



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

June 2015

Issue 11

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NFAHW Council meeting June 11 & 12

Toronto

Presentations and reports were received on the following topics:

Work Areas

Emerging Issues – Market Access – The working group reported on their plans to study market access for producers in the event of an emerging disease. The recent PED outbreak which had some incidents of producers being unable to market their hogs provides a study model. Recommendations will not be limited to hogs but will be tested against the situations for other species. Marketing interruptions and delays can have financial, animal health, animal welfare and mental health implications for producers.

The intent is to engage veterinarians, producer organizations, the transportation industry, the processing industry, CFIA, AAFC and other interested parties in the study over the next year.

Proposed Decision–Analysis Tool for the Characterization of CFIA Involvement and Role in Animal Health Events –

The working group will continue discussion of the Decision–Analysis Tool for the Characterization of CFIA Involvement and Role in Animal Health Events with CFIA to build a full understanding how this tool could influence collaboration in disease response.

Animal Welfare – Cull Cow Transportation – A plan to study cull cow transportation was presented to the Council. The study will include a workshop with experts in late 2015 or early 2016 to scope the magnitude of the issue, identify key variables that can affect welfare outcomes, identify advice and promising avenues for improvement, and identify other key informants who might be contacted to expand information. It is proposed that a PHD student

at UBC will utilize the results of the expert consultation as part of his doctoral thesis.

Council approved the approach and a budget allocation.

Animal Welfare – Public Good Research – The working group presented a discussion paper on the importance of public funding to support “public good” research in farm animal welfare. This topic will be included in Forum 2015 in November.

Antimicrobial Use/Antimicrobial Resistance – A plan for addressing the issue of AMU/AMR in animal agriculture was presented. The working group plans to focus on antimicrobial stewardship while not ignoring surveillance and innovation, the other two pillars identified in the Federal AMR/AMU Action Plan.

The working group has included some things under Stewardship that might be viewed in other contexts as innovation and reduction of use strategies. The on–farm food safety programs of the various commodity organizations provide examples of producer initiatives to address this issue through education, extension and market regulation. These things will be addressed in context as Council studies this topic. The working group is considering a workshop or webinar to bring participants together to expand the study group. This work area will likely be ongoing beyond the current fiscal year.

Richard Rusk, representing the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health on the Council provided some information that he had presented at a meeting in Halifax in May 2015.

Council provided suggestions to enhance the working group’s plans and approved a budget allocation.

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 – The working group reported on their progress in the study, selection and development of an online tool to collect information from stakeholders on initiatives which contribute to progress on the strategic outcomes and priorities of Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020. The working group plans to have the initial tool ready to demonstrate at Forum 2015 and for use by stakeholders by March 2016. It is anticipated there will be evolution in the development and use of the tool and the type of data included in the collection. The demonstration of progress on common objectives will be of value to animal agriculture in many ways.

The working group thanks **Dr. Melanie Barham** of the Ontario Animal Health Network who provided an overview of the tool selected for that network and the analysis of a number of other tools. The working group is reaching out to other stakeholders with experience in this field for their input in to the development of the online reporting tool for Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020.

Report on the implementation study re: NFAHWC's A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada (2012)

– **Dr. Jeffrey Spooner** reported on his findings of the implementation of the recommendations in the Council's 2012 animal welfare strategy – "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada". Of the 22 recommendations, some are complete, some are in progress and some may need to be readdressed. The survey included 24 groups with responses from 22, a very high level of response.

The survey report will be posted on the Council website soon. Thanks to all who participated by providing thoughtful input to the assessment of impact.

Traceability Consultation – **John Ross, AAFC and Mark Burgham, CFIA** engaged the Council in the consultation on traceability which is currently being undertaken. The Council did not have specific comments but Council members participated actively in the consultation.

Other agenda items

- **Annual Report** – the Council's annual report for 2014–15 will be presented as an online report. The report will utilize the available tools on the Council website. The design and layout will be enhanced in the future. There will be a limited number of an abbreviated handout version available.
- **Manitoba Hoarding Conference** – **Richard Rusk** presented information on a Hoarding Conference which will be presented in Manitoba by Manitoba Health and Manitoba Agriculture and Rural Initiatives in a One Health context in June 2016. The international conference will address the mental health issues related to hoarding in animal agriculture.
- **Forum 2015** – Council provided input on the draft agenda for Forum 2015. The theme of the Forum 2015 will be Innovation. A draft agenda will be available on the Council website soon.

SAVE THE DATE!

**The NFAHW Council Forum 2015
will take place in Ottawa on
November 23rd and 24th**

NFAHW COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Would your board like an update from the Council?

Member organizations are invited to request a presentation from Council at board or committee meetings. These can be done in person or electronically.

Council reports, meeting dates and other information can be found on the Council website at www.ahwcouncil.ca.

Does your organization have experience with online survey tools and reporting?

Please contact Ed Empringham (ed@animalhealth.ca) if your organization is able to offer assistance to the Council in developing its online reporting tool for Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020.

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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Please note the NFAHW Council's new mailing address: NFAHW Council, 42894 Browntown Road, Bluevale, ON N0G 1G0