

WHY DO LIVESTOCK HEALTH SURVEILLANCE?

A comprehensive livestock health surveillance system:

- Allows for early detection of disease
- Assists in the development of effective control and recovery programs
- Supports market access
- Is crucial to the success of our agri-food industry

WHAT CAN PRODUCERS DO TO HELP?

- Maintain a working relationship with your veterinarian
- Call your veterinarian when you suspect a problem
- Ask your veterinarian about Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network (AVSN)
- Incorporate herd health and biosecurity practices into your operation

WHAT IF WE FIND A HEALTH PROBLEM?

The only solution is to find it early and deal with it fast. There is nothing to be gained by hiding a problem—and much to be lost.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To find out more about livestock health surveillance and the Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network, go to:
www.agric.gov.ab.ca/avsn

Or contact us at:

O.S. Longman Building
6909-116 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2
T. 780.422.1923
F. 780.415.0810

For information on biosecurity, go to:

www.agric.gov.ab.ca/biosecurity



WHY DO LIVESTOCK HEALTH SURVEILLANCE?

Alberta

WHAT IS LIVESTOCK HEALTH SURVEILLANCE?

There are two components of a surveillance program: Detection and Response.

1) DETECTION

Livestock health issues are detected by:

- Collecting data from a variety of sources, including laboratory procedures, field investigations and veterinary practitioners
- Analyzing and continuously monitoring data

Disease detection requires expertise in veterinary medicine, epidemiology and pathology. Scientists working for Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) look for unusual disease events that suggest the occurrence of reportable, rare or new diseases, or changes in existing disease patterns. Comprehensive surveillance allows AAFRD and other agencies to respond quickly and effectively. This approach to surveillance is groundbreaking and can serve as a model for the rest of Canada.

2) RESPONSE

Information about the health status of Alberta's livestock is reported to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, producer groups, marketing agencies and other stakeholders on a regular basis.

When a livestock health issue is detected, AAFRD staff may:

- Rapidly disseminate information to veterinarians participating in Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network (AVSN)
- Recommend actions for producers (usually through veterinary practitioners)
- Recommend actions for producer groups where appropriate
- Notify appropriate authorities
- Assist to resolve issues that may affect market access or public health working with practicing veterinarians and other key stakeholders



The **Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network** has three programs that support livestock health surveillance:

- **Veterinary Practice Surveillance (VPS)** is an innovative system that collects and shares information among veterinarians via the Internet
- **Livestock Pathology Consultation Program (LPCP)** assists private veterinary practitioners in investigating significant herd problems and/or diagnostically challenging disease issues
- **Livestock Disease Investigation Network (LDIN)** provides veterinary practitioners access to a team of epidemiologists, veterinarians and pathologists that investigate significant disease issues and outbreaks (especially those diseases that impact market access, food safety or public health)