

AHC

Program
Guide



AnimalHealthCanada

FORUM 2026



TURNING INSIGHT INTO ACTION FOR CANADA'S ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE SYSTEM
SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2026 | INFINITY CONVENTION CENTRE, OTTAWA

AnimalHealthCanada

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Forum brings together diverse perspectives, expertise, and experiences from across and beyond Canada's animal health and welfare system. This year's program is designed to broaden our view of the environment in which we work — creating opportunities to make connections across issues, anticipate change, and bring new thinking into the work our community advances throughout the year.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Animal Health Canada acknowledges that our work takes place across the lands and waters now known as Canada, and across the traditional and treaty territories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples.

As a national organization, we recognize the enduring relationships Indigenous Peoples have with these lands, waters, animals, and communities, and the knowledge and stewardship that continue to shape them today.

We are grateful for the opportunity to gather, learn, and work together, and we approach this work with respect for the diverse histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

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Co-Chair Welcome Message

Welcome to Animal Health Canada Forum 2026.

Each year, Forum brings together people from across Canada's animal health and welfare system to consider the issues shaping our work, exchange ideas, and look beyond immediate priorities to what may be emerging on the horizon.

This year's theme, Turning Insight into Action, reflects what we hope Forum contributes to our work as a community. New knowledge has greatest value when it sharpens our thinking, challenges established approaches, and shapes what comes next.

Throughout the year, AHC members and partners advance shared priorities through programs, networks, leadership tables, and collaborative initiatives. Forum creates space to bring new thinking into that work. To look beyond immediate demands, consider what is changing around us, and explore where new ideas might lead. Each Forum builds on the knowledge and experience of our community and strengthens our capacity to act together.

This year's program brings together conversations on animal welfare, biosecurity, cybersecurity and agro-terrorism, and misinformation and disinformation. Across those discussions, we will explore how change is advanced when expectations and practical realities do not always move at the same pace; what it takes to coordinate action across governments, industry, and other partners; how the risk environment is expanding beyond traditional animal health boundaries; and what happens when evidence alone may not be enough to sustain trust and confidence.

Our hope is that bringing these conversations together gives our community a fuller view of the environment in which we are operating, and a stronger basis for anticipating change, setting priorities, and making decisions about where collective effort can have the greatest impact.

Forum is ultimately about what becomes possible when this community comes together, testing ideas against experience, connecting work that may not otherwise intersect, and building a stronger shared understanding of the challenges ahead. Just as importantly, the lessons learned and insights gained here can travel beyond Forum, as participants bring them back to their organizations, sectors, and networks, helping to inform broader conversations and strengthen our collective response across Canada's animal health and welfare system.



Dr. Leigh Rosengren

Industry Co-Chair, Animal Health
Canada



Donald Boucher

Government Co-Chair, Animal
Health Canada

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Agenda

DAY 1 - AFTERNOON SESSION | Tuesday, September 22, 2026

1:00 PM EDT	Greeting and Opening Remarks
1:20 PM	Forum 2026 Session One - Rising Animal Welfare Expectations
1:25 PM	Keynote: Managing Change in Animal Welfare: Trade-offs, Timelines, and Courage Dr. Nina von Keyserlingk, University of British Columbia
2:25 PM	From Policy to Practice: Global Strategies for Improving Farm Animal Welfare Robert Hoste, Wageningen Economic Research
3:20 PM	Break
3:50 PM	Influencing On-Farm Change Dr. Claire Windeyer, ACER Consulting Ltd.
4:25 PM	Panel Discussion: Big Picture View of Farm Animal Welfare Drivers, Influences, and Direction Moderator: Katerina Kolemishenska, Canadian Pork Council Panelists: • Dr. Nina von Keyserlingk, University of British Columbia • Robert Hoste, Wageningen Economic Research • Dr. Claire Windeyer, ACER Consulting Ltd.
5:35 PM	Closing Remarks
5:45 - 8:00 PM	Animal Health Canada Awards Ceremony - Wine & Cheese

The full program has been approved for 8.25 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions that recognize Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) approval.

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Agenda

DAY 2 - MORNING SESSIONS | Wednesday, September 23, 2026

7:30 AM EDT	Breakfast
8:15 AM	Opening Remarks
8:25 AM	Forum 2026 Session Two - Evolving Canada's Biosecurity Strategy
8:30 AM	Keynote: Building National Alignment for Biosecurity Dr. Beth Cookson, Chief Veterinary Officer of Australia
9:05 AM	Turning National Biosecurity Priorities into Action Dr. Samantha Allan, Animal Health Australia
10:05 AM	Break
10:35 AM	Forum 2026 Session Three - Cybersecurity and Agro-Terrorism
10:40 AM	Understanding Cybersecurity Whitney Bowman-Zatzkin, BIO-ISAC
11:40 AM	Biothreat Reduction and Preparedness Trevor Smith, Global Affairs Canada
12:25 PM	Lunch

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Agenda

DAY 2 - AFTERNOON SESSION | Wednesday, September 23, 2026

1:25 PM EDT

Forum 2026 Session Four - The Growing Impact of Misinformation and Disinformation

1:35 PM

Knowledge Crisis: How Did We Get Here and What Can We Do?
Timothy Caulfield, University of Alberta

2:35 PM

New Vulnerability in Animal Health? Effects of the Information Ecosystem on Diseases, Economics, and Policy
Dr. Guillaume Lhermie, University of Calgary

Please note: This presentation will be delivered in French. Headsets will be available for simultaneous English interpretation.

3:20 PM

Break

3:50 PM

Misinformation Panel Discussion: Rebuilding Trust
Moderator: André Picard, The Globe and Mail

Panelists:

- Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Market and Industry Services, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Timothy Caulfield, University of Alberta
- Dr. Guillaume Lhermie, University of Calgary

4:40 PM

Interactive Discussion: Identifying and Using Tools for Misinformation
Facilitator: Ashley Bruner, Canadian Centre for Food Integrity

5:30 PM

Closing Remarks

The full program has been approved for 8.25 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions that recognize Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) approval.



Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Dr. Nina von Keyserlingk

Professor and Research Chair in Animal Welfare, University of British Columbia

Professor and Research Chair in Animal Welfare at University of British Columbia, Dr. Nina von Keyserlingk has dedicated her career to improving the lives of farm animals through innovative, interdisciplinary research. Among the first researchers to combine experimental and qualitative approaches to animal welfare, she has published more than 400 peer-reviewed scientific papers and is an internationally respected speaker.

Her research has transformed how animal agriculture understands and advances animal welfare, helping drive meaningful change across the sector. A passionate mentor and champion for evidence-based progress, Dr. von Keyserlingk was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2025 in recognition of her extraordinary contributions.



Katerina Kolemishenska

Interim Executive Director, Canadian Pork Council

Katerina Kolemishenska is a recognized leader in agricultural policy, sustainability, and international development, bringing a global perspective to some of the most pressing challenges facing Canada's animal health and agriculture sectors. With expertise spanning governance, strategic planning, and rural economic development, she works to advance sustainable farming practices by bringing together producers, industry, and governments to align policy, innovation, and market access.

Throughout her career, Katerina has directed initiatives for leading international organizations, including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the European Commission, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. She began her career supporting supply chain development and innovative financing in emerging markets through German international development organizations.



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Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Robert Hoste

Senior Pig Production Economist at Wageningen Social & Economic Research

Robert Hoste brings more than 35 years of experience analyzing the economics, sustainability, and competitiveness of pig production around the world.

As Chair of InterPIG and a recognized expert with agri benchmark Pig, European Pig Producers, and the Dutch Council of Experts for Sustainable Husbandry Systems, Robert has advised governments, producers, and industry leaders across Europe, Asia, and South America. His work helps shape practical strategies that improve farm performance, supply chain resilience, and long-term sustainability.

From international production cost benchmarking to emerging sustainability challenges and the future of global pork production, Robert delivers evidence-based perspectives that resonate with producers, policymakers, researchers, and industry decision-makers alike.



Thank you to

Ravneet Kaur,

Director Animal Health and Policy,

Canadian Pork Council,

for introducing Robert Hoste.

Biosecurity supports:



Protecting
Animal health



Disease
prevention



On-farm
preparedness



Sector
resilience

Canada's pork sector is strengthening on-farm biosecurity through collaboration, innovation, preparedness, and practical tools like the **Canadian Swine Biosecurity Guideline**. These efforts help reduce disease risk, protect animal health, and support a resilient Canadian pork sector.

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Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Dr. Claire Windeyer

Consultant at ACER Consulting Ltd.

Dr. Claire Windeyer is a consultant with ACER Consulting Ltd. and former Associate Professor at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, where she taught epidemiology, health management, and bovine medicine.

Internationally recognized for translating research into practical, on-farm solutions, Dr. Windeyer's work focuses on calf health and welfare, producer decision-making, disease prevention, and knowledge mobilization. Her evidence-based approach has helped producers, veterinarians, researchers, and industry leaders bridge the gap between science and everyday practice. Known for her engaging presentations and practical insights, Dr. Windeyer delivers actionable strategies that improve animal health, strengthen management decisions, and support resilient, sustainable livestock production.



Thank you to
Adam Petherick,
Director, Ontario
Dairy Farmers of Canada
for introducing
Dr. Claire Windeyer.



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the best for a successful
2026 AHC Forum**

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Thank you to **Kathleen Sullivan**,
Vice President of Government & Industry Relations, Maple Leaf Foods
for sharing a greeting with Forum 2026 attendees.



Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Dr. Beth Cookson

Chief Veterinary Officer of Australia

As the Australian Government's principal advisor on animal health and biosecurity and Australia's Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Dr. Cookson works at the intersection of government, industry, science, and international collaboration. Her experience spans animal health surveillance, emergency disease preparedness and response, biosecurity risk analysis, trade, and capacity building across Australia and neighbouring countries.



From strengthening partnerships to prepare for threats such as Foot and Mouth Disease to advancing coordinated action on antimicrobial resistance, her work demonstrates the power of alignment across sectors and borders.

Dr. Samantha Allan

Chief Executive Officer at Animal Health Australia

With more than 30 years of experience spanning veterinary practice, government leadership, emergency animal disease preparedness, and national biosecurity policy, Dr. Allan has dedicated her career to strengthening partnerships that protect animal health and support resilient agricultural systems. As CEO of Animal Health Australia, she works at the forefront of collaboration between government, industry, and stakeholders to enhance emergency response capability and address emerging biosecurity challenges.



Drawing on her extensive leadership experience and passion for partnership-based solutions, Dr. Allan will share valuable insights into building resilient animal health systems, advancing One Health principles, and preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

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Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Whitney Bowman-Zatzkin

Co-Founder and Director of BIO-ISAC

Whitney Bowman-Zatzkin is a recognized leader at the intersection of biotechnology, cybersecurity, and systems resilience. As co-founder and director of BIO-ISAC, she leads global efforts to strengthen cyberbiosecurity across the bioeconomy—from agriculture and food systems to AI, supply chains, healthcare, and vaccine development.

With more than 20 years of experience, Whitney has built an impressive career advancing healthcare policy, quality improvement, data integrity, transparency, and cross-sector collaboration, including leadership of initiatives supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Known for connecting diverse stakeholders to tackle complex challenges, she is helping shape how governments, industry, and researchers work together to protect critical biological innovation and infrastructure.

At Animal Health Canada Forum 2026, Whitney will share timely insights into emerging cybersecurity risks specific to Canada's animal health and agri-food sectors, using Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) as a case example.

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Thank you to

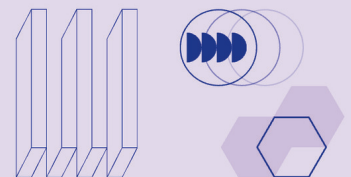
Jim Reid,

Senior Business Development Manager,

ENGINESS,

for introducing Whitney Bowman-Zatzkin.

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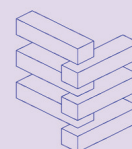


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Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Trevor Smith

Senior Program Manager with Global Affairs Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program

Trevor Smith has spent more than two decades advancing international efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

Since joining Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program at its inception in 2002, Trevor has overseen the development and implementation of more than \$750 million in international threat reduction and capacity-building initiatives spanning Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. His leadership has helped launch groundbreaking global initiatives, including the Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa (SIMBA), the Countering WMD Disinformation Initiative, and IMPACT-WMD.



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Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Timothy Caulfield

Professor at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law and School of Public Health, and Research Director of the Health Law Institute

Professor at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law and School of Public Health, and Research Director of the Health Law Institute, Timothy Caulfield has spent decades examining the intersection of science, health policy, and society.

Through more than 400 academic publications, four bestselling books, the internationally acclaimed television series *A User's Guide to Cheating Death*, and the science engagement initiative **#ScienceUpFirst**, he has become one of Canada's most influential voices in combating misinformation and championing evidence-based decision-making.

Whether you work in animal health, public health, government, academia, or industry, this thought-provoking session will explore the political and social forces driving misinformation and why safeguarding trust in science is essential to protecting the health of animals, people, and our shared future.



Thank you to
Bob Burden, Director, Serecon,
for introducing Timothy Caulfield.



Specialists in the
business of agriculture.

 www.serecon.ca
 info@serecon.ca



Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Dr. Guillaume Lhermie

Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary

A veterinarian-turned-economist and internationally recognized One Health policy expert, Dr. Lhermie brings a unique perspective shaped by clinical practice, pharmaceutical industry leadership, and world-class research. He advises the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on antimicrobial resistance and pandemic preparedness while leading initiatives that bridge science, economics, and policy.

Drawing on global experience in livestock systems and international health governance, Dr. Lhermie will examine how the information ecosystem influences animal health outcomes, economic resilience, and policy decision; and what Canada can do to strengthen preparedness in an increasingly connected world.



André Picard

Health reporter and columnist, The Globe and Mail

André Picard is one of Canada's most respected health journalists. A longtime health columnist with The Globe and Mail, he is the author of six books, including his most recent, *Neglected No More*, an examination of Canada's eldercare crisis.

Recognized for making complex health issues accessible and compelling, André has received numerous honours for his journalism and advocacy, including the prestigious Michener Award for Meritorious Public Service Journalism and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

A Member of the Order of Canada, André holds degrees from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University and has received honorary doctorates from eight Canadian universities, including the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto.



Meet Our Speakers and Panelists

Tom Rosser

Assistant Deputy Minister, Market and Industry Services,
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Tom is Assistant Deputy Minister of Market and Industry Services at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), where he leads a diverse portfolio spanning trade negotiations, sector competitiveness, emergency management and regional engagement.

A member of AAFC's senior management team since 2017, Tom previously served as Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategic Policy and has held senior roles at Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Natural Resources Canada. His career spans both the public and private sectors, with extensive experience in economic and public policy and government-industry relations.

A British Chevening Scholar, Tom holds a Master of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics from the University of London, as well as a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Public Administration from Carleton University.



Ashley Bruner

Director of Research and Stakeholder Engagement,
Canadian Centre for Food Integrity

Ashley Bruner is Director of Research and Stakeholder Engagement at the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI), where she brings data into insight—and insight into action.

With more than a decade of research and policy experience, Ashley has a talent for uncovering what Canadians think, why it matters and how Canada's food system can respond. Over eight years at CCFI, she has helped shape conversations and strategies that strengthen public trust in food.

Driven by curiosity, a sharp eye for detail and a genuine passion for Canada's food system, Ashley brings clarity and meaning to the issues that matter most.



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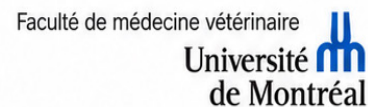
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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Government of Canada

Animal Health Canada gratefully acknowledges the Government of Canada, through Canadian Heritage, for its financial support of French interpretation services at Forum 2026.

This support helps make Forum more accessible in both of Canada's official languages.

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada 



The value of Forum

extends beyond the ideas shared here.

It lies in what this community does with greater knowledge, stronger connections, and a broader understanding of the environment in which we work.

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VENUE



INFINITY CONVENTION CENTRE



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