



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

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NFAHW Council meeting March 12 & 13

Toronto

Presentations and reports were received on the following topics:

Animal Transport Regulations – Dr. Con Kiley, CFIA, updated the Council on current status of the regulatory changes.

Livestock Market Interruption Strategy (LMIS) – Rob McNabb, supported by Mari-Lou Cuillierier, AAFC, provided an update on this federally led project which began several years ago and is targeted for completion by the end of 2015.

LMIS is a strategy to enhance industry and governments' preparedness in a livestock market interruption including:

1. National framework supported by two policy objectives agreed upon by FPT governments and industry:
 - a. Managing industry transition: ensuring a functioning domestic market, including through herd management, carcass disposal and transition assistance measures
 - b. Facilitating the resumption of international trade and maintaining domestic consumption
2. Supported by a scalable menu of feasible assistance measures options.

It will include potential measures that FPT governments and industry could put into place very quickly after a border closure, pre-emptive measures will also be discussed.

Livestock Traceability – John Ross updated the Council on progress and next steps in the collaborative effort to implement livestock traceability in Canada. He noted the importance of traceability in disease management and risk mitigation.

Federal Framework on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

– Dr. Judith Bossé and Dr. Frank Plummer, PHAC, presented an update on the Federal Framework on AMR which was presented at Forum 2014. A Federal Action Plan is expected soon. With consultation a National Action Plan involving all stakeholders will be developed.

AMR is a global issue and Canada is working closely with other countries to ensure the most effective strategies are applied. Developed countries are working with developing countries to support their efforts to manage AMR.

Canadian animal agriculture organizations through their quality assurance programs have begun the process of managing AMR. There is an opportunity to work within the National Action Plan to advance work on AMR.

Innovating with New Technologies – Dr. Theresa

Bernardo, University of Michigan, presented a stimulating discussion on the innovative use of new technologies in disease and disaster response. There is tremendous potential to expand the input and exchange of data through the use of social media and other communication technologies which could impact the effectiveness of such things as surveillance.

Implementation study re: NFAHWC's A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada (2012) – Dr. Jeffrey

Spooner who has been contracted by the Council to complete a study on the implementation of the recommendations included in the Council advisory statement "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada" provided a status report. Participation by stakeholders in the study has been high but is now complete. Analysis of the findings is underway.

The final report will be provided to the Council in May and included on the agenda for the Council's June meeting.

Emerging Issues Working Group – Dr. Megan Bergman, Chair of the Council Emerging Issues working group reported on the working group's review of the proposed CFIA Disease Prioritization Tool. The working group will proceed with developing a brief report which will include some identified concerns and recommendations for presentation at the February Council teleconference.

Governance of Surveillance – John Ross provided an update on the implementation of the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS), a network of networks proposed at the Forum 2014. A full time coordinator and full time secretariat have been named. The Champions Group has met several times and the Director Group has had an initial teleconference meeting. Significant progress has been made on developing a strategic plan for the CAHSS.

Domestic market access of market hogs in PEI from a PED herd – Scott Dingwell and John Ross led discussion on the issue of accessing domestic markets. It was reported there were similar issues in other provinces. The access of domestic markets as part of disease management is important and will be considered further.

Work Areas 2015/16

The Council established working groups and committees to complete the work areas identified for 2015–16. Identified work areas are listed below, the Council will consider other work areas throughout the year.

AMU/AMR

The working group will provide a report at the June 2015 meeting of Council of the role that Council can play in the stewardship pillar and the surveillance pillar of the AMR Framework.

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

This renewed strategy was announced at Forum 2014. To realize effective stakeholder engagement and reporting, two work areas will be managed by the working group:

- Strategy reporting and development of an online tool
- Strategy promotion and Measures and Analysis

Emerging Issues

The emerging issues working group will develop a report and recommendations on the CFIA disease prioritization tool and explore the lessons learned about domestic market access during the PED outbreak.

Animal Welfare

- Public Good Research – **Dr. David Fraser** and **Dr. Jane Pritchard** will explore the potential for a report on public good research and report to Council. The need for “public good” research was identified in the Animal Welfare Research study completed in 2014.
- Cull cow action plan – the working group will work with stakeholders to develop a cull cow action plan.

Council also formed a Communications Committee, Finance Committee, Management Committee and Forum 2015 Committee to support the work of Council.

Other agenda items

- **Annual Report** – the Council's annual report for 2015–16 will be produced in electronic format only.
- **Terms of Reference** – the Council Terms of Reference were modified to allow more flexibility in membership.
- **Budget 2015–16** – a balanced budget was approved for 2015–16.
- **Monitoring progress on recommendations** – the Council will provide input on progress on the many recommendations that have been made by the Council in advisory statements and reports.

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Member organizations are invited to request a presentation from Council at board or appropriate committee meetings. Council reports, meeting dates and other information can be found on the Council website at www.ahwcouncil.ca.

SAVE THE DATE

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

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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