

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FORUM 2013

(Ottawa, Ontario) December 11, 2013 - The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHW Council) recently held its third annual Forum. Approximately 100 stakeholders actively participated in this interactive event on December 3rd and 4th. A diverse group of government and industry representatives collaborated to provide valuable feedback on the proposed governance model and strategic plan that will be instrumental in shaping how Council moves forward.

The welcoming address was given by Rick McRonald, who spoke from his long history in the genetics industry. Mr. McRonald described the evolution to a collaborative approach among stakeholders in Canada's animal agriculture sector over his career.

Council Co-Chairs Rob McNabb and Wayne Lees provided an update of Council's work over the year and reported on Canada's system for handling emerging animal health issues.

A facilitated session on governance gained input on a proposed governance model, building on input from Forum 2012 and current work of the Council. A report will be published in early 2014.

The renewal of the farmed animal health and welfare strategy is a key activity of the Council. Initial work of the Council was the basis for an active session which enhanced the materials provided. There will be consultation during 2014 to build stakeholder understanding and support.

At the conclusion of the event, Council Co-Chair Wayne Lees said "There is no other forum in this country that we have for bringing together such a diverse group of stakeholders. We are on the cusp of a new relationship. It may be a little bumpy at times, but we know where we are going. I'm very optimistic that we will get there".

The NFAHW Council Forum is the yearly opportunity for discussion and collaboration of both government and industry stakeholders, who are committed to a national, proactive approach to Canada's farmed animal health and welfare.

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