

NFAHW COUNCIL

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council



2012 - 2013 Annual Report



Report from the Co-Chairs

As Co-chairs of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (Council), it is our privilege to present this third annual report. Utilizing the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (Strategy) as the roadmap, the Council has been active on many fronts. This report outlines these activities and the progress that has been made in improving Canada's farmed animal health and welfare system.

The Council's vision continues to be that "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". The Council remains committed to delivering the key outcomes of the Strategy and to develop thoughtful and practical recommendations to achieve them.

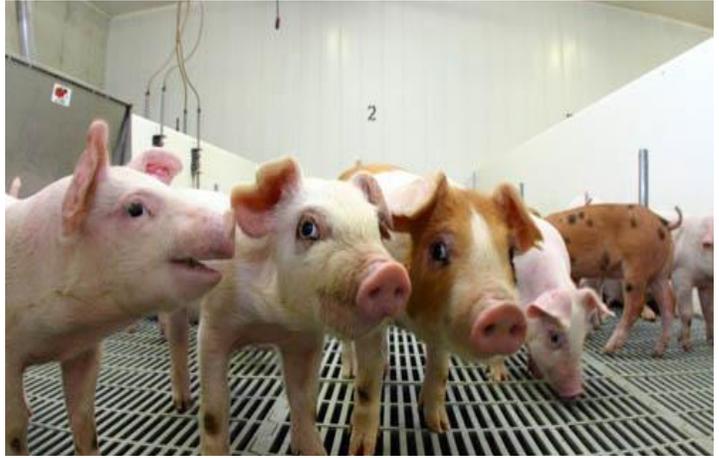
We find that the roles and responsibilities of each of the stakeholder partners are being re-examined and redefined. Collaboration with all the stakeholders in Canada's farmed animal industries continues to be a fundamental belief of the Council. Whether it is the production or distribution of livestock or livestock products, or the regulatory or program delivery, the Council recognizes the benefit of all the sectors being involved in determining the future of Canada's farmed animal health and welfare system. An example of this belief in collaboration has been the Council's work on the issue of Governance. The various models being examined all rely on industry and government working together.

This report will detail the achievements of the Council this past year, including but not limited to the following highlights:

- Council is regularly scheduled on the Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers' (ADM) meeting agenda with the co-chairs reporting on Council activities.
- The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFAACC) has begun implementing some of the recommendations made by the Council in its report "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada".
- The Council issued an interim report on Anticipation and Agri-intelligence.
- The annual forum hosted by the Council once again proved to be a success in bringing together stakeholders to discuss animal health and welfare issues. The issue of Governance was the topic of focus at Forum 2012.
- Relationships around the Council table continue to strengthen allowing for a broader understanding and acceptance of a "One Health" approach to address issues that affect multiple stakeholders in animal health, human health and environmental health.

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On behalf of the Council, we would also like to use this opportunity to extend our appreciation to all the stakeholders. The council recognizes that stakeholder support is necessary for it to achieve the anticipated results. To assist in maintaining the engagement and support of its stakeholders, the Council will continue to communicate regularly. The Council has made a determined effort in increasing communications to the stakeholders over the past year through this report, its website and its newsletters.

In closing, it is a privilege and an honour to represent such a professional and committed group of individuals that the Council has around the table. Canada's farmed animal health and welfare system is served well by this dedicated group and the knowledge and experience that they bring forth.

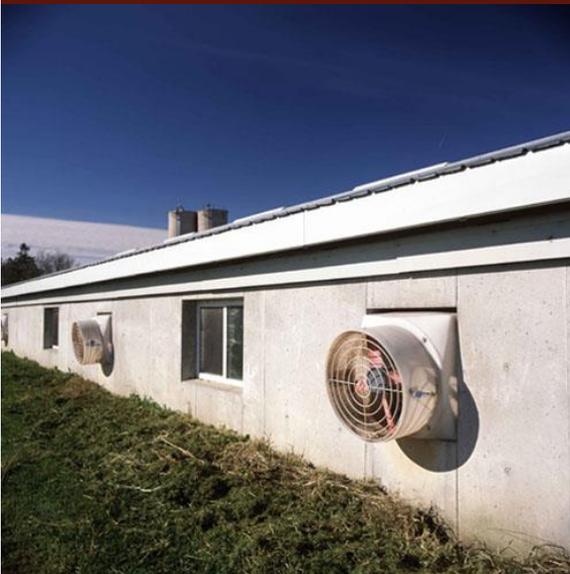
Sincerely,

Wayne Lees

Rob McNabb

Wayne Lees

Rob McNabb



About Us

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (Council) is a sub-committee of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Regulatory ADMs of Agriculture Committee. The Council was formed in July 2010 to implement the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy that was completed in 2009 (NFAHW Strategy). The Council is advisory to the Regulatory ADMs and all stakeholders.

The NFAHW Strategy envisions a collaborative relationship in the governance of Canada's animal health and welfare system that recognizes a shared responsibility between federal and provincial/territorial governments and industry stakeholders, in the context of "One Health", which considers animal health, public health, ecosystem health and economic health when developing solutions.

The Council is a unique organization with equal funding from federal and provincial/territorial governments and industry, and derives its membership from both the agriculture and public health communities.

Members of Council are asked to be non-representational in deliberations and to focus on enhancing Canada's animal health and welfare system. The Council has been a forum where an understanding of the authorities and concerns of the federal government, the provincial/territorial governments and the industry stakeholders that are represented can be built.

Achievements

Strategic

- As a sub-committee, Council is regularly scheduled on the Regulatory ADM meeting agenda with the co-chairs reporting on Council activities and their alignment with Regulatory ADM priorities. Recently the Council received a renewal of its mandate by the Regulatory ADMs Committee and renewed financial support by funding stakeholder (government and non-government) groups.
- Surveillance - "Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health" was developed and distributed in 2011.
 - A sub-committee of the Regulatory ADM Committee was established to review the recommendations in detail. The Council of Chief Veterinary Officers was charged with implementing some of the recommendations and Council continues to be updated on progress.
- Animal Welfare – "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada" was produced and distributed in 2012.
 - The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) has accepted responsibility for implementation of most of the recommendations in which NFACC was identified. Implementation will be subject to the NFACC budget and work plan capacity.
 - Council continues to follow up with the other organizations that were associated with recommendations outlined in the Council's advisory document.
- Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence – An interim report was issued in 2012 that identified that more work needs to be done in Canada's animal health system to move from data collection, to collation and analysis, and culminating in intelligence. There are some preliminary efforts being taken, an example being the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network, which gathers and collates field surveillance information from swine producers and practitioners. This is an encouraging early step in the effort to link field and laboratory-based surveillance.
- Governance – stakeholders were engaged in initial discussion on governance models at a one day workshop at Forum 2012. There was support from those attending for a collaborative model. Council continues to focus on work in this area. Further investigation of collaborative government-industry governance models in other countries is underway to determine what components might be applicable to the Canadian context. It is anticipated that a draft model will be brought forward at Forum 2013.
- Relationships at the Council table continue to develop so that there is a broader understanding of the inter-related impacts in a "One Health" approach. The Council members have been able to reflect this understanding in their Council and daily responsibilities. This holistic way of working is gaining increased visibility in all sectors.

Stakeholder outreach

- Forum 2012 – December 4 - 5, 2012
 - Approximately 100 participants representing federal and provincial governments and industry stakeholders.
 - Following a session on Council updates, a full day (two sessions) workshop was held on governance models.
 - Keynote presenters challenged those attending to take leadership roles.
- An Annual Report was produced reporting activities for the 2012 fiscal year.
- The Council website is being actively managed.- (www.ahwcouncil.ca and www.counseilsbe.ca)
 - Bilingual with public and secure sections.
 - Public access is provided to the Forum materials, Council reports and meeting dates.
 - The secure section provides a repository for active and confidential Council documents. Access is provided to Council members and working group members.
- Council presentations to stakeholder groups is an ongoing activity.

Administrative

- The Management Sub-Committee is active in managing the interface with the secretariat.
- A Finance Sub-Committee is active in budgeting and review of financial statements.

Meetings

- Four face-to-face Council meetings were held.
- Monthly teleconferences were held to facilitate progression of Council activities between meetings.
- The Management Sub-Committee meets approximately every two weeks with the secretariat by teleconference to plan agendas, monitor progress and review secretariat activities.
- Presentations have been received to build Council's knowledge of related activities.
 - Dr. Brian Evans - CFIA
 - Dr. Shane Renwick - CFIA – Fore-CAN
 - David McInnis – Canadian Agricultural Policy Institute
 - Peter Gaudet – AAFC – Foot and Mouth Disease project



Moving Forward

Progress on Strategic Outcomes of the NFAHW Strategy

The Terms of Reference require that Council consider progress on the Strategic Outcomes of the NFAHW Strategy as a measure of progress.

- 1. Improve capacity to avoid threats and anticipate opportunities**
“providing anticipation and forewarning of adverse events leading to avoidance and prevention”.

Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence – an interim report was issued recognizing the considerable work being done in the area and the need to review in 2 years.

Surveillance – the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers has begun the process of implementation of some of the recommendations in “Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health (2011)”.

Animal Welfare – the National Farm Animal Care Council has accepted responsibility for most of the recommendations designated to the organization in “A national farmed animal welfare system for Canada (2012), subject to finances and work plan capacity.

- 2. Improve capacity to respond to threats and create opportunities**
“building on preparation for a rapid and effective response”.

The surveillance advisory document, “Surveillance in a time of Transition in Farmed Animal Health”, provides a vision for advancing surveillance capability and coordination to ensure early identification and communication of disease with engagement of all stakeholders. The innovative approach of the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network and the work of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers are important implementation steps.

In addition, the Council received two presentations which provided expanded understanding of two activities focused on responding to threats and creating opportunities:

Dr. Shane Renwick, CFIA, updated the Council on the outcomes of the Fore-CAN project which used foresight to identify Canada’s needs for Animal Health Emergency Management in 2025. The Fore-CAN Assessment Tool was used to identify strengths and weaknesses in the key capability areas identified in the Fore-CAN project when considering Council priority areas. The tool continues to be an important framework against which to assess any new initiative.

Peter Gaudet, AAFC, updated the Council on the scope and progress of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) review which he is leading. The review goes far beyond the disease control response by CFIA and considers the much broader economic and social impacts on Canada. These include assessing and improving Canada’s capability to manage an FMD event and the policy considerations required to improve the management of impacts.



3. Improve public confidence in Canada's farmed animal health system

"accomplished through communication messages which demonstrate that animal health, public health, and ecosystem health are in balance".

Influencing this strategic outcome will be measured in the longer term as Council's recommendations are implemented. Contributing to progress are:

- Participation in the Council by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health (CCMOH) ensure that public health and the relationship of public health and animal health are considered.
- Relationships around the Council table have developed so that there is a broader understanding of the inter-related impacts in a "One Health" approach. The Council members have been able to reflect this understanding in their council and daily responsibilities.

The Council has expressed a desire to ensure input by those involved in ecosystem health on working groups when appropriate. There has also been consideration given to adding an "environmental" representative to the Council.

4. Improve industry viability

"by minimizing financial risk and expediting recovery to a normal business state".

All topics which will be considered by the Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome. A highly functional animal health and welfare system with active participation by all stakeholders is seen as the desirable way to achieve this strategic outcome.

The prioritization process which was developed to prioritize Council's consideration of the components of Canada's animal health and welfare system considers the impact on the system as one of the considerations.

The presentation by Peter Gaudet, AAFC, on the Foot and Mouth Disease project that he is leading, provided insight into a broader range of impacts and issues which the Council will consider in future discussions.

Impact of current action items:

- Surveillance and Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence will help to identify, prepare for and respond to disease threats quickly, thereby mitigating risk.
- Animal welfare must be considered in dealing with animal disease response and in dealing with trade and market expectations of animal care.
- Education and training will provide the long term leadership and development required to continue to develop the capabilities required in the animal health and welfare system.
- Governance is an essential component that supports all components in the system.

5. Improve market access

"through improved farmed animal health status and the credibility of the farmed animal health system".

All topics considered by the Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome. Progress on this strategic outcome is a result of an enhanced animal health and welfare system and will require longer term assessment of progress.

6. Improve capacity to protect public health

"by the farmed animal sector being an integral part of the 'one-health' system".

The work of the Council has focused on a One Health approach. The participation of PHAC and CCMOH has enhanced the understanding of the impact of animal health and welfare on public health and vice versa.

Council has begun work on antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance. Many groups are working on this issue, and the Council's role has been to facilitate communications among them, to ensure they are all aware of the work being done by others. This issue is of global interest and much work is being done both in Canada and internationally. The Council's continuing work will facilitate cooperation and coordination and increase impact.

7. Improve farmed animal care and welfare

“by sharing responsibility for farmed animal care and welfare practices that have a basis in science and reflect societal values”.

The animal welfare advisory document “A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada” (2012) provides recommendations for enhancing the system of animal welfare in Canada. Recommendations identify specific organizations such as the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) and the Federal Provincial Animal Welfare group (FPAW) for implementation.

8. Improve capacity to protect ecosystem health

“achieving an environmentally sustainable system for raising farmed animals”.

The “One Health” model used by council will ensure that all topics which will be considered by the Council will result in progress on this strategic outcome. The prioritization process considers impact on the environment. Council has identified the need to include input on ecosystem health when appropriate.

A highly functional animal health and welfare system with active participation by all stakeholders is seen as the desirable way to achieve this strategic outcome.



Council Members

Non-Government:

Dr. Pauline Duivenvoorden (April 2012 – October 2012)

Board Member – Dairy Farmers of Canada

David Murray

Board Member - Dairy Farmers of Canada

Dr. David Fraser

University of British Columbia - Animal Welfare Program

Jennifer MacTavish

Canadian Sheep industry

Rob McNabb

General Manager, Operations - Canadian Cattlemen's Association

Florian Possberg

Chair – Canadian Swine Health Board

Rick Thiessen (April 2012 – March 2013)

Board Member – Chicken Farmers of Canada

David Hyink

Board Member - Chicken Farmers of Canada

Dr. Norm Willis

Canadian Council on Animal Care

Federal Government:

John Ross

Director - Animal Industry Division, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Dr. Mark Raizenne

Director General, Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada

Dr. Ian Alexander

Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada/Executive Director- Animal Health Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Provincial/Territorial Governments:

Dr. Wayne Lees

Chief Veterinary Officer (Manitoba)– Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Dr. Gerald Hauer

Chief Provincial Veterinarian (Alberta), Food Safety & Animal Health Division, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development

Dr. Michel Major

Chief Veterinary Officer (Quebec), Direction de la santé animale et de l'inspection des viandes, MAPAQ

Dr. Kathryn Koliaska

Medical Officer of Health - Alberta Health Services

Our Supporters

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council acknowledge the following organizations for their funding contributions:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canadian Animal Health Institute
Canadian Cattlemen's Association
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
Canadian Livestock Genetics Association
Canadian Pork Council
Canadian Sheep Federation
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Chicken Farmers of Canada
Dairy Farmers of Canada
Egg Farmers of Canada
Equine 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 Nunavut
Government of Ontario
Government of Prince Edward Island
Government of Quebec
Government of Saskatchewan
Government of Yukon
National Farm Animal Care Council
Public Health Agency of Canada
Turkey Farmers of Canada

Financial Report

The following is the audited financial statement for Council Operations for the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013:

Revenue

Actual

Industry Support	104,500
Federal and Provincial Government Support	211,990
Sponsorship of Forum	12,300
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Revenue Total	328,790

Expenditures

Bad Debts	1,000
Communications	8,544
Forum expenses	56,967
Honourariums	11,900
Meetings	7,553
Office Supplies and Miscellaneous	322
Professional Fees	5,677
Research	45,196
Secretariat	129,003
Translation	7,534
Travel	39,943
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Expenditure Total	313,639

2013 Surplus/(Deficit)	15,151
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Photos courtesy of Ontario Farm
Animal Council