



CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

2025-2026

 **AnimalHealthCanada**  **SantéAnimaleCanada**

Canadian
Animal
Health
Surveillance
System  **CAHSS**
DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA



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2025-2026

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CAHSS VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

National collaboration and information sharing leading to effective, responsive, integrated animal health surveillance in Canada.

OUR MISSION

To bring together and use data-driven information to demonstrate animal health, minimize impacts of disease and guide surveillance planning from a national perspective.

ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

A sustainable agriculture and agri-food sector strengthened by an inclusive industry-governments partnership protecting the health and welfare of farmed animals.

OUR MISSION

Animal Health Canada provides leadership in building a collaborative, multi-partner model that clarifies the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of each partner implementing an animal health strategy for Canada, beginning with emergency management.



AnimalHealthCanada
SantéAnimaleCanada

ABOUT
CAHSS, A DIVISION OF
ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA

LETTER FROM CAHSS

DR. MURRAY GILLIES
CAHSS DIVISION DIRECTOR



Dear CAHSS community;

While 2024-2025 was a year that established CAHSS as a significant player in Canada's information sharing, early warning and emergency preparedness systems, the 2025-2026 year showed how we have built and continue to build CAHSS to work across sectors and issues. Our continued presence as a trusted network populated by trusted networks has elevated CAHSS to a membership of over 1,000 people, representing more than 65,000 potential engagement hours across our 10 networks and various working groups, through meeting time, knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration. This level of commitment and expertise is only attainable by groups like CAHSS and is a point of great pride for me and the CAHSS team!

CAHSS made significant strides towards our project deliverables this year. Of note has been the completion of both the Beef and the Dairy network prioritization activities and the release of quarterly reports tying the network prioritizations to the CAHSS data platform. I am excited to continue to grow this large project by bringing on more labs and provincial abattoirs to gain data sources and by finishing prioritization activities for our other networks to generate more quarterly reports. Although this does not significantly advance work in foreign animal disease preparedness, it will help our networks identify and deal with the issues that continue to cause significant economic impacts to their sectors: Bovine Respiratory Disease, Antimicrobial Resistance, Carcass Condemnations, etc. This highlights the flexibility of CAHSS to shift between addressing emerging diseases and common diseases of high impact.

CAHSS' strength has always been and always will be our networks. We were excited to expand our network reach into two new areas this year, adding both a Wildlife and an Aquaculture network. Wildlife started off strong with 78 attendees at our first meeting, demonstrating a clear desire to enhance surveillance in this space. I am also very excited to see how the Aquaculture network will develop. After only two meetings, it has already proven its strength in connecting experts across Canada to address significant issues affecting food production and trade such as MSX and Dermo. If there is a need, CAHSS will continue to work to fill and support those needs and we have the flexibility to branch out into any space our members feel is appropriate.

Our presence is not going unnoticed. CAHSS, through both Murray, our division director, and Emma, our Coordinator, attended 23 conferences, high level meetings and speaking engagements including the WOAH General Assembly. When people see the quality of the work that we do, when they hear the expertise and the reach that CAHSS represents and meet the great people within CAHSS, they get excited and motivated to see how they can contribute to surveillance, preparedness, animal health and One Health for Canada. This motivation should not be overlooked as we currently live in a world where motivation can be low, but knowledge, expertise and ideas are everywhere. We have exciting plans for 2026-2027 and we look forward to continuing to work together to observe, connect, detect, and protect.

Cheers!

Dr. Murray Gillies

CAHSS Director (A division of Animal Health Canada)

CAHSS TEAM

The CAHSS team has grown over the last few years. Most recently, there has been some movement of team members to the EM Division and from the EM Division to CAHSS. The surveillance division is proud to have a core team with diverse skillset, expertise, and professional interests:



DR. MURRAY GILLIES, DIVISION DIRECTOR

Dr. Murray Gillies is a bovine practitioner and dairy producer. Murray joined CAHSS as the Coordinator in January 2024 and became the interim Division Director in January 2025.



DR. EMMA GARDNER, CAHSS COORDINATOR → NOW EM DIRECTOR

Dr. Emma Gardner is a veterinary epidemiologist. Emma joined CAHSS in January 2025 and the Coordinator, and has now moved over to the EM Division as their Director.

"I'm very grateful for my year as CAHSS Coordinator. The CAHSS team has been wonderful to work with, and it's been a pleasure supporting such engaged members and partners in advancing surveillance efforts. I look forward to continuing this work in my new role with the Emergency Management Division at AHC."



BECKY ANDERSON, CAHSS COORDINATOR (AS OF APRIL 1, 2026)

Becky Anderson is a science communicator with a Master's degree in pathobiology. She joined CAHSS as the Coordinator in April, 2026.

"I am most excited about supporting and creating meaningful opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration across sectors, with a One Health lens. As a network of networks, CAHSS has a unique strength, and I look forward to helping these networks grow while supporting disease surveillance across Canada."



DR. MARIANNE PARENT, VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Dr. Marianne Parent is a veterinary epidemiologist. Marianne joined CAHSS and the Western Canadian Animal Health Network in January 2024.

"I am most proud of the tremendous advancements of the CAHSS data platform this year. The Antimicrobial Sensitivity Testing dashboard has progressed rapidly and now includes 13 views, ranging from examining antimicrobial resistance by class to summarizing antibiograms by syndrome."



TALIA STRANG, CAHSS PROJECT LEAD → NOW EM PROJECT LEAD

Talia Strang has a Master's degree in public health. Talia joined CAHSS as a contractor in March 2022 and became the Project Lead in September 2024.

"I am most proud of supporting the expansion of the CAHSS Networks to include a dedicated Wildlife Network and a focused Aquaculture Network, to facilitate collaboration and information sharing with a broader range of partners"



DR. AFOLAKEMI ADENIJI, EM PROJECT LEAD → NOW CAHSS PROJECT LEAD

Dr. Afolakemi (Kemi) Adeniji, is an internationally trained veterinarian and holds a master's degree in Population Medicine (Epidemiology with an applied clinical research specialty)

"Although I've only been actively involved with CAHSS for a few months, I recently transitioned from EM into the CAHSS Project Lead role. I've particularly enjoyed supporting the coordination of prioritization exercises and seeing the level of engagement across partners. I'm looking forward to building on this experience and contributing to the coordination of future CAHSS activities"

CAHSS' NETWORK OF NETWORKS

The success of CAHSS is largely credited to its **network of networks** model that is built on established animal health groups and partnerships in Canada. CAHSS acts to ensure that animal health surveillance activities are conducted effectively and efficiently. CAHSS leverages surveillance partners and members for guidance and leadership, as well as the sharing of information and best practices for surveillance within our **eight species specific** (Aquaculture, Beef, Companion Animal, Dairy, Equine, Poultry, Small Ruminant, and Wildlife) and **two special topics** (Antimicrobial Use/Resistance and Vector-Borne Diseases) networks.

Network changes this year included transforming the Aquatic Network into the **Aquaculture Network**, and creating a new **Wildlife Network** focused on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Additional working groups were formed based on the unique priorities and needs of the network groups, including the smallholder working group and the wildlife-domestic animal interface working group.

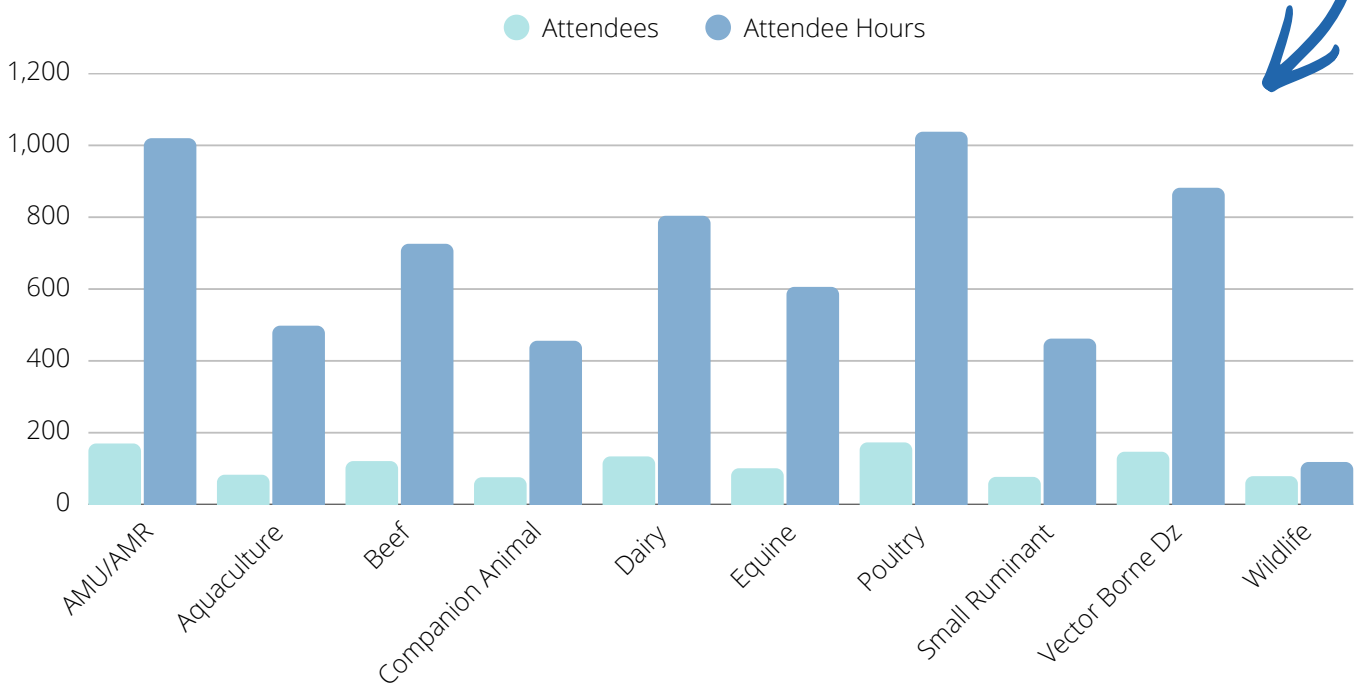
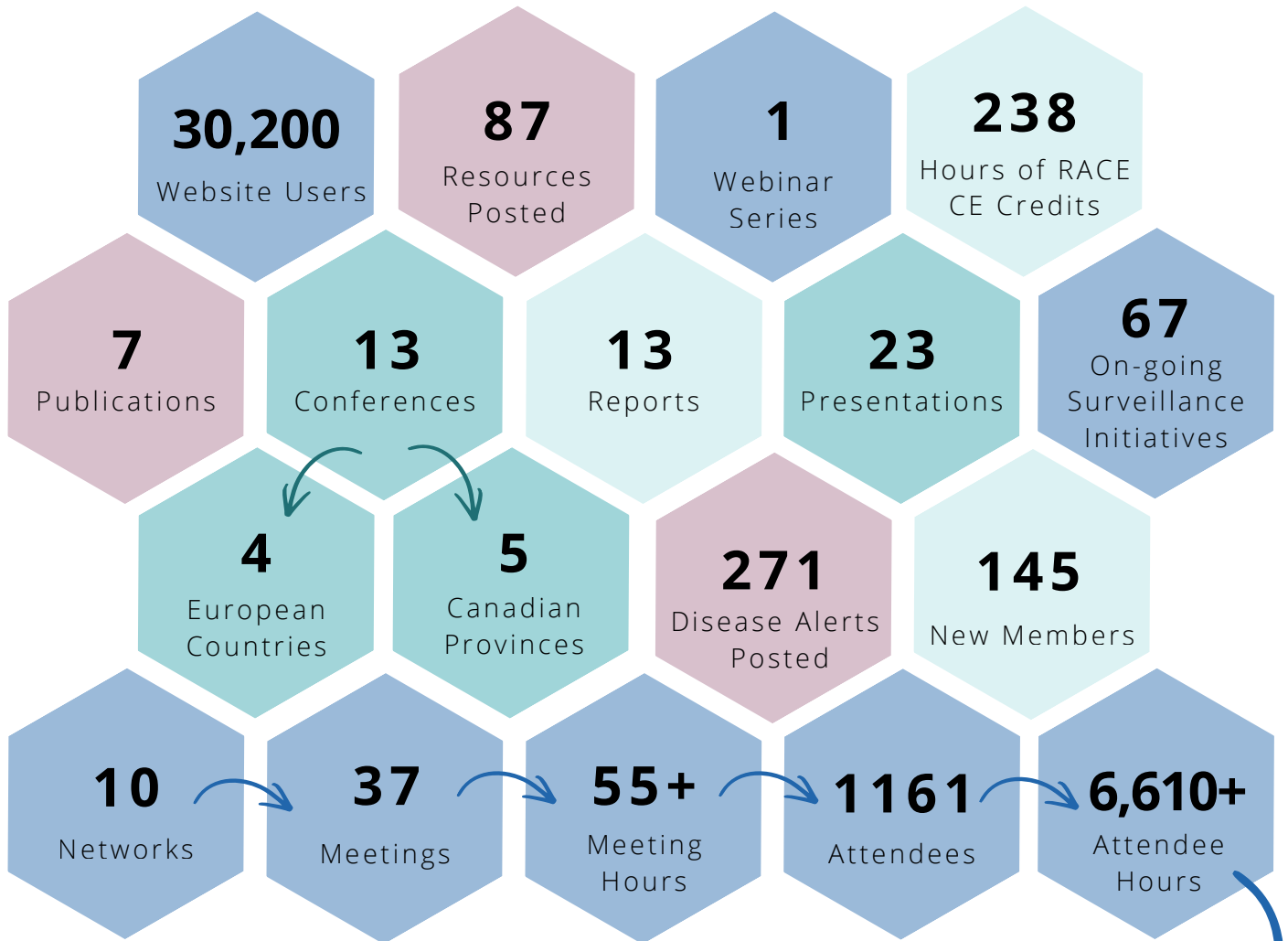
Each CAHSS network model is the same, but partnerships vary within each network. We are proud to work in collaboration with partners across sectors and disciplines, with representation from the animal and agri-food industry organizations and associations, federal/ provincial/ territorial governments including agriculture, animal health and public health, and environment, animal health laboratories, universities, provincial and regional surveillance networks, and more.



Our CAHSS network members are not only active participants in information sharing at our virtual meetings through the cross-Canada roundtable, but they also contribute by identifying surveillance priorities and developing resources and tools to advance and improve animal health in Canada.

From April 2025 to March 2026, CAHSS organized a total of **45 network and working group meetings** for our network members, with **over 67 hours** of information and resource sharing that occurred across multi-sectoral groups and agencies.

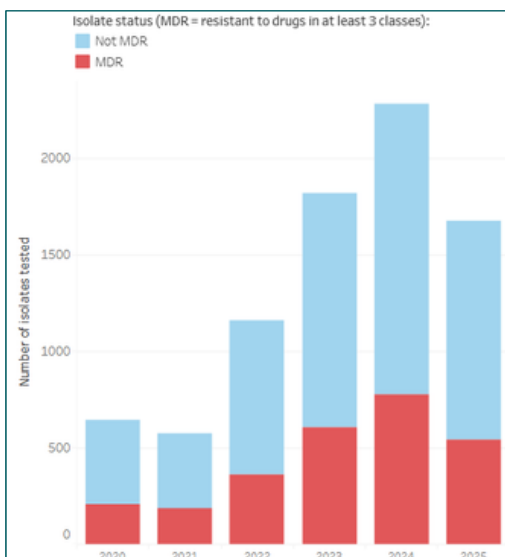
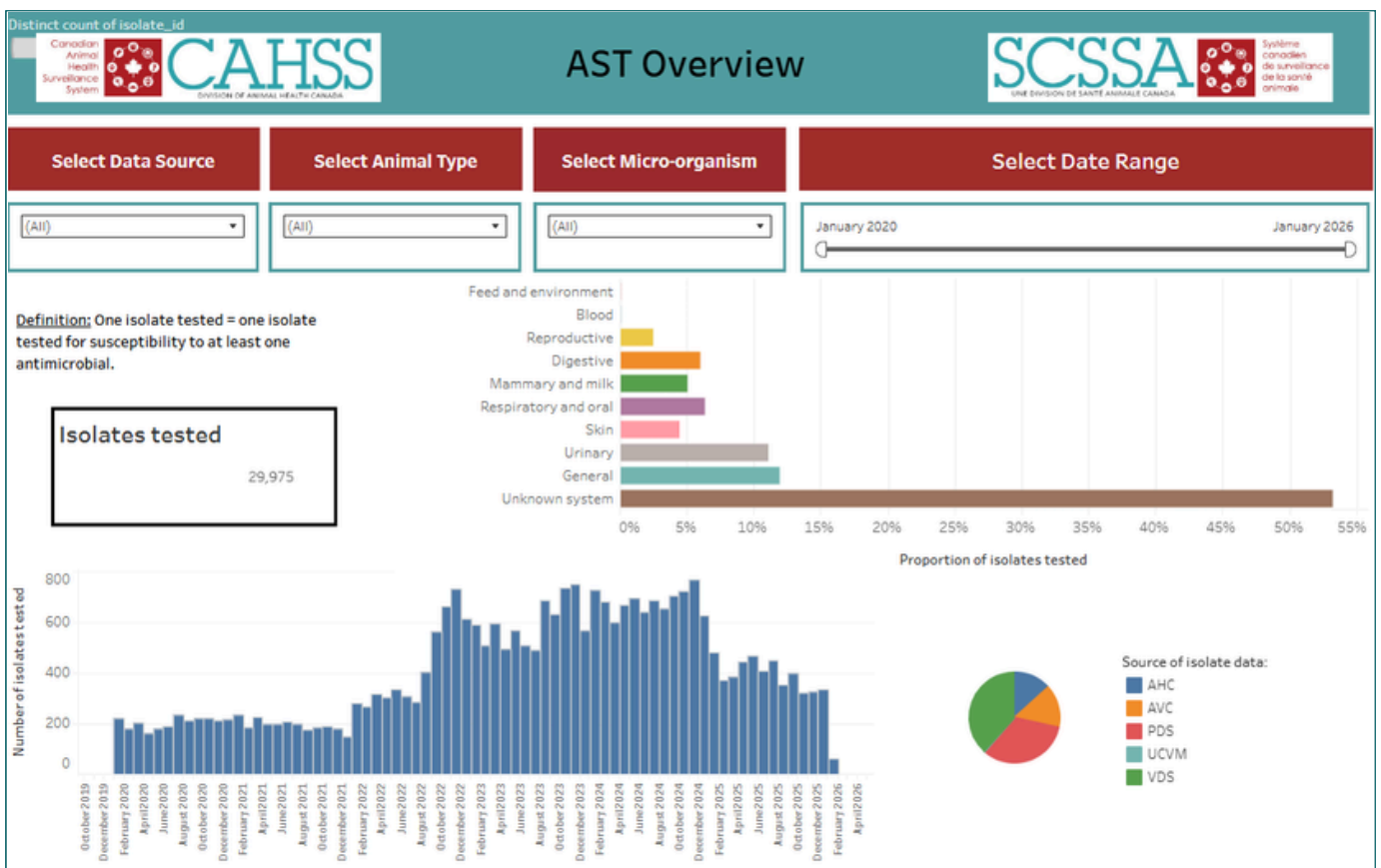
CAHSS' YEAR AT A GLANCE



CAHSS AST DASHBOARD

Led by CAHSS, the national data platform consolidates and transforms disparate data into a standardized format. **Over the last year**, the development of the provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratory dashboard has progressed substantially.

A **new view** provides an overview of the bacterial isolates tested by the participating veterinary diagnostic laboratories.



Additional views are developed to examine trends in **bacterial antimicrobial resistance**.

Data are organized by:

- year
- sample type
- antimicrobial class
- methicillin resistance
- resistance to multiple drugs (e.g., on the left)

to help look for patterns that may require additional evaluation or discussion.



CAHSS WILDLIFE NETWORK

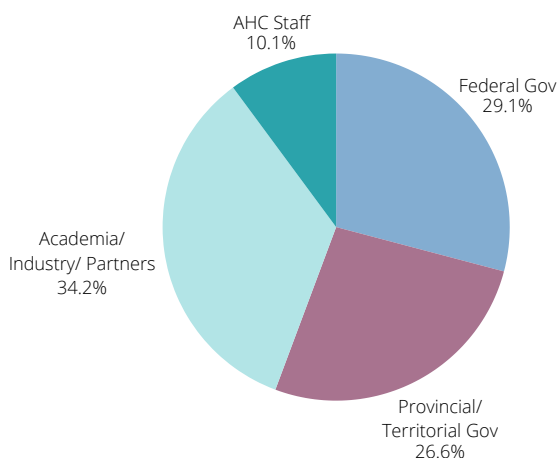
The Wildlife Network aims to launch and shape a new national forum for wildlife health surveillance in Canada.

The Wildlife Network's main goals are to:

- **Build a connected wildlife health community before crises happen**
- **Improve information and knowledge exchange** across wildlife, domestic animal, public health, environmental, academic, Indigenous, government, and industry partners.
- **Strengthen coordination across jurisdictions and sectors**
- **Identify shared priorities, gaps, and needs in wildlife surveillance**, including data sharing, geographic coverage, diagnostics, training, funding, and harmonized approaches.
- **Create practical outputs over time**, such as shared priorities, surveillance guidance, communication pathways, collaborative projects, and possibly a national “playbook” or framework for wildlife health surveillance.
- **Support earlier detection and faster action** by connecting existing programs, expertise, data, and field observations.



Our first Wildlife Network meeting was held February 5, 2026 with 79 attendees:



Wildlife health is closely connected to the health of people, domestic animals, ecosystems, and communities. This network emphasizes that wildlife should not be viewed only as a disease risk to humans or agriculture, but also as a population at risk from climate change, biodiversity loss, land-use change, environmental contamination, and other pressures.

Canada needs a stronger way to detect, understand, and respond to wildlife health signals. Many partners already collect valuable information, but the system can be fragmented by region, species, mandate, or sector. A national network can help make sure signals are not missed, efforts are not duplicated, and data and expertise are used more effectively.

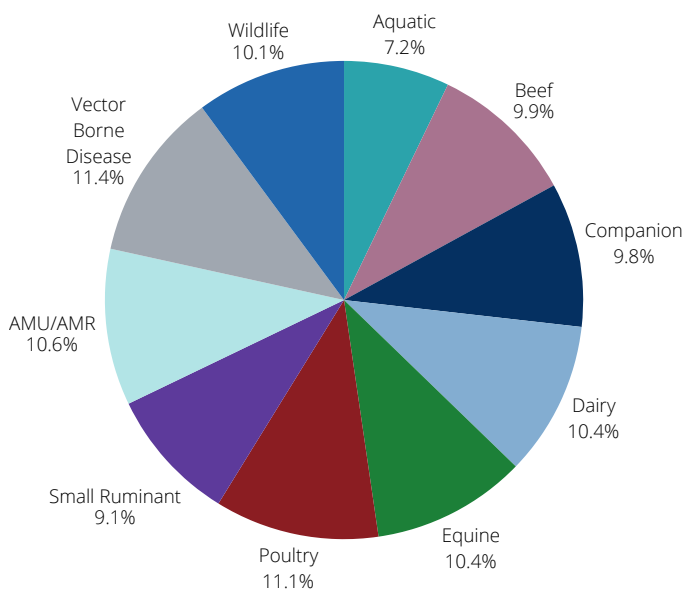


CAHSS MEMBERSHIP

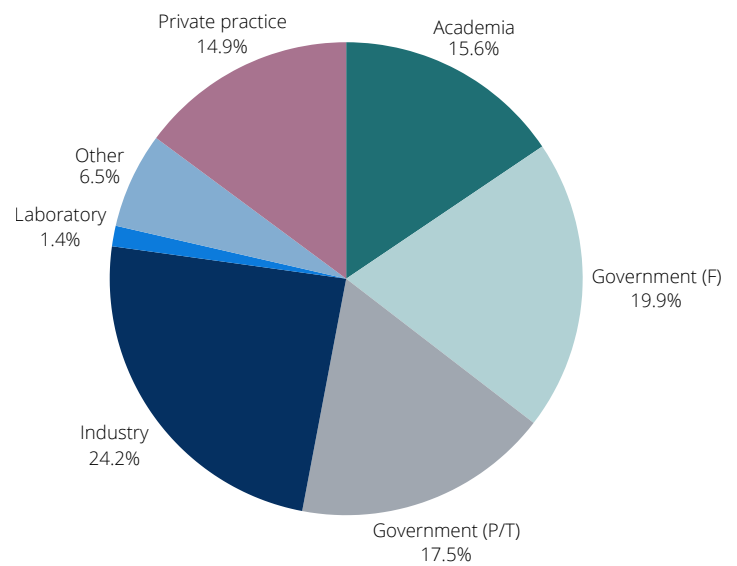


This year we reached over 1000 members!

Membership by CAHSS Species and Special Topics Networks



Membership by Organization or Agency



We encourage our members to log on to the Portal (password protected) side of the [CAHSS website](#) and to update their member profile. Doing so allows us to compile the most up to date information about the composition of our CAHSS members.

MEMBERSHIP
AT A GLANCE



CAHSS GOVERNANCE

STEERING GROUP TO LEAD CAHSS

Overall leadership of CAHSS is provided by the AHC Council, as well as the CAHSS Steering Group, which includes representatives from CAHSS's species networks, as well as Community of Practice members. Community of Practice members are from organizations that provide insight into surveillance oversight and best practices. This includes members from federal/ provincial/ territorial governments, Council of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVO), and diagnostic laboratories.

The CAHSS Steering Group structure is designed for strong industry representation within CAHSS governance.

CAHSS LEADERS MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

Steering Group Members

- Species Network Representative (Beef): Dr. Cheryl Waldner
- Species Network Representative (Equine): Dr. Amanda Emery
- Species Network Representative (Poultry): Dr. Cynthia Philippe
- CFIA Representative: Dr. Noel Harrington
- PHAC Representative: Dr. Richard Reid-Smith
- CEZD Representative: Dr. Andrea Osborn
- CSHIN Representative: Dr. Christa Arsenault
- Provincial Epidemiologist: Dr. Glen Duizer (Steering Group Chair)
- Diagnostic Animal Health Laboratory Director: Dr. Maria Spinato
- Provincial Chief Veterinary Officer: Dr. Jill Wood

Steering Group Observers

- Species Network Representative (Aquatic): Dr. Laura Sitter
- Species Network Representative (Companion Animal): Dr. Erica Sims
- Species Network Representative (Small Ruminant): n/a
- Partner Network Representative (WeCAHN): Dr. Ana Ulmer Franco
- Partner Network Representative (OAHN): Dr. Tanya Rossi
- Partner Network Representative (RAIZO): Dr. Marie Eve Brochu-Morin
- Partner Network Representative (AtCAHN): Dr. Nicole Wanamaker

Network Leads

- Aquaculture Network: Dr. Krishna Thakur
- Beef Network: Dr. Gabriela Guigou
- Companion Animal Network: Dr. Maureen Anderson, Dr. Scott Weese
- Dairy Network: Dr. Chris Luby
- Equine Network: Jean Klosowicz, Mikki Shatosky
- Poultry Network: Jessica Heyerhoff, Victoria Sikur
- Small Ruminant Network: Dr. Katie Waine
- Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Network: Dr. Daniella Rizzo
- Vector Borne Diseases Network: Dr. Jasmine Dhillon, Dr. Shaun Dergousoff

CAHSS network chair representatives are also encouraged to participate in regularly scheduled CAHSS meetings held online with the collective group of **CAHSS Leaders**.

We would like to thank **Dr. Karin Orsel and Dr. Ashley Whitehead** for their years of contribution to the CAHSS Leaders group and for their dedicated leadership and work in the past few years.

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER S-CAP (2025-2026)

From 2023 to 2028, CAHSS is committed on supporting the activities under the following categories:

1. Data integration and synthesis in a One Health context
2. Enhancing and building core competencies within CAHSS networks
3. Strengthening surveillance for animal health emergency scenarios

HIGHLIGHTS FROM EACH ACTIVITY FROM 2025-2026:

ACTIVITY 1: DATA INTEGRATION AND SYNTHESIS IN A ONE HEALTH CONTEXT

- Maintaining regular surveillance network meetings to facilitate collaboration and information sharing with a range of stakeholders and partners.
- Continuing to develop a national data platform, including the integration of data from provincially inspected abattoirs, provincial veterinary laboratories, and antimicrobial susceptibility testing data. These dashboards consolidate and transform disparate data into a standardized format for meaningful analyses and comparisons on animal health data across Canada.

ACTIVITY 2: ENHANCING AND BUILDING CORE COMPETENCIES WITHIN CAHSS NETWORKS

- Developing a framework of One Health Core Competencies to identify strengths in member expertise, as well as gaps where additional training could be provided. with the goal of increasing cross sector engagement, efficiency and communication with a One Health perspective.

ACTIVITY 3: STRENGTHENING SURVEILLANCE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

- Continuing to play a key role in Canadian preparedness efforts in response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the United States, including coordination, communication, and subject matter expertise.
- Facilitating preparedness and response planning for the Asian Longhorned Tick in Canada, including convening the Asian Longhorned Tick Task Force and putting on the Asian Longhorned Tick and Bovine Theileriosis: How Canadian vets can prepare for these imminent threats webinar with Dr. Sierra Guynn.



CAHSS AT
WORK

S-CAP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The three categories of the new project allow CAHSS to be uniquely positioned to advance all five S-CAP priorities and focus areas to advance sustainable agriculture, animals, and agri-food, including: building sector capacity, growth and competitiveness, climate change and environment, science, research and innovation, market development and trade, as well as resiliency and public trust.



**Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**

Funding for CAHSS activities has been provided through the AgriAssurance Program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

CAHSS AT
WORK