



NFAHW 
COUNCIL

2019–2020 Annual Report

OUR
VISION

NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

“Canada values and supports the health, care, and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment, and the Canadian economy.”

Co-Chairs Message

As the Government and Industry Co-Chairs of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council, we are pleased to share what we have achieved in the last year and what we are planning as we move into our next fiscal year. First, we would like to acknowledge the contribution of Rob McNabb, our former industry co-chair as a leader and visionary who contributed to improving farmed animal health and welfare in Canada. He was a founder and leader of the Council which has become a collaborative organization where the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments along with industry representatives work together to promote and improve the health and welfare of farmed animals in Canada. His vision of the council set the foundation of collaboration among stakeholders. On behalf of the Council, I wish him a wonderful retirement. We would also like to recognize Dr. Jane Pritchard, former Chief Veterinary Officer of British Columbia who recently retired and was a valued Council member who played a critical role in supporting the Council in our activities to advance animal health and welfare in Canada.

It is with pleasure and enthusiasm that Dr. René Roy accepted the role of Industry Co-Chair of the Council this year to work alongside Dr^e Hélène Trépanier our Government Co-Chair. The knowledge and experience of the Council members will benefit us all as we move forward to improve the coordination of farmed animal health and welfare in Canadian agriculture. The industry and government are looking forward to better prepare for animal health risk management and we are willing to contribute to the best of our ability to overcome the challenges we face as a sector.

During the last year, the Council has renewed its bylaws to improve our ability to consolidate and synergize animal health and welfare initiatives. To achieve this goal, our new bylaw allows for the creation of divisions and projects under the Council's responsibility. So far, the council has welcomed the inclusion of the [Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System](#) (CAHSS) and the [National Farm Animal Care Council](#) (NFACC) as divisions and we are discussing with other organizations who may have an interest in joining with the Council. Additionally, in 2019/2020 our members approved the increase of their membership dues which will increase the Council's ability to grow and take on new initiatives and responsibilities.

2019–2020 Annual Report

There has been an emphasis on the importance of effective animal emergency management by our stakeholders. As a result, throughout the past year, we have also collaborated in the Animal Health Canada initiative. With the help of Synthesis Agri-Food Network, the development of a gap analysis lays the ground work for a new level of commitment from government and industry to work toward the streamlining of animal health and welfare initiatives and remove duplication of effort. The Council is currently evaluating its role in AHC and it is clear that the Council will be a key contributor. Council's involvement in Animal Health Canada has also led to active engagement and support of the African Swine Fever initiative, and Council continues to work with our partners for additional opportunities to advance the work on national African Swine Fever planning and preparedness.

As we continue to focus our efforts on industry challenges, One Welfare and mental health continue to be areas of focus. We will continue to make this topic a priority and work with our partners to enhance Canada's capacity to support agriculture stakeholder mental health.

The nature of the Council is evolving. Our members and stakeholders are asking the Council to take more responsibility. This is a task the Council directors take very seriously as we assess the most strategic way to adapt to the needs of our membership. The next year promises to be a busy one as we work to serve our members' collective vision for the future.



Dr. René Roy
Co-Chair,
National Farmed Animal Health
and Welfare Council



Dr^e Hélène Trépanier
Co-Chair,
National Farmed Animal Health
and Welfare Council

“Canada values and supports the health, care, and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment, and the Canadian economy.”



Executive Director's Report



Dear Stakeholders,

I am pleased to present the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHW Council) 2019/2020 Annual Report. This past year has been a time of development, growth and transition for the Council. Mr. Robert McNabb, who has held the role of Industry Co-Chair for the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council since its inception in 2010 retired in 2019. Robert provided exceptional leadership during his time with the Council, which helped to foster the fundamental principle of collaboration on which the Council is built. Dr. René Roy was appointed as the new industry co-chair for the Council in June 2019. Alongside our government co-chair D^{re} Hélène Trépanier, we are fortunate to have exceptional leaders who embrace collaboration and support the evolution of the Council from the role of advisor, to a role with enhanced leadership and co-ordination in animal health and welfare in Canada.



We continue to support our partners on animal health and welfare challenges and topics facing farmed animal agriculture in Canada. Changes to our bylaws with the support and engagement of our members have enabled the Council to engage the [Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System](#) and the [National Farm Animal Care Council](#) as divisions of Council effective April 1, 2020. This has provided the opportunity for enhanced collaboration and further synergies among the excellent groups working in the field of animal health and welfare in Canada.

I am looking forward to the ongoing partnership with our industry, government and non-government stakeholders, and what the next year of collaboration will bring for the Council as we continue to progress in enhancing our roles and responsibilities.

Megan Bergman DVM
Executive Director, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council



Safe animal food products are accessible to Canadians.

1

Canada protects the health of farmed animals, people and the ecosystem (One Health).

2

The Canadian farmed animal industry is profitable and sustainable.

3

4

Canada protects the welfare of farmed animals.

5

The Canadian farmed animal health and welfare system is trusted world wide.

6

The Canadian farmed animal health and welfare system is coordinated and constantly improved.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (Council) is a sub-committee of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Regulatory ADMs of Agriculture Committee. The Council was formed in July 2010 to implement the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy which was completed in 2009 (Strategy).

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council is the only national organization that brings together industry, federal, provincial and territorial partners to provide collaborative guidance on a cohesive, functional and responsive farmed animal health and welfare system in Canada.

The Council engages expertise to address important topics such as animal welfare, emerging diseases, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, and the emerging theme of "One Welfare". The Council hosts a forum annually which is the premiere event for industry and government representatives to find opportunities for partnership and to share information on issues, activities and accomplishments in animal health and welfare in Canada.

about us

NEW DEVELOPMENTS



New Industry
Co-Chair Appointment –
Dr. René Roy

Received Canadian Animal
Health Surveillance System
funding through the Canadian
Agricultural Partnership
program:

- a. *To enhance national reporting through collaborative relationships with national, regional and sector surveillance networks.*
- b. *To create a governance charter describing how CAHSS relates to NFAHWC, as well as networks engaged in surveillance.*
- c. *To develop a sustainability plan for CAHSS and its activities after 2023.*



Animal Health Canada

Supporting the initiative
of Animal Health Canada
to explore enhanced
partnerships with government
and industry and new
governance models for Animal
Health in Canada.



Completed a process to
update and modernize bylaws
and terms of reference and
explore opportunities to
better align with partners
working in the animal health
and welfare sphere.



Established the National
Farm Animal Care Council
and the Canadian Animal
Health Surveillance System as
formal divisions of the NFAHW
Council.

WORK AREAS



The Council's **Animal Welfare Committee** convened an expert panel, including dairy farmers, veal producers/calf growers, veterinarians, regulators, auction operators and scientists, to review the marketing process for male dairy calves, to make recommendations for improvements, and to review the likely effects of the new Transportation of Animals Regulations. The [Marketing of Male Dairy Calves in Canada](#) report, including nine recommendations, was developed based on the Expert Panel consultation.



The **One Welfare committee** completed and published [One Welfare Recommendations](#). The purpose of the report is to provide information and propose recommendations for governments and industry in support of a national framework for agricultural mental health which includes the well-being of producers, animals, and all agricultural stakeholders. Stakeholders include farmers and ranchers, medical and veterinary practitioners, agricultural professionals, agricultural service providers, allied groups, mental health professionals and animal health and welfare regulators.



The **Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Committee** published a report, "[Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada: Progress on Recommendations and Stakeholder Activities](#)" which highlights recent stakeholder stewardship activities in addition to reviewing the progress on Council recommendations from the Council's past report, "[Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada](#)." In May and June 2019, [webinars](#) were held on the Pan Canadian Action Plan, as well as the findings of the Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada: Progress on Recommendations and Stakeholder Activities.



The **Emerging Issues Committee** continues to further explore issues related to access to livestock slaughter facilities in animal disease situations. A survey has been distributed across Canada to collect additional information to inform further work on slaughter capacity in Canada. We are currently moving the survey on line to simplify the information collection process. This committee has also begun to explore the challenges associated with the wildlife-farmed-animal interface with the goal of establishing a forum for discussion with representation across sectors and government. This forum would enable discussion about disease management issues and challenges impacting farmed animals and wildlife, and consider a pilot to propose a defined approach for shared decision making in a collaborative and constructive way.



The [Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System](#) (CAHSS) is now a [Division](#) of the Council. Over the past year, the Council has supported many new Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) activities and initiatives, a few of which are highlighted here.

A governance model and strategic plan for CAHSS have been drafted and reviewed by CAHSS Directors and the NFAHW Council board. They will be going out to CAHSS members for review over the next two months. The governance charter describes CAHSS' vision and mission, and core principles, as well as its governance and membership structure. The strategic plan lays out priorities for CAHSS between now and 2023. These priorities are organized under five focus areas; bringing together data and information; sharing information and communications; strengthening networks; operations and governance; and sustainability planning.

At the November 2019 CAHSS Director's Meeting, planning of improvements to website and IT tools to support information integration was prioritized. A website developer was contracted to build a new website for CAHSS in early spring, with launch anticipated for this autumn. The website will have interactive features that bring together information across regions and sectors about disease alerts,

surveillance initiatives, documents and learning resources, and regulated diseases.

Since April, CAHSS has been active in supporting the work of CanSpotASF. The primary goal of CanSpotASF is early detection, so that African Swine Fever (ASF) can be quickly contained should it arrive in Canada. It is a collaboration between the swine industry, swine health intelligence networks, federal and provincial governments, and diagnostic animal health laboratories, under direction from the ASF Executive Management Board. Further information will be available on the Council website in late July.

There are currently eight national CAHSS networks; dairy, beef, poultry, swine, equine, eastern shellfish, vector borne disease, and antimicrobial use and resistance. Consultation is underway with partners to explore building a small ruminant network, as well as expand aquatic animal networks and activities. CAHSS continues to working closely with the Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (CEZD), and to engage with the four regional animal health networks: WeCAHN, OAHN, RAIZO and AtCAHN. We are continuing to strengthen collaboration with other Council initiatives, and industry and government stakeholders and partners.



Building on direction from FPT governments in the National Plant and Animal Health Strategy, several industry leaders agreed to champion the development of “[Animal Health Canada](#) (AHC)” in 2018. The vision was to develop a new governance model built on industry-government partnership in decision making, resource sharing and program management. The goal was to strengthen Canada’s capacity for animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPR&R) by reducing fragmentation of accountabilities, ensuring greater sustainability in resource commitments, increasing timeliness of action and planning more effectively for the future. Since that time a strong collaborative working group and Champions Committee has been established with representation from industry, federal and provincial governments in order to continue to advance progress on the Animal Health Canada concept.



In 2019/2020, the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council provided administrative and technical support in the advancement of the [Animal Health Canada](#) initiative which has made significant progress in 2019/2020 and remains within budget.



A gap analysis project, led by Synthesis Agri-Food Network was completed in January 2020. Webinars were held in French and English in February 2020 and recorded for those unable to participate. For more information on the findings please review the [report](#) or view the [webinar](#).



The AHC working group and CEO Champions Committee met in December 2019 where Governance Solutions Inc (GSI) presented preliminary recommendations on animal health governance in Canada based on both comparator research and stakeholder interviews.



The GSI governance report, completed in January 2020, proposed a straw dog governance model based on consultation and the examination of existing collaborative governance models, nationally and internationally.



The GSI [report](#) was used to help inform the development of 3 possible governance model options for Canada, working with Synthesis Agri-Food Network.



Working group members continue to utilize the lessons learned in the African Swine Fever Executive Management Board, and the COVID-19 response to inform the further development of Animal Health Canada.



Engagement with partners working in animal health in Canada and presentations to stakeholders on Animal Health Canada is currently underway.



Refinement of the proposed governance models based on stakeholder feedback is underway.



[Forum 2019](#) themed “**Animal Health and Welfare Risk Management**” surpassed Forum 2018’s record attendance. Forum 2019 was a vibrant event which resulted in enhanced collaboration, information sharing and new ideas to continue to support the advancement of animal health and welfare in Canada.

- **Keynote** – [Animal Health and Welfare in A Fractured and Unstable World](#)
- Antimicrobial Stewardship and Reducing Resistance – Moving Canada Forward
- Raised Without Antibiotics and Balancing Resistance Risks
- Animal Welfare and One Welfare – The Changing Landscape and its Challenges
- Enhancing Risk Mitigation in Disease Response

Keynote Address – **Animal Health and Welfare in a Fractured and Unstable World**

Dr. David Waltner-Toews kicked off the Forum by encouraging the audience to consider how concerns in food animal agriculture such as animal health, welfare, and food safety, have become entangled in issues of ecological fragility, and global political, economic, and climatic instability. He highlighted the fact that the questions we asked in the twentieth century, the way we framed issues of risk, and the kinds of science we applied are inadequate to sustain a resilient agri-food system in the twenty-first.

“ concerns in food animal agriculture have become entangled in issues of ecological fragility, the global political, economic, and climatic instability ”

David Waltner-Toews



SESSION ONE **Antimicrobial Stewardship and Reducing Resistance –** **Moving Canada Forward**

PAN CANADIAN ACTION PLAN:

Where are we now – **Dr. Aline Dimitri**, *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*

“ Antimicrobial resistance is a complex issue that requires coordinated actions among multiple private and public partners across the environment, animal health and human health sectors. ” **Dr. Aline Dimitri**



SUCCESS STORIES & **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**



[Update on the National Veterinary Oversight System for Antimicrobial Use](#) –
Dr. Shane Renwick – *Canadian Veterinary Medical Association*



[Phasing Out the Use of Class 1 Antibiotics: Our Clinic’s Approach](#) –
Dr. J.F. Lanthier – *Hôpital vétérinaire d’Ormston*



[Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance – Successes](#) –
Dr. Rebecca Irwin – *Public Health Agency of Canada*



[Ruminant Research - Dairy and Feedlot Antimicrobial Use and Resistance](#) –
Dr. Dave Leger – *Public Health Agency of Canada*

Raised Without Antibiotics & Balancing Resistance Risks



[Impact of No-Antibiotics Ever / Raised Without Antibiotics Production on Animal Welfare](#) –
Mallory Gaines – *American Feed Industry Association*



[Antimicrobial Use in the Feedlot – Current and Future Options](#) –
Dr. Tye Perrett – *Feedlot Health Management Services*

“ Ensuring the safety, health, and overall well-being of animals raised for food is an ethical obligation. ” **Mallory Gaines**



SESSION TWO: ANIMAL WELFARE AND ONE WELFARE – THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE AND ITS CHALLENGES

“ Do the right thing, always...
but what you do when things
go wrong is just as important. ”
Geraldine Auston



SUCCESS STORIES & NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ✓ Animal Welfare Issues Management –
Geraldine Auston – Ag & Food Exchange
- ✓ [Poultry Transport and Welfare –
Dr. Mike Petrik - Canadian Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- ✓ [Feed Water and Rest Breaks in Beef Cattle Transport -
Dr. Reynold Bergen – Beef Research Council](#)
- ✓ [Transportation Code Development and Code Update –
Betsy Sharples - National Farm Animal Care Council](#)
- ✓ Canadian Livestock Transportation Certification Program
Update – David Moss
- ✓ [NFAHW Council Animal Welfare Report – Male Dairy Calf
Transport and Marketing and Cull Dairy Cow Transport
and Marketing – Dr. David Fraser](#)
- ✓ [NFAHW Council One Welfare working
group update – Dr. René Roy](#)

“ The poultry industry is undergoing a
systemic reinvention ”
Dr. Mike Petrik



SESSION THREE: ENHANCING RISK MITIGATION IN DISEASE RESPONSE



SUCCESS STORIES

SURVEILLANCE SUCCESSES DISCUSSION PANEL



- ✓ Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Transition Update –
Theresa Burns, CAHSS Co-ordinator
- ✓ [Poultry social network – Victoria Sikur – Canadian Hatching Egg Producers](#)
- ✓ [CSHIN Success of the network –
Dr. Christa Arsenault – Canadian Swine Health Information Network](#)
- ✓ New tools for surveillance reporting – Dashboard technology –
Shari Reitmeier – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

“ This is not business as usual –
need to think outside the box!
Collaborative and cooperative
approaches have gotten us this far –
need to keep the momentum! ”
Dr. Jaspinder Komal

- ✓ The Impacts of Animal Disease Events – A Producer perspective –
Miriam Sweetnam – Dairy Farmers of Canada
- ✓ Success Stories – [African Swine Fever Preparedness –
Dr. Jaspinder Komal – Canadian Food Inspection Agency Chief Veterinary Officer](#)

“ a lie gets halfway
around the world
before the truth
has a chance to
get its pants on. ”
Winston Churchill

- ✓ [NFAHW Council Emerging
Issues Report – Dr. Jane Pritchard](#)
- ✓ [Animal Health Emergency
Management – Working Together to
Understand, Prepare and Respond –
Matt Taylor – Canadian Animal Health Coalition](#)
- ✓ [Animal Health Canada Update –
Working Group Co-Chairs -
Rory McAlpine, Maple Leaf Foods and
Luc Marchand, Agriculture and Agri-Food
Canada](#)
- ✓ [Animal Health Canada –
Gap Analysis Report -
Synthesis Agri-Food Network –
Rob Hannam and Lorraine Stevenson Hall
\(Synthesis Agri-Food Network\)](#)

“ Been there,
done that, you
don't want the
t-shirt ”
Miriam Sweetnam



The Council recognizes the importance of effective communication and the need for continuous improvement in this area. In 2019 the Council developed a [value proposition](#) document to share the progress of the Council since its inception.

Council conducted outreach to each of our members to seek feedback on the work of the Council, member priorities, and proposed membership fees. This was well received and Council will look to continue this practice to ensure activities and initiatives continue to meet the needs of our members.

Council hosted a webinar entitled “[Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals](#)” and is looking to offer additional webinar opportunities in the coming year, in addition to enhancing information sharing through our [blogs](#) and [newsletters](#).

“2019/2020 has been an unusual year, and has highlighted the need to ensure the health and welfare of farmed animals and the people involved directly or indirectly in their well being.”

René Roy
Co-chair, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council



- [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)
- [Canadian Animal Health Institute](#)
- [Canadian Cattlemen's Association](#)
- [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)
- [Canadian Hatching Egg Producers](#)
- [Canadian Livestock Genetics Association](#)
- [Canadian Pork Council](#)
- [Canadian Sheep Federation](#)
- [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [Chicken Farmers of Canada](#)
- [Dairy Farmers of Canada](#)
- [Egg Farmers of Canada](#)
- [Equestrian Canada](#)
- [Humane Canada](#)
- [National Farm Animal Care Council](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Turkey Farmers of Canada](#)
- [Government of Alberta](#)
- [Government of British Columbia](#)
- [Government of Manitoba](#)
- [Government of New Brunswick](#)
- [Government of Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Government of Northwest Territories](#)
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- [Gouvernement du Québec](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan](#)
- [Government of Yukon](#)

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our supporters



Statement of Financial Position

April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL
Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended March 31	2020	2019
Assets		
Current cash and bank	\$ 180,203	\$ 182,061
Restricted cash	22,082	-
Accounts receivable	105,941	3,523
HST rebate receivable	49,717	21,561
Prepaid expenses	2,410	918
	\$ 360,353	\$ 208,063
Liabilities and Surplus		
Current accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 185,657	\$ 54,574
Surplus	174,696	153,489
	\$ 360,353	\$ 208,063



Statement of Operations and Surplus

April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL Statement of Operations and Surplus

For the year ended March 31

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Federal support	\$ 106,000	\$ 106,000
Industry support	103,500	104,500
Provincial and territorial support	108,160	108,160
Forum registration and sponsorship	25,600	9,500
Interest income	367	4
Secretariat services	4,483	-
	348,110	328,164
Expenses		
Bookkeeping	15,367	-
Council administration	390	-
Communications	6,229	2,134
Forum expenses	35,228	76,451
Honorariums	3,550	4,200
Insurance	2,058	2,260
Management contract	91,089	81,274
Meetings	5,276	4,628
Office supplies and miscellaneous	5,444	240
Professional fees	27,216	5,599
Research	3,456	47,513
Secretariat	-	82,450
Translation	9,564	12,497
Travel	45,342	38,722
Wages and benefits	98,776	-
	348,985	357,968
Deficiency of revenues over expenses from operations	(875)	(29,804)
Net project revenue (deficit)	-	
Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Federal Assistance Program (Schedule 1)		(2,298)
Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System - Enhance Collaboration, Data Integration, Analysis and Reporting (Schedule 2)	-	-
Animal Health Canada (Schedule 3)	22,082	-
	22,082	(2,298)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	21,207	(32,102)
Surplus, beginning of year	153,489	185,591
Surplus, end of year	\$ 174,696	\$ 153,489

Complete audited financial statement is available at <https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/documents/audited-financials>

our council



Dr. Debbie Barr

Dr. Debbie Barr is the Director, Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and is involved in the development and implementation of federal policies and programs aimed at managing domestic, foreign and emerging animal disease and zoonotic risks to terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products in Canada. This position engages with a broad range of national and international partners and stakeholders in representing the position of the Agency and Canada. From November 2018 to May 2019, she managed the African Swine Fever (ASF) preparedness file for the Agency.

Prior to joining the federal government, Debbie worked for three years in private practice. Her government career began with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Food Production and Inspection Branch over 32 years ago in Ontario in field operations and continued in Ottawa in almost all aspects of animal importation and exportation until 2013.

Debbie has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Hons) degree from the University of Guelph. She represents the CFIA on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dr. Jim Fairles

Dr. Jim Fairles is a veterinarian with 23 years of experience in private mixed practice in Mount Forest, Ontario and two years of international experience in China. Since 2004, Dr. Fairles has been employed as the Client Services Veterinarian at the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph. He has a DVM (1980) and MBA (1999) degrees from Guelph.

Dr. Fairles has been involved with various veterinary associations on local, provincial and national levels. He is a past president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and a past chair of the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC). He is immediate past president of the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV) and an industry representative (CVMA) on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dr. Fairles was elected to the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in December 2013 and was re-elected in 2016 and 2019.

Dr. David Fraser

David Fraser, C.M., Ph.D., who has been a member of the Council since its inception, is Professor in the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. His 48-year research career has focused on the welfare and behaviour of farm, companion and wild animals.

He has served as a scientific advisor on animal welfare science and policy to many organizations including the World Organisation for Animal Health (Paris), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome), and the Food Marketing Institute (Washington). He has convened and chaired numerous national and international committees on animal welfare issues. He is in high demand as a lecturer and is the author of many publications including the textbook, Understanding Animal Welfare: The Science in its Cultural Context.

He was appointed a member of the Order of Canada in 2005 for his work as "a pioneer in the field of animal welfare science". Dr. Fraser was elected to the NFAHW Council in 2010, and re-elected in 2013, 2015 and again in 2018.

Ed Friesen

Ed & Kathy Friesen operate Friecrest Holsteins Ltd in Kleefeld, MB. With the help of part-time and one full-time employee, they milk a herd of 90 cows and have a herd of about 200 head.

Friecrest Holsteins has earned numerous awards since its inception in 1999, including the Dairy Farm Excellence Award in 2003 and the Highest Milk Herd & Cow Award in 2010. Many individual cow production awards as well as Highest Herd have been received. In 2015 the Friesen's were awarded the Farm Family of the Year for Manitoba.

Ed has been on the CanWest DHI board for 13 years, and is currently serving his 9th year as Chair. In June 2019, CanWest DHI will become part of Lactanet Canada, and Ed will serve as director-at-large for one year.

He has also served on the Canadian Dairy Network board for 9 years, currently serving as Vice-Chair. He has appointed to the Dairy Farmers of Canada board of directors in 2016. Ed is currently serving on Dairy Farmers of Manitoba's (DFM) Advisory Committee. He previously served 12 years on DFM's board. Ed represents the Dairy Farmers of Canada on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare council.

Dr. Cathy Furness

Cathy received her veterinary degree, with Distinction, from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph in 2000. Following graduation, Cathy practiced in both small animal and equine practice prior to returning to the Ontario Veterinary College to complete an MSc in Clinical Studies and a residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine. Cathy is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal Internal Medicine.

In 2013, Cathy joined the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' (OMAFRA) Animal Health and Welfare Branch. Here, she continued to build her knowledge and experience in emergency management as Lead Veterinarian for Planning and Preparedness. In this role, Cathy was responsible for provincial-level disease planning and preparedness, disease outbreak response and supporting various commodity and stakeholder organizations to enhance their respective emergency preparedness. Cathy has co-led a public service veterinary medicine rotation at the Ontario Veterinary College and supports training and implementation of the Incident Management system in OMAFRA and with stakeholder organizations.

In July of 2019, Cathy was appointed Chief Veterinarian for Ontario (CVO). In her role as CVO, Cathy works in partnership with veterinarians, farmers, industry and the community as well as provincial ministries, provinces and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to support animal health and welfare needs in Ontario.

Cathy lives on a small hobby farm in Rockwood, Ontario which she shares with her family and a menagerie of animals – big and small.

Dave Taylor

Dave Taylor is the past Chair of the BC Dairy Association and a Director with Dairy Farmers of Canada. He is a passionate advocate for the BC and national dairy industry.

He and his brother operate Viewfield Farms in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, although the success of their farm lies with all who are a part of the Viewfield team which involves 3 generations.

The Taylors have been the recipients of the Top Quality Milk award for Vancouver Island for 8 of the last 10 years and have been in the top 5 herds for milk quality in the province each of the past 5 years. They are strong advocates of DFC's quality assurance program proAction.

In 2008, Dave and his wife Lisa represented their farm in competition in BC, and then nationally in Calgary, where they were awarded the Canadian Outstanding Young Farmers Award.

The Taylors have been dairy farming since Dave's grandfather bought his first farm in 1946 in Saanichton, just outside of Victoria, BC. They milk 130 registered holsteins.

Dr. Jaspinder Komal

Dr. Komal is the Vice President (VP) of the CFIA's Science Branch, as well as, the Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Canada. Dr. Komal serves as an ex-officio member on the Council in his capacity as Canada's CVO and OIE Delegate.

As CVO, he regularly provides strategic and scientific advice to the federal Minister of Agriculture, the CFIA President and the Agency's senior management. Dr. Komal's active engagement on the international stage brings insights into the strategic directions and initiatives led by international organizations and key trading partners which helps to keep Canada ahead of the curve as a global leader. He brings to the table domestic and international context for the development of animal health and welfare related policies and initiatives of importance for Canada.

Dr. Komal graduated from the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire at the Université de Montréal in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, with a degree in Veterinary Medicine and a post-graduate degree in Veterinary Microbiology. Through his career, Dr. Komal has led several key areas of the CFIA and AAFC. In his VP position, Dr. Komal manages the branch that provides laboratory services and scientific advice in support of development and delivery of the CFIA's programs, as well as surveillance and regulatory research to identify and address emerging threats to the food system and to animal and plant health.



our council



Dr. Keith Lehman

Dr. Lehman graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 1999 and also holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Alberta.

After working in private mixed animal practice in Barrhead, Alberta, Keith joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency where he worked in various positions prior to joining Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in June 2014. After two years with the Animal Health Section, he was appointed as Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian in June 2016.

Dr. Lehman completed a two-year term as chair of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers in December 2018. He has also been involved with early development of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy, CanSURV BSE, the national Antimicrobial Resistance Steering Committee, and serves as an ex-officio member on the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Council. Dr. Lehman represents the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Luc Marchand

Luc holds a Master degree in Social Science from Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. He joined the Federal Government in 2000 and worked in several departments such as Industry Canada, Canadian Heritage and joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2005 and has since worked on a variety of files such as rural development, BSE and Growing Forward programs design and delivery.

Luc became the Director of the Animal Industry Division in April 2019 and is involved in initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness of the livestock sector. Luc took over from Donald Boucher as the AAFC representative on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in March 2019.



Rob McNabb – NFAHWN Council Co-chair – until December 2019

Rob McNabb graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree and a Master of Science degree from the University of Manitoba.

Mr. McNabb recently retired after 20 years as General Manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association following a 20-year career in extension and regulatory administration with Manitoba Agriculture. Mr. McNabb has been a member on numerous national multi-stakeholder advisory groups for programs, policy, and research. He is a member and Past President of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and was the co-Chair of the National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Council this past year.



David Moss

David Moss is the General Manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. In the cattle industry most of his career, David's background includes practical hands-on experience gained in part from running the family feedlot, and custom silage and farming operation, and strategic agribusiness experience from numerous senior leadership roles in the livestock industry, most recently as Co-Founder and Vice President of AgriClear LP an online agri-business marketplace joint venture with the TMX Group and Natural Gas Exchange.

David has helped build ranch to retail alliances in the United States, Australia, and South America, and has played an integral role in Canada's livestock traceability system. He holds an MA, Leadership Studies from the University of Guelph, an undergraduate degree from the University of Lethbridge and a Project Management masters certificate from York University. David serves on numerous industry committees and is a board director for Alberta Innovates and Emissions Reduction Alberta.



Colleen McElwain

Colleen McElwain is the Programs Director at the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) and leads communications, environmental stewardship programming and member services. Prior to working at the CAHI, she worked at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) in the area of livestock traceability policy and stakeholder relations. For several years Colleen worked at the Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) where she was the lead for animal health and welfare, disease surveillance, traceability, antimicrobial resistance, and applied research. She has participated on numerous national industry and government committees and is a proven relationship builder.

Colleen holds a Master of Science in Applied Behaviour and Welfare and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology, both from the University of Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College. Colleen was elected to the Council in December 2018.



Dr. Jane Pritchard

Dr. Jane Pritchard – until December 2019

Jane Pritchard is the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for the province of BC and one of 3 CVO's bringing provincial representation to the Council from the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers.

Jane holds a DVM and Masters of Veterinary Science in Anatomic Pathology. She is the current Director of the BC provincial veterinary diagnostic lab and Executive Director of the Plant and Animal Health Branch in the BC Ministry of Agriculture. She has a background that includes work in Public Health and sits on many FPT committees.

Jane has supported the council on working groups in AMU and AMR, Animal Welfare and Emerging Issues as well as Finance and Governance. This year she is also contributing to the organization of the Forum. Jane recently led the development of Standards for Humane Slaughter within Slaughter without Stunning.

Dr. Pritchard represents the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dr. René Roy – NFAHWN Council Co-chair – as of June 2020

René Roy has a PhD in agricultural economics from McGill University. René is a pork producer from farrow to finish, a dairy farmer and a maple syrup producer. René took over the family business with his brother Mario and runs it with members of his family.

René contributes with his experience on several working groups of the Council, in particular the One welfare working group. As an agricultural producer, he knows how the health and welfare of animals is intimately linked to the psychological health of producers.

René is second vice chair of the Canadian Pork Council, where he is active in the field of animal health and welfare. He has been particularly involved in the development of the new pork certification program, Canadian Pork Excellence. René contributes to the dialogue on hog health and welfare from a producer's perspective. He is also vice-chair of Swine Innovation Porc which is managing the research cluster of the Canadian pork industry. Rene represents the Canadian Pork Council on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.



Steven Sternthal

Dr. Hélène Trépanier

Marco Volpé

Dr. Nicole Wanamaker

SUPPORT TEAM



Dr. Megan Bergman

Samantha Benattar

Dr. Theresa Burns

Steven Sternthal

Dr. Hélène Trépanier – NFAHW Council Co-chair

Marco Volpé

Dr. Nicole Wanamaker

Dr. Megan Bergman –
NFAHW Council Executive Director

Samantha Benattar –
NFAHW Council Executive Assistant

Dr. Theresa Burns –
CAHSS Coordinator

Steven Sternthal is the Director General for the Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases with the Public Health Agency of Canada's Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch. In this role, Steven is responsible for leading One Health policy, science, and program initiatives to address food-borne and zoonotic infectious diseases. Steven has over 20 years experience in managing public health issues, many of which are relevant to the work of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (e.g. food safety, antimicrobial resistance, emerging zoonotic infectious diseases).

Steven holds a Master in Health Administration from the University of Ottawa and a Bachelor of Science from McGill University in Montreal. Steven represents the Public Health Agency of Canada on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dr. Hélène Trépanier has been Quebec's Chief Veterinary Officer since September 2016. She is one of three representatives for Canada's Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the Council. Having worked for Quebec's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for over 25 years, Dr. Trépanier has been actively involved in the development and implementation of Quebec's animal health and welfare strategy. She is also an expert in the appropriate treatment of animals.

Dr. Trépanier holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Montreal's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (1984) and a Master's Degree in Veterinary Clinical Sciences from the same university (1987). She also has a Master's Degree in Rural Economy from Laval University in Quebec City (1995). She is currently a member of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec. She joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council as a representative of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers in March 2016.

Marco Volpé holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science from Laval University (2003) and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Moncton University (2014). In 2003, he started working in the poultry sector managing health, animal care and environment. In 2006 he joined the Groupe Westco team and expanded its works in a well-diversified company. He's now Senior Manager and he's involved in the many projects the company has to offer. He has also been a member of the Ordre des Agronomes du Québec since 2004 and of the Nouveau-Brunswick Institute of Agrologists since 2005.

Marco is a director at Chicken Farmers of New Brunswick since 2016 and has been New Brunswick's Alternate Director at Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) since 2017. Marco is also a member of CFC's Production Committee and is a strong supporter of CFC's Animal Care Program and On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program. Marco joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in 2017 as the CFC representative.

Nicole Wanamaker has been a field veterinarian for the last 20 years in the New Brunswick Provincial Veterinary Service. She has served producers, small ruminant clients and horse owners as well as attending Guernsey and Holstein cattle and other livestock on her own dairy farm.

Now, as manager of the NB Provincial Veterinary Service, Nicole leads a team of 19 field veterinarians to serve producers and clients all across NB. In this position she has also become the Chief Veterinary Officer for New Brunswick.

Nicole represents New Brunswick on several committees such as the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN), the Veterinary Epidemiology Surveillance Network (VESN), The Chief Council of Veterinary Officers (CCVO), The Federal-Provincial Animal Welfare group (FPAW), and the Atlantic Canada Animal Health Surveillance Network.

Nicole is enthusiastic, eager and committed to serving her province and the animals and clients that she interacts with.

Megan Bergman has a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Megan accepted the position of National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Executive Director in August 2018 to help provide leadership as the Council continues its development by taking on enhanced responsibilities with respect to national farmed animal health and welfare.

Megan was appointed Chief Veterinary Officer for Manitoba Agriculture in August 2014. In this position she was the director of the Animal Health and Welfare Branch which included responsibility for Manitoba Agriculture's animal health, animal welfare, and food safety programs, as well as for Manitoba's veterinary diagnostic laboratory, Veterinary Diagnostic Services.

Prior to joining Manitoba Agriculture, Megan spent 8 years working for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as an animal health veterinarian, and later as an Inspection Manager and Regional Director.

Samantha Benattar has been working as secretariat to the NFAHW Council since 2011, shortly after the Council's inception. In this role, she has also been providing support to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). Prior to this, she worked for 13 years as an instructional designer and coordinator for the Bank of Montreal at their Institute for Learning.

Samantha obtained a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario in Anthropology, and having grown up in Montreal, also attended CEGEP at John Abbott's College in the West Island of Montreal.

Theresa Burns is a veterinary epidemiologist, and has many years experience working as a practicing veterinarian in mixed, equine and small animal practices across western Canada. She received DVM (with distinction) and MSc degrees from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Guelph. Theresa is Board Certified with the American College of Theriogenologists and is a member of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

Over her career, Theresa has had the opportunity to use methods from multiple disciplines to understand complex issues at the interface of human-animal-environmental health in Canada and in other countries. Her experiences working in disease surveillance, risk assessment and veterinary public health at various scales (local, regional, national) and in clinical veterinary practice have given her a strong working understanding of farming practices, food production systems and rural communities. She is very interested in fully understanding systems and stakeholder perspectives in order to develop real-world solutions to complex problems.

