



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

July 2014

Issue 7

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NEWSLETTER

NFAHW Council meeting June 19 & 20

At this meeting, the NFAHW Council welcomed Dr. Richard Rusk, a medical officer in Manitoba, designated by the Canadian Council of Chief Medical Officers (CCMOH). Richard brings experience as both a veterinarian and medical doctor to Council. He noted that he saw value in the inclusion of both human health and animal health and welfare in the discussion of issues at the table and was encouraged by the thought that went into decisions.

Work Areas

Strategy renewal

The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (2009) was developed to provide a roadmap to 2015 and continues to provide guidance for farmed animal health and welfare. The renewed strategy will build on this strategy with revisions to the strategic outcomes and priorities to provide guidance to 2020. In addition, the strategy renewal process will engage all stakeholders in the strategy by creating a community of animal health and welfare stakeholders. Community members will contribute to achievement of the strategic outcomes by identifying activities in their workplan which contribute to the strategic outcomes and reporting activities for inclusion in a national annual report.

Engagement with stakeholders began with webinars on April 16, 2014 which reported to attendees of Forum 2013 and has continued with meetings with national and provincial organizations to provide an update and engage the organizations in the process. The webinar presentations are posted on the Council website. www.ahwcouncil.ca

Meetings and teleconferences are scheduled through to the fall. Organizations interested in an update for their board or an appropriate committee may contact the secretariat to make arrangements. nfahwcouncil@animalhealth.ca.

Council anticipates releasing the renewed strategy at Forum 2014, with implementation beginning in 2015.

AMU/AMR

The scope of the working group is both antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance. This issue is urgent and of global importance.

The working group provided an update to the Council with proposed recommendations for consideration of the Council. Each proposed recommendation was considered and suggestions were made for enhancement. Additional recommendations were also proposed. The working group will consider the Council input and report back to Council at the August teleconference. A revised report will be considered at the September 2014 Council meeting.

Council is aware there is considerable ongoing work in this area and will avoid duplicating efforts with existing initiatives.

Emerging Issues

The Council received a report from Harpreet Kochhar, CVO for Canada, which included his approach to emerging issues as well as a review of the collaborative handling of the recent Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea outbreak.

The NFAHW Council's Emerging issues committee will meet and consider the scope and process for addressing an enhanced approach to Emerging Issues in Canada.

Governance

The Council has considered governance of the animal health and welfare system for several years. A collaborative system, recognizing the importance of all partners, is the desired approach. A collaborative approach was investigated in earlier work and discussed by participants in Forum 2012 and 2013.

As reported in the June Council Update, in order to deal with a manageable piece of the system, the Council is focusing on governance of the surveillance system.

Council received a report from the Governance of Surveillance workshop committee which outlined the approach, deliverables and budget for the workshop planned for September 2014. The workshop will be by invitation and will utilize various surveillance projects. Outcomes will be reported at Forum 2014.

A debrief of the workshop will be included on the September 2014 Council agenda.

Animal Welfare Research Capacity

This project is an outcome from recommendation #7 in the Council's animal welfare advisory statement – "[A national farm animal welfare system for Canada](#)" (2012). The project is led by AAFC with Council participation.

Council received a report from the project committee which included proposed recommendations to enhance animal welfare research capacity in Canada. Recommendations were considered and suggestions were made for enhancement. The working group will meet to consider revisions and report back to Council at a summer teleconference with a finalized report presented at the September Council meeting.

"The discussion at the Council was not forcing consensus but enabling collaboration."

Dr. Richard Rusk

Forum 2014

The annual Forum is an important opportunity for stakeholder participation. The input gained at previous Forums has contributed to the Council activities. Council received a planning report for Forum 2014 and provided input to assist the further development of the Forum.

Forum 2014 will be held November 24–25, 2014 in Ottawa. The agenda is being developed with input from Council and will include reporting from many projects underway in Canada which are furthering progress on the strategic outcomes of the NFAHW Strategy as well as Council updates.

Guest Presentation

Loblaw – corporate sustainability

Sonya Fiorini, Senior Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Loblaw Companies Limited, made a presentation on Loblaw corporate social responsibility. Included in the presentation were Loblaw sustainability priorities, the importance of animal welfare and opportunities for collaboration. Sonya noted the commitment that Loblaw has to the National Farm Animal Care Council and the potential for engagement on other issues.

Other

Long Duration Transport of Animals

Council had tabled its consideration of the long duration transport of animals in 2013 due to the work of the animal welfare research capacity project and the movement on the revised transport regulations. David Fraser asked we consider reactivating this issue with inclusion on the September Council agenda.

It was noted that the pre-consultation report for the revised transport regulations will be posted on the CFIA website soon.

British Columbia dairy abuse

Council received information on the investigation following the release of a video by Mercy for Animals, showing abuse at a dairy farm in B.C.

Zoning

Council received an update on the zoning consultation which is ongoing by CFIA as part of the work on recognition of zoning by US and Canada under the Regulatory Cooperation Council.

Assessment

The Council considered a proposal from Dr. Jeffery Spooner to study the implementation of the Council advisory statement "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada". Further details have been requested.

The NFAHW Council congratulates **Dr. Norman G. Willis** on his appointment as a member of the **Order of Canada**. Norm provided leadership in identifying the need for a collaborative relationship between governments and industry in Canada's animal health and welfare system. He was instrumental in the development of the NFAHW Strategy (2009) and was elected by the industry/non-government groups to the Council when it was formed in 2010. He also led the development of the Council's advisory statement on surveillance - "[Surveillance in a time of transition in farmed animal health](#)" (2011).

Thank you, Norm, for your commitment and input.

SAVE THE DATE

NFAHW COUNCIL

The NFAHW Council is pleased to be hosting its fourth annual
NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE FORUM 2014
Your opportunity to participate in the work of the Council

November 24th and 25th
Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario

Have a voice in shaping Canada's animal health and welfare system

Check the Council website for updates
<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, Harpreet Kochhar sits as an ex-officio member in his role as CVO of Canada.

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