



Swine Innovation Porc

Swine Research Webinar Series

African swine fever: How is Canada getting prepared?

WEBINAR HELD ON JANUARY 6, 2021 AT 11:00 AM EST

Featuring...



ANDREW VAN KESSEL

*VIDO-Intervac &
Science Advisory Body Chair
(Swine Innovation Porc)*

ASF Research Priorities
in Canada



PAUL SUNDBERG

*Swine Health
Information Centre*

ASF Research: An
Update from the USA



JOHN ROSS

Canadian Pork Council

What is Canada doing to
face the threat of ASF?



MURRAY PETTITT

Prairie Swine Centre

Risk Mitigation for ASF:
Backyard Pig Farmer
Survey



ARUNA AMBAGALA

*Canadian Food
Inspection Agency*

Diagnosis of ASF using
Alternative Sample
Types



MARK FYNN

Manitoba Pork

Work on Emergency
Euthanasia Preparedness

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About the speakers...



Andrew Van Kessel is the Associate Director – Research at VIDO-Intervac. He received his PhD from the University of Saskatchewan, where he rose to the rank of Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science. He has also served in a number of leadership roles there, including Department Head as well as Acting Associate Dean (Research) at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Andrew serves on the board of directors of Prairie Swine Centre and Swine Innovation Porc, where he is also Chair of the Science Advisory Board. Andrew's research interests center on studying the gastrointestinal tract of animals, specifically the role of the gut microbiota in contributing to gastrointestinal health in poultry and swine.



John Ross joined the Canadian Pork Council as its Executive Director in 2016. Prior to joining the Council, he had a 30-year career with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where his last position with the department was as Director, Animal Industry Division. Preventing and, if necessary, responding to an outbreak of African swine fever is a key priority for the Council. As such, John is an active on most aspects of the file including participating on the industry-government ASF Executive Management Board.



Aruna Ambagala is currently Research Scientist at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canadian Food Inspection Agency. He is also Head of the Mammalian Diseases Unit and the OIE Reference Laboratory for Classical Swine Fever. He leads various diagnostic and research activities on high-consequence exotic and emerging viral diseases of farm animals, including ASF. He also leads OIE Reference Laboratory activities related to classical swine fever. Dr. Ambagala obtained his PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and currently serves as Adjunct Professor at the University of Manitoba and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary.

About the speakers...



Paul Sundberg is Executive Director of the Swine Health Information Center, which is focused on implementing industry preparedness for disease challenges that could affect US swine herds. Prior to this role, Dr. Sundberg was vice president of science and technology for the National Pork Board, where his responsibilities included technical oversight and management of the Department of Science and Technology. He obtained his degree in veterinary medicine from Iowa State University, where also obtained his doctorate in veterinary microbiology. Dr. Sundberg has represented the US pork industry during World Health Organization consultations on antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance, and has also been a member of the US delegation to several OIE General Sessions.



Murray Pettitt has been Chief Executive Officer at Prairie Swine Centre since 2018, and has been part of the swine research community for over 20 years. Prior to his current role at Prairie Swine Centre, Dr. Pettitt managed a research program at the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Saskatchewan that focused on investigating markers of sperm function to identify the fertility potential of boars and bulls. Dr. Pettitt obtained his doctorate from the University of Guelph, where his research concentration was on boar sperm cryopreservation.



Mark Fynn is currently the Manager of Quality Assurance and Animal Care Programs at Manitoba Pork. He is also currently acting as the Training Resources Coordinator for the Canadian Pork Council, managing the Canadian Swine Training Development Project. Through this project, he is overseeing the development of numerous pork producer training resources, including a video series on swine euthanasia. Most recently, Mark has been involved in five different committees at the national, regional (Western Canada) and provincial (Manitoba) levels to plan for humane mass euthanasia as an emergency response to an event such as an ASF outbreak.

Acknowledgements



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