

Elora, Ontario, Canada

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council name change to Animal Health Canada

Increased collaboration opportunities with the vision of Animal Health Canada

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council has formally changed its name as of January 10, 2022. The new name, Animal Health Canada (AHC), is the first step in realizing a new vision and mission, as well as a new governance structure for the organization.

Animal Health Canada's new vision and mission will include increased collaboration between industry and government groups, building upon the success of the NFAHW Council while shifting to a more collaborative model of governance and clarification of roles. Animal welfare, surveillance, and emergency management will continue to be integral to the organization.

The change of name to AHC indicates one step in initiating a road forward to transition. There will be two phases from the NFAHW Council's current structure and governance to the full implementation of AHC, but an overall focus on increased collaboration is central to all efforts. A strategic planning project, along with a governance study, is intended to begin in the new year.

"We've seen incredible success at the NFAHW Council table over the years and want to build upon this model to create even greater synergies to solve challenges and meet opportunities together as industry and government partners. Working to create a disease prevention focused future and ensuring animal welfare is always at the forefront and is a huge part of the impetus behind Animal Health Canada," says Melanie Barham, Executive Director of the organization.

The new name is the first step as the NFAHW Council transitions to meet the vision of AHC not only in name, but in structure, governance, and action. Stakeholders can expect regular updates and communications and are encouraged to [join the AHC mailing list](#) to receive communications directly.

The Council was formed in 2010 as an outcome of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (2009) and was established as an advisory body to the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Committee and other stakeholders.

The Council is a unique not for profit organization which is funded jointly by federal, provincial, territorial, and industry/non-government stakeholders. The Council engages expertise to address important topics such as emerging diseases, animal welfare, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, and the emerging theme of "One Welfare". The Council along with its divisions leads the initiation of projects to address animal health and welfare stakeholder needs in Canada.