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Executive Director's Corner



Dr. Megan Bergman,
Executive Director,
NFAHW Council

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.



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WHAT'S NEW !

Council Board of Directors

In January 2021, the NFAHW Council welcomed Dr. Nina von Keyserlingk as the new Director on the Board. [Dr. von Keyserlingk](#), a professor in the Animal Welfare Program, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia brings with her extensive experience in the field of farm animal welfare and is a sought after speaker and scientific advisor. We would like to extend our appreciation to Dr. von Keyserlingk for her willingness to serve as a NFAHW Council Director.

We would like to thank Dr. David Fraser, our outgoing Director for his exemplary service to the NFAHW Council. Dr. Fraser has been an enthusiastic member since October 2010 and is well renowned for his skills and experience around the world. During his time on Council, he has served as the Chair for the NFAHW Council's Animal Welfare Committee and provided valued leadership, expertise and guidance to the Committee as well as the Council. He led the development and subsequent updating of "[A National Farmed Animal Welfare System For Canada](#)". We wish Dr. Fraser all the best in his future endeavors.

Council Advisory Committee

The Council would like to congratulate Dr. Debbie Barr on her retirement. Debbie has been an advisory committee member of the Council on behalf of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency since 2013, and the Council was fortunate to have the opportunity to benefit from Debbie's guidance, expertise, and experience.

In November 2020, the Council was pleased to have [Dr. Mary Jane Ireland](#) join as a member of the Council Advisory Committee. Dr. Ireland recently joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as the Executive Director of the Animal Health Directorate and Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer. Previously, Dr. Ireland was Director General of the Veterinary Drugs Directorate at Health Canada.



Follow [@CahssCanada](#)
[@AHMproject](#) and [@CLTprogram](#)
on Twitter to get timely updates!

Check out our [CAHSS podcasts!](#)

The goal of the podcast series is to further share information of interest to veterinarians and producers, and engage and strengthen connections between stakeholders.



As with many organizations, COVID-19 restrictions drove the Council to transition to a virtual platform for 2020. Council elected to host 3 virtual sessions addressing 3 specific themes.

Forum 2020 **VIRTUAL** Events

ASSURANCE & INNOVATION

ANIMAL WELFARE *A vision for the future*

COVID-19 *Unintended consequences and lessons learned*

1

2

3

If you registered for this session and would like to view the recording [click here.](#)

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The change in format allowed the Council Forum 2020 sessions to be accessible to a wider audience and we enjoyed excellent participation from across sectors and government. We would like to extend our appreciation to all of our speakers, participants, sponsors and Council members for assisting us in hosting a successful and informative virtual Forum 2020.

Did you miss registration for the Forum 2020 virtual sessions?

Don't worry, you can still get access to the sessions as they were all recorded.

Click [HERE](#) to register now to enable access to the recordings.

Attention Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians!

NFAHW Council Forum Sessions are now RACE-approved. Forum participants will be able to obtain CE (continuing education) credit that is RACE-approved for veterinarians and veterinary technicians in jurisdictions which recognize American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) RACE approval. Forum offers hours of CE with quality courses that assist veterinary professionals to meet the necessary obligations for licensure. Contact your regulatory body to verify if you have any questions.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Council was incorporated in 2010.

The Council has an industry chair and a government chair.

The Council is a sub committee of the federal, provincial, and territorial, Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers.

The Council Board has 7 Directors.





Animal Health Canada

Vision: A sustainable agriculture and agri-food sector strengthened by an inclusive industry-government collaboration protecting the health and wellbeing of farmed animals.

Purpose: Animal Health Canada (AHC) provides a formal structure for the industry-government collaboration required to successfully implement the animal health components of the *Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada* (PAHS).

Structure: AHC encompasses a pan-Canadian, public-private collaboration built on the guiding principles of accountability and decision-making open to the participation of both levels of government and all animal industry sectors.

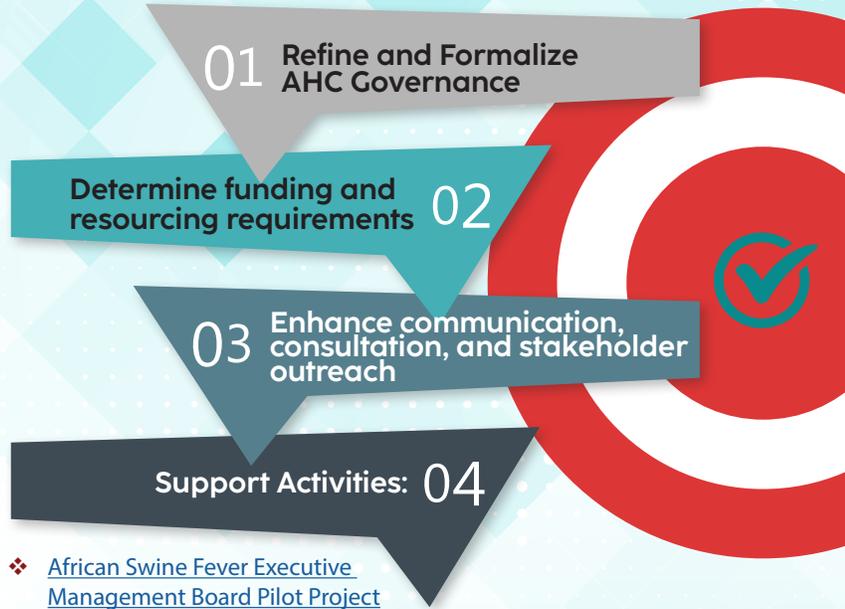
Mandate: AHC undertakes actions and delivers programs that achieve high standards of animal health protection and economic risk mitigation, consistent with the objectives and guiding principles of the PAHS.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- ❖ A governance structure and mandate based on formal commitments between the participants with the flexibility to evolve over time.
- ❖ Pre-determined accountability.
- ❖ Informed decision-making.



2021 PRIORITIES



- ❖ [African Swine Fever Executive Management Board Pilot Project](#)
- ❖ FMD Vaccine Bank Strategy Working Group

DID YOU KNOW?

The Council projects and divisions are working on new tools for outreach and communication all the time.

AHC Working Group Members

Industry Members

- Canadian Cattlemen's Association
- Canadian Meat Council
- Canadian Pork Council
- Canadian Poultry Industry Representative
- Canadian Sheep Federation
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Dairy Processors Association of Canada
- National Cattle Feeders' Association
- National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council
- National Sheep Network
- Maple Leaf Foods

Government Members

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- BC Ministry of Agriculture
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

AHC CEO Champions and Co-Chairs

- *Dori Gingera-Beauchemin* – Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development (Government Co-Chair)
- *Bob Lowe* – Canadian Cattlemen's Association (Industry Co-Chair)
- *Chris Forbes* – Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- *Tom Ethier* – British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture
- *Dr. Siddika Mithani* – Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- *Rick Bergmann* – Canadian Pork Council
- *David Wiens* – Dairy Farmers of Canada
- *David Colwell* – JBS Canada
- *Michael McCain* – Maple Leaf Foods Inc.
- *René Dufresne* – Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec
- *Dr. John Kelly* – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

African Swine Fever Executive Management Board (EMB)

The ASF Executive Management Board (EMB) held an all-day virtual meeting on January 26, 2021, to self-evaluate and streamline the path forward for 2021.



The top priorities for the ASF EMB in the coming year are:

- ◆ Hog Supply
- ◆ Wild Pig Management
- ◆ Recovery and Support Program Funding
- ◆ Readiness
- ◆ Biosecurity
- ◆ Communication

Work is ongoing as the EMB continues to evolve to increase knowledge transfer and information sharing with federal, provincial and territorial governments and industry.

In addition to the work already underway, shared funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Canadian Meat Council (CMC) and Canadian Pork Council (CPC) has been secured to support EMB priorities and initiate work on developing a national integrated ASF response plan. To support these activities, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Christa Arsenault will be stepping into the role of ASF Coordinator effective April 1, 2021. Dr. Arsenault can be reached at carsenault@ahwcouncil.ca. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Manitoba Agriculture and Dr. Glen Duizer for providing support and expertise to the ASF activities as the interim ASF Coordinator since February 2021.



For more information on the ASF EMB, or to register for access to the **ASF EMB Newsletters** [click here](#).

DIVISIONS and PROJECTS

National Farmed Animal Care Council



It's been a busy period of public comment periods for NFACC. The pig Code amendment public comment period started it all in September 2020, followed by the draft farmed salmonids Code, the mink Code amendment, and finally the draft goat Code public comment period, which ended in February 2021. Each public comment period runs for 60 days. Multiple committees are now considering the feedback received toward finalizing Codes and Code amendments.

Work also continues on the dairy cattle Code of Practice and the transportation Code of Practice. Public comment periods for those Codes are projected to begin in the Fall of 2021 and 2022 respectively.

Sign up for the [NFACC Newsletter](#) for the latest news.

■ DID YOU KNOW?

The Council has representation from livestock and poultry industry groups involved in animal health and welfare.





Over the last few months CAHSS has been working with partners on many activities that bring together and use data-driven information to demonstrate animal health, minimize impacts of disease, and guide planning on national animal health priorities.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

The ***Animal Health Insights Podcast***: a podcast series introducing listeners to the people and organizations who are working to support animal health in Canada. Podcasts are available in English, with French podcasts coming soon. The current Episode “*Coughing Conundrums*” is available at <https://cahss.ca/cahss-tools/cahss-podcasts>



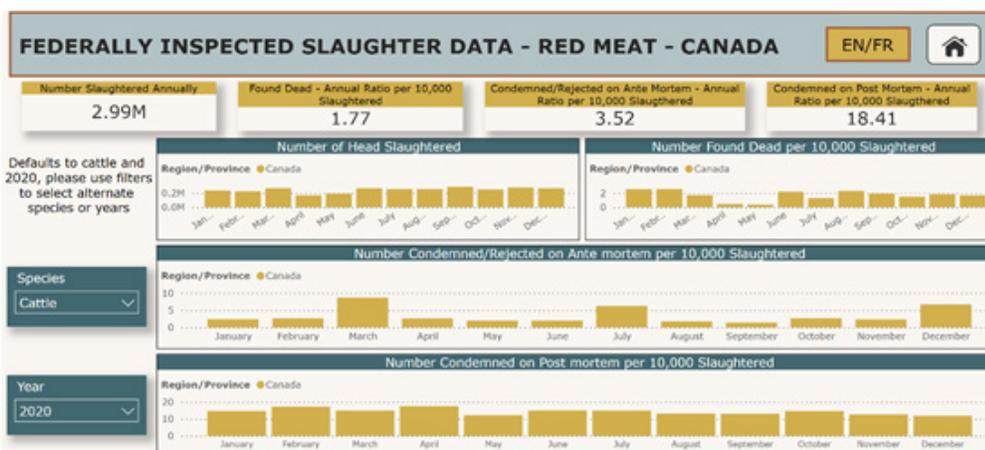
The ***Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Initiatives Library***: a library that showcases animal health surveillance initiatives and animal health event investigation programs in place across Canada. The library is available at <https://cahss.ca/cahss-tools/surveillance-initiative-library>

FAST FACTS!

The Council has representatives from human and animal health in order to ensure a “**One Health**” approach.

The Council has committees working on topics such as *Emerging Issues, Antimicrobial Use and Resistance, Animal Health, Animal Welfare, and One Welfare.*

The ***Federally Inspected Slaughter Dashboard***: a dashboard to show data recorded by Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspectors in Federally registered establishments, by species and regions. The dashboard is available on the CAHSS Member Portal under CAHSS Tools.



The ***AMU Metrics Reporting Project***: The CAHSS AMU/AMR Network, together with the Council AMU Working group, are overseeing a project to develop plain language and infographic descriptions of AMU reporting metrics and explore rationale for using specific metrics for reporting AMU in animals.

AHEM

Animal Health Emergency Management Project

- ❖ Bob Burden, who has been with the AHEM project since its inception in 2018, assumed the role of Project Manager alongside Mikki Shatosky who will continue in her role as Project Operations Manager.
- ❖ Industry protocols focusing on Non-Essential Movement and Animals in Transit are currently being finalized. Various protocol support tools (Risk Assessment Framework and a Request for Decision) have been developed and included to assist industry leaders as they work through the guidelines and recommended steps.
- ❖ We are currently in the process of organizing a scenario-based session to test specific components of the draft national Framework documents. These documents complement AHEM's provincial association Plans and producer Handbooks.
- ❖ Work with partners in SK, BC and NB on customized animal health emergency management [producer Handbooks](#) for equine, pigs, small holders, dairy and beef cattle is ongoing and progressing well.
- ❖ We continue to promote and coordinate online awareness presentations and webinars. Participant response has been very positive with feedback noting the beneficial engagement and knowledge transfer resulting from these sessions.
- ❖ We are working with Incident Command / Management System instructors and industry contacts from across Canada to develop agriculture based educational material and resources to facilitate delivery of emergency management training. Training participants will benefit from ICS-100 training and certification.
- ❖ We continue to offer [online training opportunities](#) for veterinarians, technicians and industry stakeholders. Current programs include two Foot-and-mouth Disease (FMD) courses with intakes in April and in the fall as well as an African Swine Fever (ASF) course in the fall. We are grateful for the partnership opportunities with CVMA, CFIA, EuFMD and Texas A&M, and proud to share that in 2020, AHEM provided training to 224 private practitioners.
- ❖ The AHEM team continues to play an active role in supporting the ASF Executive Management Board with financial resources, technical expertise, coordination, and alignment of outputs with other project activities and regional initiatives. AHEM resources and contributions are positive additions that have been recognized by a wide variety of ASF working group participants.
- ❖ AHEM's FMD Vaccine Strategy activity is officially underway. Working closely with industry, we've developed a draft business case for a Canadian FMD Vaccine Bank. This business case is being reviewed and will be finalized and submitted to the working group in late March.

Our AHEM team continues to build industry trust across commodities and create significant project momentum. For more details on AHEM activities and achievements please visit animalhealth.ca or follow us on Twitter at [@AHEMProject](https://twitter.com/AHEMProject).





Canadian Livestock Transportation (CLT)



As of December 2020, CLT released the Canadian Livestock Transport Course Audit for livestock and poultry to the on-line training platform. The courses provide regulatory and enforcement officers the opportunity to review the content that is being provided to transporters for \$50.00 CDN.

This is NOT a certification course and should only be used as an informational resource for regulators, enforcement officers, federal and provincial inspectors, and individuals who do not require certification.

Moving towards the second phase of the restructure plan, CLT plans to expand and enhance the on-line training experience. The program is developing an application for funding to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriAssurance Program which if approved will help to further enhance the current training modules with interactive features. CLT will also be collaborating with our industry partners to look at opportunities to develop additional on-line content that may be needed by the different sectors of this industry.

CLT is currently working on developing guidelines for special event training requests particularly in the face of COVID-19 challenges while continuing the transition and adaptation to the on-line platform.

Please contact Amy Wright at info@livestocktransport.ca with any questions or program ideas.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS:

Farmer Mental Health Survey



A Survey of **Farmer Mental Health** in Canada

LINK TO SURVEY

Are you a Canadian farmer?

You are invited to complete an **online survey** to help researchers at the Ontario Veterinary College understand the **impacts of your work on your mental health**.

It will take about **20 minutes** and will provide our agricultural community with important information on the mental health of our farmers.

Enter 5 draws to win \$200 (odds of winning ~1 in 1000)

This project has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Board for compliance with federal guidelines for research involving human participants (REB#21-01-001)

https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dgmMRnTsAYoChEN

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Please contact **Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton** with questions or concerns:
ajones@uoguelph.ca
(519) 824 - 4120 ext. 54786

Project: AMRNetwork

Stay up to date on the latest information on the work of Project: AMRNETWORK by checking the website www.amrnetwork.ca



Project: AMRNETWORK
Working together to develop plans for a coordinated One Health response to antimicrobial resistance in Canada

Antimicrobials, used to treat infections in humans and animals, are losing their effectiveness — and the implications are stark. Like other countries, Canada must take immediate action to slow the rising trend of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). However, due to the complexity of the response required and the vast number of actors involved, the issue currently falls outside the jurisdiction of any existing oversight body. That's why, through broad consultation, we're developing model options for a network that will take on that responsibility. Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, this time-limited project will work with Canadian stakeholders to ensure a diversity of voices as we design and refine network model options and present recommendations for implementation. The models that we ultimately recommend will support the implementation of the forthcoming Pan-Canadian Action Plan while also coordinating broader efforts with respect to AMR and antimicrobial use (AMU). In order to do this all effectively, though, we need your help. Scroll on to learn more about this important work and how [you can get involved](#).

DOCUMENTS & REPORTS

- Series 1 Summary of Findings
- Series 2 Discussion Document
- Series 2 Summary of Findings
- Reference Document

Executive Director's Message



2020 was an interesting and challenging year, where everyone was faced with exploring new ways of doing business in the environment of COVID-19 restrictions.

The transition to enhanced use of virtual networks has ultimately allowed the Council the opportunity to reach a broader audience. Our Forum 2020 events were well attended by a broad audience of participants that may not have had the opportunity to attend previous in person events. We will continue to explore opportunities to enhance our outreach virtually even after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted as we have seen the value that this enhanced accessibility provides both for our audience, as well as for guest speakers. I would once again like to extend my appreciation to our speakers, sponsors, participants, and Council Members for all of the support and engagement in the Virtual Forum 2020 Events.

As we progress to our fiscal year end, all of our Divisions, projects and committees are working hard to wrap up our work for the 2020/2021 fiscal year, and prepare for a new year of activities. We are proud of the hard work of our team, and all of their accomplishments to date along with the evolution we have seen in the Council over the past year. As we move into 2021/2022 this evolution will continue as we explore the opportunity to continue to grow into Animal Health Canada with our board and members. We are looking forward to the next steps of the Council and thank all of our members and stakeholders for their ongoing engagement and support in the work that we do.

Please feel free to contact me at megan@ahwcouncil.ca

Sincerely,
Dr. Megan Bergman,
Executive Director, NFAHW Council

