

APRIL 2020



In This Issue:

- [Council Blog](#)
- [General Council Business](#)
- [Animal Health Canada](#)
- [One Welfare](#)
- [Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)
 - ♦ Pan-Canadian AMR Action Plan
- [CAHSS](#)

Executive Directors 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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NFAHW COUNCIL

Council Blog



Check out some of our recent [blog](#) posts addressing topics such as:

- reducing stress and depression during and after the holidays by Dr. Kathy Keil, a veterinarian trained in Mental Health First Aid, safeTALK suicide awareness, ASIST suicide intervention, and is licensed to teach safeTALK;
- COVID-19 resources by Dr. Megan Bergman; and
- an update on the *Animal Health Emergency Management II* project by Mikki Shatosky.

General Council Business

On January 15th, the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council presented the updated version of the Council bylaws which were approved by the Directors and ratified by the Council Membership. The required supporting *Articles of Amendment* were filed on February 4, 2020. Click on the link to access a copy of the newly updated NFAHW Council [bylaws](#).

The purpose of the amendments to the NFAHW Council bylaws were to enable the creation of divisions within our organizational structure, which in turn allows the opportunity for like minded organizations and projects to join the Council. We are very pleased to announce that on April 1, 2020, the [National Farm Animal Care Council](#) (NFACC) officially became a [division](#) of the Council.

To enable a successful transition, the Council and NFACC worked closely together to develop a of terms of reference and a governance process, along with financial and budgetary planning and reporting tools.

NFAHW COUNCIL
National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

ADVANCING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE IN CANADA

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.

PRIORITIES
The Council brings together industry, federal, provincial and territorial partners to provide collaborative guidance on a cohesive, functional and responsive farmed animal health and welfare system in Canada. Be it animal welfare, emerging diseases, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, or One Health and One Welfare concepts, we work in partnership to elevate farmed animal health and welfare and accelerate results.

STRUCTURE
An organizational model that incorporates the following two distinct **divisions**.

National Farm Animal Care Council	Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System
NFACC is comprised of animal agriculture and food industry groups, animal welfare advocates, government representatives, scientists, and veterinarians. This division addresses national animal care issues with a primary focus on animals raised for the production of food for humans.	CAHSS advises on national animal health surveillance priorities and disease patterns. This division is focused on the generation, exchange and application of data-driven information in order to track animal health, and rapidly detect and respond to changing patterns of disease.

General Council Business

The transition of the *NFACC Codes Project – AAPN-001*, in addition to the *Animal Health Emergency Management II Project – AAPN-017*, to the Council has been delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19; however, activity is still underway to support the transition of these projects in the near future. This is an exciting opportunity to continue our efforts to enhance animal health and welfare collaboration and synergies in Canada. We continue to appreciate the support and dedication of our members! Organizations interested in membership may contact [Megan Bergman](#) for more information. The terms of membership, and election process for the board of directors, can be found in the Council [bylaws](#).



DID YOU KNOW?

The Council was incorporated in 2010.

The Council has an industry chair and a government chair.

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

The Council Board has 7 Directors.

Animal Health Canada

The Animal Health Canada Gap Analysis was completed in January 2020. The Webinar on the findings of the Gap Analysis can be found [here](#). The overall findings of the Gap Analysis identified Structural and Organizational Gaps, along with Technical Gaps in how animal health events are managed in Canada.

Overall, the largest gap is the lack of a cohesive national approach that can provide stronger FPT government and industry collaboration.

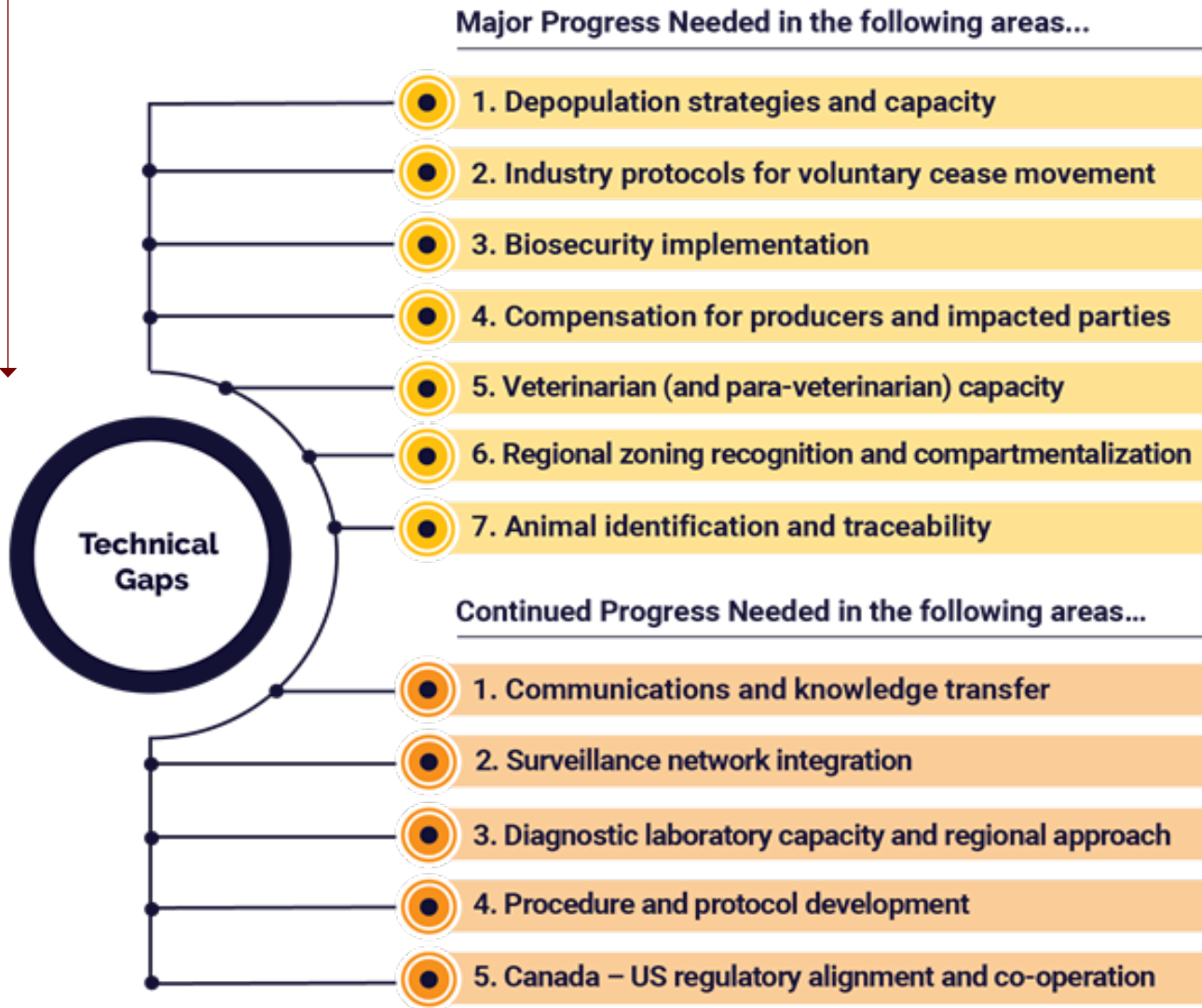
The current fragmented structure leads to inefficiencies, missed opportunities for synergies and slower decision making. The end result of the current structure is increased risk and overall cost for both government and industry.

Structural and Organizational Gaps at a Glance





Technical Gaps at a Glance



DID YOU KNOW?

The Council hosts an **Annual Forum** with participants from industry, governments, and not for profit groups to discuss common animal health and welfare topics and issues.

Governance Solutions Inc. (GSI) examined existing collaborative governance models nationally and internationally that could be developed or adapted to inform a collaborative governance model for Animal Health in Canada.

Using the straw dog and key decision points identified in this report, the Animal Health Canada working group worked with Synthesis Agri-Food Network to expand upon the model options and develop three possible

approaches to enhancing Canada’s animal health governance for consideration by animal health partners.

The consultation process for these options is just getting underway, and based on feedback received through this consultation process, the proposed options will be further developed and refined. Additional information on Animal Health Canada can be found at the following [link](#).



The *One Welfare Committee* has completed and published [One Welfare Consultation Overview](#). The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of a consultation held in 2018 with stakeholders from across industry and governments which helped to inform the Council document "[Enhancing Canada's Agricultural Well-Being Through a One Welfare Approach](#)" which proposed recommendations for governments and industry in support of a national framework for agricultural mental health.

The *One Welfare Committee* is also evaluating the issue of farm trespassing including the potential impacts on biosecurity, animal health, animal welfare, and human health and well-being. Through this process we will explore the various management practices including regulatory changes that have been considered or implemented not only in Canada but also internationally.

■ DID YOU KNOW?

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

Antimicrobial Stewardship

The Council was provided the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft version of the Pan Canadian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). In general, the Council agreed that the objectives and priority actions identified in the proposed action plan were good, but there are some very important next steps to define an implementation plan which will ensure clarity on the scope of the work and progress on the priority actions. This includes establishing timelines, roles and responsibilities to support delivery on the action plan.



Effective governance in animal health, human health and between human and animal health will be critical to success.

PAN-CANADIAN AMR ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The *Public Health Agency of Canada*, the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency* and *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada* held engagements with partners and stakeholders from the human health and animal/agri-food sectors to obtain feedback on the draft Action Plan. Stakeholders from government, academia, industry, and other sectors were engaged between January and March 2020. We would like to thank members of the Council for your feedback as we work toward finalising the action plan.

Feedback from the engagement sessions indicated that the Action Plan has improved from previous drafts, there were no major gaps in the actions presented and that overall, it is the right Action Plan for Canada.

We received important feedback to strengthen the action plan, including:

- Greater emphasis on infection prevention and control within the animal/agri-food sector;
- Highlighting the need for a national antimicrobial use dataset and national data platform;
- Profiling examples of stewardship activities in the animal/agri-food sector;
- Recognizing the need for more social, behavioural and implementation sciences research to better understand barriers and facilitators, better optimise stewardship initiatives, as well as how to sustain behaviour related to antimicrobial use over time; and
- Positioning One Health governance at the forefront of the Action Plan.





To advance efforts in addressing AMR, governments, partners and stakeholders can leverage the Action Plan to help prioritize actions, and align their current and future activities. Implementation of the Action Plan will require collaboration within and across sectors and utilising existing networks to facilitate joint efforts and information sharing within sectors.

The *Public Health Agency of Canada* is currently finalising the **Pan-Canadian Action Plan**. The expected release date is Fall 2020.

Canadian
Animal
Health
Surveillance
System



CAHSS

CAHSS is a [Division](#) of the NFAHW Council that brings together and uses data-driven information to demonstrate animal health, minimize impacts of disease, and guide planning on national animal health priorities. It is an independent, member-driven network of networks for effective, responsive, and integrated animal health safety in Canada.



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.*

CAHSS is proud to work with the following:

- Provincial, Regional & Species Surveillance Networks
- Federal, Provincial & Territorial Governments
- Council of Chief Veterinary Officers
- Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases
- Animal Health Laboratories
- Veterinary Surveillance & Epidemiology Network
- Public Health Authorities
- Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative



Canadian Agricultural Partnership funded project (2019-2023)

Project goals:

1. To enhance national reporting though collaborative relationships with national, regional and sector surveillance networks.
2. To create a governance charter describing how CAHSS relates to NFAHWC, as well as networks engaged in surveillance.
3. To develop a sustainability plan for CAHSS and its activities after 2023.

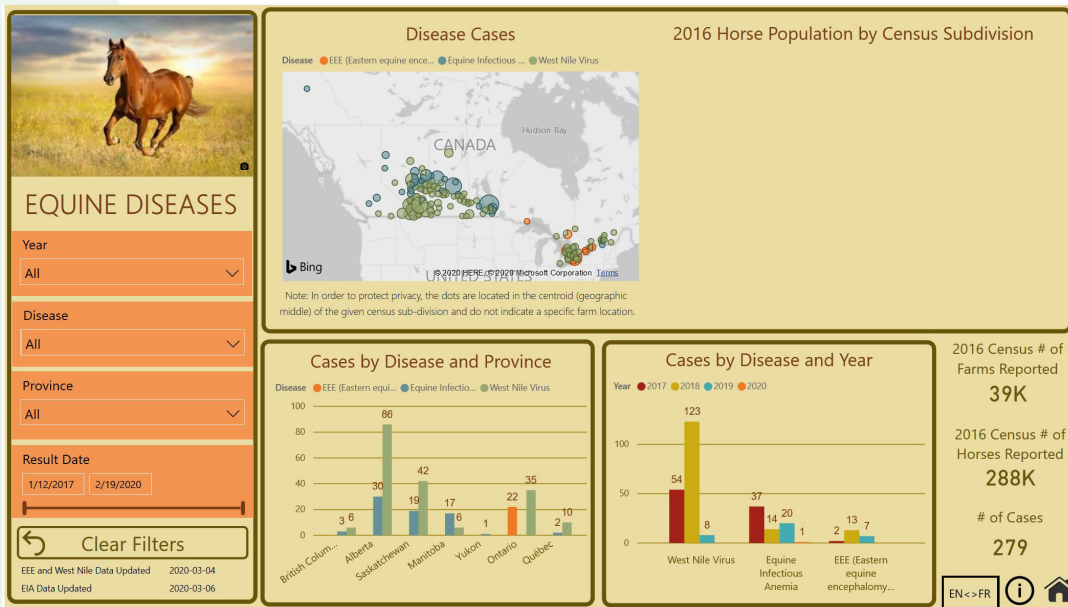


Around the Networks

A sample of interesting activities completed or underway from the CAHSS networks:

Dairy network

- **RAIZO** and **OMAFRA** epidemiologists presented information on Salmonella Dublin.
- A project is underway to connect bulk milk testing activities across Canada to increase use of this information for population health in the dairy industry.

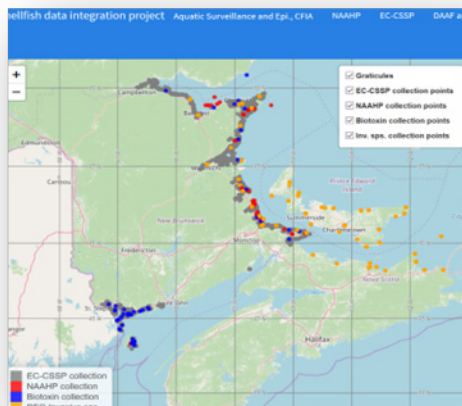


Equine network

- Network page has a new CFIA dashboard showing cases of important equine reportable diseases.

Vector borne disease network

- Network has created a live marketplace for sharing vector samples that will maximize research use of vector samples collected across Canada.



Eastern shellfish network

- CFIA interactive dashboard bringing together data from different shellfish health and water quality monitoring programs in New Brunswick.



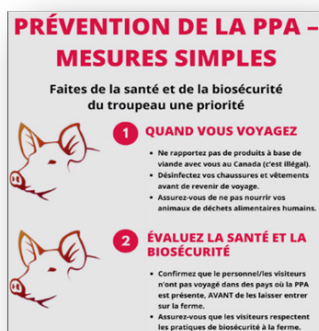


WHAT'S COMING IN 2020

- Strategic plan
- New website
- Searchable libraries to allow CAHSS members quick access to animal health information
- Updated notifiable disease feature

TRANSLATION

CAHSS identified that certain surveillance reports contained nationally relevant information, but were available only in French or English. Working with the [Ontario Animal Health Network](#) and [Réseau d'alerte et d'information zoonitaire](#), CAHSS helped make this information available in both languages.



Canadian
Animal
Health
Surveillance
System



CAHSS

To join or learn more about CAHSS contact Dr. Theresa Burns:
www.cahss.ca | info@cahss.ca

Executive Director's Message



The spread of COVID-19 and the current global pandemic is an event which has left many of us feeling helpless and unprepared. The impacts of this outbreak have been far reaching not only on human health, but on jobs, the economy, and the supply chain. In true Canadian style, every day heroes are stepping up and venturing into work each day working in the fields of human and animal health, in industry and in government, and throughout the supply chain to ensure the health and well-being of Canadians, their animals and their food supply.

If there is a light to be seen at the end of this tunnel, it is a recognition that the work that is being undertaken now to manage this challenging situation is identifying and developing new and innovative solutions to complex problems that can also be applied to enhance our capabilities in the next major animal health event.

We must use the lessons learned from COVID-19 to continue to evolve our thinking with respect to effective disease management and response.

Our thanks go out to everyone who has contributed to managing the outbreak, and also to those who have respected the social distancing direction and have stayed home. We all have a role to play. As the social isolation requirements and other impacts associated with COVID-19 can also have a significant impact on your mental wellness, we would also like to share a list of some available resources which can be found at this [link](#). Take care of yourselves during this difficult time and stay well.

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