



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

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NFAHW Council Forum 2017 and November 30 meeting

Ottawa

Forum 2017

Over 130 people gathered in Ottawa on November 28–29, 2017 to address issues important to animal agriculture at the NFAHW Council’s Forum 2017. Representation included stakeholders with interest in animal health and animal welfare. The work that is proceeding on behalf of animal agriculture by many stakeholders as demonstrated by presentations included in Forum 2017 is impressive.

In view of the potential for an expanded role for Council, the theme of the Forum 2017 was “Strategic Direction”.

In his opening address, **Dr. Tim McAllister** demonstrated the value of collaborative approaches to expand outputs, using his research model as an example. As noted in the evaluation forms, the presentation had broad application beyond the research model, inspired participants and set the tone for the Forum.

The Council updated stakeholders on the activities over the past year, including an update by **Dr. Jeffrey Spooner** on the ongoing work to develop a national report on activities which influence the priorities and strategic outcomes of Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 (FAHW2020), the current farmed animal health and welfare strategy.

The Forum received a report on the Union des Producteurs Agricoles (UPA) sentinel project which has trained local producers to recognize mental health symptoms in their peers and to provide support and encourage involvement with support services. **Pierre-Nicolas Girard**, the project manager, demonstrated how the project has developed and provided support. The project is recognized as having many of the important components identified in Council’s study of One Welfare. Council released an interim report at the Forum which is also available on the Council website.

Dr. Jaspinder Komal, Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate and acting Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, updated the Forum on the activities of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Provision of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment that was completed in Canada in March 2017. Canada rated quite well on the PVS but the final report is not yet available. There is planning underway to address issues identified through the assessment.

In a paired presentation, **Dr. Betty Althouse** and **Dr. Andrea Osborn** demonstrated the progress that has been achieved in the work of the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) and the Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (CEZD) respectively. There is momentum building for these two initiatives which will contribute to risk mitigation in disease management. This will be important as the Plant and Animal Health Strategy (PAHS) aims to focus on disease prevention while retaining response capacity.

Dr. Debbie Barr gave an overview of the PAHS including the level of consultation in development of the pan-Canadian strategy and the guiding principles. Implementation will be separate for the plant and animal sectors.

We were pleased to have **Keith Deering**, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Agriculture and Lands Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, Newfoundland and Labrador, participating in the Forum. Keith is also provincial co-chair of the FPT Regulatory ADM of Agriculture Committee and has accepted the role of champion for the NFAHW Council in its governance relationship with the FPT Regulatory ADM Committee.

In the Strategic Direction session, **Keith Deering**, **Jaspinder Komal** and **Rob McNabb** demonstrated the linkage of the Ministerial priorities, the role of the Regulatory ADM Committee, the PAHS and the potential role for Council to coordinate the implementation of PAHS and resulting implications on Council. While there are still questions and some concerns were expressed, participants appreciated the chance to be part of this discussion. Council will continue to explore this initiative and keep stakeholders informed.

Antimicrobial Stewardship, including Infection Prevention and Control, is an active area in animal agriculture as the sector plays its role in managing antimicrobial resistance. The afternoon of November 29 was devoted to presentations demonstrating the work which is actively proceeding in this area.

Dr. Andrew Morris, Medical Director of the Sinai Health System – University Health Network Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Ontario, provided an overview of how they are using data to measure behaviour change but also to influence it. Best practices have been expanded through a collaborative hospital network in Ontario and Dr. Morris' group is now reaching out to primary care physicians.

Steve Leech demonstrated actions by Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) that have changed antimicrobial usage in chicken production and the surveillance by Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) has demonstrated a decrease in resistance to the Category 1 antimicrobials which have been removed from use.

Dr. Egan Brockhoff, Canadian Pork Council (CPC), showed how the Canadian Pork Excellence programs demonstrate that pork producers are committed to antimicrobial stewardship and sustainable use of antimicrobials. He pointed out the importance of Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD) and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Prudent Use Guidelines in achieving this objective. The pork industry is actively implementing the Canadian Pork Excellence programs.

The CVMA has been engaged with Prudent Use Guidelines for the use of antimicrobials for many years. **Dr. Shane Renwick**, CVMA, informed Forum participants of the current project activities on Surveillance of Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Stewardship. These two projects are important to the “Guided evolution of veterinary oversight”, providing tools for veterinarians to make appropriate decisions on antimicrobial use. There has been active communication and outreach to veterinarians.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) completed the pan-Canadian Framework on AMR and AMU in 2017 with an intense collaborative approach which involved many stakeholders in animal agriculture, including the NFAHW Council. **Lindsay Noad** provided a status report on the work which is just beginning on the pan-Canadian Action Plan on AMR and AMU. The steering committee is considering plans to bring human and animal health stakeholders together with government to solicit contributions to the action plan from a One Health perspective.

The NFAHW Council was a sponsor of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) Forum held in September 2017 to review and debate a proposal by PHAC related to AMR. **Dr. John Prescott**, who was a co-chair of the Forum recognized the support and the importance of agriculture being represented at the CAHS Forum. He also discussed how the CAHS would develop a science based study to inform PHAC on the question which was posed – “What is the current impact of AMR in Canada, and what should Canada do to create solutions, at home and as a global leader?”

John continued in his presentation reporting on a forum held by the Ad Hoc Committee for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Canadian Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine with the theme of “Building the Antimicrobial Stewardship Leadership Plan for Animal Health in Canada”. The participants at this forum developed a proposal for “Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship Canada” to operate as a project of the NFAHW Council. Council has begun consideration of this proposal.

Forum 2017 demonstrated the many initiatives that are ongoing in animal agriculture. Some of these activities require coordination or a home. The Council is a FPT and Industry/non-government organization considering issues in a One Health context that may be able to provide that leadership. As was noted in several presentations, governance and resource issues need to be clarified in addition to maintaining the core advisory role of Council.

Council would like to acknowledge the sponsors of Forum 2017, the presenters and the participants. All presentations have been uploaded to the Council website at www.ahwcouncil.ca.

**Thank you to our Forum 2017 sponsors for their
generous support!**

**Government of Canada – through the Public Health Agency of Canada
and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Government of Manitoba
Government of Saskatchewan
Canadian Animal Health Institute
Chicken Farmers of Canada
Canadian Animal Health Coalition
Canadian Sheep Federation**

Watch for news on Forum 2018 in the next few months.

Several related meetings were held around Forum 2017. The NFAHW Council is pleased to be able to help facilitate these meetings. Meetings of the CAHSS, CgFARAD, Canadian Animal Health Coalition, and the Canadian Animal Health Coalition Emergency Management project were held.

Council had an abbreviated meeting on November 30, 2017. The agenda included a debrief on Forum 2017, the work plan for 2018, a changing relationship with the FPT Reg ADM Committee, working group assignments and administrative items. The Council will meet by teleconference on January 11, 2018.

Council members and the secretariat extend their Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2018 to all stakeholders in Canada's animal health and welfare system.

Upcoming meetings and events

- January 11, NFAHW Council teleconference
- February 8, NFAHW Council teleconference
- March 1 & 2, NFAHW Council meeting, Toronto

**A useful glossary of terms related to Antimicrobial Resistance from the
National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases:**

<https://nccid.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/08/Glossary-of-Terms-AMR.pdf>

Consultation on fee proposal for drugs and medical devices

The Health Canada consultation is now open, and all comments received by January 4, 2018 will be considered. Comments below are provided by Jean Szkotnicki of the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI), which is a member of the Council. The information that follows is excerpted from a document being sent out to CAHI members, and is included here to provide animal agriculture stakeholders with context to encourage participation in the consultation.

“The Service Fee Act was introduced as part of an Omnibus Budget 2017 bill and in the Institute’s opinion did not get the parliamentary scrutiny it needed, particularly as it relates to public/private good and competitiveness. The fact that the fees can now be increased by Ministerial Order outside of the Canada Gazette I and II consultative process is disconcerting for veterinary drug manufacturers which service a small market but make an important contribution to Canadian public health and animal welfare.

Our analysis of the proposed service fees for veterinary drug review and maintenance bring us to the conclusion that should this proposal come to be implemented, as is, more than 50% of current products would not meet the return on investment necessary to support being kept on the Canadian market as currently less than 50% have at least \$500,000 in annual sales. Consequently, we will lose products currently licensed for the Canadian market and many new products will never seek marketing authorization in this country. The new fees will effectively undermine all current initiatives put in place to ensure responsible or prudent use of veterinary drugs, particularly, medically important antimicrobials (MIA), as veterinarians and producers will look to manage animal welfare in the absence of licensed product. It will also undermine research and development into alternatives to antimicrobials, a pillar of the Federal Government’s ‘Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Framework’ document as well as undermine the Federal Government Plant and Animal Health Strategy targeting disease management. Increased compounding of veterinary drugs and importation and use of unapproved animal medications will require restructuring of the veterinary drug programs. This is due to fewer resources being needed to manage the reduced submissions submitted while greater compliance and enforcement measures will need to be taken to manage the increased risk of non-compliant veterinary drug use. Furthermore, our veterinarians and food animal producers will not have access to the same health management tools as those in other countries that we compete with. CAHI is not opposed to paying service fees but does believe that the fees should be competitive relative to the services provided, the market size and public good provided by veterinary drugs.”

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultation-fee-proposal-drugs-medical-devices.html>

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

The NFAHW Council is composed of individuals designated or elected from the three stakeholder groups – industry, provincial/territorial governments 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. Jaspinder Komal sits as an ex-officio member in his role as CVO of Canada.

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