

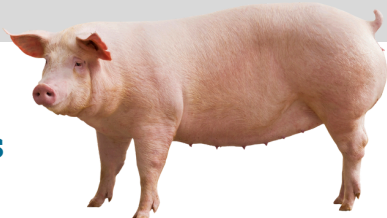


The WeCAHN Smallholder Network held a quarterly videoconference meeting on November 29th, 2024, to discuss the animal health events occurring from July to September 2024, with veterinary practitioners, diagnosticians, veterinary college faculty, researchers, and industry representatives in attendance.

## 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 Services Diagnostic Laboratory (VDSL), Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS), and University of Calgary College of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM DSU).
3. Scan: smallholder surveillance reported by other sources of networks.



## Interesting cases

### 1) Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is present in small poultry flocks and small herds

- Two pigs from a smallholder farm in Oregon tested positive for HPAI. Three other pigs were negative ([LINK](#) to news article and USDA [LINK](#)).
  - The pigs were tested after HPAI was identified in poultry with the same environment and water source. One of the pigs ate a dead wild bird.
- HPAI has been detected in BC, AB and QC in non-commercial poultry farms affected ([LINK](#)).

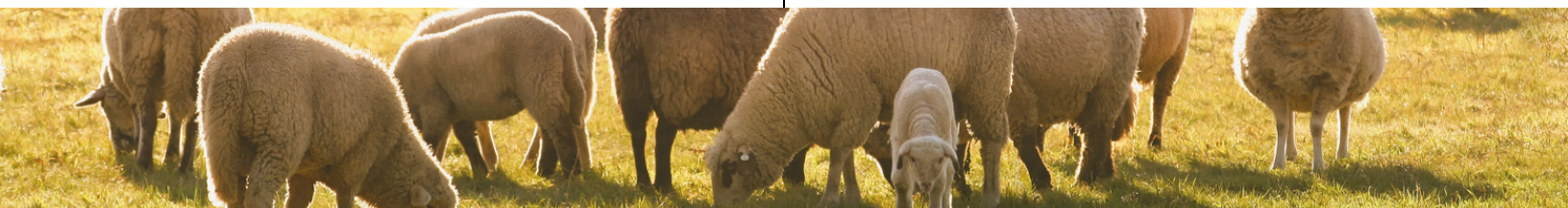
### Take-home messages:

1. Keep pigs and birds separate. Pigs are opportunistic eaters and will eat dead wild birds if they have the chance to do so. A pig that eats dead wild birds may get infected with HPAI.
2. HPAI is present in small poultry flocks in Canada this year. ([LINK](#) to information on HPAI and [LINK](#) to “How to prevent and detect disease in small flocks and pet birds”)



### 2) 7-year-old male mixed breed goat died after a bladder rupture

- The goat was quiet, losing weight and straining to pass urine for 2 weeks.
- The goat’s bladder ruptured, most likely after a bladder stone moved into the urethra (tube between the bladder to the tip of the penis) and blocked the passage of urine.
- Stones in the bladder or urinary tract (urolithiasis) are a common problem for sheep and goats.
- **Take-home message:** A male goat or sheep that is straining to pass urine or cannot pass urine is an emergency. Please contact your veterinarian.



## Scan

### Alberta update

New [Small-scale swine disease investigations program](#):

- The main goal is the early detection of provincially and federally reportable porcine diseases (details below).
- This project can help producers directly or private veterinarians who refer cases from small-scale swine producers. The herd's symptoms must meet at least one of the criteria ([LINK](#) to criteria).
- The Premises identification number is mandatory ([LINK](#) for application).

### Manitoba update

- The MB extension veterinarian and livestock specialist are creating a euthanasia workshop for small-scale swine herds. Details on the workshop will be shared once they are finalized.

## Meeting takeaways

1. HPAI and avian metapneumovirus are present in Canada. "Follow 5 basic rules in the day-to-day care of your birds to reduce the risks posed by harmful diseases.
  - a. Prevent contact with wild birds and other animals
  - b. Clean, clean and clean
  - c. Spot the signs and report early
  - d. Limit exposure to visitors
  - e. Keep new birds separate when entering your flock" ([LINK](#) to CFIA website)
2. There are multiple programs to support smallholder farmers in the event of disease in their animals. Contact your veterinarian and look into these programs:



Group of small flocks/herds	BC	AB	SK	MB
Poultry	<a href="#">Disease Detection Program for Smallholders</a>	<a href="#">Non-quota or non-commercial poultry disease investigations</a>	<a href="#">Small Flock Poultry Surveillance Program</a>	<a href="#">Small Flock Avian Influenza Program</a>
Small ruminants	<a href="#">Disease Detection Program for Smallholders</a>			
Swine	<a href="#">Disease Detection Program for Smallholders</a>	<a href="#">Small-scale swine disease investigations</a>	<a href="#">Small Holder Swine Health Surveillance Program</a>	

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