



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Issue 14

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NFAHW Council meeting March 3 & 4, 2016

Toronto

Invited Presentations

Emergency Management Strategies

The Council received presentations that provided updates on the following three ongoing federally led activities: the FPT Emergency Management Framework, Livestock Market Interruption Strategy and the Plant and Animal Health Strategy. The linkages between the three initiatives were demonstrated with the FPT Emergency Management Framework being seen as an overarching framework supported by the other initiatives.

The approach in all of the initiatives is collaborative, engaging both levels of government and industry. Continued participation of all stakeholders in consultation and implementation is encouraged.

Thanks to:

- **Lisa Wellman-Patterson (AAFC) – the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy (LMIS)**
- **David Bailey (CFIA) and Michael Ash (AAFC) – FPT Emergency Management Framework**
- **Jim Clark – (CFIA) Plant and Animal Health Strategy**

Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS)

Dr. Cheryl James, CFIA and Coordinator of CAHSS, provided an update on the activities of CAHSS. Since the update at Forum 2015, CAHSS has moved forward on several fronts. Swine and Poultry workshops were held with industry, industry organizations, federal and provincial governments to share information on current surveillance activities, identify gaps and determine next steps. National level conference calls with each group will be initiated to address agreed upon action items. Communications, identified as a key gap for all groups, will be partially addressed through the development of a website. Pending confirmation of funds, the Directors will finalize a statement of work for a consultant to prepare a roadmap for antimicrobial use surveillance.

A national workshop on antimicrobial use is tentatively planned for spring 2016. Leadership for the working groups for these initiatives comes from the Directors of CAHSS with the support of the Coordinator and Secretariat.

CAHSS will have a website to inform stakeholders and provide a secure area for CAHSS and the working groups in early 2016-17.

Work Areas

Antimicrobial Use/Antimicrobial Resistance – Council received the draft report prepared by the working group on the topic of Stewardship of Antimicrobial Resistance. Building on the Federal Framework on AMR and the Federal Action Plan on AMR the draft report provides insight on antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance in animal agriculture and includes fourteen recommendations for stakeholders in animal agriculture. The report will provide input to the development of the pan-Canadian strategy on antimicrobial resistance over the next year.

Approval of the report by the Council is anticipated at a special teleconference later in March 2016. The Council will circulate the report broadly following that meeting. The work on AMU and AMR will continue through the year through the pan-Canadian strategy process and stakeholder communications.

The Council appreciates the input of individuals who participated in the working group, adding their knowledge and expertise to the development of the report.

Organizations are invited to request a presentation on the paper and the recommendations by contacting the Council secretariat.

Emerging Issues

- **Domestic Market Access in an Emerging Disease** – The working group used the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea outbreak in 2014 as a model to identify and analyse issues related to domestic market access during the outbreak. Recommendations were developed to minimize domestic market interruption during an emerging disease when there is no risk to food safety. The working group included not only members of the NFAHW council, but also various industry stakeholders, private practitioners, and government to ensure a balanced and broad analysis. The recommendations will be reviewed with other commodities to test their validity. Approval of the report by Council is anticipated at a special teleconference later in March 2016, with broad circulation following that meeting.

The Council appreciates the input of individuals who were added to the working group for this study, their experience in the PED outbreak provided a ground level view of what happened.

- **CFIA Disease Prioritization Tool** – The working group reviewed the proposed CFIA “Decision–Analysis Tool for the Characterization of CFIA Involvement and Role in Animal Health Events” which uses a decision tree approach to determining the role of CFIA and the Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada in a disease event. The review identified an area for clarification which will be addressed, however, the working group believes the tool is useful in a collaborative approach to managing animal disease; has a use in providing guidance in the development of tools for use by other stakeholders; and has value in training and education of stakeholders and students.

The Council will send a letter indicating support of the tool subject to revisions to correct the identified problem.

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 – An update was provided on the contract with Dr. Jeffrey Spooner who will assist the Council in developing the stakeholder engagement and data input required to demonstrate progress on the strategic outcomes and priorities of the strategy. Dr. Spooner will be engaging a selected group

of stakeholders over the next few months to provide input. The contract will be complete by September 30, 2016 and will be reported at Forum 2016.

Transport of Cull Dairy Cows – The project is underway under the direction of Dr. David Fraser. An expert committee comprised of individuals active in different parts of the value chain and science have been identified and will meet in Ottawa in March. With the leadership of Dr. Jane Stojkov, a PhD student leading the project, they will begin the process of describing the movement of cull dairy cows in Canada, understanding the extent of the animal welfare problems observed and developing a draft statement of best practices. The working group has identified some related projects underway in Canada and will take those into account.

Monitoring recommendations

The Council regularly monitors the implementation of the recommendations which have been made since its inception. In the case of “An National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada”, Dr. Jeffrey Spooner was contracted to assess the implementation progress through direct contact with stakeholders.

The knowledge gained allows Council to improve the quality of its recommendations and to revisit recommendations to reposition or deactivate them. There are times when conditions have changed, a more suitable stakeholder could have been identified or the issue was captured in a recommendation in another advisory statement.

In the future, stakeholder input to identifying progress on the strategic outcomes and priorities of Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 will provide further demonstration of implementation.

International One Welfare Conference

The Council will be a sponsor of the International One Welfare Conference being held in Winnipeg September 26–28, 2016. The conference is designed to address the many facets of complex social situations where the welfare of both the humans and the animals involved are carefully considered in a positive solution.

The Council will schedule its September meeting to coordinate with the conference activities allowing Council members to participate.

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Other agenda items

- The March FPT Regulatory ADM Committee call was rescheduled and so the Council co-chairs will make their regular report to the Committee at a later date.
- Communication has continued with the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance and a meeting will be coordinated at a date of convenience in Ottawa. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with the Executive Director the value in becoming members of the Council or the synergies of being aware of each other's positions on issues.
- **Finance Committee**
 - The financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2016 were accepted. Some outstanding invoices from stakeholders were discussed.
 - The budget for 2016–17 was approved.
 - Financial policies were presented and will be considered again on the teleconference later in March 2016.

SAVE THE DATE!

**The NFAHW Council Forum 2016
will take place in Ottawa on
November 28th and 29th**

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.

Council reports, meeting dates and other information can be found on the Council website at www.ahwcouncil.ca.

Does your organization have experience with online survey tools and reporting?

Please contact Ed Empringham (ed@animalhealth.ca) if your organization is able to offer assistance to the Council in developing its online reporting tool for Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020.

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.

www.ahwcouncil.ca

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