



Canadian Swine Health
Intelligence Network

Réseau canadien de
surveillance de la santé porcine

Year in Review

The Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) would summarize that this past year focussed on review, reflection and change. Dr. Chris Byra announced his retirement after the 2018 Q1 call. Dr. Byra was a supporter of CSHIN from the beginning under the direction of the Canadian Swine Health Board. He dedicated many years of his career towards ensuring that CSHIN was functioning and sustainable and understood its importance in filling in a gap for national swine surveillance. A huge thank-you goes out to Dr. Byra for all his years of hard work and we wish him well in his retirement.

Starting in Q2 2018, Dr. Christa Arsenault was hired into the role of CSHIN Manager. Dr. Arsenault brings with her experience gained from working with swine in a mixed animal practice, working in roles for both the federal and provincial government and co-leading the Ontario Animal Health Swine Network (OAHN). Dr. Arsenault is excited to be named the next manager for CSHIN and has thoroughly enjoyed meeting and beginning to develop relationships with the network members over the past several months.

Both funding partners; the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) and the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV), supported a review of CSHIN with the goal of documenting what works well and what aspects could be improved to ensure that this network was functioning at its highest potential. From this review a few items surfaced. Below summarizes some of these items and actions.

Each regional network was asked to review who they would ask to represent them on CSHIN calls. The Canadian West Swine Health Intelligence Network (CWSHIN) decided to send different representation to each call depending on what discussion points were sent up for discussion. Other regional networks such as Réseau d'alerte et d'information zoosanitaire (RAIZO) and OAHN decided to send the same representation to each CSHIN call for consistency. The Maritimes recruited Dr. Ryan Tenbergen to regularly attend calls along with Dr. Dan Hurnik. Each regional network provides the data, information and context of discussion to each topic that they bring forward. Therefore, it is important that decisions made at the CSHIN level will work for the regional networks.

Representation from all participating organizations including CFIA, AAFC, CPC and CASV was also reviewed. These organizations were asked to ensure that they are adequately represented and to ensure that each participant understood who they are representing on CSHIN calls. For any network to function to the best of its ability, trust must be given from all participants. This will enable willingness to share information and reliance on others to provide context. For participants to feel that they can give their trust to other participants, all must abide by a strict level of confidentiality and understand that their input is valuable.

This review led into further discussion on the products that are produced from CSHIN network calls. It was identified that each regional network needs to be engaged in the overall products that are produced. Each regional network puts forth a list of topics for CSHIN discussions and they are asked to lead the discussions that take place on CSHIN calls surrounding these topics. The quarterly reports are generated directly from this discussion, so it is also important for network participants to review the content and provide input into these reports before they are further disseminated. The reports

produced are targeted at 2 audiences; veterinarians and producers. During the next year, more focus will be placed on ensuring that these products are meeting the needs of these 2 target audiences.

A review took place of the distribution lists for CSHIN. With the help of resources from CASV both Dr. Klopfenstein and Susan Fitzgerald dedicated time to review these lists to ensure that people receiving the CSHIN reports were members of the target audiences and included others that need access to this information within Canada. In 2019, focus will be put into creating and developing a website for CSHIN where information can be posted and the great work that we do can be shared with others.

The CWSHIN led a discussion, with the other regional networks, on new ideas of how data and information could be collected, analyzed and correlated with the information received from practicing veterinarians on the clinical impression survey. This work will continue throughout 2019.

Time was also dedicated to working with the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) throughout this year. Discussions were centered around how CSHIN and CAHSS complement each other and how one could benefit the other. It was also noted that replication of tasks between these 2 networks must be avoided. A detailed CAHSS swine network map was created including a detailed section on CSHIN.

In summary, the year 2018 was a year for review, reflection and included some change for the CSHIN team. We look forward to the upcoming year to be able to continue with some of these ongoing initiatives and we are excited to share this information with the CASV membership.

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