

March 19, 2014

## NFAHW Council teleconference notes

Council has met three times by teleconference since the beginning of 2014. The working groups have been actively working and briefed the Council on the teleconferences. Council will be engaged in fulsome discussions on the various work areas at the Council meeting on April 10-11, 2014 to be held in Toronto.

### Changes to Council

#### New members to Council:

- Jane Pritchard, Chief Veterinary Officer of British Columbia joins the Council as a designate of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers.
- Harpreet Kochhar, Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate, CFIA and Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer joins the Council as an ex officio member as per the Council Terms of Reference

#### Co-Chair:

- John Ross, the designate of AAFC to the Council, has accepted the role of the government co-chair for the next year, while Rob McNabb, CCA designate, will continue on in the role of industry Co-Chair

### Work Areas

#### Strategy Renewal

The working group has considered the input from the Forum 2013 and has revised the strategic outcomes and priorities to be inclusive of input from the Forum 2013. The Council has approved the strategy as revised and the implementation process will begin.

The renewed animal health and welfare strategy will provide direction for stakeholders until 2020, continuing from the existing strategy. Stakeholders will be asked to take ownership of the strategy by considering the strategy in developing annual work plans and reporting on activities in their work plans which align with the priorities and contribute to the strategic outcomes. This input will contribute to the annual reporting on the strategy. A Canadian animal health and welfare community will be created through this process.

A series of webinars are planned in the next few months to build awareness and engage stakeholders at a national, provincial and local level. Members of the working group will also respond to requests for presentations at organizational board or committee meetings as time and resources allow.

A formal announcement of the renewed strategy is anticipated late in 2014.

The renewal of the strategy is a centerpiece of the work of the Council this year.

## **Governance**

The Governance working group has considered the input from the Forum 2013 and some other input from stakeholders encouraging the Council to consider working with a piece of the animal health and welfare system rather than the whole.

The working group will be focusing their work on development of a collaborative governance approach to surveillance. There are components of surveillance which are the responsibility of the federal government, provincial/territorial governments and industry. Surveillance does not need to be limited to disease.

Once the report from the Institute on Governance is formally accepted by the Council it will be posted on the Council website.

## **Antimicrobial Use/Antimicrobial Resistance**

Michel Major has assumed the role of chair of the AMU/AMR working group. The working group has met once and brainstormed among the working group members on their concerns about AMU/AMR and possible recommendations that might be considered. The input has been compiled and will be the basis for working group meeting later in March and will be the basis of discussion at the April Council meeting.

There are many activities in the area of AMU/AMR which the Council will need to consider when developing recommendations on this topic in a One Health context.

## **Animal Welfare Research Capacity Project**

The project is being led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the NFAHW Council as a response to one recommendation in the Council's animal welfare advisory paper "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada (2012)". It is planned for the project to be complete by late spring 2014.

The process of gathering questionnaires from industry and other non-government organizations is almost complete and those submitted have been compiled.

In addition, a survey of animal welfare researchers has been completed and the input is being compiled and summarized.

The working group will be meeting in late March to consider the input and begin to work on next steps.

## **Emerging Issues**

The Emerging Issues working group will be reactivated at the April Council meeting. It has been inactive since Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) has been detected in Canada. Once activated, the working group will consider a Terms of Reference proposed by CFIA for an emerging issues committee to support the Chief Veterinary Officer in assessing these situations.

In 2013, the working group used PED as a model for considering how various players work together in the face of an emerging disease. The working group hosted some stakeholder calls on PED which were later facilitated by the CVO of Canada. These proved very important in ensuring timely and accurate transfer of information.

The PED response will provide an opportunity to examine lessons learned and offer advice on improving the process.

#### **Forum 2014**

Forum 2014 will be held Monday, November 24 and Tuesday, November 25, in Ottawa. Further updates will be provided as details are confirmed.

## **SAVE THE DATE**



**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 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
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/>