



Canadian Animal Health Coalition
Coalition canadienne pour la santé des animaux

'...promoting a collaborative approach to animal health'

INDUSTRY FORUM REPORT

Presidents and Executive Directors' Meeting - December 9, 2009
Best Western Victoria Park Suites Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

Background

The Canadian Animal Health Coalition has facilitated Presidents and Executive Directors' meetings for several years to allow high level cross-sectoral discussion to occur. This year, it was considered desirable to broaden the invitation list to include other stakeholders in Canada's animal health system to broaden the discussion and demonstrate the new relationship which is evolving.

Industry Forum invitations were sent to all industry organizations in animal agriculture in Canada, Council of Chief Veterinary Officers, AAFC and CFIA. In spite of a snow storm which made travel difficult, we had 26 attendees although some were not able to attend the entire session due to travel interruptions. We had one person attend via teleconference.

The meeting was introduced by Rob McNabb, Chair of CAHC. The purpose of the meeting was stated as an effort by the CAHC to provide a forum for discussion by industry and government stakeholders of changes in the Canadian animal agriculture that are evidenced in a number of current initiatives and projects.

Four presentations on current initiatives were used to set the stage for the discussion period. These presentations were:

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (NFAHWS) – presented by Dr. Allan Preston, Regulatory ADM of Manitoba, Reg ADM champion of NFAHWS and co-chair of the recent NFAHWS Steering Committee. *The presentation is attached.*

Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN) – presented jointly by Dr. Harold Kloeze and Dr. Primal Silva who are both intimately involved with CAHSN in their roles at CFIA. *The presentation is attached.*

Traceability – presented by Rob McNabb, Chair CAHC and General Manager of Operations, CCA. There was no slide presentation but notes are included later in the report.

ForeCan Project – presented by Dr. Shane Renwick, CFIA who is the project lead. This project is about long term planning for CFIA emergency response. *The presentation is attached.*

“As we heard it” notes are attached as an appendix on page 4 of this report. Presentations that were in PowerPoint format are available from the CAHC office.

Following the presentations, Dr. Empringham as facilitator made some overall comments to introduce the discussion period. These comments included:

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- A commitment to **long term investment** is required. This was mentioned in the NFAHWS, Traceability and CAHSN presentations. The ForeCan project is still early in its funding and will likely reach this point at some time later in the project.
 - The changes that are included in these presentations require **culture change**. This will take time and commitment to achieve.
 - **Different partnerships and relationships** will be required, moving into human health and environment. These will require effort and time to develop so that collaborative relationships are built.
 - **We need to reach beyond national relationships and impacts** – need to work internationally to ensure development of infrastructure to protect Canada from the outside – covered in the NFAHWS (not included in presentation).

Discussion Period

Dr. Empringham as facilitator captured some key words and linkages from the discussion period. These were:

- Communication
- Proactive
- Project vs Program – ie sustainable funding
- Agriculture influence on public health
- Culture Change – linked contact with broader number of agencies and departments – linked to long term funding – linked to underfunded short term activities
- Agriculture is lost at the cabinet table – seen as “black hole”
- Big Picture
- Need to input

Discussion period comments are captured in the “As we heard it” notes are attached as an appendix on page 4 of this report.

Closing Comments

Dr. Empringham did a meeting wrap-up. Although not verbatim, the following is reflective of the wrap-up comments.

- All reports included comments about the need for **new relationships** and **collaboration** as an essential component as we move forward.
- There are **lots of initiatives** going on – the recent ForeCan scanning process identified 100+ influencing projects/initiatives. It was noted that these initiatives are not duplication but influencing.
- A number of people commented that the **implementation of the council proposed under the NFAHWS should happen quickly** so that it can begin to operate and demonstrate value.
- All discussion initiatives demonstrate the **complexity** of working in Canada including jurisdictional issues, influence of agricultural policy framework on policy and funding for industry and provinces, and the complexity of governance as industry is added to the mix.
- **Communication** is required to ensure that awareness of the many initiatives influencing change works its way below the national organizations to help create momentum.
- **“One Health”** is woven through presentations and discussion. We need to be aware that depending on where you sit (health, animal health, environment), the understanding of “one health” is different.
- Awed by the **energy and commitment** of government and industry organizations in the work going on in various initiatives.

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- The **BIG PICTURE** is important in linking initiatives by being aware of what is going on and what influences industry.
 - **NFAHWS is a framework** to facilitate many other activities.
 - **Many steps to go** in moving forward to work out details, we are still working at a high level.

Thank you to our presenters:

Dr. Allan Preston

Regulatory ADM Manitoba, ADM Champion of the NFAHWS, and Co-chair of the NFAHWS Steering Committee

Dr. Harold Kloeze

Risk Analyst and Scientific Advisor, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Animal Health Risk Assessment

Dr. Primal Silva

Executive Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Science Strategies

Rob McNabb

Chair of CAHC, General Manager Operations CCA

Dr. Shane Renwick

Director, Animal Health Science Foresight, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Vice-President, Science

Appendix
Industry Forum
Presidents and Executive Directors' Meeting - December 9, 2009
“As we heard it report”

Welcome by Ed Empringham

Rob McNabb followed with thanks to all who braved the weather. He expressed appreciation for industry coming together to collaborate on issues of their industry.

- There is increasing intensity and need in improving Canada's animal health system, in a stakeholder forum. Today will focus on four topics, including NFAHWS, CAHSN, ForeCan and Traceability. The intent of this forum is to bring about discussion regarding changing relationships within Canada's animal health system.
- There is a need to shift in thinking from short term to long term funding for many projects dealing with animal health and emerging issues.

Presentations:

1. National Farmed Animal Health & Welfare Strategy- Dr. Allan Preston

- Update from the NFAHWS Steering Committee and next steps – Dr. Preston co-chaired the steering committee.
- Changing scene is driving changes in the animal health system.
- Currently, roles are shared by provinces, federal and territorial governments. There is lack of clarity of roles.
- Identified issues that may be faced in the future: environment, animal welfare, food protection, zoonotics
- one health, one world system.
- Recommendations from the Weatherill report on Listeriosis reinforce the direction of NFAHWS.
- Dr. Preston described the governing structure and status of the Strategy, saying the most critical element is the advisory body, the collaborative mechanism for consensus.
- Recognition on the principal of the Strategy was received from the Minister in July 2009.
- Proposed that there will be a three year period for council with appraisal at the end of that term.
- Representing industry, federal, provincial and territorial governments.
- Two co-chairs lead the process with supportive administrative function coming from the CAHC.
- Current funding proposal has the Strategy existing within its current framework.

Expectations of the Strategy include:

- stakeholders expect substantial improvement;
- better outcomes for animal health;
- part of future agriculture policy and programming.

It is important to maintain momentum built in exploratory phase; Dr Preston asked associations to provide names of nominees for the council.

Discussion:

Jim Laws- asked for clarification re Listeriosis connection- reply was that the recommendations from the Weatherill Report are being met within the scope of the NFAHWS.

2. Traceability – Rob McNabb

- Industry around the table support traceability as it relates to animal and premise identifications and movement.
- The process should not impede commerce.
- Traceability should not take away from the competitiveness of the industry; should not diminish cost

effectiveness and must remain practical.

- Mechanisms for funding are short term but traceability is a long term commitment
 - bovines have had identification tags on individual animals since 1991
- Wants to see government commit to long term support for traceability and long term support for animal health/public health issues.
- Traceability will expedite a response and subsequent recovery from an emergency.
- Currently program/ project funding cycles every five years (not beyond 2013).

Discussion:

Jacques Laforge – Dairy Farmers of Canada

- DFC has committed to start a traceability program with fixed ending
 - key criteria of this project are set
- Stakeholders are not just producers; government and consumers also share interest.
- Cattle groups have drafted a letter to begin discussion.
- Drafts will be circulated to other groups.

Jennifer MacTavish - Canadian Sheep Federation

- Changes made through funding sources towards long term funding.
- Consider that the cost of traceability does not end at hardware; must include training and support – must be all encompassing.
- Looking for commitment beyond 2013.

Allan Preston – Reg ADM Manitoba

- No one opposes traceability but asking for a reasonable cost/benefit ratio.
- Investigate dual purpose of market access.
- How to share costs public interests versus private enterprise.
- Utilizing existing technology (example Manitoba's premise identification).
- Use Growing Forward to develop broad picture
 - timelines may be aggressive but better than no movement
- Looking for discussion re: cost allocation.

Florian Possberg – Canadian Pork Council

- Traceability can be used to differentiate US and Canadian meat.
- Although industry may be challenged with profit/costs, traceability may make industry, particularly animal agriculture - stronger.

Gord Hardy – Canadian Cattlemen's Association

- If food safety is the issue then we need to look at meat and animal products coming into our country - imports should also be traceable.

Allan Preston – Reg ADM Manitoba

- Point taken- some things you cannot change.
- US industry leaders recognize the value of traceability.
- Consider international attitude towards traceability- Canada is falling behind.
- Australia is able to bring producers on board; they have opened international markets and keep domestic.

3. CAHSN- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network

- Funded by the CRTI, department of National Defense.
- To address:
 - Canada's preparedness to a foreign animal disease outbreak
 - new or emerging diseases
 - terrorism
- Three elements of the collaborative laboratory network:

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- national early warning surveillance system
 - diagnostics
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 - laboratory enhancements include:
 - training in major FMD's
 - increase capacity of diagnostics
 - quality assurance
 - equipment
 - information technology
 - animal and public health
 - networking
 - syndromic surveillance, investigating indicators of disease
 - Resulting in inter-operability and consequential communication of laboratories across Canada.
 - Surveillance/ Epidemiology/ Advisory Committee.
 - Develop a minimum data set.
 - Investigate privacy legislation and information sharing to put in place legal requirements for the transfer of information.
 - Put in place infrastructure for communication, collaboration and cooperation.
 - Developed surge capacity during emergencies.
 - Considered intelligence on human, animal and wildlife health.
 - Zoonotic nature of disease.
 - Funding completed September 30/09.
 - Next steps for CAHSN
 - On October 1st, CFIA agreed to cover the cost of building a business case (until March 2010)
 - options for funding are being explored
 - wanting to increase capacity, beyond the current 4 disease base, to meet future challenges
 - good buy-in from CFIA, looking for some funding to grow and reorganize governance

4. Fore-Can – Foresight for Canadian Animal Health – Dr. Shane Renwick, CFIA

- This is a three year project funded by CRTI.
- Renwick indicated that the project is “...high on the radar screen” throughout government.
- Foresight is a set of tools that takes advantage of a diverse group of people to help them develop a ‘future ready’ strategy.
- It is a process with inputs and outputs and is action oriented.
- The official website is <http://www.forecan-precan.ca>

General Discussion

Meeting Chair, Ed Empringham introduced the discussion period by outlining the common threads which he had heard during the presentations:

- Working and dealing with animal health issues is a long term investment.
- There is a culture change within agriculture, governments and the general public which dictates that industries must be proactive and work together differently than they have in the past.
- The industry is moving to different partnerships/relationships.
- The industry must begin talking about international impacts.

Norm Willis – independent consultant:

- The National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Strategy are now showing signs of “how” we can do this, from “should” we do this.

Bill Ballantyne – Canadian Swine Health Board:

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- The current budget of \$315,000 is not enough to fund the new Council. We almost back to the beginning when the CAHC was first started.

Alan Preston – Reg ADM Manitoba:

- We don't know at this time what issues the Council will start with. The steering committee will be developing a report to the federal/provincial/territorial Committee. Communication will be a challenge but is how we will get back to stakeholders.

Rob McNabb – Canadian Cattlemen's Association:

- The budget will be a challenge. Our mandate is to initiate the strategy and set priorities. The Council should be more proactive than reactive. The key term for the Council is a 'collaborative mechanism.' The Strategy was developed with performance measurements built in.

Jean Szkotnicki – Canadian Animal Health Institute:

- We are still focussed on talking to ourselves. Agriculture gets lost around the cabinet table. We need to change our external reach to include other government departments.

Gary Hazelwood – Canada Mink Breeders:

- Gary agreed that the biggest change in agriculture is cultural. Agriculture will sink or swim together. We all understand that we need to be proactive.

Russell Gammon – Canadian Livestock Genetics Association:

- We need to use results of the Council work for international marketing purposes.

Q and A

Q. How will the Council and CAHC come together?

A. The 13 members will come from governments and stakeholders. The CAHC will provide the Council secretariat.

Q. Are we just creating another lobby group?

A. We are creating a Council that will guide animal health issues forward.

Wrap-up

Ed Empringham provided a final wrap-up of the meeting:

- We are still in the 'big picture' mode.
- "One Health" means different thing to different people depending on where they come from.
- We must get the council going and let it evolve.
- There are many proactive strategic initiatives currently.
- The complexity of governance is everywhere in Canada.
- There are different timelines considered by different stakeholders. For instance the federal government views things on a 25 year timeline; the provincial governments view things on a 10 to 15 year timeline; and industry looks to five years hence. This makes communication and expectations difficult.

Thanks to the CAHC Team Members who recorded the "As we heard it" notes.