



The WeCAHN Smallholder Network held a quarterly videoconference meeting on June 11th, 2026, to discuss animal health events from January to March 2026. The session brought together veterinarians, diagnosticians, researchers, public veterinarians, and industry representatives. Data were synthesized from clinical impressions surveys completed by practitioners and laboratory submissions from Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS), Manitoba Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS), and the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM DSU).



1) Interesting cases

- **Case study:** Toxoplasmosis outbreak in goats. Additional expertise is being sought on future abortion risk and immunity after infection.
- **Case study:** *Coxiella* spp. was detected in a flock of about 40 goats. The herd did not experience a large abortion outbreak. Good biosecurity practices during kidding were already in place.
- **Case study:** Porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) was detected in a 15-sow outdoor operation in Manitoba. Two litters were lost, but later litters appeared healthy, suggesting the herd was developing immunity. It was suspected that the virus was introduced by a transport vehicle returning from a slaughter facility. PED is a provincially reportable disease in Manitoba ([LINK](#)) and Alberta ([LINK](#)).



2) Syndromic Surveillance

- **Small poultry flocks:** Clinical impressions surveys (CIS) reported increasing early mortality, while other diseases were stable. Laboratory findings included septicemia (sometimes known as blood poisoning) caused by *E. coli*, gut infection, reproductive disease, and Influenza A (H5) in ducks.
- **Small flocks of small ruminants:** CIS reported generally stable diagnoses. There were multiple laboratory diagnoses, including pneumonia, abortion, caseous lymphadenitis, and septicemia. Johne's disease, Q fever, *Chlamydia*, and *Toxoplasma* were detected.
- **Small herds of swine:** No swine CIS were received this quarter, and no submissions were received 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 a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) vaccination trial starting in the fall of 2026 with one layer flock and later with one turkey flock.
- [WeCAHN Small Ruminant Network](#) notable findings included bacterial stomach infections in lambs, and identification of caprine herpesvirus during a goat abortion investigation. The German [Q-GAPS](#) program on Q fever prevention was described.
- 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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