

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council welcomes new Operations and Animal Health Manager

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) is pleased to welcome Colleen McElwain to the newly created role of Operations and Animal Health Manager within Council as of November 29th, 2021. The role will provide support to the organization in developing operational infrastructure while supporting animal health files.

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. In 2020, she received her Certified Association Executive (CAE) professional designation. For over 15 years Colleen has worked within industry and government in various roles supporting animal health and welfare policy development and program implementation. As the Programs Director at Canadian Animal Health Institute, Colleen held a multi-functional role to provide organizational leadership in relation to communications, environmental stewardship programming, stakeholder relations and member service delivery. Prior to CAHI, she worked at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) leading her team on 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 policy and programming. She has participated on numerous national industry and government boards and committees, including a term as a Director at Large on the NFAHW Council Board representing the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI).

“Colleen’s breadth of experience with developing systems and operations as well as her long history within animal agriculture and animal welfare are key assets for her role with NFAHWC. Coupled with work on multiple Council committees and ability to move strategic files forward, we are very pleased to welcome Colleen to the team,” says Dr. Melanie Barham, Executive Director of the NFAHWC.

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 has evolved into a unique not for profit organization which is funded jointly by federal, provincial and industry/non-government stakeholders. 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 leads projects to address animal health and welfare stakeholder needs in Canada.