



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

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NFAHW Council meeting September 17 & 18

Ottawa

Presentations and reports were received on the following topics:

Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance – On invitation by the NFAHW Council, Ruth Salmon, Executive Director of the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA) provided an overview of the CAIA, the aquaculture industry in Canada and organizational activities. The Council is exploring complementary activities and common issues for both organizations.

Aquaculture is an expanding source of food for Canadians and is regulated by federal and provincial/territorial governments. There are common issues such as antimicrobial use, sustainability, food safety and global competition.

The CAIA and the Council agreed to further discussion.

Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) – Rob McNabb provided an overview of the AIC workshop held in July 2015 and the resulting Agricultural Research Policy. Rob attended on behalf of the Council and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. Full information on the conference and the resulting research policy can be found at www.aic.ca.

Work Areas

Emerging Issues

1) **Market Access** – The working group reported the expanded makeup of the working group to include individuals and organizations in the pork sector who were involved with market access and other related issues during the recent Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) outbreak in Canada. Added representation includes the processing sector, provincial pork associations and swine veterinarians.

The expanded working group met by teleconference on August 25, 2015 and outlined issues related to market access for healthy pigs from a positive barn and access to service providers such as trucking, cleaning and disinfection crews and manure management companies. These issues had potential impact on animal welfare, economic impact and impact on the mental health of producers.

This scenario is not unique to PED but could occur with any emerging disease. The purpose of the working group is to explore challenges that arise with the occurrence of emerging diseases and to identify solutions in order to minimize these challenges in future disease outbreaks in Canada.

2) **Proposed Decision-Analysis Tool for the Characterization of CFIA Involvement and Role in Animal Events**

– The working group will continue discussion of the Decision-Analysis Tool for the Characterization of CFIA Involvement and Role in Animal Health Events with CFIA to build a full understanding how this tool could influence collaboration in disease response. This cannot happen until after the federal election.

Antimicrobial Use/Antimicrobial Resistance (AMU/AMR)

The working group has been expanded to include expertise on AMU and AMR

The working group is focused on Stewardship within the Federal Framework and the Federal Action Plan on AMR and AMU. The other pillars, Surveillance and Innovation will be included where appropriate. The working group has begun framing the report and will be inviting working group members to provide input on specific sections.

The Council had an extended discussion on what defines success when dealing with AMU/AMR and what measures are available for assessment of progress. The Council discussion will provide the working group with further input as they develop their report.

The report will address activities of stakeholders which address stewardship of antimicrobial use. Key principles include a focus on medically important antimicrobials and the need for antimicrobials for therapeutic use in animal agriculture.

The working group is keeping aware of the approach of the human health professions as they also work on this topic.

The working group has included some things under Stewardship that might be viewed in other contexts as innovation and reduction of use strategies. The on-farm food safety programs of the various commodity organizations provide examples of producer initiatives to address this issue through education, extension and market regulation. These things will be addressed in context as Council studies this topic. The working group is considering a workshop or webinar in early 2016 to further engage stakeholders as the study progresses. This work area will be ongoing beyond the current fiscal year.

A half day at Forum 2015 will be spent on AMU/AMR.

Animal Welfare – Cull Dairy Cow Transportation

A formalized plan for addressing this study was presented by Dr. David Fraser. A veterinarian and PhD student, Dr. Jane Stojkov, will act as project coordinator. The project will describe the extent and nature of transportation of dairy cows in Canada, develop an understanding of welfare problems associated with cull dairy cows and develop a statement of best practices.

The working group has identified experts to engage in the project, including producers, veterinarians, CFIA, provincial inspectors, dairy industry organizations, dairy processors, scientific/technical experts and representatives of livestock auctions and slaughter plants.

The working group has also identified related projects which are underway and will be considered in the project.

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 is an animal health and welfare strategy for all stakeholders in Canadian animal agriculture. The strategy envisions stakeholder reporting of activities, initiatives and programs which contribute to progress on the strategic outcomes and priorities of the strategy.

The working group has been examining options for data collection and has realized this is a complex area requiring external expertise. The working group will invite input from several experts to decide how to move forward most effectively.

Other agenda items

Annual Report – the Council's annual report for 2014–15 will be presented as an online report. The report will utilize the available tools on the Council website. The design and layout will be enhanced in the future. There will be a limited number of an abbreviated handout version available.

One Health – One Welfare – Watch for more details on this Conference being presented in Manitoba by Manitoba Health and Manitoba Agriculture and Rural Initiatives in a One Health context in September 2016. The international conference will address the mental health issues related to hoarding in animal agriculture.

Forum 2015 – November 23–24, 2015 – Ottawa – Council was updated on the agenda and planning for the Forum. Registrations and sponsorships have been received. Stakeholder and sponsorship mailing plans were provided.

Council looks forward to seeing all stakeholders at the Forum 2015. The agenda can be found on the [Council website](#).

Click [here](#) to register for Forum 2015!

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NFAHW Council Corporation – AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the NFAHW Council Corporation was held on September 18, 2015 at 8:30 am. The corporation is held by the industry members of the Council. The AGM accepted the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2015 and appointed the auditor, BDO, Woodstock, ON for the coming year.

The AGM also elected Rob McNabb as Chair and Jim Fairles as Vice Chair for the coming year.

Would your board like an update from the Council?

Member organizations are invited to request a presentation from Council at board or committee meetings. These can be done in person or electronically.

Council reports, meeting dates and other information can be found on the Council website at www.ahwcouncil.ca.

Does your organization have experience with online survey tools and reporting?

Please contact Ed Empringham (ed@animalhealth.ca) if your organization is able to offer assistance to the Council in developing its online reporting tool for Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020.

The NFAHW Council is composed of individuals designated or elected from the three stakeholder groups – industry, provincial/territorial government and federal government – which support the Council. Members are non-representational when working on Council. Animal health and welfare and public health are included in the Council membership. Additionally, Dr. Harpreet Kochhar sits as an ex-officio member in his role as CVO of Canada.

www.ahwcouncil.ca

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