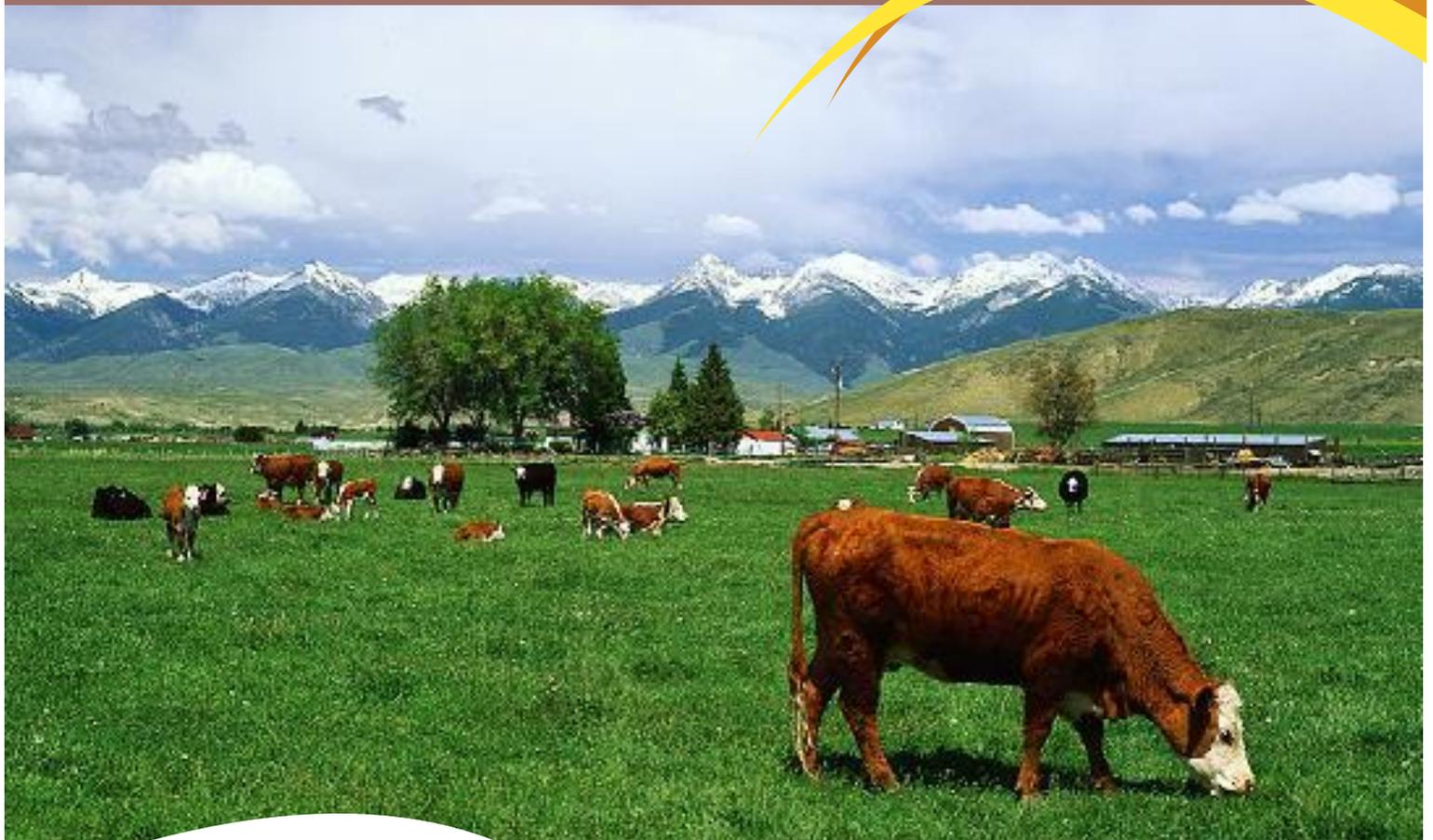


# National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council



2011 - 2012 Annual Report

NFAHW Council



## Report from the Co-Chairs

As Co-chairs of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (Council), it is our privilege to present this second annual report which we hold as exemplifying the stakeholder commitment to the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (Strategy).

The Council's vision is "Canada values and supports the health, care and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment and the Canadian economy". With this as a guiding principle, the Council has continued to deliberate on the key outcomes of the Strategy and develop thoughtful and practical recommendations to achieve the outcomes, thereby enhancing our world class animal health and welfare system.

For all stakeholders engaged in the production, distribution, regulatory and program oversight and consumption of farmed animals and their products, collaboration is the ultimate solution to the advancement of the system.

Industry and government resources are continually challenged with new priorities at the same time that limits are being placed on those resources from all quarters. This means that we must plan and do things somewhat differently than tradition would suggest. No single stakeholder, whether it's a government department or agency or an industry with its own means can achieve the strategic outcomes without new approaches and innovative thinking. Without collaboration at the highest and lowermost ranks, the animal health and welfare system will not adapt and adapt it must.

This report will detail the achievements of the Council this past year, including but not limited to the following highlights.

- Council is regularly scheduled on the Regulatory ADM meeting agenda with the co-chairs reporting on Council activities.
- A representative of the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health added to the Council
- Surveillance and Animal Welfare were the first two work areas
  - "Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health" was the Council advisory document resulting from Council deliberations.
- Council is well advanced on developing advice on the Animal Welfare priority item

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## The Vision

*“Canada values and supports the health, care and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment and the Canadian economy”.*

## Collaboration

*Without collaboration at the highest and lowermost ranks, the animal health and welfare system will not adapt and adapt it must.*

## Relationships

*Relationships at the Council table continue to evolve. There is a growing appreciation for the inter-related impacts and benefits in a “One Health” approach. The Council members have been able to reflect this understanding in their own daily responsibilities.*



- A prioritization process for the identification of priority items was developed and implemented.
- Council identified Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence, Education and Training and Governance as the next three components of Canada’s animal health and welfare system to be considered by the Council
  - Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence is moving forward following development of a scoping document
  - An Education and Training scoping paper is near completion for presentation to Council
- Governance has begun with the establishment of a working group

Relationships at the Council table continue to evolve. There is a growing appreciation for the inter-related impacts and benefits in a “One Health” approach. The Council members have been able to reflect this understanding in their own daily responsibilities.

Clearly the Council will not achieve success without the support and input from its stakeholders. Updates to stakeholder organizations in both government and industry are a priority for the Council and all requests will be met, schedules permitting. It is often said that communication is our greatest and weakest asset. Today’s communication technology leaves little room for excuses in getting the message out. Being unaware of what is happening is no excuse by the same logic. The Council continues to explore and implement communication tools to ensure there are no excuses.

In closing, it is a privilege and an honour to represent the members of the Council in presenting this annual report. A more passionate and dedicated group of people working on behalf of all Canadians to enhance the health and welfare of farmed animals would be difficult to find.

Enjoy the report and embrace the vision.

Sincerely,

*Wayne Lees*

*Rob McNabb*



## Achievements

### Strategic

- Council is regularly scheduled on the Regulatory ADM meeting agenda with the co-chairs reporting on Council activities.
- A representative of the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health added to the Council
- Surveillance and Animal Welfare were the first two work areas
  - “Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health” was the Council advisory document resulting from Council deliberations.
  - Council is well advanced on developing advice on the Animal Welfare priority item
- A prioritization process for the identification of priority items was developed and implemented. The process includes consideration of the NFAHW Strategy.
- Council identified Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence, Education and Training and Governance as the next three components of Canada’s animal health and welfare system to be considered by the Council
  - Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence is moving forward following development of scoping document
  - Education and Training scoping paper is near completion for presentation to Council for consideration
  - Governance will begin soon with the establishing of a working group
- Relationships at the Council table have developed so that there is a broader understanding of the inter-related impacts in a “One Health” approach. The Council members have been able to reflect this understanding in daily responsibilities.



Forum 2011 was a “true exchange of information by a very diverse group of people. The opinions and points of view gathered will be extremely useful to the Council”.

Dr. Wayne Lees - December 2011  
Press Release



## Stakeholder outreach

- Forum 2011 – December 6-7, 2011
  - Approximately 100 participants representing federal and provincial governments and non-government organizations
  - Plenary and breakout sessions on three of Council’s prioritized work areas – Surveillance, Animal Welfare and Governance, each at different stages of development
  - Presenters from Australia provided international input to the Forum 2011
- An Annual Report was produced reporting activities to March 2011
- Website activated - ([www.ahwcouncil.ca](http://www.ahwcouncil.ca) and [www.counseilsbe.ca](http://www.counseilsbe.ca) )
  - Bilingual with public and secure sections
  - Public access is provided to the Forum 2012 reporting, Council reports and meeting dates
  - The section provides a repository for active and confidential Council documents. Access is provided to Council members and working group members.
- Council presentations to stakeholder groups

## Administrative

- Incorporation of Council (non-government owners)
- Contract with secretariat established and refined
- Terms of Reference finalized and signed off
- Confidentiality policy established
- Conflict of interest policy established

## Meetings

- 5 Council meetings have been held
- Monthly teleconferences have been held to further the work of the Council between meetings
- The Co-chairs meet approximately every two weeks with the secretariat by teleconference to plan agendas and review secretariat activities.

## Surveillance in a Time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health

The advisory statement, “Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health” recognizes the need for active surveillance with input by all involved stakeholders.

# Moving Forward

## Progress on Strategic Outcomes of the NFAHW Strategy

The Terms of Reference require that Council consider progress on the Strategic Outcomes of the NFAHW Strategy as a measure of progress.

### 1. Improve capacity to respond to threats and create opportunities “building on preparation for a rapid and effective response”.

The surveillance advisory document, “Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health”, provides a vision for advancing surveillance capability and coordination to ensure early identification and communication of disease with engagement of all stakeholders.

### 2. Improve capacity to avoid threats and anticipate opportunities “providing anticipation and forewarning of adverse events leading to avoidance and prevention”.

Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence has been identified as a priority item for the Council. A scoping document that used the Fore-CAN assessment tool template was developed and reviewed by Council. The Council has decided to move forward with this priority item. A working group has been established which includes one external member.

Surveillance is a critical component of anticipation and agri-intelligence. Surveillance was the topic of the first advisory document developed by the Council. The advisory statement, “Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health” recognizes the need for active surveillance with input by all involved stakeholders.

### 3. Improve public confidence in Canada’s farmed animal health system “accomplished through communication messages which demonstrate that animal health, public health, and ecosystem health are in balance”.

Participation in the Council by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health ensure that public health and the relationship of public health and animal health are considered.

Relationships around the Council table have developed so that there is a broader understanding of the inter-related impacts in a “One Health” approach. The Council members have been able to reflect this understanding in daily responsibilities

The Council has expressed a desire to ensure input by those involved in ecosystem health on working groups when appropriate. There has also been consideration given to adding an “environmental” representative to the Council.

This strategic outcome will require a longer timeframe to assess change in public confidence.



#### **4. Improve industry viability**

“by minimizing financial risk and expediting recovery to a normal business state”.

A highly functional animal health and welfare system with active participation by all stakeholders is seen as the desirable way to achieve this strategic outcome.

The prioritization process which was developed to prioritize Council’s consideration of the components of Canada’s animal health and welfare system considers the impact on the system as one of the considerations.

Impact of current action items:

- Surveillance and Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence will help to identify, prepare and respond early, mitigating risk.
- Animal welfare must be considered in dealing with animal disease response and in dealing with trade and market expectations of animal care
- Education and training will provide the long term leadership and development required to continue to develop the capabilities required in the system.
- Governance is an essential component that supports all components in the system.

#### **5. Improve market access**

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

All topics which will be considered by the Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome. Progress on this strategic outcome is a result of an enhanced animal health and welfare system and will require longer term assessment of progress.

#### **6. Improve capacity to protect public health**

“by the farmed animal sector being an integral part of the ‘one-health’ system”.

The work of the Council has focussed on a One Health approach. The participation of PHAC and CCMOH has enhanced the understanding of the impact of animal health and welfare on public health and vice versa. Council has also had enlightening discussion about the impact of response decisions in the event of both animal and human disease outbreaks on the other sector. There is recognition of the need for more knowledge of this in both sectors.

#### **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 priority item being developed by Council will speak to this strategic outcome. An advisory document is anticipated in 2012. There has been discussion with the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFAACC) about taking an expanded role in farmed animal welfare in Canada. It is hoped that the support of the Council will facilitate this development. The processes developed and used by NFAACC to develop animal care codes and animal care assessment programs is based in science and has broad participation to ensure consideration of societal values.

#### **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 will be considered by the Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome. The prioritization process considers impact on the environment. A highly functional animal health and welfare system with active participation by all stakeholders is seen as the desirable way to achieve this strategic outcome.

# Council Members

**Non-Government:**

Dr. Pauline Duivenvoorden  
Board Member - Dairy Farmers of Canada

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

Jennifer MacTavish  
Executive Director - Canadian Sheep Federation

Rob McNabb  
General Manager, Operations - Canadian Cattlemen's Association

Florian Possberg  
Chair – Canadian Swine Health Board

Rick Thiessen  
Board Member - Chicken Farmers of Canada

Dr. Norm Willis  
Canadian Council on Animal Care

**Federal Government:**

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

Dr. Mark Raizenne  
Director General, Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada

Dr. Ian Alexander  
Executive Director - Animal Health Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

**Provincial/Territorial Governments:**

Dr. Wayne Lees  
CVO – Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Dr. Gerald Hauer  
CVO, Food Safety & Animal Health Division, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development

Dr. Michel Major  
CVO - Province of Quebec, Direction de la santé animale et de l'inspection des viandes,

Dr. Kathryn Koliaska  
Medical Officer of Health - Alberta Health Services

## Our 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 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 North West Territories  
Government of Nova Scotia  
Government of Nunavut  
Government of Ontario  
Government of Prince Edward Island  
Government of Quebec  
Government of Saskatchewan  
Government of Yukon  
Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada  
National Farm Animal Care Council  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
Turkey Farmers of Canada

## Financial Report

The following is the audited financial statement for Council Operations for the period of April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012:

### Revenue

#### Actual

Industry Support	107,300
Federal and Provincial Government Support	204,230
	_____
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>311,530</b>

### Expenditures

Communications	7,715
Meetings and Honourarium	16,906
Professional Fees	5,452
Research	92,073
Secretariat	107,537
Translation	10,139
Travel	41,822
	_____
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>281,644</b>

**2012 Surplus/(Deficit) 29,886**

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