

Elora, Ontario, Canada  
September 20, 2023

## Animal Health Canada Forum 2023 Awards Presentation

Approximately 150 in-person and virtual attendees took part in the annual Animal Health Canada (AHC) Forum held in Ottawa on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Building off the theme *Resilient Together: Building Sustainable Canadian Systems for People, Animals and the Environment*, Forum provided an opportunity for all participants to learn more about AHC's activities and priorities, hear from speakers on topical issues and to share actions and initiatives in relation to animal health and welfare.

As a part of the event, AHC presented three awards to deserving candidates making a difference in Canadian farmed animal health and welfare. The **Carl Block Award** is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions in the field of livestock animal health in memory of Carl Block, a cattleman whose tireless dedication to Canadian agriculture and commitment to animal health will long be remembered. The **Leadership in Collaboration Award** is intended to recognize an individual's commitment to farmed animal health and welfare through the promotion of public-private collaboration.

AHC was honoured to present the Carl Block Award to Dr. Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, nominated by his peers for his passion and commitment to animal health. Jean-Pierre is a professor of clinical science and epidemiology in the faculty of veterinary medicine at the University of Montreal. A specialist in farm biosecurity and infectious disease control strategies, Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt is a highly respected researcher and teacher. His career over the last few decades bears witness to his leadership as a veterinary surgeon, his commitment to the animal industry, particularly pig and poultry production, and his strong determination to contribute to improving animal health and welfare.

Our second Carl Block award recipient was recognized posthumously for her lifetime achievements, a first when it comes to the Carl Block award. AHC was privileged to honour Jean Szkotnicki, who was nominated by all our livestock industry members for her dedication and commitment to both animal health and farmed animal agriculture.

Jean built a distinguished career which included leading the Canadian Animal Health Institute for almost 30 years and chairing many industry boards, committees and task groups. She received many accolades for her work, including being inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2017 and receiving an honorary degree from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2022 for championing the responsible use of antimicrobials in animals.

AHC was also honoured to present the Leadership in Collaboration Award to D<sup>re</sup> Hélène Trépanier. D<sup>re</sup> Trépanier is a recognized leader in Quebec for her work in animal health and welfare. Hélène obtained a degree in veterinary medicine from the Université de

Montréal in 1984 and holds master's degrees in veterinary clinical sciences and rural economics. During her 30-year career with the Quebec government, she developed and implemented the Quebec Animal Health and Welfare Strategy, which she chaired from 2019 to 2022. She was also involved in the creation of ANIMA-Québec, a not-for-profit organization whose goal is to improve cat and dog welfare through communication and certification.

Prior to her career in government, Hélène taught at the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Québec, worked in abattoir inspection and provided advisory services in swine health (1991-1994). She was also a member of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Ordre des Médecins vétérinaires du Québec (OMVQ), the Chief Veterinary Officer of Quebec from September 2016 to June 2023 and is the former FPT Governments co-chair for Animal Health Canada.

*AHC (previously the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council) was formed in 2010 as an outcome of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (2009). It was established as an advisory body to the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Committee and other stakeholders. Over time, it has grown to be a table for collaborative problem solving and project work with portfolios including surveillance, animal welfare, emergency management and training.*