



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

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NFAHW Council meeting, March 2 & 3, 2017

Toronto

Presentations

Plant and Animal Health Strategy

Greg Wolff, CFIA, and **Dr. Paul Innes**, OMAFRA, provided an update on the development of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy (PAHS) after the significant input at the PAHS Forum held in December 2016 and other input received through the online tool. Council had received several previous presentations on this topic and provided input to the development at different stages.

The presentation demonstrated the alignment of the PAHS with the Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 (FAHW2020) strategy which guides the work of the Council and other stakeholders in animal agriculture. The PAHS is being designed as an overarching national strategy which will come into play about the time that FAHW2020 is being renewed. The involvement of the Council in the implementation of the PAHS will be important and the PAHS should help strengthen and advance the work of the Council.

The business cases being used in the development of the strategy align with Council activities: Coordination through partnerships; A system founded on prevention; Collection and sharing of information; and Influencing behaviour.

The Council will continue to participate in the development of the PAHS, consider how it will be involved in implementation and consider the opportunities and impacts the PAHS could offer to Council activities.

Pan Canadian Framework on Antimicrobial Resistance

Council member **Steven Sternthal** made a presentation on the current stage of development of the pan-Canadian AMR Framework. He was supported by **Dr. Howard Njoo** and **Lindsay Noad** of PHAC who have active roles in the file.

The purpose of the presentation was to seek feedback from the Council on the framework and to understand how the Council can contribute to the action plan which will be developed based on the framework.

The recommendations in the four pillars of the framework were discussed as were the next steps in moving forward on initiatives focused on managing antimicrobial resistance.

The Council paper, "Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada" (2016) was an important reference document for both the Stewardship and Infection Prevention and Control task teams in developing their input to the pan Canadian Framework on AMR. Council will continue active involvement in the development of the pan Canadian Framework and the subsequent action plan.

FPT Regulatory ADM of Agriculture Committee

Jamie Curran, ADM Food Safety and Technology Division, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and co-chair of the FPT Regulatory ADM committee joined the meeting by teleconference to discuss the strategic process that the committee is undergoing to improve effectiveness. He was supported by **Marcia Hewitt Fisher** also from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

The Council is a committee of the Regulatory ADM committee and as such reports regularly through the year on its activities and provides annual reporting on the progress on the priorities identified by the Regulatory ADM committee.

The importance of the Council was noted as was the role that the Council can play in implementing the Plant and Animal Health Strategy.

The Council will continue to develop the relationship with the Regulatory ADM committee as the strategic planning process evolves.

Next Policy Framework

Andrew Goldstein, Director General, Policy, Planning and Integration Directorate joined the meeting by teleconference to discuss the development of the Next Policy Framework which is planned to begin in April 2018. In addition to traditional areas, the NPF will drive the government's broader priorities such as the environment and climate change, science, research and innovation, trade and investment and results.

The Calgary Statement by FPT Ministers in July 2016 includes the priorities which are addressed in the NPF. Stakeholders are being asked to provide comment on the priority areas and the NPF.

Working Group updates

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 (FAHW2020)

Dr. Jeffrey Spooner has been provided with the contacts for the project that will continue the development of a national progress report on the priorities and strategic outcomes of FAHW2020. The list includes supporters of the Council which were not involved in the pilot study completed in 2016 and reported at Forum 2016. It also includes some provincial organizations whose inclusion will assess the reach of the Council beyond the national level. This work will be accomplished in two phases and completed in September 2017. There will be a report at Forum 2017.

Emerging Issues WG

The Emerging Issues WG will begin a study on access and capacity of slaughter facilities in Canada. The importance of this has been identified through the studies reported in Council documents: "Domestic Market Access in the 2014 Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Outbreak" (2016); "Preparing for an Emerging Issue" (2016); and "Cull Dairy Cow Expert Consultation: Consensus Statement" (2017). In addition, the issue was identified in the development of the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy (LMIS) and in the recent tuberculosis outbreak in AB and SK. The work will begin with making contact with those involved in LMIS and further defining the issues and the scope of the project.

AMU/AMR WG

The AMU/AMR WG has provided feedback to the Infection Prevention and Control and Stewardship task teams which were developing input to the pan Canadian Framework on AMR. Recently the working group developed a response to the draft pan Canadian Framework on AMR using the template provided.

Next steps will be to consider whether the Council should champion some of the recommendations which are included in the Council paper "Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada" (2016); how the Council can be involved in the development of the Action Plan on AMR which will follow the development of the framework; and how the Council can continue to utilize the annual Forum to advance the work on AMR.

Transport of Cull Dairy Cows

The working group has developed recommendations based on the consultation reported in the Council document "Cull Dairy Cow Expert Consultation: Consensus Statement" (2017). These were discussed with the Council and will be further developed before more feedback is sought from a broader group.

One Welfare WG

The One Welfare WG had initial meetings to determine the scope of their work. Dr. Andria Jones–Bitton, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) has joined the working group. At its next meeting, the working group will hear of the work being done in QC through a project being led by the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and of the work of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

The working group hopes to develop a program to support producers, farm families and staff wellness in the face of the pressures of agriculture. The plan is to pilot the program in a couple of locations, to build on existing support networks and expand when there are opportunities.

The issue of One Welfare was demonstrated at the International One Welfare Conference held in Winnipeg in September 2016 which was supported by the Council. The Council has offered support to the organizers of the next conference being planned in Australia. Dr. Andria Jones–Bitton, OVC, is active in the study of the wellness of farm families through her research. In addition, there are several initiatives in the UK which the working group is following.

Administrative

Finance Committee

The audited financial statements will be received at an annual meeting of the NFAHW Council corporation at the time of the June 2017 meeting of Council.

The financial policies of the Council were reviewed. A minor adjustment to the policies will be developed for consideration of the Council at its next meeting.

The 2017–18 budget was approved. There is no change to the overall budget or the partner allocations for the coming year.

Nunavut is no longer supporting the Council and has been removed from the financial statements of the Council and the listing of supporters.

Annual Report

The annual report is planned to be ready for distribution in July 2017.

Communication Committee

A Communication Committee was re–established. The committee will provide direction to expanding and enhancing Council communications.

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

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.

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Upcoming meetings

- June 15 & 16 NFAHW Council meeting in Toronto
- June 16 – AGM of the Council corporation
- Forum 2017 – November 28 & 29, Ottawa