

Elora, Ontario, Canada

July 25, 2023

Animal Health Canada Welcomes Announcement by the Government of Canada

Animal Health Canada (AHC) welcomes the endorsement by the Government of Canada regarding AHC's proposed role in emergency preparedness and is pleased the value of the organization's work was recognized and supported through the commitment for continued investment in its operations.

"The support of the FPT agriculture ministers is a checkpoint for our organization as it gives us the support of all the work we have done in the last years and reinforces their agreement for the next steps of our strategic plan," said René Roy, pork producer and AHC Co-Chair. "AHC is creating a unique forum for collaboration and synergies and I am confident that these values will continue to guide us toward new achievements."

AHC brings together federal, provincial and territorial governments and industry for collaborative guidance on a cohesive, functional and responsive farmed animal health and welfare system in Canada.

Through its new Emergency Management Division, AHC is working to improve the readiness of Canada to react to animal health emergencies by facilitating the co-creation of shared plans for FPT governments and industry. This builds upon the successes achieved through the coordination of the African Swine Fever Executive Management Board (ASF EMB) where significant progress has been made through the building of collaborative networks, information sharing, preparedness planning and clarifications of respective roles and responsibilities to support coordinated actions by all FPT stakeholders in a disease outbreak. More information about the progress of the ASF EMB can be accessed in the [newly released report](#).

"The lessons learned from the ASF EMB will inform further coordination and collaboration on other significant animal health issues like continued planning for highly pathogenic avian influenza and foot and mouth disease, along with the establishment of a new CFIA managed vaccine bank." said Dr. Keith Lehman, Chief Veterinary Officer for Alberta and AHC Co-Chair.

The new division will also complement the work of AHC's other existing divisions focusing on animal welfare (National Farm Animal Care Council - NFACC) and animal health disease surveillance (Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System – CAHSS).

Animal Health Canada (AHC) is a unique not for profit organization which is funded jointly by federal, provincial, territorial, and industry/non-government stakeholders. AHC engages expertise to address important topics One Health and One Welfare topics such as emergency management, animal welfare, and animal health surveillance. AHC along with its divisions leads the initiation of projects to address animal health and welfare stakeholder needs in Canada.