



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

December 2014

Issue 9

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NFAHW Council Forum 2014 and November 26th Meeting – Ottawa

Forum 2014

Forum 2014 was a success! Thanks to all who participated.

Over 100 people participated in the annual Forum, representing animal health and welfare, public health and wildlife health from federal and provincial governments and industry/non-government organizations. The day and a half agenda was based on the Council work areas but highlighted stakeholder activities.

The annual Forum is an important stakeholder contact opportunity. The input from the Forum 2014 will be valuable to the Council in planning its work over the coming year.

In his welcome address, **Dennis Laycraft**, Executive Vice President of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association reflected on the theme of Forum 2014, "Together we can...together we will" and noted that there are many examples of "together we have" through his career. Dennis' participation demonstrates the senior level commitment of industry to enhancing Canada's animal health and welfare system in a collaborative approach.

In her keynote address to open the antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance (AMU/AMR) session, **Dr. Judith Bossé**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada, informed the Forum participants of the issues of AMU/AMR, the international mobilization, the federal government AMU/AMR framework and the need for a collaborative approach to manage the issue. She acknowledged the need to understand issues that the industry will face in managing antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance.

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 – a strategy for animal agriculture in Canada

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 – a strategy for animal agriculture in Canada was introduced following development by the Council which included extensive stakeholder consultation and communication. The strategy renews the NFAHW Strategy (2009) by changing the strategic outcomes, identifying three priorities and engaging stakeholders more broadly. A panel of stakeholders spoke of how their current work plans are reflected in the strategy and how important it is to have a strategy to focus industry activities. **Mike Dungate**, Chicken Farmers of Canada, **Dr. Greg Douglas**, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs and the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers and **Gary Hazelwood** of the Canada Mink Breeders Association provided support for Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 from different perspectives. In 2015, the Council will work with stakeholders to implement the strategy.

Animal Welfare Research Capacity Project

The Animal Welfare Research Capacity project report informed participants of the findings of the project committee. This project was in response to recommendation #7 in the NFAHW Council advisory statement "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada" (2012) and was done jointly by the Council and Agriculture and AgriFood Canada. The report includes four recommendations for enhancing farm animal welfare research capacity in Canada. Panel members **Jackie Wepruk**, National Farm Animal Care Council, **Dr. Reynold Bergen**, Beef Cattle Research Council and **Dr. Bruce Roberts**, Canadian Poultry Research Council reported on the impact of the recommendations on their organizations and the value of industry commitment to identifying research needs and providing mechanisms for engagement with researchers and other funders.

Antimicrobial Use/Antimicrobial Resistance

Council presented their advisory statement “Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance – a strategy for animal agriculture” (2014). The recommendations reflect the recognition that this is an urgent issue requiring all stakeholders in human and animal medicine to work collaboratively to effect change. The important role of CgFARAD (Canadian global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database) in residue avoidance and food safety is recognized with a call for sustainable funding and exploration of an expanded role with respect to antimicrobial resistance. Council plans to facilitate a meeting of stakeholders in animal and public health with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Agriculture and AgriFood Canada in 2015. A panel of **Pierre Lampron**, Dairy Farmers of Canada, **Steve Leech**, Chicken Farmers of Canada, **Dr. Manisha Mehrotra**, Health Canada, **Catherine Scovil**, Canadian Pork Council and **Dr. Warren Skippon**, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association provided information on the communications, education and programs in place within their organizations to manage this issue.

Emerging Issues

In their work on emerging issues, Council facilitated the initial national teleconferences on Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) before the facilitation of these calls was assumed by the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer. **Dr. Harpreet Kochhar**, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, provided a review of the PED preparedness and response, noting the collaborative approach between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), provinces and industry, with the lead role changing at different times and for different parts of the response.

The emerging issues working group also identified two CFIA initiatives which had the potential to influence a collaborative response to an emerging or zoonotic disease. **Dr. Penny Greenwood** presented the draft CFIA disease prioritization tool which is being developed to determine the role of CFIA and the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer in a disease response.

Harry Gardiner, also of CFIA, provided an update on the Centre for zoonotic and emerging disease – integrated intelligence and response project (CZED-IIR). Within the next year, this project will begin to provide intelligence materials to users. The information will be from open sources and analysis will be applied prior to release.

Governance

In its continuing work on governance which was identified as a critical element of the farmed animal health and welfare system in the NFAHW Strategy (2009), the Council has focused its work in the last year on the governance of surveillance. A model for the governance of surveillance was presented that builds on the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN) by adding a champion group, director group, secretariat and coordinator. Participants will include animal health, public health, wildlife, public sector and private sector. The model is a network of networks, bringing together provincial, territorial, species, wildlife and other networks with national coordination.

Dr. Jim Pettit, consultant on the CanWest Project, **Dr. Grant Maxie**, Ontario Animal Health Laboratory, **Dr. Bruce McNab**, Ontario Animal Health Laboratory, **Marilyn Jonas**, Prairie Diagnostic Services and **Dr. Martine Dubuc**, CFIA responded favorably in brief responses to the proposal. In her comments, Dr. Dubuc signaled her commitment as a champion for moving initiative forward.

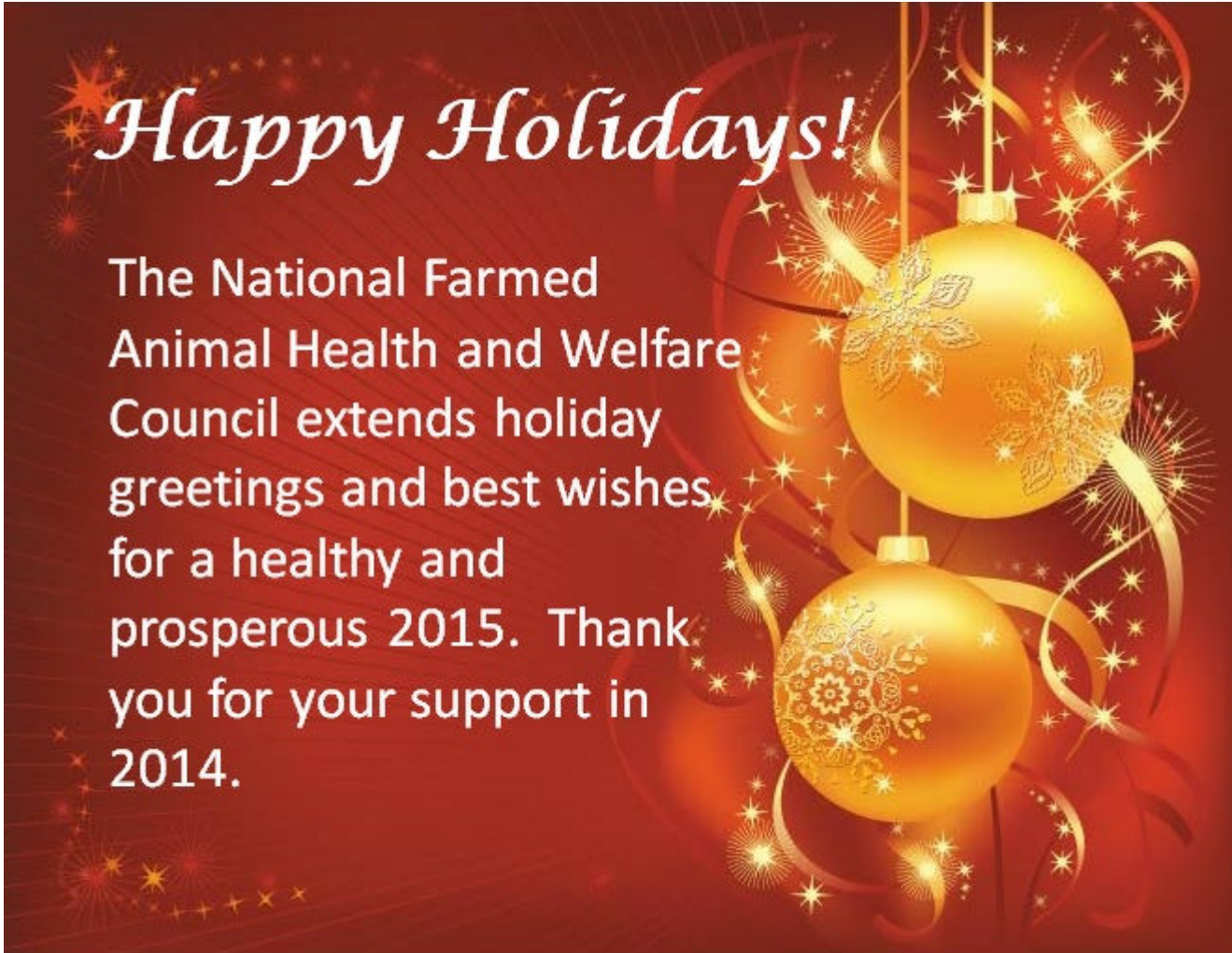
Participants from Canadian Sheep Federation, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Dairy Farmers of Canada and Canadian Cattlemen offered support to the proposal. Canadian Pork Council, while offering support added a note of caution based on their experience with the Canadian Swine Health Board and the Swine Health Intelligence Network.

Presentations from Forum 2014 can be found on the Council website at www.ahwcouncil.ca, where Council advisory statements and reports can also be found.

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NFAHW Council meeting November 26, 2014

Council met on November 26, 2014 to identify and plan for work areas in 2015. The work plan will be further developed for the January teleconference.



Happy Holidays!

The National Farmed
Animal Health and Welfare
Council extends holiday
greetings and best wishes
for a healthy and
prosperous 2015. Thank
you for your support in
2014.

The NFAHW Council is composed of individuals designated or elected from the three stakeholder groups – industry, provincial/territorial government and federal government – which support the Council. Members are non-representational when working on Council. Animal health and welfare and public health are included in the Council membership. Additionally, Dr. Harpreet Kochhar sits as an ex-officio member in his role as CVO of Canada.

www.ahwcouncil.ca

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