



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

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NFAHW Council meeting, February 22 & 23, 2018

Toronto

The Council met in Toronto on February 22–23, 2018. The meeting date was changed from the previous March dates to accommodate a study tour by several Council members to France. The tour is led by Boehringer Ingelheim, the company that manages the North American FMD Vaccine Bank.

The FPT Regulatory ADM Committee Champions, Debra Sikora, ON and Keith Deering, NL were each able to attend parts of the meeting and participate in discussions. This is part of a strengthened relationship with the FPT Reg ADM committee which both the Council and the Reg ADM committee are culturing.

Presentations

DFC Symposium on Dairy Sustainability

Guy Seguin, Dairy Farmers of Canada, provided a review of the DFC Symposium on Dairy Sustainability which was held in Ottawa on November 7–8, 2017. The outcomes and lessons learned were valuable input for the Council.

Animal Antimicrobial Resistance Canada and CANresist

Dr. Scott Weese, University of Guelph, provided an update on the planning for Animal Antimicrobial Resistance Canada and CANresist. It was determined at an AMR Leadership Forum in 2017 that the Council would provide an appropriate home for Animal Antimicrobial Resistance Stewardship Canada.

Strategic Positioning

This was an important meeting for Council as it addresses the strategic positioning of the Council to manage a number of additional activities which have been directed to it.

This strategic discussion was introduced to stakeholders at Forum 2017 in the presentations of Dr. Debbie Barr, CFIA; Keith Deering, ADM NL; Dr. Jaspinder Komal, CFIA; and Rob McNabb, Council Co-chair.

Initiatives which are included in the discussion include the enhanced relationship with the FPT Regulatory ADMs Committee, the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System and Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship Canada

The Council working group which has been developing the strategic positioning presented a brief to Council that included a history, a discussion of what had changed, some references to governance options discussed at earlier Forums and the Animal Health Canada model developed by the Canadian Animal Health Coalition in 2012.

The Council committed to continuing development of the strategic positioning and assigned the working group the task of further development of the plan, identifying resource requirements, funding sources, the potential of staged acceptance of these additional activities, etc.

As part of this discussion, Dr. Ian Alexander, CFIA presented some options for the transition of some activities of the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System for consideration of the Council.

Working Group Reports

One Welfare

The working group presented a proposal to develop a One Welfare network for consideration of the Council. The discussion and input will lead to further development and a subsequent report to Council at the June 2018 meeting.

Animal Welfare

The working group presented a draft revision of the Council paper “A National Animal Welfare System for Canada (2012)”. This revised document follows a review of the original paper and consideration of the previous review of the recommendations by Dr. Jeffrey Spooner by the working group. The Council provided input on the recommendations for further development by the working group with a request for a report at the June 2018 Council meeting.

AMU/AMR

Steven Sternthal, WG lead, reviewed the current status of development of the pan-Canadian AMR Action Plan being led by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Council will participate in the process when invited.

The working group will be collecting information from the national commodity organizations and other industry groups on activities which they are undertaking to address AMR. This information will be developed to provide a report demonstrating the work being done in agriculture to address this global problem.

Emerging Issues

An update was received from Dr. Graham Clarke, the consultant contracted to complete an initial project for both the Council and the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy Steering Committee. The project assesses the issues related to access to federal and provincial slaughter facilities in either an emerging disease or a foreign animal disease. This project which is being managed by the Canadian Animal Health Coalition will be completed by March 31, 2018.

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020

Dr. Jeffrey Spooner will be contracted to facilitate the next stage of development of a national report of activities which influence the strategic outcomes and priorities of the FAHW2020 strategy. This next phase will culminate in a report in late 2019 but data and development will start in the spring of 2018 with the industry groups who participated in earlier developmental stages. The working group will be investigating how to include information on FPT initiatives and programming which support the strategic outcomes and priorities in the final report.

Secretariat update

Dr. Archie Stewart will join the secretariat team for most of the responsibilities of Ed Empringham on an interim basis until strategic positioning discussions and planning are completed. Ed will assist Archie in the transition and maintain the Strategic Positioning working group and the One Welfare working group to maintain continuity and momentum in these two areas. Samantha Benattar will continue in her secretariat role.

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.

Next meeting

Due to the number of active working group activities that require development and the FMD vaccine study tour, the March teleconference is being cancelled.

The next meeting will be by teleconference on April 12, 2018

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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