



ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014

NFAHW 
COUNCIL

National Farmed Animal Health & Welfare Council

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It is a privilege as co-chairs of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (Council) to present the 2013-14 annual report. Utilizing the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (Strategy) as a guide, the Council has been active on many fronts which are outlined in this report as well as the progress made on the strategic outcomes of the Strategy.

The Council's vision, as expressed in the Strategy, is "Canada values and supports the health, care and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being people, the environment and the Canadian economy." The Council is committed to developing thoughtful and practical recommendations on key issues, where possible naming potential champions, which when implemented by stakeholders will create measurable progress on the strategic outcomes.

The Council recognizes that as an advisory body, **it is the action of the stakeholders in government, industry and other non-government organizations to implement the Council advice, to adopt the Strategy and work toward the strategic outcomes that will fulfil the vision.**

Collaboration among all stakeholders in Canada's animal health and welfare system is a fundamental belief of the Council and the core of the Strategy. All stakeholders bring valued input to the system in an effective way when roles and responsibilities are defined, assets are identified and stakeholders are treated with mutual respect.

The report will provide more detail on the achievements of the Council in the 2013-14 fiscal year. Highlights are:

- Regular scheduling on the FPT Regulatory Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture Committee
- Uptake of recommendations from advisory statements produced in 2011 and 2012 by a range of stakeholders such as various commodity organizations, the National Farmed Animal Care Council, the Federal-Provincial Animal Welfare Group, the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers and government departments and agencies.
- A successful Forum 2013 held in December in Ottawa
- Strengthening relationships around the Council table

On behalf of the Council we extend our thanks to all stakeholders. The Council recognizes that stakeholder support is necessary for it to achieve anticipated results. We would like to thank those on Council who completed their term or left for other reasons. We would also like to thank stakeholders for designating or electing members to ensure the Council has a full complement of members.

A special thanks is due to Dr. Wayne Lees who was a founding member of the Council and left the Council during this year on his retirement from public service in Manitoba. Wayne served as co-chair of the Council since its inception and provided leadership on Council and working groups and outreach to the Council of Chief Veterinarians and producer groups in Manitoba.

Council has increased communications over the year by issuing Council Notes after all face to face meetings to provide updates on Council activities and Council Updates after all Council teleconferences to provide a very brief update for ongoing activities.

In closing, we are privileged and honoured to represent such a professional and committed group of individuals as the members of the Council. Canada's animal health and welfare system is served well by this dedicated group who bring a very broad knowledge base and experience to all discussions. It is important for all stakeholders to engage in long term considerations for enhancing our animal health and welfare system.

Sincerely

Rob McNabb

John Ross

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (Council) is a sub-committee of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Regulatory ADMs of Agriculture Committee. The Council was formed in July 2010 to implement the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy which was completed in 2009 (Strategy). The Council is advisory to the Regulatory ADMs Committee and all stakeholders.

The Strategy envisions a collaborative relationship in the governance of Canada’s animal health and welfare system that recognizes a shared responsibility between federal and provincial/territorial governments and industry stakeholders. This collaborative relationship operates in a “One Health” context which considers animal health, public health, ecosystem health and economic health when developing solutions.

The Council is a unique organization with equal funding from the federal government, provincial and territorial governments and industry. Membership is derived from both the agriculture and public health communities.

Members of Council focus on enhancing Canada’s animal health and welfare system and are nonrepresentational in discussion. The Council is a forum where an understanding of authorities and concerns of government and industry stakeholders can be built.



STRATEGIC

The Council is regularly scheduled on the **FPT Regulatory ADM committee agenda** with the co-chairs reporting on Council activities, progress on the workplan and the alignment of the workplan with the Regulatory ADM priorities.

The Council reports regularly to all stakeholders through Council Notes after teleconferences and Council Update after all meetings, addresses stakeholders directly on request; an annual report, a website and an annual Forum designed to engage stakeholders in the Council activities.

SURVEILLANCE

The Council continues to monitor the implementation of the recommendations in the advisory document, “Surveillance in a time of transition in farmed animal health” (2009). **The advice stimulated initiatives in several areas which continue to progress.** Several of these initiatives reported to stakeholders at Forum 2013.

Governance of surveillance has been identified as a part of the governance of the entire system which would be a starting point for developing a governance model. This work which will begin in 2014-15 will link the Council's work on surveillance and governance.

ANIMAL WELFARE

The recommendations in the council advisory statement on animal welfare, “A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada” (2012) have, in large part, been adopted by the identified lead stakeholders. The advisory statement provided guidance and leverage in the development of business planning and program and project delivery for groups like the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), the Federal Provincial Animal Welfare Group (FPAW) and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC).

GOVERNANCE

The Council continued its study of governance of the animal health and welfare system with an assessment of other collaborative approaches globally. This study formed the basis for a workshop held at Forum 2013.

Beginning in 2014-15, the Council will consider the governance of the animal health surveillance system to develop a model which might be further developed for other system components in the future.

RELATIONSHIPS

Collaboration is built on relationships with other stakeholders. The Council continues to grow these relationships at the Council table, the annual forum and through transparency in Council activities. There is a broader understanding of the inter-related impacts in a “One Health” approach. Council members have been able to reflect this understanding in their Council and daily responsibilities.



FORUM 2013

December 3-4, 2013

Approximately 100 participants representing federal and provincial governments, industry and other non-government stakeholders participated.

The agenda included reports on progress on the strategic outcomes of the Strategy from the Council and other stakeholders, a governance workshop and a consultation workshop on the renewal of the Strategy to provide strategic direction to 2020.

ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report provides an update on Council activities and progress on the strategic outcomes of the Strategy. In this report, we have also included some stakeholder activities which have contributed to the strategic outcomes.

Council website – www.ahwcouncil.ca and www.conseilsbe.ca

Presentations to stakeholder groups on request.

NEWSLETTERS

Council Notes or Council Updates are developed following each meeting and distributed to all stakeholders to provide ongoing information on Council activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- The Management Committee manages the interface with the secretariat and ensures that progress on action items is proceeding between Council meetings. Teleconference meetings are held every two weeks.
- The Finance Committee is active in budgeting and review of financial statements.

MEETINGS

- Four face-to-face meetings were held, either in Ottawa or Toronto
- Monthly teleconferences were held to provide updates and ensure progress on Council activities.
- Council working groups meet as required, usually by teleconference.
- Council received the following presentations during the year:
 - Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Disease Integrated Intelligence and Response (CZED-IIR) – Shane Renwick and Harry Gardiner, CFIA
 - Livestock Market Interruption Strategy (LMIS) – Peter Gaudet, AAFC
 - Report of the OIE antimicrobial resistance meeting – Glen Gifford, CFIA, and Michel Major, MAPAQ and Council member
 - CFIA disease categorization project – Penny Greenwood, CFIA and Jan Sargeant, University of Guelph
 - Report of the OIE General Session – Rob McNabb, CCA and Council member, and Ian Alexander, CFIA and Council member
 - Federal Provincial Animal Welfare group (FPAW) update on implementation of recommendations in the Council's animal welfare advisory statement – "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada (2012)" – Penny Lawlis, OMAF and Anne Allen, CFIA

The Terms of Reference for the Council requires that the Council considers progress on the Strategic Outcomes of the Strategy as a measure of progress. Since the Council is advisory, the progress will be achieved through the response of stakeholders to the advice of Council and the actions of stakeholders independent of Council which contribute to progress on the strategic outcomes. This year, the Council includes some of these stakeholder activities in its report.

1. Improve capacity to avoid threats and anticipate opportunities

“Providing anticipation and forewarning of adverse events leading to avoidance and prevention”

The CZED-IIR project led by CFIA and engaging stakeholders both in Canada and internationally is intended to provide the intelligence and response that was anticipated in the Council progress report, “Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence Progress report of the NFAHW Council (2012)”.

The Council of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVO) project to implement some recommendations from the Council advisory statement “Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health (2012)” continues to provide leadership on development of surveillance systems.

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) and the Federal Provincial Animal Welfare group (FPAW) continue to use the recommendations included in the advisory statement “A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada (2012)” to empower their organizations to take larger roles.

2. Improve capacity to respond to threats and create opportunities

“building on preparation for a rapid and effective response”

The Livestock Market Interruption Strategy (LMIS) being developed as an “all of government” plan. Led by AAFC it is a broad plan for response extending beyond disease response and encompasses the response to significant market disruption.

The Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) is demonstrating the value of gathering producer information and providing intelligence to producers and veterinarians as a way of engaging broad participation of stakeholders.



3. Improve public confidence in Canada's farmed animal system

"Accomplished through communication messages which demonstrate that animal health, public health and ecosystem health are in balance"

Influencing this strategic outcome will be measured in the longer term as Council's recommendations are implemented.

Contributing to progress are:

- Council's work on antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance
- The development of animal care codes of practice by commodity organizations and facilitated by NFACC
- Implementation of assessment of animal care standards by stakeholders such as the Dairy Farmers of Canada
- The implementation of sustainability programming by stakeholders

4. Improve industry viability

"by minimizing financial risk and expediting recovery to a normal business state"

All topics considered by Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome. **A highly functional animal health and welfare system with an active collaborative approach, engaging all stakeholders will provide the resiliency.**

The development and implementation of LMIS, being led by AAFC, will provide the high level direction for financial risk management.

Minimizing financial risk is achieved through strong surveillance systems, agri-intelligence, biosecurity, emergency planning, producer engagement and communication. All of these are being enhanced through various collaborative stakeholder initiatives. An example is the development and implementation of commodity specific biosecurity standards being led by CFIA and the commodities.



5. Improve market access

“through improved farmed animal health status and the credibility of the farmed animal health system”

All topics considered by the Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome. Progress is a result of an enhanced animal health and welfare system which engages all stakeholders in the system.

6. Improve capacity to protect public health

“by the farmed animal sector being an integral part of the “One Health” system”

The participation of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health (CCMOH) in the Council has enhanced the understanding of the mutual impacts of animal welfare and animal health and public health. All discussions of Council are in the context of “One Health”.

The Council’s work on governance of the animal health and welfare system, antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare, surveillance, and agri-intelligence is important to achieving progress on this strategic outcome.

Several sectors are working on policy development to manage the use of antimicrobials in animal production. More can be expected on this in the next fiscal year.

7. Improve farmed animal care and welfare

“by sharing responsibility for farmed animal care and welfare practices that have a basis in science and reflect societal values”

The animal welfare document “A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada (2012)” provides recommendations for enhancing the system of farmed animal welfare in Canada. The implementation of these recommendations by stakeholders will demonstrate progress on this strategic outcome.

The support of the development of animal care codes of practice by AAFC funding programs allows the continued development of updated codes of practice led by NFACC. The NFACC process is science based, engages all stakeholders in the process and has a public comment period.

As the codes are developed, it is important that they are implemented. The implementation process involves building awareness, education and communication as well as an on-farm assessment component. As codes of practice are developed, the commodity organizations involved begin this process. An animal care assessment framework has been developed by NFACC with the Dairy Farmers of Canada which is expected to be the basis of on-farm assessment of animal care practices.

The enhancement of FPAW will provide an enhanced communication forum for animal welfare regulators in Canada.

8. Improve capacity to protect ecosystem health

“achieving an environmentally sustainable system for raising farmed animals”

The “One Health” model used by Council will ensure that all topics which are considered by Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome.

A highly functional animal health and welfare system with active participation by all stakeholders will lead to progress on this strategic outcome.

Non-Government:

Pierre Lampron (from February 2014)
Board Member – Dairy Farmers of Canada

David Murray (October 2012 – February 2014)
Board Member - Dairy Farmers of Canada

Dr. David Fraser
University of British Columbia - Animal Welfare Program

Jennifer MacTavish
Canadian Sheep industry

Rob McNabb
General Manager - Canadian Cattlemen's Association

Florian Possberg (October 2010 – October 2013)
Chair – Canadian Swine Health Board

Scott Dingwell (from November 2013)
Board Member - Canadian Pork Council

David Hyink (from March 2013 – March 2014)
Board Member - Chicken Farmers of Canada

Marc Cormier (from March 2014)
Board Member - Chicken Farmers of Canada

Dr. Norm Willis (October 2010 – December 2013)
Canadian Council on Animal Care

Dr. Jim Fairles (from December 2013)
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

Federal Government:

John Ross
Director - Animal Industry Division, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Dr. Mark Raizenne (September 2011 – August 2013)
Director General, Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada

Dr. Marian Harymann (August – September 2013)

Dr. Steven Sternthal (from October 2013)
A/Director General - Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada

Dr. Debbie Barr (from August 2013)
A/Director – Animal Health, Welfare & Biosecurity Division

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

Dr. Wayne Lees (October 2010 – December 2013)

Chief Veterinary Officer (Manitoba)– Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Dr. Greg Douglas (from January 2014)

Chief Veterinary Officer (Ontario) – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Dr. Gerald Hauer (October 2010 – February 2014)

Chief Provincial Veterinarian (Alberta), Food Safety & Animal Health Division, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development

Dr. Jane Pritchard (from March 2014)

Director Plant and Animal Branch - BC Agriculture

Dr. Michel Major

Chief Veterinary Officer (Quebec), Direction de la santé animale et de l'inspection des viandes, MAPAQ

Dr. Kathryn Koliaska (April 2011 – April 2014)

Medical Officer of Health - Alberta Health Services

Ex Officio:

Dr. Ian Alexander (October 2010 – December 2013 – as a member of Council until became ex-officio when Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada in September 2012)

Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada/Executive Director- Animal Health Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Dr. Harpreet Kochhar (December 2013 – present)

Executive Director Animal Health Directorate, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, CFIA



COUNCIL SUPPORTERS

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council acknowledge the following organizations for their funding contributions:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canadian Animal Health Institute
Canadian Cattlemen's Association
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
Canadian Livestock Genetics Association
Canadian Pork Council
Canadian Sheep Federation
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Chicken Farmers of Canada
Dairy Farmers of Canada
Egg Farmers of Canada
Equine Canada
Government of Alberta
Government of British Columbia
Government of Manitoba
Government of New Brunswick
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Government of Northwest Territories
Government of Nunavut
Government of Ontario
Government of Prince Edward Island
Government of Quebec
Government of Saskatchewan
Government of Yukon
National Farm Animal Care Council
Public Health Agency of Canada
Turkey Farmers of Canada



The following is the audited financial statement for Council Operations for the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

REVENUE

	ACTUAL
Industry Support	\$103,500
Federal and Provincial Government Support	211,990
Sponsorship of Forum	13,800
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Revenue Total	329,290

EXPENDITURES

	ACTUAL
Communications	\$8,794
Forum Expenses	66,061
Honorariums	7,700
Insurance	99
Meetings	8,489
Office Supplies and Miscellaneous	284
Professional Fees	6,236
Research	82,861
Secretariat	130,237
Translation	7,723
Travel	37,182
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Expenditure Total	355,666

2014 Surplus/(Deficit) (26,376)



National Farmed Animal Health And Welfare Council
c/o Canadian Animal Health Coalition

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