



## NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

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### NFAHW Council Forum 2016 and December 1 meeting

Ottawa

#### Forum 2016

Over 130 people gathered in Ottawa on November 29–30, 2016 to address issues important to animal agriculture at the NFAHW Council's 6th annual Forum. The theme of Forum 2016 was "Action on Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020". Representation included stakeholders with interest in animal health, animal welfare, federal and provincial governments and industry/non-government. It was impressive to hear the work that is proceeding on behalf of animal agriculture by many stakeholders.

In his opening address, Dr. Richard Rusk considered the commitment of agriculturalists to the land and their animals and the impact of critical issues on producer well-being and mental health, whether they be personal, economic, or disease related. He referenced current work reported at the International One Welfare Conference as well as other scientific articles. He challenged animal agriculture organizations to recognize the issue and ensure supports were in place for producers. Richard referred to the address by Dr. David Fraser at Forum 2015 which built the argument that agriculture was a profession.

The Council updated stakeholders on the activities over the past year, including the development of a national report on progress on FAHW2020, the work on emerging issues, AMU/AMR and transport of cull dairy cows in Canada.

**Presentations from Forum 2016 can be found on the Council website at <http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/forum/2016>,**

Dr. Martine Dubuc gave an enlightening presentation on the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) including some of the partnering activities and the Veterinary Services Evaluation program. She noted that Canada will participate in the Veterinary Services Evaluation in March of 2017 with a training session being held in December 2016 in Ottawa.

Included in the presentations were a series of presentations by stakeholders who are impacting progress on the strategic outcomes and priorities of Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020. The presentations demonstrated the diversity of activities and organizations that are making a difference.

The final session addressed the important issue of antimicrobial resistance. Following presentations on the best practices for stewardship of antimicrobial resistance by Dr. Jaap Wagenaar and Dr. John Conly, experts in animal agriculture and human medicine, there was discussion of the role of veterinarians in prescribing, a regulatory update and an update on the development of the pan-Canadian Framework on AMR.

**Thank you to our Forum 2016 sponsors for their generous support!**

**Government of Canada – through the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

**Government of Manitoba**

**Government of Saskatchewan**

**Canadian Animal Health Institute**

**Chicken Farmers of Canada**

**Canadian Animal Health Coalition**

The following broad topics were provided to the Council for consideration for inclusion in future work plans. A transcript of the contributions from Forum 2016 participants has been provided to Council. They will be considered in the development of future work areas.

- How Council operates, communicates and includes stakeholders
- Competitiveness, Innovation and Growth
- AMU/AMR
- Biosecurity
- Slaughter Capacity
- Welfare
- Transport/Slaughter
- Consumer Trust
- Surveillance
- Use of Beta Antagonists
- Psychological first aid/Safe Work/Human Outcomes
- FPAW/Federal Provincial Cooperation re gaps in animal welfare
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While in Canada for Forum 2016, Dr. Jaap Wagenaar was very generous with his time and had meetings with CFIA staff at the Fallowfield Laboratory, a researcher from Carleton University, a contractor with one of the AMR Task Teams, a scientist seminar at Public Health Canada, the industry organizations, the Ontario Veterinary College and the Public Health Agency of Canada staff in Guelph. The Council was pleased to facilitate these additional contacts for the benefit of stakeholders.

Also, the Council was able to facilitate meetings of CgFARAD Advisory Board, the CAHSS Poultry Network and the Canadian Animal Health Coalition's Emergency Management project around the time of the Forum.

## **December 1 NFAHW Council meeting**

Council had an abbreviated meeting on December 1, 2016. The agenda included a debrief on Forum 2016, the workplan for 2017 based on input from Forum 2016 and administrative items. The Council will be requesting external participation on working groups again this year.

## **Plant and Animal Health Strategy**

All stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the consultation/input on the Plant and Animal Health Strategy which closes on December 31<sup>st</sup>. An online option is available at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/>. The Council has identified that animal welfare should be specifically recognized in the strategy and that there are a number of successful activities in animal agriculture such as the Council itself and the National Farm Animal Care Council. These should be recognized as important activities within the Plant and Animal Health Strategy.

The Council will meet by teleconference on January 12, 2017

### **Would your board like an update from the Council?**

Member organizations are invited to request a presentation from Council at board or committee meetings. These can be done in person or electronically.



**Seasons greetings and best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2017, from the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.  
Thank you for your support in 2016.**

*Council reports, meeting dates and other information can be found on the Council website at [www.ahwcouncil.ca](http://www.ahwcouncil.ca).*

*The NFAHW Council is composed of individuals designated or elected from the three stakeholder groups - industry, provincial/territorial government and federal government - which support the Council. Members are non-representational when working on Council. Animal health and welfare and public health are included in the Council membership. Additionally, Dr. Harpreet Kochhar sits as an ex-officio member in his role as CVO of Canada.*

[www.ahwcouncil.ca](http://www.ahwcouncil.ca)

[nfahwcouncil@animalhealth.ca](mailto:nfahwcouncil@animalhealth.ca)