



Janet Alsop

by MIKE MULHERN

Helping practitioners and producers to solve problems is part of her job now, but some of the insight she has gained into this aspect of her work can be traced back to veterinarian Janet Alsop's job as a sow herd manager and to her international experience.

As one of two swine veterinarians at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in Fergus, Alsop visits farms and helps to resolve animal health and welfare issues. She makes monthly visits to herds enrolled in the Ontario Swine Health Information Plan, a voluntary health certification scheme for breeding stock suppliers in Ontario, and she also works with herd veterinarians, feed and genetic suppliers and slaughter plants. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to all those tasks.

After graduating with a degree in Animal Science from McGill University, Alsop worked in the swine industry in the Maritimes for some 15 years before graduating from the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island in 1993.

In August 1995, she joined the China-Canada Lean Swine Project in China's Hebei Province as the project veterinarian and

project site manager. There, part of her mandate was to assist in the transfer of Canadian genetics and technology to local farmers. She also designed, and supervised the implementation of herd health policies for three project sites, and organized and implemented training for veterinarians and animal health technicians in performing necropsies and slaughter checks, developing preventive health programs and investigating disease outbreaks. She returned to Canada in December 1997.

Her work in China was preceded by a two-year stint as associate veterinarian at the Wolcott Veterinary Clinic in Wolcott, Ind. She has also worked as an animal health veterinarian for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Alsop is a former president and current director of the Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians. She is also a director of the Ontario Swine Health Advisory Board, a member of the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, and a diplomate in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners – Swine Health Management specialty.

In her current ministry role, Alsop is the co-chair of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association working group, which is developing "prudent use antimicrobial guidelines for swine veterinarians." She is also enrolled in the new Masters of Public Health program at the University of Guelph.

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We at AgMedia sincerely hope you read, enjoy and benefit from this year's edition of *Pigs, Pork & Progress*.

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