

April 15, 2015

## NFAHW Council update notes

### Teleconference April 9, 2015

**Expansion of the Council membership** – Discussions are continuing with a goal of expanding the membership of the Council to include an organizational interest in sustainability in animal agriculture, particularly in animal welfare and antimicrobial use.

**Animal Welfare research that has a “public good”** – The first recommendation in the Council report on the Animal Welfare Research Capacity Project (2014) is:

1. That the NFAHWC:
  - *identify appropriate roles and priorities for public-sector funding of animal welfare research such as research to support regulatory functions, to support policy, and to meet anticipated future public concerns, and*
  - *communicate with AAFC, CFIA and other relevant agencies to encourage support for such research.*

The Council received a report developed by a working group led by David Fraser which considers this topic and includes recommendations. The report will be considered again on the May 2015 teleconference.

**Transport of cull cows** – The Council received a report on a potential approach to the study of this topic. An update is anticipated on the May 2015 teleconference.

**Report of the review of the CFIA Disease prioritization tool** – Following study by the Emerging Issues working group and discussion at the March 2015 Council meeting, a report to CFIA on the proposed *Decision-Analysis Tool for the Characterization of CFIA Involvement and Role in Animal Health Events* was presented. Discussion will continue at the May 2015 teleconference.

**Report on the Ministerial Roundtable on AMR on March 31, 2015** - Council was represented along with a number of commodity organizations, the CVMA and representatives of human health organizations at the Ministerial Roundtable on AMR held in Ottawa on March 31, 2015. The meeting was hosted by the Minister of Health, the Honorable Rona Ambrose. The minister used the meeting to announce the Federal Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada; the Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (CARSS); the funding of a World Bank study on the economic impact of AMR and the urgency of dealing with AMU/AMR.

This Roundtable was the first time that the medical community and the animal agriculture community have met together on this topic. It was a successful meeting which will be followed up with further meetings in the near future.

The Council presented its advisory statement [Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance – Strategies for Animal Agriculture \(2014\)](#) and report that Council has AMU/AMR on its work plan in 2015-16.

Animal agriculture organizations made strong presentations on the work being done to deal with AMU/AMR through the commodity quality assurance programs and the CVMA spoke of its ongoing work on prudent use.

Council plans to play a leadership role in moving this important global initiative forward.

**Update on the upcoming report to the FPT Regulatory ADM Committee on the Council accomplishments in 2014-15 and the work plan for 2015-16** - Council received the report to the FPT Regulatory ADM Committee demonstrating the achievements against the Council work plan, and toward the FPT Regulatory ADM priorities, for the 2013-14 year. The Council 2015-16 work plan was outlined.

The Council will continue to monitor the implementation of recommendations made in its previous advisory statements throughout the year.

**Council website** – [www.ahwcouncil.ca](http://www.ahwcouncil.ca)

- The Council meeting schedule is posted under *meetings*.
- Public documents are posted under *documents*
- Forum 2014 presentations can be accessed from the link on the home page under *NFAHW Council Forum*

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**The NFAHW Council Forum 2015 will take place in  
Ottawa on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**