



NFAHW 
COUNCIL

2020-2021 Annual Report

OUR
VISION

NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

“Canada values and supports the health, care, and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment, and the Canadian economy.”



Joint Co-Chair Message

The NFAHW Council Government and Industry Co-chairs are pleased to present the NFAHW Council's 2020/2021 Annual Report. This was once again a busy year for the Council filled with finding new ways of doing business in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic, but also a year of great opportunity and growth.

2020/2021 saw the Council bid farewell to Dr. David Fraser, from the University of British-Columbia, who has been a NFAHW Council board director since the Council's inception. We would like to thank him for his dedicated contribution of time and expertise and in particular the role he played in leading the NFAHW Council's work on advancing animal welfare in Canada. We are confident that he will continue his great work to foster animal welfare practices informed by science.

The Council is continuing its move from an advisory mode to be involved in the coordination of activities advancing animal health and welfare. This new approach has progressed during this year: the Council was pleased to welcome the addition of two new divisions, the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System, and the National Farm Animal Care Council effective April 1, 2020. We have also transitioned the Animal Health Emergency Management Project – Enhancing Emergency Management in Canada's Livestock and Poultry Industry, the National Farm Animal Care Council project – Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust through Codes of Practice, as well the Canadian Livestock Transport project, and the African Swine Fever Executive Management Board project. These new divisions and projects have added significant value to the contribution of the Council to animal health and welfare in Canada.



2020-2021 Annual Report

The Council has most certainly benefited from enhanced synergies and collaboration through the addition of all of our new divisions and project team members. Our deepest thanks to all of the Council team members for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. You provide the foundation for all the Council successes.

The new 2021/2022 year before us will bring new opportunities for growth and development of the Council as we embark on exploring a transition from the NFAHW Council to the Animal Health Canada model. This undertaking will require a significant amount of consultation with our members and partners, as well as continuous development of the path forward as we benefit from feedback, and lessons learned. Regardless of the outcome, we look forward to continuing to support our stakeholders on important animal health and welfare initiatives in the years to come.

On a final note, Council is as strong as its members' engagement. We want to extend our thanks to all of our stakeholders for their support and contribution to all the work aimed at improving animal health and welfare in Canada.



Dr René Roy
Co-Chair,
National Farmed Animal Health
and Welfare Council



Dr^e Hélène Trépanier
Co-Chair,
National Farmed Animal Health
and Welfare Council

“ *Canada values and supports the health, care, and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment, and the Canadian economy.* ”





Executive Director's Report



Dear Stakeholders,

I am pleased to present the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHW Council) 2020/2021 Annual Report. This has been a year of growth and change for the Council and to accommodate these changes we have brought on new staff, revised our governance and operational processes, and upgraded our bookkeeping systems. This has enabled the Council to seamlessly adapt to the increased operational demands.



As you will observe upon reviewing this report, there has been significant progress made by Council's divisions and projects alongside the work of the Council committees and the Animal Health Canada working group. It has been very rewarding to collaborate with the Council board, team, members and stakeholders to build on synergies gained through the alignment of our divisions, projects and activities.

I am sad to say that this will be my final annual report as the Executive Director on behalf of the NFAHW Council, as I have accepted a new opportunity effective July 2021. I would like to thank the NFAHW Council Board for trusting me to take on this role, which has been filled with exciting opportunities to support the advancement of animal health and welfare in Canada. The Council is an innovative organization populated by dedicated partners from the board, to the advisory committees, the staff and contractors and the members. I feel very fortunate to have been able to work with this extraordinary animal health and welfare team in Canada. The time I have spent as the NFAHW Council Executive Director has involved some of the most enjoyable work of my career. I would like to thank the Council board, team members and stakeholders for their support, collaboration and engagement over the past three (3) years. I believe the growth and opportunities afforded to the Council have been a direct result of the hard work and commitment of all of the passionate people involved at all levels of the Council. I am looking forward to watching its continued development in the coming years.

Megan Bergman DVM
Executive Director, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

our purpose

- To establish a harmonized and integrated approach to the management of the broad animal health and welfare program continuum and system in Canada;
- To provide scientific, strategic and policy advice and recommendations on animal health and welfare matters to the public and private sectors;
- To undertake such other activities that advance animal health and welfare in Canada.



The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council is the only national not-for-profit organization that brings together industry, federal, provincial and territorial partners to provide collaborative guidance on a cohesive, functional and responsive farmed animal health and welfare system in Canada.

The Council engages expertise to address important topics such as animal welfare, emerging diseases, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, and the emerging theme of "One Welfare".

The Council hosts a forum annually which is the premiere event for industry and government representatives to find opportunities for partnership and to share information on issues, activities and accomplishments in animal health and welfare in Canada.

about us



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Animal Health Canada

The Council continued to work collaboratively with the Animal Health Canada Working Group in order to explore and identify a potential transition process for the NFAHW Council to Animal Health Canada. Consultation and collaboration resulted in the development of a draft two-phased

transition process which will be considered by NFAHW Council Members. If approved by the NFAHW Council members, Animal Health Canada Phase 1 would involve the expansion of Council membership to include representatives from across the value chain, a change in the organizational name to Animal Health Canada or Animal Health and Welfare Canada, and the establishment of a government industry senior executive advisory committee. The Phase 2 draft model would result in the transition of the board of directors to a senior executive level with representation from industry and government and the creation of an Animal Health and Welfare Technical Advisory Committee to support the newly formed Board of Directors. A feedback questionnaire has been provided to Council members in order to help further refine the possible transition process. The next steps of the NFAHW Council will be determined after feedback is received from Council members.

Support of the **African Swine Fever Executive Management Board** – Initiation of a NFAHW managed project funded jointly by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Canadian Meat Council (CMC) and Canadian Pork Council (CPC) to support Executive Management Board priorities and development of a Pan Canadian integrated African Swine Fever response plan.



Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank and Strategy –

The NFAHW Council initiated a working group to explore the opportunity to develop a Canadian solution to create a foot and mouth disease vaccine bank and strategy.

Enabled by the 2019/2020 amendments to the NFAHW Council by-laws, the NFAHW Council successfully transitioned the **National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)** and the **Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System** to become formal Divisions of the Council.



In June of 2020, the NFAHW Council took on the management of the Canadian Livestock Transport Program from the Canadian Animal Health Coalition.



This transition included the release of the new and improved **Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT)** program.

The CLT program is a comprehensive online training course for poultry and livestock transporters, shippers and receivers. With the support and guidance of an industry-government advisory committee, this program will focus on addressing training needs in the areas of animal welfare and quality assurance, laws and regulations, animal behaviour and handling, the transport process and contingency planning in livestock and poultry transport.



In July 2020, the NFAHW Council was pleased to take on the management of two **Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriAssurance** funded projects:

- **Animal Health Emergency Management II** – Awareness, Capacity, Confidence which develops industry relevant resources to minimize the impacts of serious livestock diseases now and into the future. Our objective is to enhance the emergency management capabilities of Canada's livestock industry, for both a continually evolving disease landscape and adverse events, through increased industry awareness, capacity, and confidence.



- **Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust Through Codes of Practice** – to update and develop Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farmed animals and is led by NFACC.



Updates were completed on Council's governance documents including Code of Ethics and Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Board Terms of Reference.

A process to update and modernize the Council's bylaws and explore opportunities to better align with partners working in the animal health and welfare sphere was completed.



Upgraded our communications tools including:

- Council website to ensure our content is easily accessible and is smart phone friendly. Check out the NFAHW Council website upgrades [here!](#)
- The Council, projects, and divisions are working on new tools for outreach and communication all the time.
 - ◆ Follow [@CahsCanada](#), [@AHEMproject](#) and [@CLTprogram](#) on Twitter to get timely updates!
 - ◆ Check out our [CAHSS podcasts!](#) The goal of the podcast series is to further share information of interest to veterinarians and producers, and engage and strengthen connections between stakeholders.
 - ◆ Anyone interested in following the progress of NFACC and the Codes of Practice can sign up for NFACC's Information Updates at <https://www.nfacc.ca/newsletters>.
 - ◆ Check in on our blog posts [here!](#)



WORK AREAS



Animal Welfare

The NFAHW Council Animal Welfare Committee has developed two documents over the summer of 2020. The Council published the [“NFAHW Council Guidance Document on Procedures for Conducting National Reviews of the Marketing of Vulnerable Groups of Animals – 2020”](#) which defines the process that will be utilized for review activities conducted by the NFAHW Council Animal Welfare Committee.

Additionally, a progress report on the recommendations identified in the [“Management of Cull Dairy Cows in Canada”](#) was developed and provided to the Dairy Farmers of Canada. This report demonstrated significant progress on the recommendations identified in the NFAHW Council’s 2017 report.

One Welfare

The One Welfare Committee has been developing a document evaluating the impacts of agricultural trespassing as well as opportunities to manage the associated risks. The Council hopes to finalize this document in the Summer of 2021.

The One Welfare Committee also supported a response to the [June 2020](#) Ethical Question from the Canadian Veterinary Journal which explored farmer mental health. A joint response was developed collaboratively with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association – Wellness Committee and NFAHW Council – One Welfare Committee. The response was composed to provide information and resources for veterinarians who may be interacting with clients who require mental health support. Please look for this information in the November 2020 [Canadian Veterinary Journal](#).

ANIMAL HEALTH CANADA

Animal Health Canada

Vision: A sustainable agriculture and agri-food sector strengthened by an inclusive industry-government collaboration protecting the health and wellbeing of farmed animals.

Purpose: Animal Health Canada (AHC) provides a formal structure for the industry-government collaboration required to successfully implement the animal health components of the *Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada (PAHS)*.

Structure: AHC encompasses a pan-Canadian, public-private collaboration built on the guiding principles of accountability and decision-making open to the participation of both levels of government and all animal industry sectors.

Mandate: AHC undertakes actions and delivers programs that achieve high standards of animal health protection and economic risk mitigation, consistent with the objectives and guiding principles of the PAHS.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 03 Governance Review
- 02 Inventory Assessment and Gap Analysis of Canada's Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery from an Animal Health Event
- 01 Potential Animal Health Governance Options for Canada

2021 PRIORITIES

- 01 Refine and Formalize AHC Governance
- 02 Determine funding and resourcing requirements
- 03 Enhance communication, consultation, and stakeholder outreach
- Support Activities: 04

◆ African Swine Fever Executive Management Board Pilot Project
◆ FMD Vaccine Bank Strategy Working Group

AHC Working Group Members

Industry Members	AHC CEO Champions and Co-Chairs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Canadian Cattlemen's AssociationCanadian Meat CouncilCanadian Pork CouncilCanadian Poultry Industry RepresentativeCanadian Sheep FederationCanadian Veterinary Medical AssociationDairy Farmers of CanadaDairy Processors Association of CanadaNational Farmed Animal Health and Welfare CouncilNational Sheep NetworkMaple Leaf Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dori Gingras-Beauchemin – Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development (Government Co-Chair)Bob Lowe – Canadian Cattlemen's Association (Industry Co-Chair)Chris Forbes – Agriculture and Agri-Food CanadaTom Ether – British Columbia Ministry of AgricultureDr. Siddhar Mishra – Canadian Food Inspection AgencyRick Bergmann – Canadian Pork CouncilDavid Wilens – Dairy Farmers of CanadaDavid Colwell – JBS CanadaMichael McCain – Maple Leaf Foods Inc.Rene Dufresne – Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du QuébecDr. John Kelly – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Looking for more information? Check out our [website](#) | Looking for a presentation for your organization? Contact @ [Dr. Megan Bergman](#)

The Council held consultations in the spring with industry and government stakeholders about the potential transition of the NFAHW Council to Animal Health Canada. As a result, a two phased approach for a transition of governance has been proposed. Phase One would include the expansion of the current Council membership to include representation from sectors and organizations from throughout the value chain and are in line with the Council purpose and mandate. Phase One would also include establishment of an Executive Advisory Committee consisting of senior industry and government representatives presiding over the existing Board of Directors, and a name change for the Council to Animal Health Canada, or Animal Health and Welfare Canada. If the transition process is approved by the Council members. The organization will monitor the progress and lessons learned from the new structure of Phase One, and consider further amendments to the organization in Phase Two which would raise the seniority level of the Board of Directors of Animal Health Canada to senior executives with a supporting Animal Health and Welfare Technical Advisory Committee.

Further refinement will be added to the proposed Phase One and Two governance models based on member and stakeholder feedback. More information can be found [here](#).



As with many organizations, COVID-19 restrictions drove the Council to transition to a virtual platform for 2020. Council elected to host three virtual sessions, each addressing a specific theme.

Did you miss the Forum 2020 virtual sessions? Don't worry, you can still get access to the sessions as they were all recorded. Click [HERE](#) to register now to enable access to the recordings. If you registered for the sessions, you can access the recordings at the links below.

SESSION ONE Assurance and Innovation

A 2-hour virtual event that explored consumer expectations, on farm advancements, and on farm assurance programs.

If you registered for this session and would like to view the recording click [here](#).

SESSION TWO Animal Welfare - a vision for the future

A 2-hour virtual event that explored advancing animal welfare in Canada, and the impacts of misinformation and critical events on human and animal welfare.

If you registered for this session and would like to view the recording click [here](#).

SESSION THREE COVID 19 - unintended consequences and lessons learned

A 2-hour virtual event that explored the animal health and welfare impacts of COVID-19 and ever-increasing importance of taking a One Health approach to manage human and animal disease events.

If you registered for this session and would like to view the recording click [here](#).

The change in format allowed the Council Forum 2020 sessions to be accessible to a wider audience and we enjoyed excellent participation from across sectors and government. We would like to extend our appreciation to all of our speakers, participants, sponsors and Council members for assisting us in hosting a successful and informative virtual Forum 2020.

Thank you to **ALL** our sponsors...

PLATINUM Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada / Canadian Food Inspection Agency

GOLD CCA CANADIAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION / ffc

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BRONZE RVTTT TVAC / AGRALYTICS / CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA / LES PRODUCTEURS DE POULET DU CANADA / PDS



For Information on Forum 2021 Click [Here!](#)
To Sponsor Forum 2021 Click [Here!](#)

Attention Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians!



NFAHW Council Forum Sessions are now American Association of Veterinary State Board's Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) -approved.

Forum participants will be able to obtain CE (continuing education) credit that is RACE-approved for veterinarians and veterinary technicians in jurisdictions which recognize American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) RACE approval. Forum offers hours of CE with quality courses that assist veterinary professionals to meet the necessary obligations for licensure.

Contact your regulatory body to verify if you have any questions.



DIVISIONS & PROJECTS

Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System



CAHSS

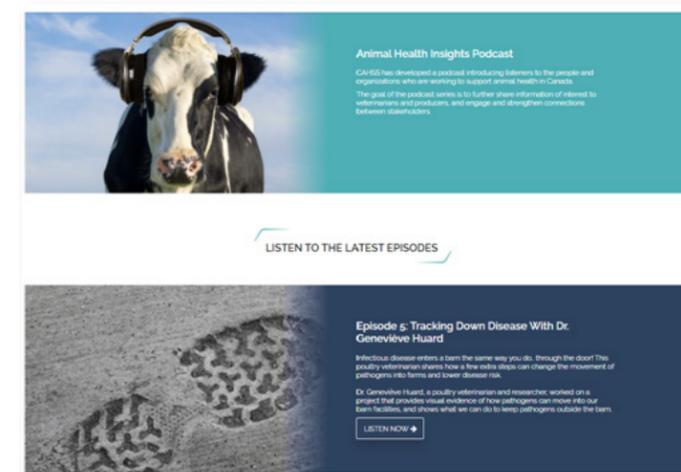
CAHSS Division

In 2020/2021 the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System continued to grow and mature during our second year as a Council division. Under strong Council leadership, CAHSS realized increased opportunities to work with other Council divisions and projects on common priorities and to share best practices and innovative methods to make progress on animal health.

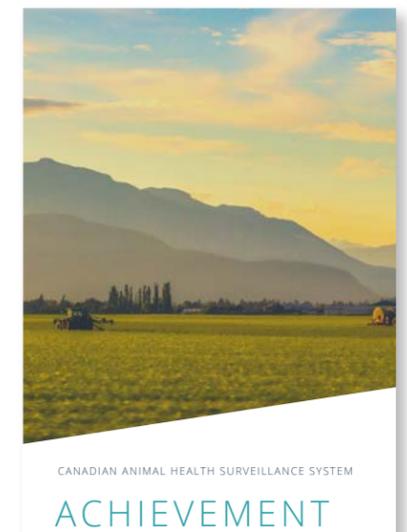
This year, CAHSS membership grew to 310 members from across industry, government and academia. Members participated in quarterly information sharing calls for eight CAHSS networks- beef, dairy, equine, finfish, poultry, small ruminant, vector borne disease and antimicrobial use and resistance. In March, we entered into an agreement with the pork sector to support the work of the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network, and we anticipate using the CSHIN structure to continue and enhance information sharing for swine health.

As part of our growth as a Council division this year, CAHSS finalized a [governance charter](#), and the CAHSS steering group was renewed to align with the new Charter. The renewal process was well supported by the CAHSS networks, with nominees from each network willing to step forward to take a role in on the steering group. CAHSS also developed and published a strategic plan that will be used to guide activities and evaluate progress through 2025 [CAHSS Strategic Plan](#).

The new [CAHSS website](http://www.cahss.ca) (www.cahss.ca) was launched in January 2021 and will act as a key information sharing hub for animal health surveillance in Canada. There have been 17,512 page views since launch. The website includes a public side and member-only login portal. The website features tagged and searchable resources and surveillance initiatives libraries, disease alert notifications, and a quick-reference table of regulated diseases. It also shares education and training events related to animal health surveillance in Canada and beyond such as webinars, conferences, and calls for abstracts.



CAHSS participated in diverse animal health surveillance initiatives and projects this year. Some, such as CanSpotASF and the Citizen Science Finfish Health Project, were broad national initiatives where CAHSS was one of many partners in progress. Others, such as the AMU/AMR Metrics Reporting Project, were initiated and managed by CAHSS networks to address a priority identified during network meetings. More details about these projects can be found in the [2020/2021 CAHSS Achievement Report](#).





DIVISIONS & PROJECTS

NFACC Division

The [National Farm Animal Care Council](#) (NFACC) has been the animal welfare division of the NFAHW Council since April 2020. Over the past year NFACC has appreciated the support provided by Council.

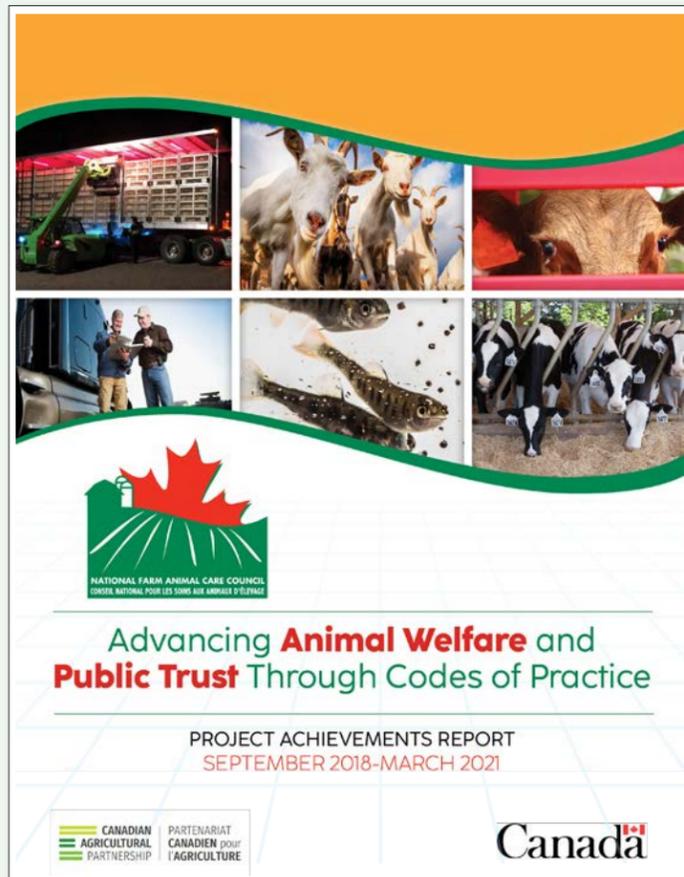
NFACC's project related activities and accomplishments from 2018 – 2021 are summarized in "[Advancing Animal Welfare and Public Trust Through Codes of Practice – Project Achievements Report](#)". Through this project Codes of Practice are being updated or developed for dairy cattle, goats, farmed finfish, and transportation.

Several other Codes underwent five-year reviews (Beef Cattle, Equines, Farmed Fox, and Sheep). The Farmed Mink and Pig Codes initiated Code amendments after completing their respective reviews. The five-year review is a chance to ask the question, "how's the Code working for you?" and to ensure that Codes remain relevant and achievable.

Like every organization, NFACC was impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Nonetheless, progress continued on the farm animal welfare front by adapting full-day in-person meetings into multiple shorter virtual sessions and re-evaluating timelines for completing some Codes of Practice. This deviation from everyday working practices involved a steep learning curve for our committee members, managers, and members. We are all looking forward to engaging in person soon.

In 2021-2022 NFACC will be initiating strategic planning and a governance review.

The profile of farm animal welfare has only risen since NFACC's last strategic plan was developed in 2015.



Anyone interested in following the progress of NFACC and the Codes of Practice can sign up for NFACC's Information Updates at www.nfacc.ca/newsletters.



COUNCIL PROJECTS

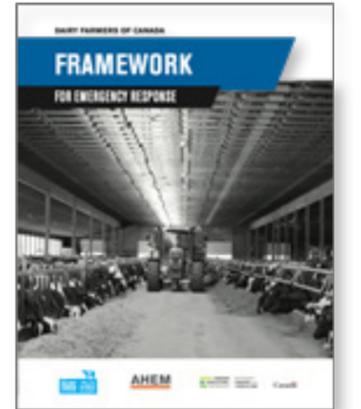
ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (AHM): This four-year (2019-2023) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada AgriAssurance funded project builds on the momentum of [AHM I](#) and is focussed on minimizing serious animal disease impact through enhanced industry **awareness, capacity, confidence**.

The Animal Health Emergency Management (AHM) project develops industry relevant resources to minimize the impacts of serious livestock diseases now and into the future. The objective of AHM is to enhance the emergency management capabilities of Canada's livestock and poultry industry to support effective response to a continually evolving disease landscape and adverse emergency events, through increased industry awareness, capacity, and confidence.

Resources for industry developed by the AHM project to date include provincial association staff plans and producer handbooks, workshops, webinars, and online training for veterinarians in partnership with international disease recognition organizations. Resources currently under development include protocols to address crucial industry gaps, and national response frameworks.

AHEM

Animal Health Emergency Management Project



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT –

This initiative is the underpinning of the AHM project deliverables and work continues on the development of protocols that will provide industry with recommended steps to take during an emergency. AHM has expanded the existing suite of animal health emergency management [producer handbooks](#) and added national association frameworks. Agriculture based educational materials and resources have also been developed to facilitate delivery of [Incident Command System ICS 100-level training](#) for industry.

AWARENESS –

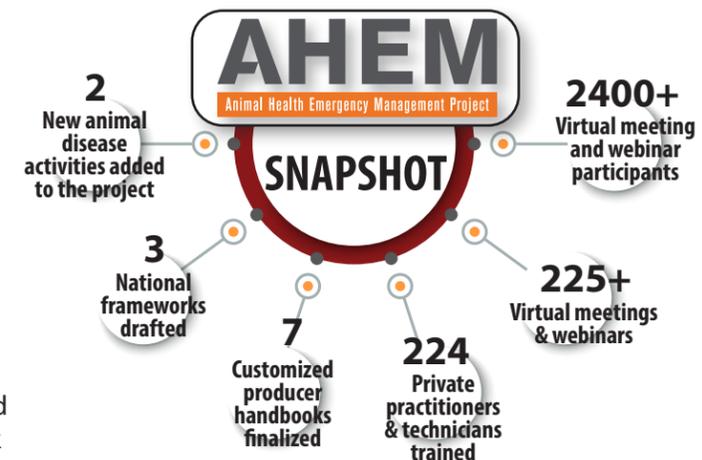
AHEM continues to promote and validate the resources with industry staff, board members, governments, producers and animal owners at virtual [workshops](#). To support this the AHM [website has been enhanced](#) with better functionality, stronger links to partners and easier access to information and resources.

TRAINING –

AHEM continues to promote and coordinate industry involvement through animal disease recognition and response training. This fiscal year AHEM launched two pilot courses with the CFIA, CVMA, FAO and EuFMD. AHEM also sponsored an industry staff member to attend real time training in Uganda where foot-and-mouth disease is endemic.

PROGRAM SUPPORT –

Last year AHEM added two animal disease related activities to the project. The first is providing support to the **African Swine Fever Executive Management Board** and associated regional initiatives. The goal of this work is to develop an *Industry/Government Integrated Pan Canadian ASF Response Plan* that will define roles and responsibilities of industry associations, as well as federal and provincial governments. The second area of focus is leading a working group composed of federal, provincial and industry representatives in exploring the development of a Canadian **foot-and-mouth disease vaccine strategy**.



The AHM team continues to create project momentum and build trust across the livestock and poultry industry.



DIVISIONS & PROJECTS

Canadian Livestock Transportation



The [Canadian Livestock Transport](#) (CLT) program is focusing on outreach with provincial livestock and poultry associations, transportation companies and abattoirs to encourage new online registrations. In 2020/2021 the CLT program has proven to be financially sustainable, and efforts will continue to enhance the efficiency of the program and the services it provides.

From August 2020-May 2021, approximately 510 courses have been purchased in French and English across Canada. This includes 350 poultry courses and 160 livestock courses. As a result, the program has recovered its transition costs and is now operating with a modest surplus. Further, CLT has worked with Momentum IT to address customer demands and enhance platform functions including login for those without email, online testing for event training and a reduced cost option for regulators, enforcement officers and individuals who do not require certification to audit the CLT training courses. A newly initiated on-line exit survey has also been added to get valuable feedback from participants taking the certification courses. This feedback will assist with the continuous improvement of the program.



CLT is continuing to work on developing guidelines for special event training requests particularly in the face of COVID-19 challenges while continuing the transition and adaptation to the on-line platform. Moving towards the second phase of the program's restructuring plan, CLT plans to expand and enhance its online training experience and submitted a project proposal to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriAssurance Program to leverage available resources.

Lastly, CLT is collaborating with Les Producteurs de bovins du Québec (PBQ) to share their species-specific transportation regulation training.

The complimentary training will be available in French and English through the [CLT on-line student eCampus](#).



COUNCIL PROJECTS

African Swine Fever

Coordination of Planning, Preparedness and Readiness for Response

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a virus that has gained a lot of attention internationally since 2018 as it has been rapidly spreading throughout countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. In July 2021, ASF was also confirmed in the Dominican Republic. This is the first confirmation of ASF in the America. In Canada, ASF is a [reportable disease](#) under the *Health of Animals Act* and in several provinces through local legislation. All suspected cases must be reported to the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) (CFIA) and other relevant authorities. While the ASF virus only impact pigs, and is not directly harmful to humans, depending on the strain of ASF, 30% to greater than 95% of pigs that are infected with this virus will die resulting in concerns related to animal health and welfare as well as from an economic standpoint. ASF spreads through both direct and indirect contact with infected pigs or products containing pork, as well as contaminated farm equipment, feed and clothing. It poses a significant risk to the health of the Canadian swine herd, pork industry and the Canadian economy.

The coordination of ASF planning, preparedness and readiness for response sits with the [Council](#). On April 1, 2021, Dr. Christa Arsenault started in a one-year term position with the Council as the National ASF Coordinator. Over the next year Christa and her team will work hard at developing connections with all levels of ASF planning including national, provincial and industry organizations within Canada. The main objective will be to continue to move ASF planning and preparedness initiatives in a forward direction while ensuring that deliverables are meeting associated timelines.

The ASF Executive Management Board (EMB) includes membership from the [Canadian Pork Council](#) (CPC), [CFIA, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada \(AAFC\)](#), [Canada Border Services Agency \(CBSA\)](#), [Canadian Meat Council \(CMC\)](#) and the Manitoba, Alberta, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec provincial governments.



African Swine Fever (ASF)

The EMB has been working together on the Pan-Canadian ASF Action Plan. The Plan includes priority activities organized under four framework pillars: Enhanced biosecurity and prevention (lead by CPC), preparedness planning (lead by CFIA), ensure business continuity (lead by CMC) and coordinated risk communications (lead by The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)). In addition to the ongoing work that the ASF EMB has in progress, many provinces, provincial swine industry associations and provincial pork boards have organized internal structures and groups that are working on ASF planning and preparedness initiatives.

From countries that have been infected with ASF to date, one of the biggest challenges that they have faced is how to control the spread of ASF once it is detected in the wild pig population. Canada does have wild pigs, meaning the EMB is working closely with the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee (CWDC) and with the [Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative \(CWHC\)](#) to ensure preparedness for wild pig sampling and surveillance, best management practices and wild pig-specific communications. The Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Working Group was launched in April of 2021 with the goal to create a Canadian wild pig management strategy.

So much fantastic work has been completed for ASF planning and preparedness to date. The goals for the Council moving forward will be to provide coordination and to ensure best communications practices amongst all involved including to our stakeholders.

Statement of Operations and Surplus

April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL Statement of Operations and Surplus

For the year ended March 31, 2021	Council	National Farm Animal Care Council	Projects (Schedule 1)	Total 2021	Total 2020
Revenue					
Federal support	121,899	-	1,574,110	1,696,009	352,128
Industry support	118,500	-	16,352	134,852	288,500
Provincial and territorial support	125,200	-	-	125,200	108,160
Administrative revenue	79,372	-	-	79,372	4,483
Forum	23,635	-	-	23,635	25,600
Other income	18,728	11,233	118,233	148,194	-
Membership revenue	-	191,662	-	191,662	-
Interest income	63	158	-	221	367
Project surplus - deferred	-	-	(91,945)	(91,945)	-
	487,397	203,053	1,616,750	2,307,200	779,238
Expenses					
Administration	-	12,260	136,484	148,744	22,765
Communications	3,473	26	1,204	4,703	6,229
Contracted services	3,303	85,084	1,248,380	1,336,767	222,987
Direct project costs	-	-	126,961	126,961	172,687
Forum expenses	15,990	-	-	15,990	35,228
Honorariums	-	-	-	-	3,550
Information technology	4,679	-	23,338	28,017	-
Insurance	2,219	-	-	2,219	2,058
Meetings and workshops	-	102	4,515	4,617	5,276
Office and general	9,929	7,317	2,643	19,889	5,444
Professional fees	20,929	-	-	20,929	33,934
Research	4,989	-	-	4,989	3,456
Transition costs	-	-	24,419	24,419	-
Translation	8,133	9,870	3,635	21,638	9,564
Travel	-	367	-	367	51,529
Wages and benefits	253,442	-	21,513	274,955	183,324
	327,086	115,026	1,593,092	2,035,204	758,031
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$160,311	\$88,027	\$23,658	\$271,996	\$21,207

Complete audited financial statement is available at <https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/documents/audited-financials>

Statement of Financial Position

April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended March 31

	2021	2020
Assets		
Current		
\$ Cash	\$ 723,734	\$ 180,203
Accounts receivable	221,122	105,941
HST rebate receivable	84,819	49,717
Prepaid expenses	8,255	2,410
Undeposited funds	1,120	-
	1,039,050	338,271
Restricted Cash (note 5)	137,800	22,082
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,176,850	360,353
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 317,924	\$ 185,657
Deferred revenue (note 6)	284,701	-
	602,625	185,657
CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT LOAN (note 7)	30,000	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	632,625	185,657
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 125,007	\$ 174,696
National Farm Animal Care Council	185,560	-
Projects	23,658	-
Internally restricted (note 4)	210,000	-
	544,225	174,696
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,176,850	\$ 360,353



Council works actively to share information and provide updates on the work of the Council as well as to provide updates on the progress of Animal Health Canada. Below is a list of organizations that the NFAHW Council has engaged with in 2020/2021:

- ❖ [Agile Regulations Table](#)
- ❖ [AMRNETWORK Expert Advisory Group](#)
- ❖ [Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians](#)
- ❖ [Canadian Cattlemen's Association – Animal Health and Care Committee](#)
- ❖ [Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers](#)
- ❖ [Canadian Meat Council](#)
- ❖ [Canadian Pork Council](#) Canadian Swine Health Board
- ❖ [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- ❖ [CgFARAD](#)
- ❖ FPT Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers
- ❖ [National Cattle Feeders' Association](#)
- ❖ [Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council](#)
- ❖ [Plant Health Council](#)
- ❖ [SAVI – Stewardship of Antimicrobials by Veterinarians initiative](#)

our members

-  [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)
-  [Canadian Animal Health Institute](#)
-  [Canadian Cattlemen's Association](#)
-  [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)
-  [Canadian Hatching Egg Producers](#)
-  [Canadian Pork Council](#)
-  [Canadian Sheep Federation](#)
-  [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association](#)
-  [Chicken Farmers of Canada](#)
-  [Dairy Farmers of Canada](#)
-  [Egg Farmers of Canada](#)
-  [Equestrian Canada](#)
-  [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
-  [Turkey Farmers of Canada](#)
-  [Government of Alberta](#)
-  [Government of British Columbia](#)
-  [Government of Manitoba](#)
-  [Government of New Brunswick](#)
-  [Government of Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
-  [Government of Northwest Territories](#)
-  [Government of Nova Scotia](#)
-  [Government of Ontario](#)
-  [Government of Prince Edward Island](#)
-  [Gouvernement du Québec](#)
-  [Government of Saskatchewan](#)
-  [Government of Yukon](#)

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our council

NFAHWN Council Co-chairs



Dr. René Roy – NFAHWN Council Co-chair

René Roy has a PhD in agricultural economics from McGill University. René is a pork producer from farrow to finish, a dairy farmer and a maple syrup producer. René took over the family business with his brother Mario and runs it with members of his family.

René contributes with his experience on several working groups of the Council, in particular the One welfare working group. As an agricultural producer, he knows how the health and welfare of animals is intimately linked to the psychological health of producers.

René is second vice chair of the Canadian Pork Council, where he is active in the field of animal health and welfare. He has been particularly involved in the development of the new pork certification program, Canadian Pork Excellence. René contributes to the dialogue on hog health and welfare from a producer's perspective. He is also vice-chair of Swine Innovation Porc which is managing the research cluster of the Canadian pork industry. René represents the Canadian Pork Council on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.



Dr. Hélène Trépanier – NFAHWN Council Co-chair

Dr. Hélène Trépanier has been Quebec's Chief Veterinary Officer since September 2016. She is one of three representatives for Canada's Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the Council. Having worked for Quebec's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for over 25 years, Dr. Trépanier has been actively involved in the development and implementation of Quebec's animal health and welfare strategy. She is also an expert in the appropriate treatment of animals.

Dr. Trépanier holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Montreal's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (1984) and a Master's Degree in Veterinary Clinical Sciences from the same university (1987). She also has a Master's Degree in Rural Economy from Laval University in Quebec City (1995). She is currently a member of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec. She joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council as a representative of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers in March 2016.

our council



Dr. Jim Fairles



Cathy Furness



Dr. Mary Jane Ireland



Dr. Jaspinder Komal



Dr. Keith Lehman



Luc Marchand



David Moss



Dr. Jim Fairles

Dr. Jim Fairles is a veterinarian with 23 years of experience in private mixed practice in Mount Forest, Ontario and two years of international experience in China. Since 2004, Dr. Fairles has been employed as the Client Services Veterinarian at the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph.

He has a DVM (1980) and MBA (1999) degrees from Guelph.

Dr. Fairles has been involved with various veterinary associations on local, provincial and national levels. He is a past president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and a past chair of the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC). He is immediate past president of the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV) and an industry representative (CVMA) on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dr. Fairles was elected to the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in December 2013 and was re-elected in 2016 and 2019.

Dr. Cathy Furness

Cathy received her veterinary degree, with Distinction, from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph in 2000. Following graduation, Cathy practiced in both small animal and equine practice prior to returning to the Ontario Veterinary College to complete an MSc in Clinical Studies and a residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine. Cathy is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Large Animal Internal Medicine.

In 2013, Cathy joined the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' (OMAFRA) Animal Health and Welfare Branch. Here, she continued to build her knowledge and experience in emergency management as Lead Veterinarian for Planning and Preparedness. In this role, Cathy was responsible for provincial-level disease planning and preparedness, disease outbreak response and supporting various commodity and stakeholder organizations to enhance their respective emergency preparedness. Cathy has co-lead a public service veterinary medicine rotation at the Ontario Veterinary College and supports training and implementation of the Incident Management system in OMAFRA and with stakeholder organizations.

In July of 2019, Cathy was appointed Chief Veterinarian for Ontario (CVO). In her role as CVO, Cathy works in partnership with veterinarians, farmers, industry and the community as well as provincial ministries, provinces and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to support animal health and welfare needs in Ontario.

Cathy lives on a small hobby farm in Rockwood, Ontario which she shares with her family and a menagerie of animals – big and small.

Dr. Mary Jane Ireland

Dr. Mary Jane Ireland recently joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as the Executive Director of the Animal Health Directorate and Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer.

Mary Jane is a veterinarian and graduate from the Ontario Veterinary College. Prior to joining the CFIA, she was the Director General of the Veterinary Drug Directorate in Health Canada. Mary Jane has been extensively involved in leading various one health policy and regulatory initiatives. She has participated in a number of international committees and was the champion of regulatory cooperation with international regulatory authorities, including the regulatory cooperation council initiatives with the US FDA. Prior to joining the federal public service, she was a practicing large animal veterinarian in Eastern Ontario

Dr. Jaspinder Komal

Dr. Komal is the Vice President (VP) of the CFIA's Science Branch, as well as, the Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Canada. Dr. Komal serves as an ex-officio member on the Council in his capacity as Canada's CVO and OIE Delegate.

As CVO, he regularly provides strategic and scientific advice to the federal Minister of Agriculture, the CFIA President and the Agency's senior management. Dr. Komal's active engagement on the international stage brings insights into the strategic directions and initiatives led by international organizations and key trading partners which helps to keep Canada ahead of the curve as a global leader. He brings to the table domestic and international context for the development of animal health and welfare related policies and initiatives of importance for Canada.

Dr. Komal graduated from the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire at the Université de Montréal in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, with a degree in Veterinary Medicine and a post-graduate degree in Veterinary Microbiology. Through his career, Dr. Komal has led several key areas of the CFIA and AAFC. In his VP position, Dr. Komal manages the branch that provides laboratory services and scientific advice in support of development and delivery of the CFIA's programs, as well as surveillance and regulatory research to identify and address emerging threats to the food system and to animal and plant health.

Dr. Keith Lehman

Dr. Lehman graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 1999 and also holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Alberta.

After working in private mixed animal practice in Barrhead, Alberta, Keith joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency where he worked in various position prior to joining Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in June 2014. After two years with the Animal Health Section, he was appointed as Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian in June 2016.

Dr. Lehman completed a two-year term as chair of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers in December 2018. He has also been involved with early development of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy, CanSURV BSE, the national Antimicrobial Resistance Steering Committee, and serves as an ex-officio member on the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Council. Dr. Lehman represents the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Luc Marchand

Luc holds a Master degree in Social Science from Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. He joined the Federal Government in 2000 and worked in several departments such as Industry Canada, Canadian Heritage and joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2005 and has since worked on a variety of files such as rural development, BSE and Growing Forward programs design and delivery.

Luc became the Director of the Animal Industry Division in April 2019 and is involved in initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness of the livestock sector. Luc took over from Donald Boucher as the AAFC representative on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in March 2019.

David Moss

David Moss is the General Manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. In the cattle industry most of his career, David's background includes practical hands-on experience gained in part from running the family feedlot, and custom silage and farming operation, and strategic agribusiness experience from numerous senior leadership roles in the livestock industry, most recently as Co-Founder and Vice President of AgriClear LP an online agri-business marketplace joint venture with the TMX Group and Natural Gas Exchange.

David has helped build ranch to retail alliances in the United States, Australia, and South America, and has played an integral role in Canada's livestock traceability system. He holds an MA, Leadership Studies from the University of Guelph, an undergraduate degree from the University of Lethbridge and a Project Management masters certificate from York University. David serves on numerous industry committees and is a board director for Alberta Innovates and Emissions Reduction Alberta.



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National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

our council



Colleen McElwain



Steven Sternthal



David Taylor



Marco Volpé



Nina von Keyserlingk



Nicole Wanamaker



Colleen McElwain

Colleen McElwain is the Programs Director at the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) and leads communications, environmental stewardship programming and member services. Prior to working at the CAHI, she worked at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) in the area of livestock traceability policy and stakeholder relations. For several years Colleen worked at the Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) where she was the lead for animal health and welfare, disease surveillance, traceability, antimicrobial resistance, and applied research. She has participated on numerous national industry and government committees and is a proven relationship builder.

Colleen holds a Master of Science in Applied Behaviour and Welfare and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology, both from the University of Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College. Colleen was elected to the Council in December 2018.

Steven Sternthal

Steven Sternthal is the Director General for the Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases with the Public Health Agency of Canada's Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch. In this role, Steven is responsible for leading One Health policy, science, and program initiatives to address food-borne and zoonotic infectious diseases. Steven has over 20 years experience in managing public health issues, many of which are relevant to the work of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (e.g. food safety, antimicrobial resistance, emerging zoonotic infectious diseases).

Steven holds a Master in Health Administration from the University of Ottawa and a Bachelor of Science from McGill University in Montreal. Steven represents the Public Health Agency of Canada on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dave Taylor

Dave Taylor is the past Chair of the BC Dairy Association and a Director with Dairy Farmers of Canada. He is a passionate advocate for the BC and national dairy industry.

He and his brother operate Viewfield Farms in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, although the success of their farm lies with all who are a part of the Viewfield team which involves 3 generations.

The Taylors have been the recipients of the Top Quality Milk award for Vancouver Island for 8 of the last 10 years and have been in the top 5 herds for milk quality in the province each of the past 5 years. They are strong advocates of DFC's quality assurance program proAction.

In 2008, Dave and his wife Lisa represented their farm in competition in BC, and then nationally in Calgary, where they were awarded the Canadian Outstanding Young Farmers Award.

The Taylors have been dairy farming since Dave's grandfather bought his first farm in 1946 in Saanichton, just outside of Victoria, BC. They milk 130 registered holsteins.

Marco Volpé

Marco Volpé holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science from Laval University (2003) and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Moncton University (2014). In 2003, he started working in the poultry sector managing health, animal care and environment. In 2006 he joined the Groupe Westco team and expanded its works in a well-diversified company. He's now Senior Manager and he's involved in the many projects the company has to offer. He has also been a member of the Ordre des Agronomes du Québec since 2004 and of the Nouveau-Brunswick Institute of Agrologists since 2005.

Marco is a director at Chicken Farmers of New Brunswick since 2016 and has been New Brunswick's Alternate Director at Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) since 2017. Marco is also a member of CFC's Production Committee and is a strong supporter of CFC's Animal Care Program and On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program. Marco joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in 2017 as the CFC representative.

Dr. Nina von Keyserlingk

Dr. Marina (Nina) von Keyserlingk grew up on a beef ranch in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia and is a Professor and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Chair in Animal Welfare in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia. Her interdisciplinary approach has focused on identifying measures and ways of improving the lives of animals under our care and she is among the first in her field to combine experimental and qualitative methods when addressing animal welfare issues.

She has published over 250 peer reviewed publications and has received numerous awards, including the 2018 Hans Sigrist Foundation Prize, administered by the University of Bern, Switzerland, for her outstanding achievements as an international leader working in the field of sustainable food animal production. She was also awarded the American Dairy Science Association's Extension Award in 2018 and Award for Excellence in Dairy Science in 2013. She has received the Award for outstanding contributions to the field of ruminant well-being by the World Buiatrics Association in 2016.

Dr. Nicole Wanamaker

Nicole Wanamaker has been a field veterinarian for the last 20 years in the New Brunswick Provincial Veterinary Service. She has served producers, small ruminant clients and horse owners as well as attending Guernsey and Holstein cattle and other livestock on her own dairy farm.

Now, as manager of the NB Provincial Veterinary Service, Nicole leads a team of 19 field veterinarians to serve producers and clients all across NB. In this position she has also become the Chief Veterinary Officer for New Brunswick.

Nicole represents New Brunswick on several committees such as the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN), the Veterinary Epidemiology Surveillance Network (VESN), The Chief Council of Veterinary Officers (CCVO), The Federal-Provincial Animal Welfare group (FPWF), and the Atlantic Canada Animal Health Surveillance Network.

Nicole is enthusiastic, eager and committed to serving her province and the animals and clients that she interacts with.

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National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council





our council support team



Dr. Melanie Barham
NFAHW Council Executive Director

Dr. Melanie Barham is the Executive Director of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council. She is a veterinarian, holds an MBA in Sustainable Commerce, and has a Project Management Professional designation.

Melanie joined the Council after coordinating the Ontario Animal Health Network at the Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph, from its inception in 2014 to 2021. She has held a variety of leadership positions in the laboratory, equine, and business spaces, including the president of the Canadian Animal Health Laboratorian's Network, Co-chair of the Equestrian Canada Health and Welfare Committee, Chair of the USAHA/AAVLD Committee for Workforce Development. Prior to 2014, Dr. Barham was in private equine practice.



Samantha Benattar
NFAHW Council Executive Assistant

Samantha Benattar has been working as secretariat to the NFAHW Council since 2011, shortly after the Council's inception. In this role, she has also been providing support to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). Prior to this, she worked for 13 years as an instructional designer and coordinator for the Bank of Montreal at their Institute for Learning.

Samantha obtained a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario in Anthropology, and having grown up in Montreal, also attended CEGEP at John Abbott's College in the West Island of Montreal.



Nicole Baker
NFAHW Council Bookkeeper

Nicole joined the NFAHW Council as a Senior Bookkeeper in April 2020. Nicole has over 20 years' experience in the bookkeeping field across a variety of industries. Her role is to establish and maintain the financial records, support the work of Council and its divisions, as well as ensuring that the efficient financial processes are well documented.

Nicole was born and raised in Victoria, Australia where she studied Business Administration. She is also a Certified Health Information Manager (CHIM).

Nicole, her husband, Michael and 15 year old daughter Mia, have two dogs, a Shitzu/poodle cross, named Panda and an Australian Cobberdog, named Cobber (Australian slang for Best Mate). She really enjoys entertaining, watching movies, as well as travelling, hiking, tennis and cooking.



Amy Wright
CLT Program Coordinator

Amy is the Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) program coordinator. She joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in August 2020 and has successfully transitioned the CLT program and provided administrative oversight to the on-line training platform.

Prior to this role, Amy was an award-winning marketer and project manager. In the past seven years she has specialized in promoting local food along with the producers and processors that provide it. Amy has successfully developed and executed campaigns for the Egg Farmers of Ontario, Turkey Farmers of Ontario and Veal Farmers of Ontario, which earned her two 2019 Ovation Awards from the International Association of Business Communicators.

Amy will continue to build relationships with industry partners and use her project management skills to improve and develop the CLT program.

contact us:

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