Who Are the Drivers for Animal Health Canada?

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By July 2019
Initiate an inventory and gap analysis of animal health activities which will inform the identification of key criteria for the development of a new governance model for animal health in Canada

Initiate analysis on existing models nationally and internationally that may assist in the development of a new governance model for Canada

Provide a progress report to Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers

By November 2019
Identify the key desired criteria required for a new governance model for animal health in Canada

Develop an inventory of available resources, programs and organizations that currently support animal health in Canada

Compare the key desired criteria to the available resources, programs, and organizations that currently support animal health in Canada

Complete analysis on existing models nationally and internationally that may assist in the development of a new governance model for Canada
Animal Health Canada Overview

Animal agriculture is vital to Canada’s food production and our nation’s prosperity. The government has identified agriculture as a primary industry for growth and exports for Canada, with the Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table recommendations to increase ag exports to at least $85 billion annually by 2025. The Strategy recommends strengthening the Canadian Agri-Food Sector by building “an agile regulatory system that supports innovation, provides certainty to industry, and protects health and safety”. The importance of effective animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery programming is essential to meeting that objective. Animal Health Canada believes a collaborative new animal health strategy is the best delivery mechanism for that programming.

Animal Health Canada provides a new collaborative approach to animal health management. We envision developing a holistic, results-driven governance model for animal health that will better ensure the health and wellbeing of Canada’s farmed animals. The strategy will be informed and shaped with input and shared values of the livestock production value chain and federal, provincial, and territorial partners.

Demonstration of an effective collaborative approach may also enhance public trust regarding food safety, zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, and animal care. It is important that government and industry align on the Animal Health Canada approach. Sharing resources will ensure effective implementation of programs and emergency response operations and improve vital capacities and scientific infrastructure.

If you would like additional information on Animal Health Canada, or if a representative from your organization would like to participate in the Animal Health Canada working group, please feel free to contact Megan Bergman at megan@ahwcouncil.ca