

## The knowledge of zoonotic diseases in swine producers, veterinarians and swine industry allied personnel in Ontario, Canada

Marvin, D.,<sup>1</sup> Dewey, C.,<sup>1</sup> Rajić, A.,<sup>1,2</sup> Deckert, A.,<sup>1,2</sup> Poljak, Z.,<sup>1</sup> and Richardson, K.<sup>1</sup>

Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada  
 Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses, Public Health Agency of Canada, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

More than 70% of swine marketed in Canada come from the Canadian Quality Assurance CQA<sup>®</sup>) program, established in 1998 with the main purpose of demonstrating the implementation of on-farm good production practices (GPP). To employ effective farm-level control measures that prevent and control the transmission of pig/pork related zoonotic diseases it is important that producers, veterinarians and swine allied personnel are knowledgeable about these diseases. A mail questionnaire was distributed to selection of 409 individuals representing this target group, with the main purpose to determine the knowledge level in the Ontario swine industry about zoonotic diseases, and the self-reported prevalence of on-farm GPP. A response rate of 53% was observed (range 38-74%). Veterinarians and allied industry personnel appeared to be more familiar with *Campylobacter spp.*, *S. suis*, *T. gondii*, Swine influenza virus(SIV), *Trichinella*, and *Y. enterocolitica* than producers. A higher proportion of respondents within the all groups believed that *Campylobacter*, *Strep. Suis*, *T. gondii*, Erysipelas, SIV, *Salmonella*, *Trichinella*, and *Y. enterocolitica* can spread between pork and people. On average, within all four groups of respondents *Salmonella* (71%) was the disease agent they were the most concerned regarding spread from pigs/through pork to humans. Most of the respondents believed that the government should pay for testing pigs/pork for *Salmonella*. More Ontario swine veterinarians and allied personnel believed that antibiotic resistance is a problem compared to producers. On average, random producers, sentinel producers, industry professionals and veterinarians preferred to receive information on new diseases, control measures for diseases and/or results of research projects via a producer magazine. Our preliminary findings indicate that producers, allied professional and veterinarians are not sufficiently aware of all zoonotic diseases. An effective implementation of OFFS programs might require the development of effective education and communication strategies dealing with the risks associated with zoonotic diseases.

\*Department of Population Medicine  
 Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph  
 Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1, Canada  
 Tel.1-519-824-4120 ext.4070, e-mail: cdewey@uoguelph.ca