



Elora, Ontario, Canada
July 13, 2022

Animal Health Canada welcomes two new African Swine Fever National Project Leads

For the 2021-2022 year, we have appreciated the support and work of independent contractors Morgan Radford and Dr. Michelle Thompson on the African Swine Fever (ASF) project. As we move into the final year of the ASF project, with increasing time demands, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Danielle Julien as a full-time employee, and D^{re} Lucie Verdon as a part time employee in the ASF project lead roles. These positions are key supports for virtual working groups by providing facilitation, preparation for meetings, and maintaining project timelines. The ASF file is in its third year of work to tackle the risk of ASF to the Canadian swine population and is one example of the work being done by Animal Health Canada at the intersection of One Health and collaborative problem solving.

Dr. Julien was born in Grenada, West Indies and lived in St. Kitts and Barbados before moving to Guelph, Ontario, Canada for post-secondary education. Danielle completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM Class 2008), Master of Public Health (MPH Class of 2013), and Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology (PhD Class 2020) at the Ontario Veterinary College. After one year in companion animal practice, Danielle worked on Avian Influenza with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs' Growing Forward Program, the Poultry Industry Council as the Biosecurity Program Specialist, and Project Manager for the Livestock Research Innovation Corporation. Since defending her PhD, Danielle has worked as Research Associate in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) at the AMR-One Health Consortium, One Health at UCalgary Office and Lead Researcher for the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System, a division of Animal Health Canada, to develop a One Health framework to guide collaborative management of issues at the wildlife/domestic animal interface. In the fall of 2020, Danielle became the first Sessional Instructor for the inaugural undergraduate course Introduction to One Health (ONEH*1000) at the University of Guelph. Danielle is excited to start in her role working collaboratively with others as African Swine Fever Project Lead with Animal Health Canada.

D^{re} Verdon is also very excited to be joining the Animal Health Canada African Swine Fever project team. Lucie has been a veterinarian for over 38 years. She graduated from the Université de Montréal and completed her training with an internship. Lucie practiced for more than 15 years in the Laurentians where she still lives and works on the Ottawa River, just across from Hawkesbury, Ontario. She completed a certificate in Food Science and Quality at Université Laval and has worked on food safety and on-farm food safety programs for CFIA, slaughterhouses, the Université de Montréal (CQA program), a project in Vietnam, and MAPAQ. She has also worked on the Biosecurity Standard and Program for the Canadian Swine Health Board, in Réseau porcin au Québec of MAPAQ, on the National Biosecurity Standard for Animal Transportation, the Disease Control Plan and Emergency Measures Plan for les Producteurs de

lait du Québec, and les Producteurs de bovins du Québec. Lucie also has a breadth of experience working on various animal welfare and animal health management programs.

About Animal Health Canada (previously named the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council)

Formed in 2010 as an outcome of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (2009) and it was established as an advisory body to the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Committee and other stakeholders. AHC has evolved into a unique not for profit organization which is funded jointly by federal, provincial, and industry/non-government stakeholders. AHC engages its expertise to address important topics such as animal welfare, emerging diseases, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, and the emerging theme of “One Welfare”. AHC, along with its divisions, leads the initiation of projects to address stakeholder needs in animal health and welfare stakeholder across Canada.