

# National Farmed Animal Health & Welfare Council

Presentation to

**FORUM 2011**

December 6 2011

# Background

- Canada has earned and enjoyed an enviable reputation for its animal health programs and status.
- Recent changes on many fronts have served to challenge the maintenance of this reputation.
  - environment
  - globalization in trade
  - the increasing challenge of zoonotic diseases such as Avian Influenza, and H1N1
- Many stakeholders believe that the current farmed animal health system may not be adequate to respond to these challenges.
- Key trading partners (EU, UK, Australia and Ireland) are ahead of us in terms of coordinated planning; and mechanisms in place to address the challenges.

# The Current System

- Responsibility for farmed animal health and welfare management in Canada is shared between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and the industry.
- Regulatory authority varies between the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments
- Complementary laboratory services in Federal and Provincial and Territorial jurisdictions.
- Industry has taken the lead regarding diseases that are endemic and do not pose a threat to humans

# Gaps in Current System

- Canada lacks an integrated, strategic approach to addressing animal health issues
  - Roles and responsibilities are unclear
    - Federal-provincial-industry roles in animal health
    - Interaction with public health, wildlife health
    - Impact on food safety, food security
  - Lacks an effective, inclusive decision-making process
  - Inadequately anticipates emerging threats
  - Emphasizes reaction and response, rather than anticipation and avoidance
  - Often ad-hoc, inconsistent and fragmented approach to animal health and welfare issues
  - Effective partnerships are not well established
  - Scarcity of technical expertise and limited public resources

# The Changing Scene

- In recent years there has been progress in:
  - Greater focus on prevention and response to disease;
  - Coordination of FPT surveillance activities and pandemic planning;
  - Increased consultation and information-sharing through fora such as CCVO, value-chain round tables, etc.; and
  - Food safety, biosecurity and traceability programs through Growing Forward.
- However, critical and persistent challenges remain:
  - Lack of a holistic approach, with sustained engagement of all orders of governments, industry and other stakeholders;
  - Lack of clarity and coordination regarding animal health and welfare issues;
    - No process or forum to prioritize national approaches

# The Business Environment

- Are we competitive in the international market
  - Animal health fast becoming a non-tariff trade barrier
  - US (worth \$ annually) increasingly protectionist and will use animal health concerns to shut down our exports
- We could be better prepared for national animal health emergencies
- We create opportunities by linking animal health to food safety and public health outcomes.

# Recall that ...

- Recognizing these critical challenges, the National Farmed Animal Health & Welfare Strategy (NFAHWS) was developed in a collaborative fashion by a Joint Working Group (JWG), i.e. CCVO, CAHC, CFIA and key industry sectors.
- The NFAHWS represents a composite plan that was developed as a “road-map” to achieve a more integrated and coordinated animal health system but did not analyze costing, funding, implications of options nor prioritizing of issues.

# Drivers for the NFAHWS and Council

- The Canadian farmed animal health system must protect animal, human and ecosystem health, protect the safety and security of the food supply and is fundamental to the economy
- Complex and accelerating global changes mean that Canada's farmed animal health system must adapt. We need a new way of working together.
- The National Farmed Animal Health & Welfare Strategy proposes a new, collaborative structure shared between governments, industry and stakeholders to address these emerging challenges.

# The Strategy

- A roadmap – to get from here (present) to where we want to go (future)
  - Framework for assigning roles and responsibilities
  - Framework for decision-making
  - Basis for planning – what we will and will NOT do
  - Benchmarking & setting targets – to measure how far we have come
  - Framework for renewal – adaptation to new situations, communication of goals

# Strategic Outcomes

## **Improve capacity to:**

1. Avoid threats and anticipate opportunities  
- avoidance – forewarning – prevention
2. Respond to threats and create opportunities  
- preparation – response
3. Protect ecosystem health  
- environmentally sustainable system for raising farmed animals
4. Protect public health  
- the farmed animal sector is an integral part of the “one-health” system

# Strategic Outcomes cont'd

## **Improve:**

5. Public confidence in Canada's farmed animal health system
  - through communication messages animal health, care and welfare/public health/ecosystem health is in balance
  
6. Market access
  - through improved farmed animal health status and the credibility of the farmed animal health system.
  
7. Farmed animal care and welfare
  - shared responsibility for farmed animal care and welfare practices that have a basis in science and reflect societal ethics.
  
8. Industry viability
  - minimize financial risk – expedite recovery

# What will the council provide?

- One-stop shopping for collaboration on multiple issues
- Potential to reduce meetings, effort
- Streamline processes
- Comprehensive approach, not single-issue
- Monitor results, effectiveness using the eight outcomes described in the NFAHWS

# The Council

- Formed in 2010 to oversee the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy
- Council increased to 14 to include representation from the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health (CCMOH)
- Exploring representation from the environment and academia perspective (may include wildlife)
- Terms of Reference provide guidance

# Purpose and Mandate (Scope)

- To establish a more harmonized and integrated approach to the management of the broad animal health and welfare program continuum and system in Canada.
- To provide scientific, strategic and policy advice and recommendations on animal health and welfare matters to the FPT Reg ADMs, CFIA, provinces/territories, industry and non-government stakeholders (NGS).
- Council is advisory, not operational

# Incorporation

- Incorporated as a not-for-profit to facilitate funding
  - The corporation is owned by the non-government members
  - Government members are an advisory committee
  - Canadian Animal Health Coalition contracted to provide secretariat services
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- Equally funded by Federal Government, Provincial Government, and non-government organizations (Industry)
  - Annual Budget - \$316,900

# Council Membership

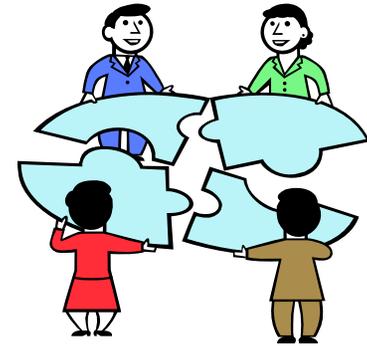
- Councillors chosen for expertise – described in Terms of Reference
- Three partner groups responsible for selection of members from their sector
- Represented at the Council:
  - Animal Health, Human Health, Animal Welfare
- Council members asked to be non-representational

# Council Members

- Ian Alexander
- Pauline Duivenvoorden
- David Fraser
- Gerald Hauer
- Kathryn Koliaska
- Wayne Lees (Co-Chair)
- Jennifer MacTavish
- Michel Major
- Rob McNabb (Co-Chair)
- Florian Possberg
- Mark Raizenne
- John Ross
- Rick Thiessen
- Norm Willis

# The “Challenges” we are Facing

- National issues that:
  - Have not yet been easily solved
    - Surveillance, welfare systems
  - Cross jurisdictions and interest group mandates
    - No clear “home”
  - Require longer term thinking, planning and coordination



# The Approach

- Collaborative
- Holistic
  - systems thinking
- Anticipatory / nimble
- Visionary



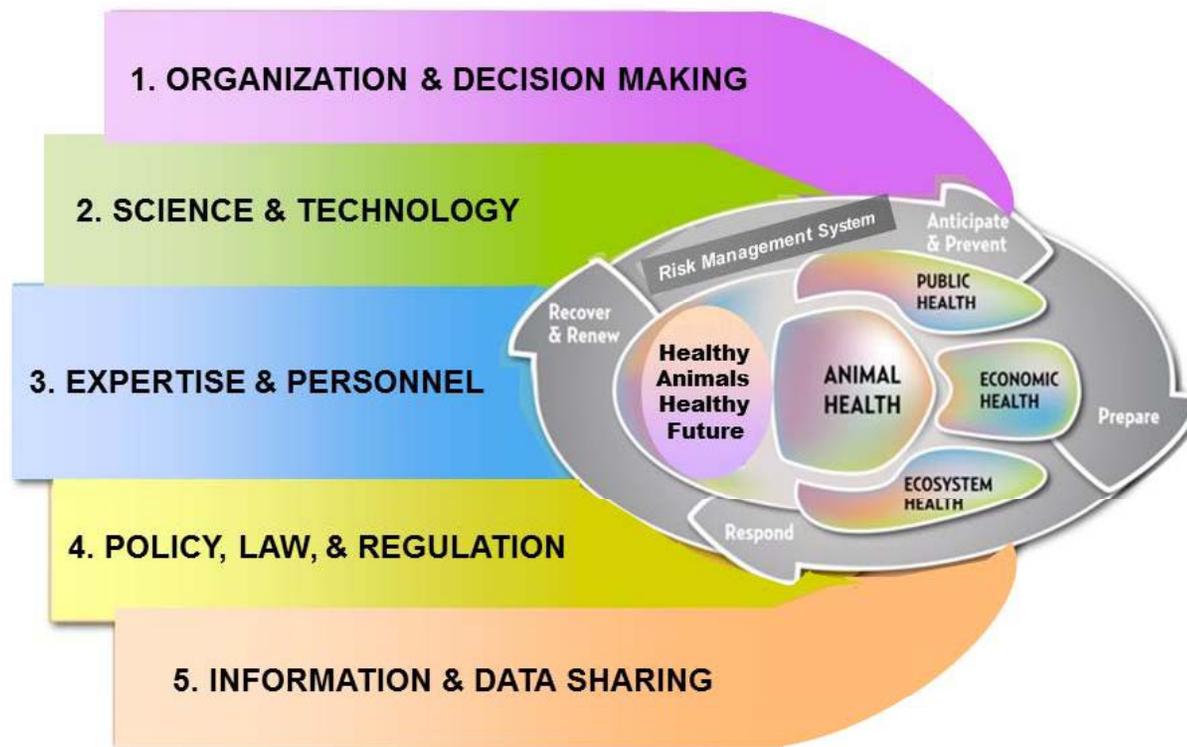
# Accountabilities of the Council

- Report to the FPT Regulatory ADMs of Agriculture and Industry:
  - Regular updates
  - Annual report
  - Analysis of national outcomes against the NFAHWS Strategic Outcomes
- Policy Recommendations

# NFAHW Council and Fore-CAN

- Foresight could be a useful tool for Council
- The Fore-CAN project provided useful tools for the Council
  - Systems mapping and leverage points
  - Scenario development
  - Outcomes to achieve desired future
  - Key Capability Areas
  - Fore-CAN Assessment Tool

# Fore-CAN Key Capability Areas



# Council Progress

- Organizational –
  - Terms of Reference
  - Incorporation
  - Prioritization of components in Strategy
  - Process for assigning issues
  - Budgeting and financial reporting
  - Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Policy
  - Submission on GF2 consultation
  - Annual Report 2010-11

# Growing Forward II

## Recommendation 1

- Animal health and welfare are important to Canadian producers and the Canadian economy and should be recognized in Growing Forward II. This recognition will facilitate programs to support the development and enhancement of the components of Canada's animal health and welfare system which are essential to the maintenance and expansion of markets, the production of safe food, and consumer confidence.

# Growing Forward II

## Recommendation 2

- Canada's animal health policy should recognize the difficulty of managing the interconnectedness between animal, human, environmental (ecosystem) health and the economic health of the sector. Appropriate governance models must be developed to deal with the complexity of the interface of these in the Canadian environment with shared responsibilities between federal and provincial/territorial governments and industry sectors.

# Council Progress - Advice

Advice completed for:

- Surveillance - Champion - Norm Willis
- Animal Welfare issue - Champion – David Fraser

Initial scoping documents being prepared for:

- Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence
- Governance (Roles and Responsibilities)
- Education and Training

# Next Steps

- Enhanced communications and public awareness
- Develop assessment tool – success to be measured by progress on the 8 strategic outcomes in NFAHW Strategy
- Develop mechanism for dealing with new issues coming forward
- Develop process for updating Strategy