



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

April 2014

Issue 6

Page 1

In This Issue

This issue of the NFAHW Council newsletter reports on recent Council work activities and anticipated next steps in the areas of strategy renewal, AMU/AMR, governance, the Emerging Issues working Group, and the Animal Welfare Research Capacity Project.

**Next Council Meeting - June 19 and 20,
2014 - Toronto**

Council Activities

Council meeting April 10-11, 2014 - Toronto

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.

In addition to the Council members listed below, Harpreet Kochhar sits as an ex-officio member in his role as CVO of Canada.

Industry/non-government

Rob McNabb – Co-Chair

David Fraser

Scott Dingwell

Marc Cormier

Jennifer MacTavish

Jim Fairles

Pierre Lampron

Provincial Government

Michel Major

Jane Pritchard

Greg Douglas

CCMOH – vacant

(CCMOH – Canadian Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health)

Federal Government

Debbie Barr

John Ross – Co-Chair

Steven Sternthal

Working groups are established for the work areas of Council. These may include representation from non-Council members to gain expertise and perspective.

Work Areas

Strategy Renewal

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (2009) was developed to provide a roadmap to 2015 and continues to provide guidance for farmed animal health and welfare. The renewed strategy will build on this strategy with revisions to the strategic outcomes and priorities to provide guidance to 2020. In addition, the strategy renewal process will engage all stakeholders in the strategy by creating a community of animal health and welfare stakeholders. Community members will contribute to achievement of the strategic outcomes by identifying activities in their workplan which contribute to the strategic outcomes and reporting activities for inclusion in a national annual report.

Webinars on April 16, 2014 reported to attendees of Forum 2013 who provided valuable input to the renewed strategy which has been included in revised strategic outcomes and priorities. The presentations are posted on the Council website.

www.ahwcouncil.ca

The Council is committed to speaking to as many stakeholders as possible over the next few months. Council anticipates releasing the renewed strategy at Forum 2014.

AMU/AMR

This working group is reactivated and reported on recent meetings and progress. The scope of the working group is both antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance. A list of issues was identified by the working group along with related documentation and potential advice that the Council could consider. There is a great deal of concern about this issue both within Canada and internationally, with some of that concern being directed to usage in agriculture.

Council is aware there is considerable work in this area and will avoid conflict with existing initiatives. A further report is planned for the June 2014 meeting.

Governance

The Council received the report of the Institute on Governance from Forum 2013. This report is posted on the Council website under documents. – www.ahwcouncil.ca

The Council will consider governance of animal health surveillance as a pilot for governance of the broader system. Council received reports of various collaborative governance initiatives which are currently underway in Canada. Reports were received from:

- Canada West Laboratory Project – Allan Preston, project lead
- Council of Chief Veterinary Officers – Surveillance project – Gerald Hauer
- Evolution of Animal Health Surveillance – Ontario – Greg Douglas
- Public Health Agency of Canada – Steven Sternthal
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Ian Alexander

A further report from the working group is planned for the June 2014 meeting.

Emerging Issues

The Emerging Issues working group was re-established following a hiatus during the recent Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea and will be considering

how emerging issues capacity can be developed to provide a collaborative approach in the event of a disease outbreak. The working group will report at the June 2014 meeting.

Animal Welfare Research Capacity

This project is an outcome from recommendation #7 in the Council's animal welfare advisory statement – "A national farm animal welfare system for Canada (2012)". The project is led by AAFC with Council participation.

The project lead, Francois Bedard, AAFC, reported on the progress to date. A survey of commodity organizations and other NGOs with an interest in animal welfare was completed, a questionnaire was completed by animal welfare researchers, links have been made with an international survey and AAFC staff completed a publication search to identify researchers in Canada. If commodity organizations/sectors had a research cluster, that was used as the survey source.

The committee will be drafting some observations and proposing some recommendations to Council at either the June or September 2014 meeting.

Other information received

CgFARAD

Ron Johnson, University of Guelph and Co-Director of CgFARAD (Canadian global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database), updated Council on the CgFARAD status, including the proposed business plan. CgFARAD is important for animal agriculture, particularly for food safety.

CFIA – Humane Transportation Regulations

Debbie Barr updated the Council on the Health of Animals Regulations related to humane transport which are planned to be pre-published in Canada Gazette 1 in 2014–15. There has been consultation on these regulations for many years. Further information will be posted on the CFIA website.

CFIA – iAIM

Debbie Barr provided a brief presentation on CFIA's "iAIM" (Integrated Agency Inspection Model). This is part of a transformation agenda which will start with food and move to animal and plant health with a 2–5 year implementation period. The transformation goal is efficient use of available resources.

Consultation with stakeholders is planned as iAIM moves forward.

SAVE THE DATE



The NFAHW Council is pleased to be hosting its fourth annual

NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE FORUM 2014

Your opportunity to participate in the work of the Council

November 24th and 25th
Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario

Have a voice in shaping Canada's animal health and welfare system

Check the Council website for updates

<http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/>