What we heard – NFAHW Council Forum 2011

December 7, 2011

SUMMARY

Session 2

Surveillance

Guidance Questions (provided to facilitators):

1. Identify some of the added value outcomes that might result from an enhanced animal health surveillance system that has collaborative governance.
2. When considering zoonotic diseases, how should farm animal interests be addressed? For example, a zoonotic animal disease might have high relevance for public health but low relevance for animal health.

Q1 - Identify some of the added value outcomes that might result from an enhanced animal health surveillance system that has collaborative governance.

The following added value outcomes were identified:

- Collaboration
  - Collaborative governance (not necessarily formal)
  - Collaborative investigations – combined data
    - Data sharing ability
    - Decrease redundancies
    - Standardized reporting
    - A clearer picture of what is going on in the country at any time
  - Effective communication and collaboration
    - Coordination has benefits – one size does not fit all
  - One voice – collective understanding
    - Active participation by all – buy-in and legitimacy of decisions
    - Engagement in One Health concept
    - An ability to develop value statements for stakeholders

    - Infrastructure to collect, analyse and disperse information
    - Efficiency, effectiveness, relationships
    - Informed decisions by all stakeholders
    - Adaptability
    - Trust among stakeholders – relationships – breaking down of silos
        - Increased number of champions
    - Transparency among stakeholders and public
    - Consistency across the country
    - Use of innovative mechanisms for sharing – networks, partnerships, technology
    - Sharing of best practices, methodologies and lessons learned
- Planning
    - Less fragmented system provides a more comprehensive viewpoint for trends analysis and forecasting capability
    - Ability to better set priorities
    - Business Case
    - National animal health and public health policy
    - Ability to identify and secure sustainable funding
- Disease management
    - Agility in the event of a disease incursion
    - Early detection/early action – less cost of disease to system
    - Endemic trends identified and risk assessed
    - Resource efficiencies
- Markets
    - Enhanced market access through knowledge and management of domestic diseases
    - Ability to use as import standards
    - May be able to impose standards on our imports to reduce disease risk
- Communication
    - Well developed communication strategy in the event of disease
    - Broad communication to include all stakeholders
    - Public communication on implications of disease management and the realities of production practices
    - Improved communication with producers with regard to disease management and preventative practices
    - Established feedback mechanisms
- Other
    - Added value may not be known until data is analysed

    - There is need to be able to communicate to producers the value of preventative practices vs response to an outbreak in a cost benefit analysis.
    - Would need to manage data collected proactively to ensure it doesn't hurt us in trade
    - Increased assurance to consumers re zoonotic diseases
    - Public and animal health policy that supports producer participation

Table reporting included several comments on the need to have trust among partners in a collaborative system and that it was important to build that over time in a "peace time" environment, rather than try to make it work during a crisis.

Several tables mentioned the need to reach beyond the "partners" to producers and practitioners.

C-enternet was noted as a project which was providing valuable feedback to all parties, including producers.

Q2 - When considering zoonotic diseases, how should farm animal interests be addressed? For example, a zoonotic animal disease might have high relevance for public health but low relevance for animal health.

- Public health and animal health work together collaboratively from the beginning
    - Communication/understanding
    - Public Health Agency of Canada – understanding and training of the public health sector re agriculture
    - Be proactive – describe roles and responsibilities in collaboration and preparedness and response
    - Collaborative approach should reduce "knee jerk" reactions
    - Preplanning for how to work together
    - Consider implications to the industry when planning response
    - Integrated risk approach takes time
    - Develop a cycle of surveillance, developing information, developing policy and revisiting policy based on new studies
    - Centres of expertise may need to be developed
- Risk assessment team should be established for the particular event
    - Use a risk analysis approach which is science based, inclusive and transparent

    - Broadly based
    - Inclusive
    - Risk management focus
- Sustainable funding – public/private
    - Who pays – costs proportional to impact
    - The burden may be on the public health system
    - For zoonotic diseases with low animal impact and since prevention is mostly a public good, prevention should not be support on by the agricultural industries and agricultural government agencies. This will avoid withdrawal of producers from the effort or poor collaboration from them.
- Implications of One Health
    - Environmental concerns must also be considered within a One Health perspective
    - Animal welfare concerns in disease management are both farm and public interest
    - There is a public health impact on producers – distress, losing farms – that must be considered
- Communication
    - Communication, communication, communication
    - Trade discussions should include producers
    - Engage producers through education and develop trust
    - Trust is required – takes time
    - Need to recognize that public confidence is fragile and affects political decision making
- Other
    - Industry has to take a position
    - Confidentiality must be addressed during surveillance
    - Changing organisms or developing research may make something that is low relevance today higher relevance in the future
    - There may be an acceptable level of protection since all diseases can't be eradicated
    - Need to ensure urban and hobby farms are included in process