



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Implementation Reporting: Emerging Issues

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

Forum 2013

December 3, 2013

Canada



Background

- Management of emerging issues in the past relied on an ad hoc approach due to jurisdictional limitations and policy decisions.
- The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) had identified a need for an established system to deal with emerging issues.
- In May 2013, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) was first reported in the U.S.
- In response, the CFIA had facilitated two teleconference calls with various stakeholders but these calls were stopped due to CFIA's limited role in the management of the disease.
- Canadian Swine Health Board (CSHB) and others had identified a gap in coordination and communication of this emerging issue.
- NFAHWC Emerging Issues Working Group (WG) was established to assist with the PED coordination activities and the evaluation and development of an emerging issues system framework.

An Emerging Issues Framework

Requirements:

- Emerging issues identification and evaluation.
- Determination of stakeholder participation and the response required.
- A cohesive method for responding to emerging issues.
- Coordination of conference calls and response activities.
- Disengagement (know when to stand down or institute a more permanent program).
- Post mortem of the effectiveness of actions taken.

The requirement for an emerging issues process is being brought on due to accelerating change, increasing complexity of issues, a need to integrate policies and resources and overlapping jurisdictions. No one stakeholder, including government, can achieve a lasting solution on its own.





Commitment of the CVO for Canada

- Agreed to take on the role of leading, enabling, facilitating and coordinating the emerging issues process and teleconferences.
- While the CFIA will convene and facilitate the conference calls, the responsibility may sit with any stakeholder for providing leadership during the event.
- Provide support from existing processes and infra-structure, such as the secretariat functions provided for the CCVO.
- The CVO for Canada (Deputy CVO) will chair the calls and provide the lead until leadership (lead, **collaboration**, and observer status) on the emerging event has been determined.
- Committed to facilitating/leading the emerging issues system from the point of engagement to demobilization and evaluation.
- Emerging issues need not be limited to disease events, could be AMR, bioterrorism , chemical or other environmental hazards or trade driven issues affecting animal health and welfare.



What Have We Learned From PED?

- A national lead is essential to coordinate the calls between stakeholder groups and to manage activities regardless of where the ultimate responsibility may lie.
- Demands broad stakeholder participation engaged early in and throughout the event.
- Policy coordination between provinces can be difficult due to differing legislative capabilities and the demographics of an industry in each province.
- Capacity of each province and industry to participate and respond does vary.
- Industry has the capacity to provide the necessary leadership for emerging issues as demonstrated during the ongoing PED situation in the US – doesn't have to be government.

Improvements Under Consideration

1. Agreement that the Emerging Issues WG serve as the single intake point and initial triage of information for emerging issues.
2. Develop a Terms of Reference for the Emerging Issues WG.
3. Define the protocol and criteria for identifying emerging issues.
4. Identify the trigger mechanism for a response.
5. Work with stakeholders to determine leadership on issues once initially facilitated by the CVO for Canada.
6. Support continued development of a collaborative approach in responding to emerging and re-emerging issues.
7. Back the development of CFIA's – Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases – Integrated Intelligence and Response (CEZD-IIR) project as a mechanism for gather and analyzing intelligence information.

All have to fit into the bigger scheme of things.

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