

## **Anticipation and Agri-Intelligence**

### **Progress report of the NFAHW Council**

November 8, 2012

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council encourages all stakeholders in Canada's livestock and poultry industry to promote opportunities to develop agri-Intelligence capability.

Anticipation and agri-Intelligence was included as a component of the Infrastructure Critical Element in the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. Improving Canada's capacity to create agri-Intelligence through the analysis of information would enhance the ability of governments and industry to anticipate and respond to disease emergency and trade threats and identify opportunities.

An important component in improving Canada's agri-Intelligence capacity is to create links among industry, federal and provincial governments. In 2012, the Council surveyed animal health and welfare stakeholders and identified that while they received vast amounts of information, little of it was agri-Intelligence. Furthermore, respondents to the survey indicated that agri-Intelligence could assist in acting proactively to identify opportunities, reduce the impact of adverse events, or avoid the latter altogether. Stakeholders also reported that agri-Intelligence ought to be customized for users.

The Council plans to stay engaged on this priority item with further developmental review within the next two years of this critical element of the national farmed animal health and welfare system. In the meantime, the Council encourages:

1. The development of the agri-Intelligence capacity of the Government of Canada, particularly in analysing international information.
2. The active consideration by governments and industry stakeholders of their role in development of domestic agri-Intelligence.
3. The development of a mechanism for the sharing of agri-Intelligence between industry and government, recognizing concerns with respect to privacy and secrecy.
4. The continued development of the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN).

## Past and Current Initiatives

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) had an Integrated agri-Intelligence Network that was operational in the early 2000's which was reported in an international journal<sup>1</sup>. The network involved a broad range of agencies and departments and participants with well developed intelligence skills.

The CFIA hosted a workshop in 2012 entitled "Enhancing Anticipation within an Integrated Animal Health Management System"<sup>2</sup> which undertook an assessment of the current state of anticipation and animal health intelligence in Canada using the ForeCAN Assessment Tool. Gaps and vulnerabilities were identified and prioritized. The workshop was supported by the Department of National Defence's Centre for Security Sciences.

The Canadian Swine Health Board has initiated the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network which provides information on trends and emerging issues for veterinarians and producers through a voluntary network using a social media tool. CSHIN is an example of users developing their intelligence network to suit their needs.

---

<sup>1</sup> Veterinaria Italiana 43(2), Fonda Munroe

<sup>2</sup> Enhancing Anticipation within an Integrated Animal Health Management System – Workshop Report – January 17-18,, 2012

C/o Canadian Animal Health Coalition, 660 Speedvale Av. West, Suite 205, Guelph, Ontario N1K 1E5

<http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/>