IBV, and infectious laryngotracheitis were **Never** reported and **Stable**.
- **Musculoskeletal disease:** Bacterial, developmental, and viral lameness were **Never** reported and **Stable**.

Laboratory Diagnostic Results

At **Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS)** laboratory, one chicken was diagnosed with *E. coli* septicemia, while another had *Clostridium perfringens* necrotic enteritis. Both cases tested negative for Influenza A, and the *E. coli* isolate showed resistance to several antibiotics.

Across poultry submitted to diagnostic laboratories, *E. coli*, infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT), Marek's disease, Influenza A (H5), and several *Salmonella* types were detected. These findings were reported as routine laboratory detections, with no indication that they exceeded control limits.



Small flocks of small ruminants

Clinical Impressions Survey

- **Digestive disease:** Johne's disease, strongylosis, and haemonchosis were reported **Rarely** and **Stable**. Neonatal diarrhea, non-parasitic diarrhea, and coccidiosis were **Never** reported and **Decreasing**.
- **Respiratory disease:** Pneumonia in young and adult animals was **Never** reported and **Stable**.
- **Multisystemic disease:** Caseous lymphadenitis was **Rarely** reported and **Decreasing** while toxin ingestion was **Never** reported and **Stable**.
- **Neurologic disease:** Listeriosis and polioencephalomalacia were **Never** reported and **Stable**.
- **Skin disease:** Keds were **Never** reported and **Stable**, while lice were **Rarely** reported and **Decreasing**.
- **Musculoskeletal disease:** Foot rot was **Never** reported and **Stable**, while other causes of lameness were **Rarely** reported and **Stable**.
- **Reproductive disease:** Mastitis, congenital defects, and pregnancy toxemia were **Rarely** reported and **Stable**. Gynecomastia was **Never** reported and **Stable**.
- **Urinary disease:** Urolithiasis was **Never** reported and **Decreasing**.

Laboratory Diagnostic Results

At the **University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM)**, cases included bacterial pneumonia, osteomyelitis, copper toxicosis, intestinal disease, coccidiosis, hepatitis, nutritional deficiencies, and goitre. Some animals tested negative for *Salmonella*, rotavirus, coronavirus, *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Clostridium* spp., and disease-causing *E. coli*.

Across all small ruminant submissions, diagnostic laboratories detected Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis virus (CAEV), Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP)/Maedi-Visna virus, Johne's disease, *Coxiella burnetii*, *Chlamydia abortus*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*, bacterial pneumonia, abortions, neurologic disease, septicemia (sometimes known as blood poisoning), and mastitis. These findings were reported as routine laboratory detections, with no indication that they exceeded control limits.

Small Herds of Swine

Clinical Impressions Survey and Laboratory Diagnostic Results

No swine clinical impression surveys were completed this quarter. No submissions were reported for laboratory diagnosis during this period.



4) Scan and other updates

- Project to launch an online educational platform for sheep and goat hobby farmers in British Columbia by Dr. Mélodie Ares Monast. Funding and partnerships are being pursued to keep training affordable for producers.
- BC's [Disease Detection Program for Smallholders](#) Summary: Leading diagnoses in small flock poultry submissions remain yolk peritonitis and Marek's disease.
- [WeCAHN Poultry Network](#) discussions highlighted outbreaks of gangrene in commercial turkeys and ulcers in the skin of layers associated with the bacteria *Staphylococcus agnetis*.
- Manitoba is planning phased highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) vaccination trials in layers and turkeys beginning in 2026.
- [WeCAHN Small Ruminant Network](#) notable findings included bacterial stomach infections in lambs, and herpesvirus was identified during a goat abortion investigation. [Q-GAPS](#) program on Q fever prevention was highlighted.
- No HPAI H5N1 has been detected in Canadian dairy cattle despite extensive milk testing ([CFIA](#)). Few to no poultry farms are affected ([CFIA](#)).
- Internationally, HPAI H5N1 remained widespread with 14 U.S. dairy cattle cases ([LINK](#)) and ongoing poultry outbreaks ([USDA-APHIS](#)).
- A multistate *Salmonella* outbreak linked to backyard poultry in the U.S. was associated with contact with poultry, particularly with ducks ([CDC](#)).
- Sheep and goat pox continued to expand in southeastern Europe ([Greece Ministry of Rural Development and Food, WAHIS](#)).
- Foot-and-mouth disease (SAT-1) spread across several regions prompted calls for enhanced preparedness ([Cyprus Mail, 2026](#); [DEFRA](#)).
- New World screwworm was confirmed in Texas ([ABC News](#)). See screwworm.gov

5) Producer Takeaways

1. Many infectious causes of abortions were identified this quarter (for example, toxoplasmosis and Q fever). Wear gloves and a face mask when handling abortions in sheep and goats and wash your hands well afterwards.
2. Vehicles that have visited assembly yards, holding facilities, or slaughter plants can bring disease-causing organisms back to your farm. Ensure vehicles are properly washed, disinfected, and dried before allowing them back in your property.
3. Avian influenza is still around and can look like a drop in egg production, diarrhea, increased deaths in the flock, swelling of the eyes, and wattles and combs ([CFIA, 2026](#)). If you suspect disease in your chickens, ducks or other poultry, contact your veterinarian.

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