



## NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

### NEWSLETTER

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#### NFAHW Council meeting, June 15 & 16, 2017

Toronto

##### Presentations

##### OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Assessment – March 2017

Dr Jaspinder Komal – CFIA Executive Director and Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, provided an update on the OIE PVS which was conducted in March 2017. The Council was among the stakeholders who participated in this review.

The update provided comments from the reviewers at the conclusion of the review. The PVS report which is anticipated soon, is expected to provide guidance for the development of the Canadian animal health and welfare system.

Council will receive a report at their September meeting on the final report of the PVS.

The following is excerpted from the section of the OIE website explaining the need for the PVS tool:

*In this era of globalisation, the development and growth of many countries, as well as the prevention and control of major biological disasters, depend on the performance of their agricultural and food policies and economies, and this, in turn, directly relates to the quality of their Veterinary Services (VS). Important roles for VS include veterinary public health – including food-borne diseases – and regional and international market access for animals and animal products. To meet current and future opportunities and challenges, VS should be independent and objective in their activities and decisions should be based on sound science and immune from political pressure.*

*Strengthening of VS to help them comply with OIE international standards for quality and evaluation requires active participation and investment by both the public and the private sector.*

*The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has refined an Evaluation Tool developed initially in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to produce the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool). The OIE PVS Tool is designed to assist VS to establish their current level of performance, to identify gaps and weaknesses in their ability to comply with OIE international standards, to form a shared vision with stakeholders (including the private sector) and to establish priorities and carry out strategic initiatives.*

##### OIE 85th General Assembly – May 21–26, 2017

Dr. Jaspinder Komal provided an update on the recent OIE General Assembly held in Paris.

Approximately 900 delegates attended from 181 member countries.

Participants in the Canadian delegation represented CFIA, other government agencies and industry/non-government organizations.

OIE highlights:

- 11 chapters of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code were revised and 5 new chapters added;
- 21 chapters of the OIE Terrestrial Manual were revised;
- 15 chapters of the OIE Aquatic Code were revised and 1 new chapter added;
- 6 chapters of the Aquatic Manual were revised and 1 new chapter added.

- In addition, some Glossary definitions were amended in the two Codes.
- The first global strategy on animal welfare was adopted by OIE Member Countries. It aims to achieve: “A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.”
- Proposed increase in fees for 2018
- Canada has been elected as Secretary General for the Regional Commission of the Americas
- In addition to the OIE meetings, the General Assembly provides the opportunity for bilateral meetings with various countries.

## Plant and Animal Health Strategy (PAHS)

Dr. Jaspinder Komal with support from Council member Dr. Debbie Barr and the PAHS Team members in Ottawa led a discussion to seek the support of the Council to take on the roles and responsibilities of the coordination body for the animal component of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy.

Dr. Komal noted that in the view of the PAHS team,

- The work accomplished by the NFAHW Council in the area of animal health and welfare is well recognized
- The role of the coordinating body for the PAHS aligns well with current role of the NFAHW Council
- Taking on the role of coordinating body for the PAHS would:
  - ensure alignment of the coordinating body’s mandate with Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 and help to limit duplication of efforts
  - increase clarity with respect to roles and responsibilities for emergency preparedness

The Council identified an ad hoc working group to prepare a statement to the PAHS team indicating support for PAHS and interest in further discussion on the coordination role. The ad hoc working group is to complete its work in three weeks.

## Veterinary Drug Directorate

Dr. Mary-Jane Ireland, Director General, Health Canada, provided an update on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) from an international and national perspective. She provided updates on regulatory amendments and ongoing non-regulatory initiatives which are part of managing AMR in Canada.

Dr. Ireland noted that studies indicate:

- By 2050 deaths due to AMR could overtake the total global deaths due to cancer and diabetes.
- In Canada, 20,000 hospital patients develop resistant infections resulting in \$250M direct health care costs.
- A World Bank study projects that AMR could pose an economic impact of \$1.2 trillion on health care and a shortfall of \$6 trillion in the global economy by 2050.

These drivers have resulted in a significant global response.

With the support of government bodies and industry/non-government organizations in animal health and public health, the Public Health Agency of Canada has led the development of the pan-Canadian AMR Framework which has now been presented internationally. The work on the pan-Canadian Action Plan is underway. The Action Plan is anticipated to provide opportunity for engagement of all stakeholders in both animal and public health in the management of AMR.

Health Canada is utilizing a number of regulatory amendments and current policies which are inter-related and mutually supportive to address importation of veterinary drugs and APIs, reporting of veterinary sales of antimicrobials, facilitating access to low risk veterinary health products, removing growth promotion claims, and increasing veterinary oversight on medically important antimicrobials.

The regulatory changes come into place in a staged way beginning on November 17, 2017 and continuing into 2019. Health Canada has a number of policy changes which will take place into 2018.

## Working Group Updates

### Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 (FAHW2020)

Dr. Jeffrey Spooner updated Council on the continued development of a national progress report on the priorities and strategic outcomes of FAHW2020. The current project includes financial supporters of the Council and some provincial organizations. This work will be accomplished in two phases and completed in September 2017. There will be a report at Forum 2017. Findings from the interviews will help the working group in the next phase which is to develop a draft unpublished report of industry activities to demonstrate how the information will be used.

### Emerging Issues WG

The Emerging Issues WG is continuing to explore the potential of a joint project with the LMIS team to identify slaughter capacity in the event of an emerging disease. An upcoming meeting will be held with the LMIS representatives and the Emerging Issues WG to identify opportunities for a joint project.

### AMU/AMR WG

The AMU/AMR WG is awaiting further development of the pan-Canadian AMR Action Plan and is monitoring activities of other groups in AMR. The next phase of activity will be focused around the pan-Canadian AMR Action plan. The Forum 2017 will be an important opportunity to further work on AMR.

### One Welfare WG

The One Welfare WG is building on the momentum started at the International One Welfare Conference held in Winnipeg in September 2016, the opening presentation of Forum 2016 and the work of several groups in Canada and globally. The mental health of producers is important to the sustainability of the agriculture sector and to animal welfare.

In Canada, the work of Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), Pierre-Nicolas Girard through a project led by the Union des Producteurs (UPA) and Glen Blahey in his role with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association have provided the basis for identifying important criteria when developing programs for support in the agriculture community.

Ultimately, the working group would like to see programs to support producers, farm families and staff wellness in the face of the pressures of agriculture. Building to that end, the WG will focus on building awareness. Forum 2017 will provide more information.

## Animal Welfare

- **Transport of Cull Dairy Cows**

The recommendations from the Transport of Cull Dairy Cows project were accepted by Council and have been posted on the Council website: [The Management of Cull Dairy Cows in Canada.](#)

- **Animal Welfare Law in Canada**

Council received a summary report of animal welfare law in Canada prepared by David Fraser, Katherine E. Koralesky, Geoff Urton.

## Administrative

### Finance Committee

- The audited financial statement for 2016–2017 was received by the Council corporation and then presented to the Council as a whole.
- The financial policies for the Council were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Adjustments were made that require annual review of the financial policy and multiyear budgeting to anticipate any increase in fees that may be required in the future.

### Annual Report

The 2017 Annual Report was accepted as presented. The Annual Report will only be available electronically this year. It will be circulated to all stakeholders and posted on the Council website.

*Council reports, meeting dates and other information can be found on the Council website at [www.ahwcouncil.ca](http://www.ahwcouncil.ca).*

*The NFAHW Council is composed of individuals designated or elected from the three stakeholder groups – industry, provincial/territorial government and federal government – which support the Council. Members are non-representational when working on Council. Animal health and welfare and public health are included in the Council membership. Additionally, Dr. Harpreet Kochhar sits as an ex-officio member in his role as CVO of Canada.*

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#### Upcoming meetings and events

- July 13, NFAHW Council teleconference
- August 10, NFAHW Council teleconference
- September 28 & 29, NFAHW Council meeting, Ottawa
- NFAHW Council Forum 2017 – November 28 & 29, Ottawa

#### Would your board like an update from the Council?

Member organizations are invited to request a presentation from Council at board or committee meetings. These can be done in person or electronically.