

# 2024-25 Annual Report

Advancing animal  
health and welfare  
through collaboration



ANIMAL DISEASE  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

ANIMAL HEALTH  
SURVEILLANCE

FARM  
ANIMAL CARE



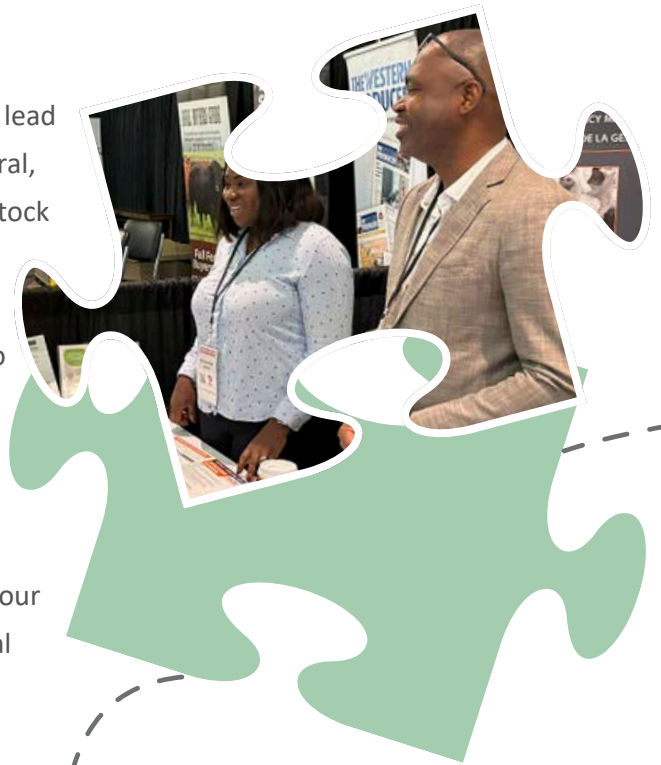
AnimalHealthCanada

[animalhealthcanada.ca](https://animalhealthcanada.ca)

# About Us

At Animal Health Canada (AHC), we understand the importance of collaboration. It is why we have taken the lead on building unprecedented collaborations between federal, provincial, territorial governments, and poultry and livestock industries to achieve shared animal health and welfare priorities. Our structure allows diverse stakeholder groups to work in a collaborative, multi-partner model to clarify respective roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities to support the advancement of farmed animal health and welfare in Canada.

As a not-for-profit corporation, we are jointly funded by our members which include federal, provincial, and territorial governments, industry organizations, and other partners working in animal health and welfare in Canada.



## Vision

A sustainable agriculture and agri-food sector strengthened by an inclusive industry-governments partnership protecting the health and welfare of farmed animals.

## Mission

AHC provides leadership in building a collaborative, multi-partner model that clarifies the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of each partner implementing an animal health strategy for Canada, beginning with emergency management.

# Table of contents

3	<u><a href="#">AHC Governance</a></u>
4	<u><a href="#">Our members</a></u>
5	<u><a href="#">Co-chairs' Message</a></u>
6	<u><a href="#">Emergency Management</a></u>
13	<u><a href="#">Training and professional development</a></u>
15	<u><a href="#">Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System</a></u>
18	<u><a href="#">National Farm Animal Care Council</a></u>
20	<u><a href="#">Antimicrobial resistance</a></u>
21	<u><a href="#">AHC engagement</a></u>



# AHC Governance

The business affairs of Animal Health Canada are managed by our **Board of Directors** made of representatives from the poultry and livestock industries and associate members.

AHC also has an **advisory council made of federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments representatives** who provide advice and guidance to the Board on matters relating to legislation, finances, regulations, program activities, new initiatives and other activities affecting animal health and welfare.

Together, they ensure Canada maintains an effective animal health and welfare system.

## AHC Board of Directors

*Leigh Rosengren*, DVM, Canadian Cattle Association  
- AHC Industry Co-Chair

*Luce Bélanger*, Chicken Farmers of Canada - Vice-Chair - Board Member

*Fred Baker*, Canadian Sheep Federation - Board Member

*Henry Ceelen*, DVM, Canadian Medical Veterinary Association - Board Member

*Andrea Genereaux*, Dairy Processors Association of Canada - Board Member

*Nina von Keyserlingk*, DVM, Animal Welfare Program, University of British Columbia - Board Member

*Katerina Kolemishvska*, Canadian Pork Council - Board Member

*Ryder Lee*, Canadian Cattle Association - Board Member

*Adam Petherick*, Dairy Farmers of Canada - Board Member

## FPT Governments Advisory Council

### Federal Government:

*Donald Boucher*, Director General, Sector Development and Analysis Directorate, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - AHC Government Co-Chair

*Mary Jane Ireland*, DVM, Executive Director of the Animal Health Directorate, Policy and Programs Branch at Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, WOAHC Delegate Canada

### Provincial/Territorial Governments:

*Luc Bergeron*, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation de Québec

*Theresa Burns*, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer, Government of British Columbia

*Stephanie Smith*, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer and Director of the Veterinary Unit, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

*Nicole Wanamaker*, DVM, Chief Veterinary Officer for New Brunswick, New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

# Our members

## Primary Members – Commodity Groups

Canadian Cattle Association  
Canadian Hatching Egg Producers  
Canadian Pork Council  
Canadian Sheep Federation  
Canadian Veal Association  
Chicken Farmers of Canada  
Dairy Farmers of Canada  
National Cattle Feeders Association  
Egg Farmers of Canada  
Equestrian Canada  
Turkey Farmers of Canada

## Primary Members – Processors

Dairy Processors Association of Canada  
Canadian Meat Council  
Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors

## Primary Members – Government

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
Government of Alberta  
Government of British Columbia  
Government of Manitoba  
Government of New Brunswick  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Government of Nova Scotia  
Government of Ontario  
Government of Northwest Territories  
Government of Prince Edward Island  
Government of Quebec  
Government of Saskatchewan  
Government of Yukon

## Associate Members

Animal Nutrition Association of Canada  
Canadian Animal Health Institute  
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association  
Deans Council – Agriculture, Food & Veterinary Medicine





# Co-Chairs' Message

The Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on the considerable progress made by Animal Health Canada in strengthening Canada's farm animal health and welfare system. By championing collaboration and enabling a cooperative approach, Canada's ability to address complex animal health and welfare challenges continues to improve. While much remains to be done, Animal Health Canada has positioned itself as a critical part of the solution.

This past year, we celebrated the accomplishments of the African Swine Fever Executive Management Board to prevent and, if needed reduce the potential impact of a Canadian outbreak. Building on that success, we are now using that same model to guide planning and preparedness for the more complex threat of foot and mouth disease.

Canada's agility to respond to an emerging disease was demonstrated when highly pathogenic avian influenza was detected in some dairy herds in several American states. The networks established under the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System enabled extensive information-sharing among dairy farmers and processors, national sector groups, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Public Health Agency of Canada, and our provincial colleagues. The result was a much more informed policy making process, and a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities and capacities among the key stakeholders. Canada is in a much stronger position should it have to manage a similar situation.

The National Farm Animal Care Council launched an ambitious renewal of six different Codes of Practice. That they remain up to date is critical to their ongoing success. The development of the codes depends on an extraordinarily high level of collaboration across a very diverse group of stakeholders. Their work enables Canada to demonstrate its steadfast commitment to strengthening farm animal welfare.

The accomplishments that we have chosen to highlight reflect the absolute necessity of a collaborative approach in meeting the challenges that arise from the continuously changing animal health and welfare landscape. More than ever, Animal Health Canada must embrace its role as a trusted forum where the livestock and poultry sectors join with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to anticipate challenges, strengthen readiness, and ensure the resiliency of Canada's animal health and welfare system.



Dr. Leigh Rosengren,  
AHC Industry Co-Chair



Mr. Donald Boucher,  
AHC Government Co-Chair

# Our Divisions

Through our divisions and work areas, we support animal disease emergency management, farm animal welfare, animal health surveillance, and antimicrobial use and resistance. We do this with the understanding that One Health and One Welfare guides the work we do to continually improve the health and welfare of animals, people, and the environment.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### *COLLABORATING TO ENHANCE THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES OF CANADA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY*

#### A FOCUS ON BIOSECURITY

##### Sharing targeted biosecurity HPAI resources for fairs and exhibitions

In response to growing concerns about the risk of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) transmission at livestock exhibitions, Animal Health Canada developed and shared targeted biosecurity resources for fairs and exhibitions before the fall 2024. These materials, created in collaboration with provincial governments and industry, offer accessible guidance to smallholders and event organizers to mitigate disease transmission. This initiative has addressed a significant gap in outreach to non-commercial poultry producers and continues to bolster national preparedness efforts as HPAI remains a threat in the environment.



#### Proactively protecting Canada's beef industry from the threat of foreign animal diseases



In a proactive effort to protect Canada's beef industry from the threat of foreign animal diseases, AHC and the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) partnered to develop and distribute a comprehensive set of biosecurity resources focused on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) preparedness and prevention for Canadian beef producers. FMD, though not currently present in Canada, has the potential to cause severe economic and animal welfare impacts. The resources developed help producers recognize early signs of FMD and implement rapid response protocols, improving the sector's readiness to respond to a potential outbreak. For more information on the FMD biosecurity resources, please visit the [BCRC web page](http://www.BCRC.ca/webpage).

### **Tailoring biosecurity resources to smallholder poultry producers**

In partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the National Poultry Group, AHC released a suite of biosecurity resources tailored to smallholder poultry producers. These user-friendly materials offer practical guidance on cleaning and disinfection, disease prevention, and flock health. They are now available on the AHC website and are being distributed through provincial networks, agricultural extension services, and community organizations.



## **TESTING PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS FOR ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAKS**

### **Using exercise to test ASF preparedness among the government and industry stakeholders**

African swine fever (ASF) is a reportable disease as prescribed by the CFIA, as well as a listed disease by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). Planning and preparedness are a priority area of work for AHC.

Animal Health Canada hosted or attended multiple African swine fever (ASF) exercises over the last year to test ASF preparedness amongst government and industry stakeholders.

<b>September 2024</b>	AHC hosted a virtual traceability exercise to test users' ability to retrieve specific animal movement information from the PigTrace system during different mock ASF scenarios in four regions of Canada. Players included many CFIA officials and industry stakeholders, who are PigTrace system users, from each of the four geographic areas.
<b>November 2024</b>	With the help of Sandhurst Consulting, AHC hosted a national, multi-jurisdictional hybrid ASF exercise with provincial, territorial and federal governments and industry stakeholders. The scenario ran over two days, with a mock index premise set in Ontario. Ontario tested their ASF disease response plan, while the remaining provinces tested their plans in reaction to Ontario's positive case, all simultaneously.
<b>March 2025</b>	In collaboration with CFIA, AHC hosted a virtual workshop to highlight updates and additions to CFIA's African Swine Fever Disease Outbreak Surveillance Plan. CFIA walked through the changes for a virtual audience of provincial pork organizations and animal health lab personnel. The review only scratched the surface, and there are subsequent, more detailed discussions needed for a thorough understanding of requirements.

### **Testing the preparedness of the dairy industry to a potential HPAI detection**

To enhance readiness, AHC's Emergency Management division together with Dairy Farmers of Canada and CFIA supported the planning and development of exercise materials designed to test the preparedness of the Canadian dairy industry, provincial authorities, and CFIA in response to a potential HPAI detection from a milk truck sample.



## STRENGTHENING AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SURVEILLANCE



CanSpotASF, Canada's national early detection surveillance program for African swine fever (ASF), continues to strengthen the country's preparedness for ASF through multiple coordinated surveillance component and stakeholder engagement.

### Launching the wild pig surveillance tool

In July 2024, CanSpotASF launched the Invasive Wild Pig Surveillance Component, a key initiative aimed at monitoring and detecting ASF in invasive wild pig populations. These populations pose a significant risk as they can carry and spread ASF to domestic swine, making early detection and surveillance critical to Canada's preparedness. Surveillance activities include testing pigs that are found dead (including their remains) or are removed from the natural landscape as part of provincial programs. With this additional component, Canada's ASF detection potential has been strengthened and shows, on a global scale, Canada's commitment to early ASF detection.

A technical document detailing surveillance protocol and ASF testing procedures in wild pigs is published. This resource is available at: [www.animalhealthcanada.ca/CanSpotASF](http://www.animalhealthcanada.ca/CanSpotASF).

### Evaluating the CanSpotASF program

An independent evaluation of the CanSpotASF program was conducted and completed in 2024 by Ausvet, a third-party consulting firm specializing in veterinary epidemiology. The evaluation assessed program objectives and identified opportunities to improve overall efficiency. Findings and recommendations from the evaluation provided valuable perspectives on how well the program is performing and highlighted areas that need improvement to strengthen CanSpotASF as a key element in Canada's strategy to prevent and respond to ASF. The evaluation was supported through funding from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Federal Assistance Program and the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). The CanSpotASF Technical Committee established a structured, facilitated process to validate and prioritize the key findings and recommendations. A summary of the Ausvet report can be found here on the [AHC website](#).

### Developing and refining CanSpotASF documents

Along with the new technical document for wild pigs, additional CanSpotASF documents have been developed or refined:

- **Infographic for abattoir inspectors:** A practical, visual tool to allow provincial abattoir inspectors and meat inspection staff to be better equipped to recognize and respond to potential ASF indicators.
- **Revised CanSpotASF technical documents and resources:** Allow for more flexible language regarding eligibility criteria, with the goal of increasing sample submissions and improving testing protocols.

## SUPPORTING WILD PIG PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND REMOVAL EFFORTS

African swine fever is unique in that an incursion in wild pigs alters a country's international status for the disease and requires a response that is overseen by the CFIA, to regain status as an ASF-free country. A disease response involving wild pigs will be complex and involve multi-jurisdictional agencies and stakeholders. Animal Health Canada is supporting wild pig prevention, management and removal efforts through communication coordination and emergency response planning.



*Click on image above to enlarge*

AHC hosts Canada's Invasive Wild Pig Strategy and is a member of Canada's Wild Pig Leadership group, which directs the Strategy and provides program and policy guidance to support collaborative, regional efforts to eradicate invasive pigs.

AHC contracted Invasives Canada to support communication and awareness related in invasive wild pigs. Over this year, Invasives Canada chaired and provided secretariat services to the Wild Pig Leadership Group, completed an engagement on the Strategy with indigenous groups resulting in updates to the Strategy. It is also developed a wild pig website to be a hub of wild pig information set to launch the summer of 2025.

## CANADIAN WILD PIG SUMMIT II

### Second Canadian Wild Pig Summit

After a successful first wild pig summit in 2024, AHC held the second Canadian Wild Pig Summit in April 2025. The Summit virtually offered presentations in the morning on field techniques used for identifying wild pigs on the landscape. The afternoon was an invitation-only facilitated workshop to help provincial program personnel work through their respective response plans (when finding ASF in a wild pig) to align with CFIA's response plan.

Five provinces have developed active programs to prevent, manage and remove wild pigs – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. AHC has supported the provincial control programs and wild pig management initiatives through the following initiatives:

- Providing financial support for indigenous rights holders to participate in trapper training and program training.
- Collaborating with the control programs to create a report on the location of verified sightings of wild pigs and established populations along with the location of field activities targeting wild pig management and removal. The map will be released during the summer of 2025 and is intended for audiences interested in the risks presented by wild pigs such as regulators and trading partners.

### POPULATIONS OF WILD PIGS IN CANADA

Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have established populations of wild pigs. Various monitoring techniques and whole sounder trapping programs are being used to remove pigs from the landscape.

British Columbia and Ontario do not have evidence of established sounders of wild pigs and focus on prevention.

The balance of the provinces and territories have mechanisms for reporting and managing pigs at large. Programs focus on prevention as those provinces do not have evidence of wild pigs sustaining themselves on the landscape.

*The ASF Executive Management Board (EMB) and working groups under the EMB structure has been operating under the ASF Industry Preparedness Program provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, which concluded on March 31, 2025.*

*All subsequent ASF planning and preparedness work for Animal Health Canada will carry on through funding provided by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.*

## FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

Over this past year, with the help of Serecon Consulting and an industry/government working group, AHC completed some baseline activities for foot-and-mouth disease planning and preparedness.

### **Completing the FMD Vaccination Implementation Support Structure**

The FMD Vaccination Implementation Support Structure (VISS) was completed and forms a complete chapter in the Integrated Emergency Response Plan (IERP), for Foot and Mouth Disease. The VISS contains protocols and Standard Operating Procedures necessary for the implementation of CFIA's vaccination policy and strategies.



### **Drafting the first version of the Foot and Mouth Disease Integrated Emergency Response Plan**

A first version of the Foot and Mouth Disease Integrated Emergency Response Plan (IERP) has been drafted. The FMD IERP leveraged the significant amount of work already completed as part of the ASF IERP. This work focused on clarifying, developing and defining roles and responsibilities for Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments and Industry Partners (FPTI) in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak. To accompany the FMD IERP is a gaps document which will be foundational for all stakeholders over this year as they collaborate to prioritize the gaps and then work away at closing the gaps through working groups using the same structures and processes that were successful for ASF planning and preparedness: through the leadership of an Executive Management Board for foreign animal disease planning and preparedness, with FMD as the priority.

## LEADING NATIONAL INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN PREPAREDNESS

### Strengthening preparedness for HPAI outbreaks

In collaboration with the CFIA and National Poultry Group, Animal Health Canada's Emergency Management Division have led several national initiatives to strengthen preparedness for HPAI outbreaks.

- ✓ AHC has been coordinating technical working groups to advance planning for depopulation, destruction, and disposal, and engaging stakeholders on critical issues such as vaccination and mental health support for responders.
- ✓ AHC established the Expert Review Panel, which will provide technical guidance on whole-barn poultry depopulation methods.
- ✓ AHC leads the FPTI HPAI Destruction Working Group, overseeing the development of a national Depopulation Reference Document and integrating lessons learned from both Canadian and international outbreaks.

### Launching the Poultry and Livestock Emergency Management Network

AHC launched the Poultry and Livestock Emergency Management Network (PLEMN) in 2024–25 to connect emergency management representatives from all provinces and territories and federal partners to improve communication, coordination, and alignment in responding to poultry and livestock emergencies across Canada.



PLEMN encourages teamwork across jurisdictions, minimizes duplication of efforts, and helps enhance national readiness for high-consequence animal health events. Key objectives of PLEMN include facilitating timely updates and cross-provincial knowledge exchange, strengthening emergency planning through shared tools, experiences, and strategies, identifying and promoting training opportunities to build response capacity, and supporting consistent engagement with stakeholders across government and industry. The network meets quarterly to maintain momentum, encourage cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and identify opportunities for continuous improvement. While PLEMN is not a decision-making body, it continues to play a foundational role in aligning national efforts and reinforcing Canada's capacity to respond effectively and cohesively to livestock and poultry health emergencies.



## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AHC recognizes that knowledge, preparedness, and practical readiness are foundational to a resilient farmed animal sector.

### Expanding language and course options for the Canadian Livestock Transport program

The Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) Certification Program offers a comprehensive online course and resource hub for individuals involved in the handling and transportation of livestock and poultry.

Animal Health Canada is pleased to announce that the CLT program is **now available in Spanish**, in addition to English and French.



Participants can now choose from two course streams: one designed specifically for Handlers, and another tailored to the needs of **Transporters and Processors**—all CLT courses are available in English, French, and Spanish. Many thanks to the CLT Advisory Committee members and subject matter experts for their valuable contributions in helping us expand our course offerings once again.

Recognized across Canada and the United States, CLT Certification is a fully online, accessible program. This year, over **341 course** purchases were completed by individuals and companies nationwide. More than **262 individuals** became certified, with each certification valid for three years.

There were technology and platform enhancements over this past year, including:

#### Learning Management System (LMS) Upgrades

- Full Spanish-language support for wider accessibility
- Expanded formats to support live webinars and in-person training
- Custom learning pathways for role- and sector-specific experiences
- Enhanced security for safe and reliable access

#### Modernization of Legacy Courseware

- CLT livestock & poultry courses updated and segmented by learner role
- New course launched: *Working Through the New Transportation Regulations*

#### AI-Enabled Exam Delivery

- Multilingual support
- Online proctoring for secure remote assessments
- Automated scoring and analytics to improve efficiency

## THE FOLLOWING COURSES WERE IMPLEMENTED IN 2024/25:

### **Foot-and-Mouth Disease Emergency Preparedness course**

A Foot-and-Mouth Disease Emergency Preparedness course (in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), CFIA, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association) was offered online in February/March 2025. This six-week, online course prepared veterinarians and responders to detect, investigate, and contain FMD outbreaks. It featured expert-led modules, live sessions, and hands-on scenario exercises for 25.75 RACE-approved hours. **220 DVMs/RVTs/academics from Canada and the US successfully completed the course.** The content was developed as a result of the four-way transboundary animal disease preparedness partnership and will support future early detection and response training on FMD, HPAI, and African Swine Fever emergency preparedness across Canada.

### **Incident Command System (ICS) 100 for Agriculture**

ICS 100 for Agriculture was offered as a live webinar on two separate dates in February and March 2025. This introductory course equipped learners with foundational ICS principles, terminology, and structures in the context of agricultural emergencies for an audience representing producers, veterinarians, transporters, processors, feedlot operators, associations. Both delivery dates were at capacity.

### **Incident Command System (ICS) 200**

ICS 200 for Agriculture was offered as a two-day, in-person course in early April 2025. This sold-out, advanced course focused on resource coordination, planning cycles, and real-world scenario-based training for previous ICS-100 graduates, emergency planners, mid-level incident managers. Due to high demand and positive feedback, a proposal is in development to scale ICS offerings and introduce:

- Tiered ICS training (100, 200 level)
- Add-ons such as tabletop exercises, outbreak case studies, simulation drills
- A national facilitator network with agriculture-specific ICS expertise

For inquiries or collaboration opportunities: [training@animalhealthcanada.ca](mailto:training@animalhealthcanada.ca)

### **Establishing an Emergency Management Training Advisory Committee**

Through its Emergency Management division, AHC established an Emergency Management Training Advisory Committee to guide course development and ensure alignment with sector realities. The committee includes representatives from industry, private sector, and provincial/territorial governments with expertise in emergency response and learning design in Canada and outside its borders. The committee supports:

- Course content review and audience validation
- Fee structure recommendations
- Strategic prioritization of future training offerings



## CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

### **COLLABORATIVELY ADVISING ON NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE PRIORITIES AND DISEASE PATTERNS**

From 2023 to 2028, the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) is committed on supporting activities under the following categories:

1. **Data integration and synthesis in a One Health context**
2. **Enhancing and building core competencies within CAHSS networks**
3. **Strengthening surveillance for animal health emergency scenarios**

*Financial support provided the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.*

#### **Highlights from each activity from 2024-2025:**

##### **Activity 1: Data integration and synthesis in a One Health context**

- *Maintaining regular surveillance network meetings to facilitate collaboration and information sharing with a range of stakeholders and partners.*

##### **Organizing Quarterly Surveillance Network Meetings**

The core activity of CAHSS is the Surveillance Network meetings, where a range of stakeholders and partners have an opportunity to collaborate and share information.

Over the 2024-2025 year, CAHSS organized a total of **37 Network and Working Group meetings** and had a total of **919 members**.

##### **CAHSS CURRENTLY OPERATES: SEVEN species-specific Surveillance Networks:**

1. Aquatic
2. Beef
3. Companion Animal
4. Dairy
5. Equine
6. Poultry
7. Small Ruminant

##### **TWO SPECIAL TOPIC SURVEILLANCE NETWORKS**

1. Antimicrobial Use and Resistance
2. Vector-Borne Diseases

##### **IT FACILITATES TWO WORKING GROUPS**

1. Smallholder
2. Wildlife-Domestic Animal Interface.

- *Developing a national data platform to consolidate and transform disparate data into a standardized format for meaningful analyses and comparisons on animal health data across Canada.*

CAHSS is working on the development of a national data platform to consolidate and transform disparate data into a standardized format for meaningful analyses and comparisons on animal health data across Canada.

The goal of this project is to provide a comprehensive source for national-level disease data, with the intended users being the provincial data providers, as well as other stakeholders from the CAHSS Surveillance Networks.

There are two data streams:

1. Data from **provincially inspected abattoirs**
2. Data from **provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratories**

The abattoir data dashboard is complete and is under evaluation and testing for data accuracy. The laboratory data dashboard is in progress.

CAHSS will continue to incorporate feedback from existing data providers and work on collaborating with additional provincial abattoirs and laboratories to expand the scope of data being shared.

## **Activity 2: Enhancing and building core competencies within CAHSS networks**

- *Organizing risk communications training sessions for members of each surveillance network, including an interactive session to practice crafting messages for different audiences.*

In response to requests from members, CAHSS organized training sessions with Dr. Kaylee Byers, a risk communications expert. In 2024, **nine sessions** were held, one for each Surveillance Network, where members learned the basic principles of risk communication. Each session was tailored for the specific Network, and included an interactive portion where participants practiced drafting messages for different audiences to illustrate how this impacts communication.



The lessons learned in these sessions were used to craft a risk communications document on **highly pathogenic avian influenza in cats**.

This document provided an outline of the risks to cats, symptoms to be aware of, and testing protocols. Feedback from practitioners has indicated that the document is a valuable tool.

### Activity 3: Strengthening surveillance for animal health emergency scenarios

- *Playing a key role in the Canadian response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza emerging in dairy cattle in the United States through coordination, communication, and subject matter expertise*

Since March 2024, when highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) was detected in dairy cattle herds in several states in the United States, CAHSS has coordinated update meetings with AHC and CAHSS members, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

These meetings have been instrumental in sharing the most up-to-date information and answering questions directly from those who need to understand the emerging situation. This collaboration also facilitated the implementation of testing unpasteurized milk at processing plants in Canada.

CAHSS also set up weekly e-mails through the CAHSS dairy network to provide technical updates on the U.S. outbreak, testing and surveillance progress. Collaboration with the Emergency Management division was key to provide HPAI information meetings with industry stakeholders.

At the time of publication of this annual report, there have been no cases detected in Canadian dairy cattle.

CAHSS continues to support and collaborate with the Animal Health Canada Emergency Management Division to improve the readiness of Canada to react and respond to animal health related emergencies.





# NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL

## COLLABORATIVELY LEADING FARM ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE IN CANADA











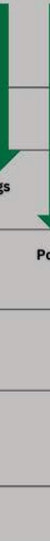
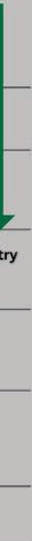
### Codes of Practice updates and amendments

From late 2023 through to March 2028 NFACC will be working with the beef; equine; sheep; pig; and hatching egg, breeders, chicken and turkey sectors to update their Codes of Practice. An amended pullets and laying hens Code was released in July 2025 and is available [here](#). NFACC is grateful for the financial support provided from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to undertake this large initiative. Each official launch of a Code update / amendment is being staggered to spread the workload and accommodate the readiness of each sector and their Code Committees. All Code Committees follow NFACC’s Code development process as shown below.



NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL  
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ÉLEVAGE

### TIMELINE FOR CODES OF PRACTICE BEING AMENDED OR UPDATED 2023-2028

STEPS OF THE CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS	AMENDMENT	CODES BEING UPDATED				
						
1 The Code development process is initiated when the national lead for a farm animal industry expresses to NFACC its commitment to develop a Code. The next step is to secure funding and other resources. For updated Codes, top-of-mind priorities are collected through a preliminary survey.						
2 A Code Committee is established, which includes representatives from a broad range of stakeholders – all working together in collaboration and toward consensus.						
3 A Scientific Committee is assembled to conduct a literature review of priority welfare issues to be covered by a Code. These reports are peer reviewed prior to publication and provide valuable information to Code Committee members throughout their deliberations.						
4 The Code Committee deliberates on the content of the draft Code. Working together, committee members identify evidence-informed solutions that address farm animal care concerns, meet market needs, and are implementable by farmers.						
5 The next step is the launch of a 60-day public comment period. This serves a critical role in supporting robust Codes of Practice with everyone encouraged to take part and provide input. The Scientific Committee’s report is typically released publicly at this time (if not sooner).						
6 The Code Committee considers all of the input and viewpoints gathered during the public comment period and agrees on the final version of the Code. The committee also summarizes the feedback received from both the public comment period and the preliminary survey (see step one), noting how the Code Committee considered this feedback.						
7 The revised Code is submitted to NFACC and published. Industry begins the process of outreach and implementation.						
Estimated Completion Date	Pullets & Laying Hens Code complete Aug. 2025	March 2027	Jan. 2027	Aug. 2027	Mar. 2028	Sep. 2027

Visit NFACC’s website for more details on the [Code development process](#). Details specific to Code amendments are available [here](#).

Updated: August 2025

Length of arrow correlates with the step that each committee is currently working on. For new or updated Codes, the process takes at least two years to complete. Code amendments generally take a year or less to complete.

[Click on image to enlarge](#)

### Conducting Top-of-mind surveys

The top-of-mind survey conducted at the outset of each Code's launch ensures the Code Committee has input on potential top-of-mind concerns from all stakeholder groups.

CLICK ON LINKS TO SEE TOP-OF-MIND SURVEY RESULTS:

- [Beef cattle](#)
- [Equine](#)
- [Sheep](#)
- [Hatching eggs, breeders, chickens and turkeys](#)

The pig top-of-mind survey was open from May 15 to June 4, 2025 and the results will soon be available from the pig Code [webpage](#).

### Identifying priority welfare issues

Scientific Committees have been assembled for each Code update / amendment to review the literature available on the priority welfare issues identified at the first in-person meeting of the Code and Scientific Committees. These



peer reviewed reports provide valuable information to Code Committee members throughout their deliberations. Click on the links below to see the priority welfare issues identified by the sectors that have reached this stage in their update project: [beef cattle](#); [equine](#); [sheep](#); and [hatching eggs, breeders, chickens and turkeys](#). Priority welfare issues identified for the pig Code Scientific Committee report should be available online in Fall 2025.

### Public comment periods

Preparations for a 60-day public comment period are made when a Code Committee reaches an initial consensus on the draft Code. Everyone is encouraged to provide feedback which is used in finalizing the Code. For example, the public comment period for pullets and laying hens ran from March 27 to May 26, 2025. Timelines for other public comment periods can be found on each Code's webpage.

### What We Heard and How We Addressed It Reports

Once a Code committee achieves consensus on a Code, a What We Heard And How We Addressed It report is prepared, summarizing input received during the 60-day public comment period and providing insights on how the comment period informed the final amended Code of Practice. The pullets and laying hens report in this regard is available [here](#).

**Did you know progress updates for each of the Codes being updated or amended are published quarterly and can be found on each Codes' webpage? Click [here](#) to access all Code webpages.**

# Work area

## ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

### COLLABORATIVELY SHAPING THE VISION AND STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING AMR IN ANIMAL HEALTH

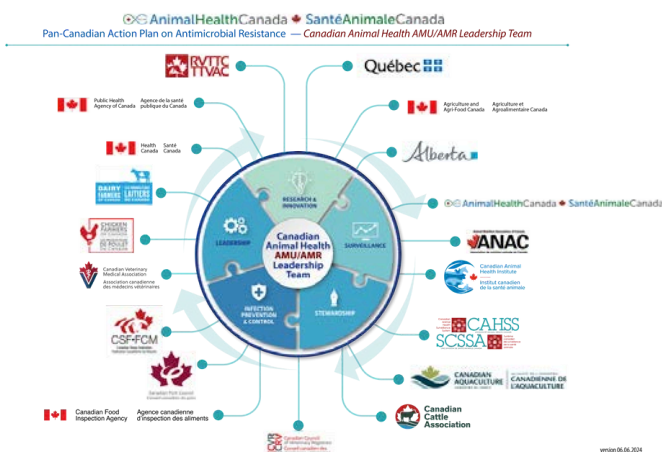
#### Forming a Leadership Team to implement Pan-Canadian Action Plan for AMR in animal health

The Government of Canada published the Pan-Canadian Action Plan (PCAP) on Antimicrobial Resistance in June 2023, which provides a five-year multi-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral roadmap for concerted action to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AHC partnered with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to develop the leadership and plan for the implementation of the PCAP for AMR in animal health. Since then, a Canadian Animal Health AMU/AMR Leadership Team was formed to provide strategic guidance in the agri-food and animal health sectors. This team is dedicated to effective, transparent, and ongoing communication with stakeholders.



#### Launching the AMRACTION website

In August 2024, AHC launched the AMRACTION campaign to proactively communicate the work that the organization and its members are doing on antimicrobial resistance ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Meeting on AMR in September 2024. A toolkit containing various campaign products for AHC members was developed to help spread awareness about the critical work that Canadians are doing to address a critical issue. View the website at [www.AMRACTION.ca](http://www.AMRACTION.ca)



Click on image to enlarge

# AHC Engagement

## AHC Forum 2024: Coordination -

## Collaboration - Communication --> ACTION!

The annual Animal Health Canada Forum is a vibrant meeting place for stakeholders in Canada's animal health and welfare system to come together to learn more about AHC's activities and priorities, hear from thought leaders on topical issues and to share actions and initiatives in relation to animal health and welfare. Our AHC Forum 2024 took place in Ottawa, Ontario on October 8 & 9, 2024 under the theme, Coordination - Collaboration - Communication --> ACTION! Almost 200 people attended in-person and virtual! Topics included artificial intelligence and how it helps in disease surveillance, successes and lessons of the ASF EMB model, animal welfare, encouraging behavioural change, farmer mental health, inclusion of Indigenous science, and examples of how to share resources during an emergency. We also heard updates from the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System, Emergency Management and National Farm Animal Care Council divisions.





## ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA 2025 AWARDS

### Celebrating individuals supporting animal health and welfare in Canada

Each year, Animal Health Canada proudly recognizes deserving individuals making a difference in Canadian farmed animal health and welfare. In 2024, AHC presented four awards to deserving candidates.

- The Carl Block Award was presented to **Dr. Ed Pajor** for his outstanding contributions to advancing animal health through research, tireless commitment to animal welfare, and dedication to shaping the next generation of veterinary professionals.
- The Leadership in Collaboration Award went to **Steve Leech** for his 20-year career dedicated to improving animal health and welfare within the Canadian chicken sector.
- **Dr. Murray Gillies** received the Emerging Leadership Award for his significant contributions to farmed animal health, with a leadership style that fosters collaboration between the public and private sectors.
- **Dr. Mike Petrik** was recognized for his passion to improve farm animal welfare on farms, hatcheries, classrooms and meeting rooms across Canada with the Farm Animal Welfare Leadership Award.





## Raising awareness of Animal Health Canada and its initiatives

Animal Health Canada has attended or spoken at numerous events throughout the 2024 and 2025 year. Here is a small snapshot of events:



AHC attends and presents at North American African Swine Fever Forum in September 2024



AHC joins the Canadian delegation for World Organisation for Animal Health



AHC attends the American-Canadian Society of Animal Science and the International Farm Management Association conferences



CAHSS Interim Division Director, Dr. Murray Gillies, speaks on foot and mouth disease



[ncceh.ca](http://ncceh.ca)

One of many Dr. Gillies' speaking engagements on HPAI



AHC and NFACC presents at the 2024 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association convention

## FOLLOW US!

Animal Health Canada



Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System



### SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Keep up to date on the collaborative work AHC is doing in animal health and welfare.



**AnimalHealthCanada**

animalhealthcanada.ca