Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Our vision:
To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:
Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Federally Regulated Animal Diseases in Canada – Criteria and Triggers

Presented to: National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

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Canada

Purpose/Objective

Provide an overview on the most recent phase of the project associated with the project to categorize animal diseases in Canada.

ISSUE

The current list of federally reportable diseases is primarily historical, not criteria based, so there are gaps and overlaps in jurisdictional responsibilities (federal, provincial, private), resulting in:

- No clear assignment of roles and responsibilities in new / emerging diseases leading to delayed responses in the face of potentially serious zoonotic incursions.

- Desire to refocus limited federal resources in diseases / roles that would meet objective criteria for federal involvement.

Background

- Original approach was to develop criteria to map the future management of animal disease in Canada

  - Which diseases should remain federally reportable?
  - Which new diseases should become federally reportable?
  - Guidance for responsibility for surveillance and response responsibilities

- Numerous other reviews to categorize animal diseases

  - OIE http://www.oie.int/support-to-oie-members/global-studies/categorisation-of-animal-diseases/
  - CFIA strategy for animal disease surveillance
  - OVC's Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses (CPHAZ) is conducting a study on the prioritization of zoonotic diseases in Canada and the US for the USAHA

Background

- A goal of the newly formed National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) is to "develop, negotiate, and conclude an agreement amongst the farmed animal sector, the federal government, and the provincial/territorial governments, for the shared responsibility, management, and funding of all significant diseases of the farmed animal sector".

- The disease categorization project is a key component in regulatory modernisation for the animal health program. One could view this as a two step process:

  - Clarify which diseases (mandate) are a federal responsibility
  - Redefine the role of CFIA in association with these diseases

Background

Available resources required project to be approached in phases

- Phase 1 contracted Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses to produce 2 deliverables:

  - Literature review for all similar reviews (academic and government) and key interviews to identify existing information on this topic
  - Conduct focus groups to pilot test a focus group approach to exploring criteria for categorizing animal disease at the three levels (federal; provincial and private industry)

- Sought approval from AHBL to proceed with this phase of project. Completed by end of 2012-13 fiscal and reported on to the Domestic Subcommittee of AHBL.

Background

Resources to commence phase 2 of original project not available (>$100k)

Much smaller amount of funding was available within the budget of the CVO

- Redesigned phase 2 so that it produced a useful deliverable
- Decision-analysis Tool for the characterization of CFIA involvement and role in animal health events.

    - What diseases to become involved with (replaces criteria)
    - What role to take with that disease (goes beyond criteria)
    - Contract to TDV Global; completed March 21, 2014

Product

TDV Global in close collaboration with CFIA developed / delivered the following product:

2 flow charts and accompanying guide

- Level 1 of tool generates 1 of 2 outcomes
    - Further consideration of CFIA involvement
    - CFIA non involvement

- Level 2 of tool assigns one of 4 roles to the CFIA and one of 2 roles to the CVO

Next Steps

- Meet with working group of NFAHWC to demonstrate the tool by working through several examples

- Pilot usage of the tool on real-life emerging issues

- Identify discrepancies and review / adapt tool

Long term
- Review current reportable and notifiable lists utilizing this tool. Adjust accordingly.