

Animal Health Canada

Progress Report – October 2019

ACHIEVEMENTS IN BRIEF

- The Animal Health Canada (AHC) initiative has made significant progress over the summer and remains within budget.
- A gap analysis project, led by Synthesis Agri-Food Network, is well underway with project completion anticipated in November and presentation for discussion at the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) [Forum](#).
- A governance review project has begun and is led by Governance Solutions Inc. (GSI) to examine existing collaborative governance models, nationally and internationally, that could be adapted or used to inform a collaborative governance model for Animal Health in Canada.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is examining the implications of public-private partnerships within the Canadian context, looking specifically at examples such as the Canadian Blood Services, and examining the risk, implications and lessons learned from those examples with an expected completion date of December 2019.
- The AHC CEO Champions Committee held their first meeting in June 2019 to provide leadership, input and guidance to the AHC Working Group.
- Working group members continue to utilize the emerging risk of African Swine Fever as an opportunity to implement collaborative approaches and incorporate lessons learned to inform the further development of Animal Health Canada.
- Engagement with partners working in animal health in Canada, and presentations to stakeholders continues to be a priority for Animal Health Canada working group members.

KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- November 2019 -- Completion of the gap analysis report and discussion at the NFAHW Council [Forum 2019](#) on November 27, 2019 in Gatineau, Quebec
- December 2019 – Meeting of the AHC Working Group and the CEO Champions Committee to review the findings of the gap analysis and hold a workshop on governance with GSI
- January 2020 -- Target for completion of governance review project, including a full report and recommendations
- Ongoing -- Continue outreach to industry, and federal, provincial and territorial government partners to seek support and engagement

Animal Health Canada At a Glance

The AHC Working Group is examining the Canadian animal health system as well as international governance models to develop a collaborative new animal health strategy that focuses on effective animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery programming. The strategy will be informed and shaped with the input and shared values of the livestock production value chain and federal, provincial, and territorial partners.

Contributions to Date

Industry support of \$140,000 in addition to \$110,000 of in-kind contributions, government support of \$70,000

Questions

Additional information can be found at <https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/work-areas/animal-health-canada>

Please contact Dr. Megan Bergman at megan@ahwcouncil.ca if you have any additional questions

PROGRESS REPORT IN DETAIL

- AHC CEO Champions held their first meeting in June 2019 and Government and Industry Co-Chairs are Greg Meredith, Ontario Deputy Minister, and Bob Lowe, Canadian Cattlemen's Association Vice President.

Gap Analysis

- Synthesis Agri-Food Network is conducting an inventory assessment and gap analysis of Canada's prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPR&R) for an animal health event. The purpose of the gap analysis is to understand the current state of animal health in Canada and to identify gaps or areas for improvement that will ultimately help strengthen the system.
- This initial phase of the gap analysis consultation has been completed and included the following activities:
 - A comprehensive review of background and previous reports related to PPR&R in Canada
 - Gathering and analysis of animal disease economic impact studies
 - Extensive consultations focused on identifying key gaps and including group calls with over 30 individuals including members of the AHC Working Group and representatives of key national groups including the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers, Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System and Eastern and Western Veterinary Diagnostic Labs.
 - One-on-one phone or in-person discussions with over 25 experts from across Canada ranging from key government personnel, commodity/producer organization representatives, veterinarians, researchers, academics, emergency management specialists, traceability administrators and processors.
 - Liaising with teams from several other key initiatives or organizations including the Animal Health Emergency Management project team (AHM II), Le Centre de développement du porc du Québec (CDPQ) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Traceability Sector Specialists).
 - Attendance at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region conference and Canadian Beef Industry Conference.
 - An on-line survey to engage more broadly with stakeholders.
- Synthesis Agri-Food Network is also undertaking several key activities, including;
 - further consultations to test insights and identify solutions to mitigate gaps,
 - gathering information on programs, projects and initiatives at the provincial and species level in order to assist with the co-ordination of existing initiatives, and understand funding, personnel resources and infrastructure currently dedicated to PPR&R,
 - undertaking a review of Canada's economic risk management tools and compensation models by species, including insurance options, is underway as well as an overview of the direct and indirect financial impacts of an animal disease event. Both of these components will be part of the final report, and,
 - developing an on-line resource library for strategies, industry and government reports, financial models and economic studies related to animal health capacity which will be categorized and searchable by keyword. The library will be housed on the member's only section of the NFAHW Council website.

Governance Review

- Governance Solutions Inc. (GSI) is examining the existing collaborative governance models nationally and internationally that could be developed or adapted to inform a collaborative governance model for Animal Health in Canada. This examination will outline Canada’s current governance model, as well as the various existing collaborative governance models nationally and internationally. This activity will clearly articulate successful collaborative governance models, existing legislation, organizational structures, roles and responsibilities, costs, advantages, disadvantages and gaps within each model.
- Recommendations will be provided on potential options to enhance Canada’s current animal health governance model, with a suggested implementation plan. Target completion of this project is January 17, 2020.
- GSI Inc. has initiated a first round of AHC interviews to:
 - Determine the core stakeholders of the Animal Health Canada governance model, those who need to “be at the table”
 - Identify the “non-negotiables” of these core stakeholders: what “must” be in place in the governance model for each stakeholder to sign on
 - Identify the “aspirations” for these core stakeholders: what would each “like to see” in the governance model
 - Identify additional comparable governance models for GSI to research and initiate research into governance models nationally and internationally

Review of Public-Private Partnerships

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is examining the implications of public-private partnerships within the Canadian context, looking specifically at examples such as the Canadian Blood Services, and examining the risk, implications and lessons learned from those examples with an expected completion date of December 2019.

Industry and Government Engagement

- AHC Working Group members have been making presentations to key industry associations including the Pork, Sheep and Beef Value Chain Roundtables, the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers, the Livestock Market Interruption Strategy Committee and the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Forum, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Agriculture Deputy Ministers, the Beef Industry Conference, and the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers

AHC Working Group Members

Industry

Canadian Animal Health Coalition // Canadian Cattlemen’s Association // Canadian Meat Council // Canadian Pork Council // Canadian poultry industry // Canadian Sheep Federation // Canadian Veterinary Medical Association // Dairy Farmers of Canada // Dairy Processors Association of Canada // National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council // National Sheep Network // Maple Leaf Foods

Government

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada // Canadian Food Inspection Agency // BC Ministry of Agriculture // Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture // Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs // Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec

AHC CEO Champions and Co-Chairs

Bob Lowe, Canadian Cattlemen's Association (Co-Chair) // Greg Meredith, OMAFRA (Co-Chair) // Rick Bergmann, Canadian Pork Council // David Colwell, JBS Canada // René Dufresne, MAPAQ // Chris Forbes, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada // Michael McCain, Maple Leaf Foods // Dr. Siddika Mithani, Canadian Food Inspection Agency // Wes Shoemaker, BC Ministry of Agriculture // David Wiens, Dairy Farmers of Canada