

In This Issue

Forum 2013 is quickly approaching, and this issue of the NFAHW Council newsletter highlights and updates several Council work areas that will be discussed at this event and further developed as a result of stakeholder input. This issue also includes updates on other Council activities including work areas being considered, and topics recently presented to Council.

Council Work Areas

Strategy Renewal

The NFAHW Strategy (2009) was Canada's first animal health and welfare strategy, providing guidance to system enhancements.

The process of renewing the NFAHW Strategy (2009) is underway. The project charter was approved by Council. The Council is the guardian of the strategy but is owned by stakeholders.

The planned process will include extensive stakeholder input starting with a workshop at Forum 2013. It is anticipated that the renewed strategy will be publicly released at Forum 2014.

In the renewal process, the strategic outcomes in the strategy will be reviewed and revised, priorities will be established and stakeholders will be asked to consider actions they might take to achieve the outcomes. A process for assessing progress will be established.

Anti-microbial resistance (AMR)

Anti-microbial use (AMU)

The Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada, Veterinary Drug Directorate have named representatives to the AMU/AMR working group, which recently met and will provide a stakeholder update at Forum 2013.

The report "[Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Initiatives in Humans and Animals in Canada-2012](#)" is available on the Council website.

Emerging Issues

The recently formed Emerging Issues Working Group will consider how the animal health sector identifies and initiates a response to emerging issues. An emerging issue could be disease, antimicrobial resistance, contamination or a natural disaster. This working group recently initiated a number of teleconferences with lead stakeholders in the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) issue with the intent of using it to develop a template for decision making and coordinating a response. The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada has taken over the facilitation of calls on emerging issues with a national interest as they are identified. Through the calls, the lead roles will be identified.

Council's role will be developing the criteria and triggers for initiating response to an emerging issue.

Governance

The governance working group, along with the Institute on Governance (IoG) continues to make progress in this work area. The IoG presented a report to Council that examined governance options identified during previous Council discussions, Forum 2012's stakeholder discussion, and included key success elements from domestic and international organizations. With input from the Council discussion, the model will be further developed for consideration by Council.

The model will be presented at Forum 2013, when the IoG will lead a discussion to gather additional stakeholder input.

Other Council Activities

Long Distance Transport

Council continues to discuss this as a potential work area following an update by David Fraser and CFIA. CFIA is preparing for introduction of transport regulations which will provide the opportunity for stakeholder consultation. Council will have the opportunity to make further comment during the regulatory change consultative process. Council will consider recommendations at a future meeting.

Animal Welfare

As a result of an exchange with AAFC with regard to assessing farm animal welfare research capacity in Canada, Council will accept an invitation to participate in developing a study to be led by AAFC.

New Members to Council

At the September Council meeting, three new people were welcomed.

- Dr. Debbie Barr, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) – Dr. Ian Alexander will be sitting as ex-officio as per the Terms of Reference of the Council and Dr. Barr will assume the CFIA appointment to the Council.
- Jean-Guy Vincent, Canadian Pork Council (CPC) – Florian Possberg has stepped down and a CPC appointment will be made by the end of October, 2013, Jean-Guy participated as the CPC representative.
- Marian Harymann – Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) – Ms. Harymann will replace Dr. Mark Raizenne as the PHAC representative to Council.

"We as a Council should be bold and try new things. I would rather be criticized for trying something new than for sitting back...this is part of our role."

Dr. Gerald Hauer

Presentations Received

Critical Infrastructure Resilience – Peter Gaudet from AAFC and Michel De Jong from Public Safety Canada provided Council with background information on the work currently underway on the national strategy for Critical Infrastructure. Agriculture falls into the Food Critical Infrastructure which is one of ten identified Critical Infrastructures. The food sector network includes agriculture. A National Cross Sector Forum brings representatives of the sector networks together.

Federal Provincial Animal Welfare Group (FPAW)– Two representatives from FPAW, Anne Allen and Penny Lawlis, briefed Council on their mandate and ability to participate in the recommendations in the animal welfare advisory document, "[A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada-2012](#)". FPAW is exploring steps to formalize their committee and establish a reporting relationship as identified in the Council report. FPAW is currently leading a project through the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers.

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the NFAHW Council Corporation was held on September 6th, 2013. The Corporation members are the representatives of the Council's industry member organizations. The members of the corporation accepted the audited financial report for 2012-13, appointed auditors and appointed Rob McNabb as Chair and Jennifer MacTavish as Vice-Chair.

[Registration](#) is open for the

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Forum 2013

December 3rd and 4th, 2013

Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Ottawa, ON

Have a voice in shaping Canada's animal health and welfare system

Check the Council website for updates and agenda <http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/events>