

OCTOBER 2020



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**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



Due to the risk associated with COVID-19 transmission the NFAHW Council has elected to host **Forum 2020** virtually. We have planned three virtual events to be held on **November 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 10 a.m. Central time**. These events have been planned to enhance information sharing and collaboration among our partners as we have always done, as well as provide the opportunity for a broader audience to participate in the NFAHW Council Forum. *We hope to have the opportunity to see everyone in person again next year!*

## Forum 2020 **VIRTUAL** Events

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – 2020

**10:00am CENTRAL TIME**

### ASSURANCE & INNOVATION

### ANIMAL WELFARE *A vision for the future*

### COVID-19 *Unintended consequences and lessons learned*

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A 2-hour virtual event that will explore consumer expectations, On Farm Advancements, and On Farm Assurance.

A 2-hour virtual event that will explore advancing animal welfare in Canada, and the impacts of misinformation and critical events on human and animal welfare.

A 2-hour virtual event that will explore the animal health and welfare impacts of COVID-19 and ever-increasing importance of taking a One Health approach to manage human and animal disease events.

Tuesday,  
November 10<sup>th</sup>  
2020

10:00am  
CENTRAL TIME

Tuesday,  
November 17<sup>th</sup>  
2020

10:00am  
CENTRAL TIME

Tuesday,  
November 24<sup>h</sup>  
2020

10:00am  
CENTRAL TIME

**\$50 per event or \$125 for all 3 events. For More Information [Click Here!](#)**

**REGISTER NOW**





## General Council Business

In July 2020, through extensive collaboration between the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC), Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), the Canadian Agricultural Partnership projects such as the “*Animal Health Emergency Management II Awareness Capacity and Confidence*” and the “*Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust Through Codes of Practice*” were both transferred from the Canadian Animal Health Coalition to the NFAHW Council. The Council is also overseeing the Canadian Livestock Transportation Certification Program. These projects were all deemed to be important to animal agriculture and in line with the Council’s mandate and the transition of the divisions, projects and programs is already enhancing the collaboration and synergies in animal health and welfare in Canada.

The NFAHW Council annual Members Meeting was held virtually on September 24, 2020. This meeting provided the opportunity to share with our members a review of the Council’s 2019/2020 [audited financials](#) and [annual report](#), to provide an update on the NFAHW Council projects and activities, and to identify a financial auditor for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

### Council Activities

#### Animal Welfare Committee

The NFAHW Council Animal Welfare Committee has developed two documents over the summer of 2020. The Council published the “[NFAHW Council Guidance Document on Procedures for Conducting National Reviews of the Marketing of Vulnerable Groups of Animals – 2020](#)” which defines the process that will be utilized for review activities conducted by the NFAHW Council Animal Welfare Committee. Additionally, a progress report on the recommendations identified in the “[Management of Cull Dairy Cows in Canada](#)” was developed and provided to the Dairy Farmers of Canada. This report demonstrated significant progress on the recommendations identified in the NFAHW Council’s 2017 report.



The One Welfare Committee has been developing a document evaluating the impacts of agricultural trespassing as well as opportunities to manage the associated risks. The Council hopes to finalize this document in the Fall of 2020.

The One Welfare Committee also supported a response to the June 2020 Ethical Question from the Canadian Veterinary Journal which explored farmer mental health. A joint response was developed collaboratively with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association – Wellness Committee and NFAHW Council – One Welfare Committee. The response was composed to provide information and resources for veterinarians who may be interacting with clients who require mental health support. Please look for this information in the November 2020 [Canadian Veterinary Journal](#).



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Council was incorporated in 2010.

The Council has and 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

The NFAHW Council continues to provide secretariat and financial management support to the Animal Health Canada (AHC) initiative. Since 2019, the Animal Health Canada Working Group has completed an [“Inventory Assessment and Gap Analysis of Canada’s Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery from an Animal Health Event”](#) and delivered [webinars](#) on this work. A preliminary [“Governance Model Report”](#) published in February 2020 provided an analysis of governance options to consider. Preliminary consultations occurred on the proposed governance model options over the summer of 2020 and a summary of the proposed options will be posted on the [Animal Health Canada webpage](#) in the fall of 2020. These preliminary governance options have been presented to the Animal Health Canada Champions Committee for consideration and input, and it is recognized that further work is required to better define the operational details of the proposed options in order to inform decision making. Pilot opportunities for Animal Health Canada are being explored and will be used to better refine the proposed governance models. A statement of intent is under development which will be used to reaffirm the commitment and participation of Animal Health Canada members. For more information on Animal Health Canada please feel free to contact [Dr. Megan Bergman](#).



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## Division Updates

Canadian  
Animal  
Health  
Surveillance  
System



# CAHSS

**Observe. Connect. Detect. Protect.**

### Governance

A new [Governance Charter](#) has been developed for CAHSS and is under review by CAHSS members. In addition, a 2020 to 2025 [Strategic Plan](#) has been drafted and is under review by CAHSS members. Podcasts created to provide a quick overview of the Governance Charter and Strategic Plan are available here: <https://cahss.podbean.com/>

### Information sharing and communications

Dr. Doris Leung was recently hired as the Communications Lead for CAHSS. She is a veterinarian with her DVM degree from the Ontario Veterinary College (2014) and MPH from the University of British Columbia (2018). She has a strong interest in disease surveillance, health communication, knowledge translation, and veterinary epidemiology.



Since April 2020, CAHSS has been supporting the work of the CanSpotASF Technical Committee. This committee is tasked with initiating risk-based surveillance activities to quickly detect African Swine Fever, should this serious foreign animal disease arrive in Canada. CAHSS Networks are continuing regular virtual meetings.



A new small ruminant network has joined the network of networks, which already includes beef, dairy, equine, poultry, antimicrobial use and resistance and vector-borne disease networks.

The Western Canadian Animal Health Network was officially established and will join the regional network system that includes OAHN and RAIZO and AtCAHN.



### 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.



**WWW.CAHSS.CA**

Launch of the new [CAHSS website](http://www.cahss.ca) is anticipated in the coming weeks. The website will include new tools to bring together animal health surveillance information from across sectors and regions.



**Animal Health Insights** is a CAHSS podcast series that will launch this fall in conjunction with the new website. The series will feature animal health topics of interest to veterinarians. [[cahss.podbean.com/](http://cahss.podbean.com/)]

**Division Updates [CONTINUED]**

**National Farmed Animal Care Council (NFACC)**

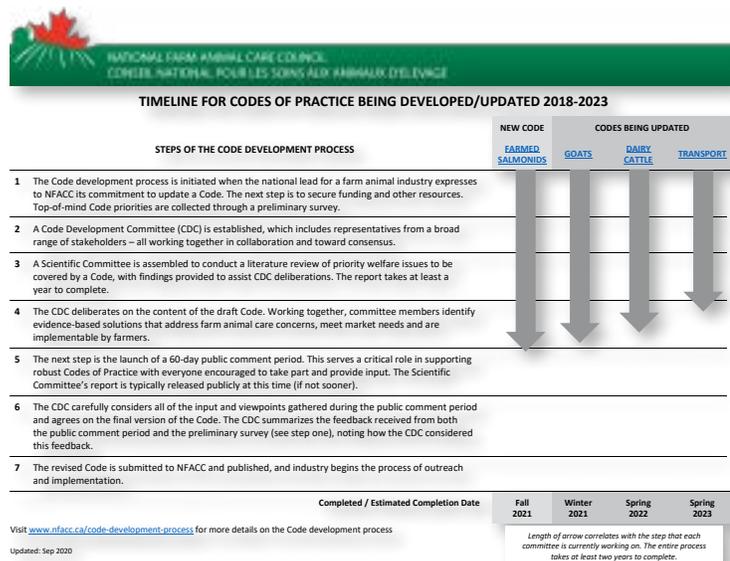
NFACC is now a [division](#) of the NFAHW Council. NFACC is the national lead for farm animal care and welfare in Canada. The organization is a collaborative partnership of [diverse stakeholders](#) that:

- ♦ *Facilitates and coordinates a consistent approach to farm animal welfare in Canada, demonstrating credibility in domestic and international forums*
- ♦ *Facilitates communication and collaboration among all partners in Canadian agriculture focusing on responsible farm animal care and welfare.*



One of NFACC's main roles is to bring diverse stakeholders together to develop and update national Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals. Currently, the [transportation](#), [goat](#), and [dairy cattle](#) Codes are being updated, with a new farmed [salmonids Code](#) being developed. These Codes of Practice are being developed with funding through the AgriAssurance Program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

**TIMELINE FOR CODES OF PRACTICE BEING DEVELOPED/UPDATED 2018-2023**



**■ DID YOU KNOW?**  
 The Council has representation from livestock and poultry industry groups involved in animal health and welfare.



**UPDATE**



The [September 2020 NFACC Information Update](#) provides an overview of recent activities:

- ♦ [Public Comment Period Now Open for Proposed Amendments to the 2014 Pig Code of Practice](#)
- ♦ [Update on Codes of Practice under revision/development](#)
- ♦ [An Update on Amendments to the Farmed Mink Code of Practice](#)



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## Project Updates

### Animal Health Emergency Management Project (AHM II)

The AHM project is striving to enhance emergency management capabilities of Canada's livestock industry. By focussing on increased awareness and capacity, the AHM project is supporting industry to prepare for the challenges of adverse events as well as an ever-evolving disease landscape. Working collaboratively with livestock stakeholders and all levels of government, AHM is advancing the development of:



#### Protocols for industry policy gaps

- ♦ Providing specific guidance for cease movement and animals in transit, these protocols will be refined and tested with working groups before being applied at a national multi-commodity disease outbreak simulation exercise later this year. Additional protocols being considered for development include vaccination and depopulation.

#### National association frameworks and provincial association plans

- ♦ In addition to clarifying roles and responsibilities, these resources include practical tools and specific actions for designated staff during animal disease outbreak event.

#### Producer handbooks

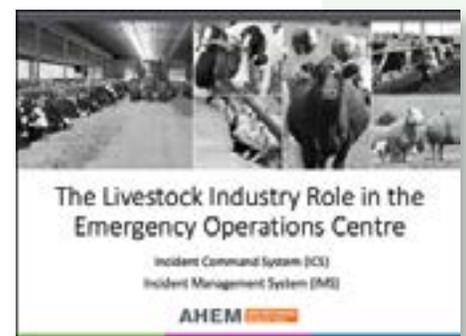
- ♦ Customized to reflect geographic region and individual species, these [resources](#) help producers understand, prepare and respond to serious animal disease events. AHM is currently working with industry associations in Saskatchewan, BC and New Brunswick.

#### Professional Training

- ♦ The AHM project has partnered with the CFIA, CVMA and the European Commission to deliver [online disease recognition and response training](#) (FMD and ASF) to private practitioners.

As the human pandemic continues, the AHM project has also shifted from in-person meetings to [animal health emergency management awareness webinars](#). This webinar series includes:

1. *Introduction to Serious Animal Disease Awareness Workshops*, an overview of the producer's role in initial response and recognition using the AHM handbook as a guide;
2. *The Livestock Industry Role in the Emergency Operations Centre*, an introduction to the Incident Command System for industry board and executive, and;
3. *Preparing the Livestock Industry for Major Disease Related Emergencies*, an overview for provincial association staff and producers, delivered in collaboration with CFIA and provincial governments.



### 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 AHM project team recognizes the importance of planning and preparedness for serious animal disease events, and is pleased to be contributing to improved industry sustainability and resilience.

## Canadian Livestock Transportation Certification (CLT)



Since the launch of the [Canadian Livestock Transport](#) on-line learning platform in August 2020, the program has seen a steady uptake in new registrations for on-line training. The training is available in English and French, and is accessible from anywhere with an internet connection.

Individuals holding a valid CLT certificate prior to the implementation of the "Amended Humane Transportation Regulations" in February 2020 are being asked to complete a newly added regulatory module on the Amendments free of charge. If you have not received your notification for this module, please reach out to Amy Wright at [info@livestocktransport.ca](mailto:info@livestocktransport.ca).

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 also 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 feel free to contact Amy Wright at [info@livestocktransport.ca](mailto:info@livestocktransport.ca) with any questions or program ideas.

**CANADIAN LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT (CLT) TRAINING PROGRAM**

**NFAHW COUNCIL**  
The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council is pleased to announce the release of the new and improved Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) training program.

The New CLT program content aligns with current best practice and evolving legislative requirements.

**Program Specifics**

- The Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) certification program aligns with our national standards of care, the Code of Practice for the Transportation of Livestock and Poultry.
- CLT is an easily accessible, standardized program offering humane animal transportation certification that is recognized throughout Canada and the United States.
- Focusing on key topics such as animal welfare, fitness for transport, animal behaviour and handling, laws and regulations, and contingency management, the six-module training program provides critical information and certification for those with roles and responsibilities in animal transport.
- The CLT course provides instruction and best practices for transportation and handling of poultry as well as a number of livestock species including cattle, sheep, horses, hogs, bison and elk.
- The training is beneficial for livestock and poultry transporters, producers, handlers, catchers and loading crews, receivers, dispatchers, regulators and others who are involved in the production system.

**NEW PRICING!**  
The Livestock or Poultry training is now priced at \$300 and certification is valid for 3-years.

**NEW APPROACH**  
Two training programs – Livestock and Poultry (livestock includes cattle, sheep, hogs, bison and elk). The poultry module now includes turkeys, chickens and ducks.

All training is fully accessible on a new and improved user friendly on-line learning platform. Use your computer or your smartphone!

All participants who successfully complete the training will receive a CLT certification card that is valid for three years.

**COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT**  
The Health of Animals Act Part XII outlines that training is required for all commercial transporters. All CLT training materials reflect the February 2020 regulatory changes to the humane transportation requirements under the Health of Animals Regulations. CLT certification is an essential investment for industry professionals who intend to transport animals between Canada and the US.

Please check our website for new program updates as we continue to enhance the CLT program! To learn more about the program or register for training, please visit [www.livestocktransport.ca](http://www.livestocktransport.ca).

**REGISTER NOW**

04/08/2020





## Executive Director's Message



This has been a busy summer for the Council. With the support of our board and members, we have successfully transitioned two divisions, and three projects to the Council. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all of the engagement and patience from everyone involved in the process. I would also like to thank the team members from NFACC, CAHSS, AHEM II and CLT, as well as our executive assistant and bookkeeper who put in countless hours of hard work to ensure we established a strong financial and organizational foundation that will allow for successful ongoing growth and development of the Council. I look forward to the collaborative opportunities that will evolve through the partnerships we have established with our new structure.

In past years, I would have taken the opportunity in this message to note that I look forward to meeting with our stakeholders at our annual Forum. Unfortunately, we will not have the opportunity to meet face to face this year, however we do have an exciting agenda developed for our 3 virtual forum events and we look forward to continuing to explore new opportunities to engage our partners. In the mean-time if you would like to learn more about the Council and our activities, please feel free to contact me at [megan@ahwcouncil.ca](mailto:megan@ahwcouncil.ca)

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

