



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Criteria for Animal Disease Categorization Project

Presented to: National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) Forum

Date Presented: December 4th 2012

Name of Presenter: Dr. Ian Alexander

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Purpose

- Introduce the Project
- Discuss the impetus
- Moving forward

The Project

- **The CFIA has initiated a study to develop objective criteria for use in the categorization of terrestrial animal diseases**
 - To guide the governance of animal diseases at three different levels – Federal, Provincial-Territorial and private
- **Hired University of Guelph (Dr. Victoria Ng and Dr. Jan Sargeant) to conduct this study**
 - The University's Department of Population Medicine completed a similar study ("A Stakeholder-Informed Approach to the Identification of Criteria in the Prioritisation of Zoonoses in Canada")
 - Will develop potential criteria to categorize animal diseases, using literature review, interviews and two pilot focus groups in Guelph, Ontario
- **The University of Guelph started working on this project Nov 2012 to deliver**
 - A list of potential criteria that can be used to categorize animal diseases and which may be applied at each level of governance

Why Undertake Such a Study?

- The initial impetus for the Study was CFIA's desire to review its list of terrestrial animal diseases reportable under the *Health of Animals Act* using objective criteria
- The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy critical element "Governance" fourth action item , suggested:
 - "Develop, negotiate, and conclude an agreement amongst the farmed animal sector, the federal government, and the provincial/territorial governments, for the shared responsibility, management, and funding of all significant diseases of the farmed animal sector"
- As the two initiatives are highly integrated, it was agreed that the NFAHWC would work with and support the CFIA as we move forward on this project

Moving Forward Together

- The NFAHWC has established a steering committee made up of Council members, to work collaboratively on the project, in an advisory capacity, with the Agency in accordance with a Terms of Reference
- Goal is to have the final report presented to the NFAHWC in April 2013 face to face meeting
- We are beginning to map out Phase II of the project for the next fiscal year, for example:
 - Conducting a study to explore the relative importance of disease criteria
 - Possibly applying them to all terrestrial animal diseases
 - Generating a priority list unique to each of the three levels of governance