



## NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

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### NEWSLETTER

#### NFAHW Council meeting September 18 & 19

Dairy Farmers of Canada boardroom – Ottawa

### Work Areas

#### AMU/AMR

Dr. Judith Bossé, ADM, Public Health Agency of Canada, provided Council with an overview of federal actions to address antimicrobial resistance, in keeping with the direction of international bodies. This federal framework will provide guidance as Canada moves to develop a plan for addressing antimicrobial resistance. The framework involves the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The framework focuses on surveillance, stewardship and innovation and recognizes the need for all stakeholders to work collaboratively to address the problem. It was noted that the impact of actions on animal production and exports will need to be considered. The framework is near completion and will be available in the fall of 2014.

In the discussion with Dr. Bossé, the importance of the On Farm Food Safety programs of the commodity organizations to educate producers and to manage the use of antimicrobials was recognized. It was also noted that the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association has identified this issue, is working with the profession and hosted a Summit in July 2014 to address the issue.

The AMU/AMR working group presented a final report, “Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance – Strategies for Animal Agriculture”, which included eight recommendations. With minor

The report will be translated, circulated to the FPT Regulatory ADM Committee and all other stakeholders in the near future. The report will be posted on the NFAHW Council website and included in Forum 2014.

#### Emerging Issues

The Emerging Issues working group identified two projects being led by CFIA that could influence future response to emerging issues and asked that Council be updated on these projects.

Dr. Penny Greenwood, CFIA, updated the Council on progress on the Disease Categorization Project which is expected to develop a decision tool that will allow identification of the role of the Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada and CFIA in emerging diseases. A beta version of the decision tool was presented. The Emerging Issues working group will work with the Disease Categorization Project team to test the current version of the tool and report to Council.

Harry Gardiner, CFIA, updated the Council on progress of the Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases – Integrated intelligence and Response (CZED-IIR) project that is intended to provide customizable intelligence to stakeholders on emerging diseases using technology and open source information. The project is eighteen months from completion and a pilot project should start in April 2015. Intelligence reports will follow and are expected to demonstrate capacity and value. The Council sees considerable potential in the development of intelligence for use by all stakeholders and will continue to follow this file with interest. It has potential for impacting how we identify and respond to emerging diseases.

## **Animal Welfare**

The Council accepted the final report of the Animal Welfare Research Capacity project which was led by AAFC and the Council. The report includes four recommendations that address issues identified in the project.

Once translated, the document will be distributed to the FPT Regulatory ADM committee, all other stakeholders and posted on the Council website.

Council also received the details of the contract with Dr. Jeffrey Spooner to assess the implementation of the Council's animal welfare advisory statement, "A national farm animal welfare system for Canada (2012)". Dr. Spooner was contracted by the Council to complete this project in February 2015, which will provide valuable insight to the Council. He will be contacting stakeholders over the next few months.

Dr. Debbie Barr, CFIA provided an update on the status of the regulatory change process for the Animal Transport regulations.

Council identified a small working group that will develop a proposal for consideration by the Council for examining the transport of cull dairy cows in Canada.

Council continues to explore ways to continue to impact farmed animal welfare.

## **Strategy Renewal**

The Strategy Renewal working group reported on the consultation with government and industry stakeholders on the renewal of the strategy. Feedback from the consultations has been very positive with regard to the strategic outcomes, the priorities and the commitment of stakeholders to work together to enhance Canada's animal health and welfare system. Subject to conditions of reporting, stakeholders have indicated commitment to report activities which contribute to progress on priorities and the strategic outcomes.

The renewed strategy will be called "**Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 – a strategy for animal agriculture in Canada**". The text of the original strategy will remain valid with the renewed strategy focusing on the priorities, strategic outcomes and the reporting and management processes required to demonstrate progress.

The next steps for the renewed strategy were identified and new working groups will be established, expertise from beyond the Council may be required. Next steps involve promotion of the strategy, development of measures and analysis, strategy reporting and development of an online reporting tool for stakeholders.

The current working group will be disbanded with the presentation at Forum 2014.

## **Governance**

An update was received on a workshop to be held September 23-24, 2014 addressing the governance of surveillance. The governance of surveillance has been identified as a piece of the larger governance issue which can be addressed, perhaps providing a model for further evolution of governance of the entire system. A full report of the workshop will be received by Council in October and will be included in Forum 2014.

## **Forum 2014**

The annual Council Forum is an important opportunity for stakeholder participation. The input gained at previous Forums has provided strong input to Council activities and recommendations. Council received a planning report for Forum 2014 and provided input to assist the further development of the Forum.

Forum 2014 will be held November 24-25, 2014 in Ottawa. The agenda is being developed with input from Council and will include reporting from many projects underway in Canada which are furthering progress on the strategic outcomes of the NFAHW Strategy as well as Council updates.

## **Registration**

(<http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/news?contentid=43>) for this important event is now open.

# NFAHW COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## Guest Presentations

### Vaccine Strategy Consultation

The Council received a presentation from Dr. John Spika, Director General PHAC, who is leading the development of a vaccine strategy for Canada. Included in the strategy will be both animal and human health. The presentation to the Council was the first step in the consultation process. There will be further input opportunities as the process progresses.

### Livestock Market Interruption Strategy

Council received an update from Mary-Lou Cuillerier on the progress on the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy, an all of government process to deal with an interruption in markets in the event of a crisis.

**Don't miss your opportunity to have a voice in shaping Canada's farmed animal health and welfare system! / Ne manquez pas votre chance de contribuer à façonner le système canadien de santé et de bien-être des animaux d'élevage!**

**Register today for the NFAHW Council Forum 2014 taking place in Ottawa, Ontario on November 24 and 25. / Inscrivez-vous dès aujourd'hui au Forum 2014 du Conseil NSBEAE qui a lieu à Ottawa (Ontario) les 24 et 25 novembre.**

*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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