

Elora, Ontario, Canada

September 22, 2022

Animal Health Canada Forum 2022 and Awards Presentation

Approximately 200 in-person and virtual participants attendees recently took part in the annual Animal Health Canada (AHC) Forum held in Ottawa on September 20th and 21st. This much anticipated event was the first time this group of government and industry partners and thought leaders have met in person in the last couple of years to discuss issues related to Canadian farmed animal health and welfare. Building off the theme *Evolving to Meet the Needs of Tomorrow*, the organization shared its new strategic plan and updates on its transition to a new operating structure. The event included presentations on topics such as emergency management, One Health and One Welfare perspectives on projected farm and veterinary labour shortages, new developments in farmed animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance and climate change. Forum 2022 presentations are posted on the website at: <https://animalhealthcanada.ca/forum-2022>.

As a part of the event, AHC presented two awards to deserving candidates making a difference in Canadian farmed animal health and welfare. The **Carl Block Award** is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions in the field of livestock animal health in memory of Carl Block, a cattleman whose tireless dedication to Canadian agriculture and commitment to animal health will long be remembered. The **Leadership in Collaboration Award** is new and is intended to recognize an individual's commitment to farmed animal health and welfare through the promotion of public-private collaboration.

"The vision of AHC is inspired by individuals who demonstrate outstanding contribution by their actions and behaviour. AHC is honored to bring to light the contribution of some of those individuals who often work in the shadow but generate real change in the Canadian landscape of Animal health and welfare and public-private collaboration" says Dr. René Roy, AHC industry Co-chair.

AHC was honoured to present the Carl Block Award to Dr. Jim Fairles, a long time AHC Board member nominated by his peers for his passion and commitment to animal health. Throughout his veterinary career, Dr. Fairles has devoted his time to service and has been a leader in the veterinary profession in Canada for many years working at the provincial, Canadian, and international levels on various boards and committees.

AHC was also honoured to present its new Leadership in Collaboration Award to Dr. Glen Duizer with the Government of Manitoba. Dr. Duizer is a recognized leader in Manitoba for his work in animal health and surveillance, including leading projects which established public-private collaboration networks across Manitoba, including a PED provincial disease management program with the Manitoba Pork Council.

“ Our two laureates, Dr Jim Fairles and Dr Glen Duizer, are an inspiration and a model for all of us to move forward for positive changes, in this time of transition for Animal Health Canada” says Dre H  l  ne Tr  panier, AHC’s government co-chair

AHC (previously the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council) was formed in 2010 as an outcome of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (2009). It was established as an advisory body to the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Committee and other stakeholders. Over time, it has grown to be a table for collaborative problem solving and project work with portfolios including surveillance, animal welfare, emergency management and training.