
THE MEAT, DAIRY AND POULTRY INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING MANY PROCESSORS, WANT TO DO MORE TO PROTECT THEIR BUSINESSES, FARMS AND LIVELIHOODS FROM THE RISK OF MAJOR, MULTI-SPECIES BORDER-CLOSING INFECTIOUS DISEASE EVENTS.

WHAT IS ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA?

Building on direction from FPT governments in the National Plant and Animal Health Strategy, several industry leaders have agreed to champion the development of “Animal Health Canada”, a new governance model built on industry-government partnership in decision making, resource sharing and program management. The goal is to strengthen Canada’s capacity for animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPR&R) by reducing fragmentation of accountabilities, ensuring greater sustainability in resource commitments, increasing timeliness of action and planning more effectively for the future.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- **15 industry associations and companies pledging \$140,000 to support the exploration and recommendation of options**
- **Working Group Representation From:**
Canadian Animal Health Coalition, the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, the National Cattle Feeders Association, the Canadian Meat Council, the Canadian Pork Council, the Canadian Sheep Federation, the National Sheep Network, the Dairy Farmers of Canada, the Dairy Processors Association of Canada, Maple Leaf Foods, the Canadian poultry industry, the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency with secretariat support provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- **Presentations To:**
Pork, Sheep and Beef Value Chain Round Tables, the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers, the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy Committee and the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Forum
- **Letter Submitted To:**

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Agriculture Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Assistant Deputy Ministers, and the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers to seek support for Animal Health Canada

- **Meetings With:**
 - Assistant Deputy Ministers and Deputy Ministers of several provinces
 - Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
 - Vice President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Policy and Programs Branch
 - The President of CFIA

NEXT STEPS

- Continue outreach to federal, provincial and territorial government representatives to seek support and engagement
- Identify Federal/Provincial/Territorial representatives for the CEO Champions Committee and the Animal Health Canada working group
- Continue industry outreach
- Develop a terms of reference, budget and workplan for the “building phase” to be overseen by the working group in 2019

Animal Health Canada Working Group Proposed Activities:

- Identify the key desired criteria required for a new governance model for animal health in Canada
- Develop an inventory of available resources, programs and organizations that currently support animal health in Canada
- Compare the key desired criteria to the available resources, programs, and organizations that currently support animal health in Canada
- Identify the gaps in PPR&R that could be addressed through governance changes or other organizational solutions
- Undertake examination of existing models nationally and internationally that may assist in selecting a new governance model for Canada
- Propose Canadian model options for further development

If you would like additional information on Animal Health Canada, or if a representative from your organization would like to participate in the Animal Health Canada working group, please feel free to contact Megan Bergman at megan@ahwcouncil.ca