

January 23, 2015

NFAHW Council teleconference notes

Teleconference January 9, 2015

At the regular monthly teleconference of the NFAHW Council in January, the Council addressed their work plan for 2015. Council members volunteered to take leadership roles for various work areas to develop the potential scope of each area for the March Council meeting to be held in Toronto. At that time, working groups will be established. In some cases, there will be need for external membership on the working groups to ensure appropriate skills and knowledge are involved in the development of the issue and recommendations.

As always, the Council monitors current activities and issues to determine if there is something that should be added to the work plan. The following work areas are included in the draft work plan for 2015.

Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 – the implementation of this strategy will require development of the capacity to collect and report the activities of stakeholders toward progress on the strategic outcomes and priorities of the strategy. Both technical and communications skills will be required. Rob McNabb will lead the development of the scope of this work area.

Animal Welfare Research Capacity – the first recommendation of this project, which was reported at Forum 2014, tasks the Council with identifying appropriate roles and priorities for public-sector funding of animal welfare research. This includes research to support regulatory functions, to support policy, and to meet anticipated future public concerns, as well as communicating with AAFC, CFIA and other relevant agencies to encourage support for such research. Dr. David Fraser will lead the development of the scope of this work area.

Cull Cow Transport – the Council began looking at this work area in September 2014. There was some investigation of research project opportunities which have not developed. Dr. David Fraser will lead the development of the scope of this work area.

Antimicrobial Use/Antimicrobial Resistance - The Council must determine if it has a role to facilitate the implementation of recommendation 4 in Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance – a strategy for animal agriculture in Canada (2014).

“The NFAHW Council recommends that a national committee including all the main stakeholders be created under the lead of federal champions such as the Public Health Agency of Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This committee will hold at least one annual meeting designed to encourage cross engagement of all stakeholders and will be responsible to coordinate the actions to be taken toward improvement of the use of antimicrobials, with an objective of achieving synchronization, complementarity and synergy of all the stakeholders initiatives related to the use of antimicrobials in animal and human medicine.”

John Ross will lead the development of the scope of this work area.

Governance of Surveillance – The Council recommendations on a collaborative governance model for surveillance are being implemented. There will be need for Council to make appointments to the Champion and Director groups, to receive reports from these individuals and monitor the progress of implementation. John Ross will lead the development of the scope of this work area.

Emerging Issues – The emerging issues working group will scope its work under the leadership of Dr. Megan Bergman. The CFIA disease prioritization tool and the CZED-IIR project being led by CFIA may influence the scope of this work area.

Animal welfare advisory documentation implementation study – Dr Jeffrey Spooner has been contracted by the Council to study the implementation of the Council’s animal welfare advisory statement, “A National Farmed Animal Welfare System for Canada” (2012). The project report will be received by the Council in June 2015.

Forum 2015 – The annual Forum will be held November 23-24, 2015. The Council Management Committee will support the Secretariat in forum planning.

The Council will also be monitoring the implementation of recommendations made in its previous advisory statements throughout the year.

Other activities which will be monitored include the national vaccine strategy being led by the Public Health Agency of Canada; the national antimicrobial strategy being led by the Public Health Agency of Canada; the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy; the CZED-IIR project; OIE decisions; CFIA modernization; and any outbreak which may occur. All of these things could impact the work plan.

Implementation of the animal health surveillance governance model

At Forum 2014, a governance model for animal health surveillance was presented. At the Forum, Dr. Martine Dubuc accepted the role as the first member of the Champion group and solicited support of industry from the floor.

Since that time, a coordinator, Dr. Cheryl James, CFIA, and a secretariat, Francois Bedard, AAFC, have been appointed. The Champion group and the Director group are being populated as described in the model presented at the Forum. Affected groups are being kept informed of progress.

The Council is responsible for appointing two individuals to the Champion group. Mike Dungate, Chicken Farmers of Canada and Rob McNabb, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association have agreed to be nominated to this group.

The Council is also responsible for appointing two individuals to the Director group. These nominations were not finalized but will be announced when completed. The Management Committee has responsibility to move the selection process forward.

The presentation with the description of the model can be found on the Council website under Forum 2014.

Council website – www.ahwcouncil.ca

- The Council meeting schedule is posted under events.
- Public documents are posted under documents
- Forum 2014 presentations can be accessed from the link on the home page under news