OUR VISION
NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

"Canada values and supports the health, care, and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment, and the Canadian economy."

Fred S. Haines (1879-1960), Haliburton pasture (detail)
Co-Chair Message

The health and welfare of farmed animals and their inescapable contribution to the prosperity of the livestock sector have been at the heart of the Council’s concerns and activities since its creation. In this 2018-2019 year, the Council’s involvement in supporting them has initiated a new step – its transition from the role of advisor to an approach enriched by the coordination of activities supporting its mission. Its unique position, as an organization that brings together representatives of the livestock industry and the federal, provincial and territorial governments, makes it a logical candidate to assume coordination of the implementation of the animal element in the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada by the various players involved. This evolution of the Council arises while the farmed animal production sector seethes with new challenges: Canadian regulations regarding veterinarian prescriptions, industry efforts to create a different alliance that would allow it to better align its actions with those of the governmental authorities and urgent health threats such as African swine fever.

In order to be successful in its new fields of involvement, the Council has, for the first time, taken on a general direction; from now on it can count on the vitality and leadership of Dr. Megan Bergman, who will continue the remarkable work that Dr. Ed Empringham accomplished over many years. He gave the Council a depth and a continuity from his experience and his effective and inspired support. On behalf of the members of Council I wish him a retirement that is fruitful and full of health and well-being.

This report illustrates how the Council has played its unique role over the past year, in this changing environment. It offers pathways and tools to inspire its stakeholders to continuously improve the health and welfare of farmed animals in a spirit of collaboration and complementarity.

Happy reading!

Dre Hélène Trépanier,
Co-Chair, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

Co-Chair Message

As I reflect on the past ten years since the publication of the original national farmed animal health and welfare strategy and the subsequent formation of the Council, I am consumed with pride and privilege for having been a part of the journey.

The fundamental principle of collaboration on which the Council established its foundation has never been more significant than today as we face a future of certain risk but with immeasurable opportunities. Working together in partnerships, sharing workloads, investments, and reducing those risks will result in collectively reaping the rewards.

In the ongoing efforts on behalf of its stakeholders, the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council continues to provide valued advice to governments and industry while endeavouring to continually improve the health and welfare of farmed animals and the people involved directly or indirectly in their well being.

One Health and One Welfare eloquently summarizes the mantra of the Council. It can mean different things to different people; it can be defined narrowly or broadly, but the fact that everyone can find meaning and value on their own terms is what makes it work.

The future is not for the timid or hesitant but is for the bold and those willing to lead with confidence. It is a journey that no one should attempt alone.

It has been a singular honour and privilege to have served on Council these many years. The association with so many caring and brilliant people is something I will cherish forever. I depart at the end of 2019 with a strong sense of confidence that the Council has made a difference and will continue to contribute to a sustainable future for Canadians.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this worthwhile effort.

Rob McNabb,
Co-Chair, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

Canada values and supports the health, care, and welfare of the farmed animal population and its contribution to the well-being of people, the environment, and the Canadian economy.
Dear Stakeholders,

I am pleased to present the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHW Council) 2018/2019 Annual Report. The past year has been a busy one for the Council with new and exciting opportunities to support animal agriculture stakeholders in enhancing animal health and welfare in Canada.

The Council has continued to deliver on work areas that advance the FAHW 2020 strategy, as well Canada’s Plant and Animal Health Strategy. Through collaboration with Council members and our stakeholders we were able to issue reports on antimicrobial stewardship, Canada’s animal welfare system and animal welfare law, as well as on Canada’s agricultural wellbeing. Council also piloted a project intended to enhance reporting capacity on FAHW 2020 and The Plant and Animal Health Strategy. In addition to our ongoing work areas, the Council engaged in new initiatives such as Animal Health Canada, and worked with the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) Directors and Networks to develop and initiate a plan to transition CAHSS from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to the Council. More information on all of these important initiatives can be found in this report.

The 2018 NFAHW Council Forum had the highest attendance in the history of the Council. The theme “Partnership and the Next Generation of Canada’s Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Systems” demonstrated that effective partnerships and collaboration is key to successful advancement of animal health and welfare in Canada. Sponsorship information on Forum 2019 can be found [here](#).

Effective communication is a critical tool for any organization. The Council continues to explore new tools and methods to broaden our reach and ensure we are engaging and consulting our stakeholders in an effective way. We would not be able to accomplish everything we set out to do without the support of our stakeholders. Thank you for your commitment to the Council, as well as for your engagement and participation in Council activities throughout the year which ensures that Council recommendations are well rounded and accurately reflect animal agriculture in Canada. We would also like to thank the Canadian Animal Health Coalition secretariat team who have provided exceptional administrative support to the Council up to April 2019. A special thank you to Dr. Ed Empringham who retired in July 2018 for his dedication and commitment to the Council over the years.

Finally, I would like to thank the NFAHW Council Co-Chairs and Council members for their support, expertise and vision. I am very fortunate to be working with such a dedicated team of skilled professionals in my role as the NFAHW Council Executive Director. I look forward to the continued growth and evolution of the NFAHW Council, and I am grateful to be a part of such a unique organization where government and industry partners work together to enhance animal health and welfare in Canada.

Megan Bergman  
Executive Director, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council
**NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

- **Hired an Executive Director** to provide full time leadership to the Council
- **To support the transition of CAHSS to the NFAHWCouncil**, a funding application was submitted to the Canadian AgriAssurance Program to support CAHSS activities in 2019/2020 and utilised Federal Assistance Funding in 2018/2019
- **Partnered in an application** for funding to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada’s Strategic Innovation Fund to enhance animal health diagnostics and surveillance in Canada
- **Supporting the initiative of Animal Health Canada** to explore enhanced partnerships with government and industry and new governance models for Animal Health in Canada.
- **Initiated a process** to update and modernize bylaws and terms of reference and explore opportunities to better align with partners working in the animal health and welfare sphere

**WORK AREAS**

**ANIMAL WELFARE**

The Animal Welfare Committee issued recommendations to facilitate greater alignment of animal protection law informed by a review of animal welfare law in Canada.

The 2012 Council document “A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada” developed after wide consultation issued 22 recommendations designed to help achieve a systematic national approach to farm animal welfare.

In 2018 the Council reviewed these recommendations and subsequent stakeholder actions, and identified some new opportunities for improvement. As a result the Council issued 20 updated recommendations.

**ONE WELFARE**

The One Welfare Committee took the opportunity to host a small consultation at the 2018 Forum engaging experts in human and animal health and welfare and industry representatives. The goal of the consultation was to identify how to raise awareness of the benefits of involving medical and social services in cases of serious breakdown in animal care; and in special circumstances such as disease outbreaks and disasters; and how to secure such services when they are needed. The information collected at this consultation was used to inform the development of “Enhancing Canada’s Agricultural Well-Being Through a One Welfare Approach” which was presented to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food as part of its study on Mental Health Challenges that Canadian Farmers, Ranchers and Producers Face.

Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Committee published a report, “Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada: Progress on Recommendations and Stakeholder Activities” which highlights recent stakeholder stewardship activities in addition to reviewing the progress on Council recommendations from the Council’s past report. “Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals in Canada”

**EMERGING ISSUES**

- **FAHW 2020**
  - Plant and Animal Health Strategy
    - The Council led a renewal of the NFAHWC Council's strategy which resulted in the development of *Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020: ... a strategy for animal agriculture in Canada*. The renewed strategy was intended to provide strategic direction and priorities for all stakeholders in animal agriculture to 2020.
    - Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 envisioned a community of animal agriculture that will collectively work toward the strategic outcomes using the priorities established. In the summer of 2018, the Council piloted a project with a subset of stakeholders who were asked to provide a report on existing programs and activities which contribute to progress on two strategic outcomes and one 5-year priority of Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020. The information in this report was used to populate an infographic which presented the information in a clear and concise format. It should be noted that the information in the infographics reflects information collected in 2018 and is a snapshot in time. The council would like to thank participating stakeholders for their engagement and participation in this process.
    - Since the development of the Farmed Animal Health and Welfare 2020 Strategy, the Canadian Plant and Animal Health Strategy was developed. The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council has been asked to play a leadership role in reporting on Canada’s animal health progress as it pertains to the Plant and Animal Health Strategy. As a result, the Council is now working on modifying the Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy reporting pilot to a Plant and Animal Health Strategy reporting process with the intent to expand information collection and infographic development to all stakeholders. This information will then be used to inform the development of a national progress report.

- **The Emerging Issues Committee** published “The Identification of Issues Related to Access to Livestock Slaughter Facilities in Animal Disease Situations.” Additional work is underway to validate the study findings across Canada and to collect additional information to inform further work on slaughter capacity in Canada.
    - The Committee has also developed a table top exercise to work through challenges associated with communication in the face of disease outbreak and is exploring options for delivery.
Forum 2018 themed “Partnership and the Next Generation of Canada’s Farmed Animal Health and Welfare System” boasted the highest attendance in the history of the forum. This year’s forum generated excellent discussion and reinforced that effective partnership and collaboration is the key to successful animal health and welfare advancement in Canada.

Collaboration in Action

our roles are intertwined which is why we need to move forward collectively – partnerships, communications, adaptation and learning

Dr. Jane Pritchard

Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Moving Forward

Antimicrobial stewardship is a critical priority for animal agricultural stakeholders in Canada

Steven Sternthal
The Council recognizes the importance of effective communication and the need for continuous improvement in this area. In 2018, the Council initiated the use of new tools and methods such as webinars, blogs, surveys, and updated newsletter formats to broaden our reach and ensure we are engaging and consulting our stakeholders in an effective way.

- Presentation at Industry Government Advisory Committee
- Presentation on "Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals Progress on Recommendations and Stakeholder Activities" at the Public Health Agency of Canada/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada multi-sectoral meeting on Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Presentations to Equestrian Canada on the NFAHW Council and "A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada"
- Presentation to the Canadian Meat Council on "The Identification of Issues Related to Access to Livestock Slaughter Facilities in Animal Disease Situations"
- Presentation to the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on NFAHW Council Activities
- Presentation at the Plant Health Council on the NFAHW Council
- Participation in the Community for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases Annual Meeting and Webinars
- Participation and presentation at the National Farm Animal Care Council annual general meeting
- Participation in the Public Health Agency of Canada multi-sectoral meeting on Antimicrobial Surveillance
- Participate in the Canadian Network of Public Health Intelligence exercise on using technologies to support collaboration and consultation
- Participation in the Wildlife Health Advisory Committee
- Participation in the September Canadian Animal Health Coalition meeting
- Participate in the industry "Animal Health Pathfinding" meeting which initiated efforts on Animal Health Canada

Our Supporters

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canadian Animal Health Institute
- Canadian Cattlemen’s Association
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
- Canadian Livestock Genetics Association
- Canadian Pork Council
- Canadian Sheep Federation
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
- Chicken Farmers of Canada
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Egg Farmers of Canada
- Equestrian Canada
- Humane Canada
- National Farm Animal Care Council
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Turkey Farmers of Canada
- Government of Alberta
- Government of British Columbia
- Government of Manitoba
- Government of New Brunswick
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Government of Northwest Territories
- Government of Nova Scotia
- Government of Ontario
- Government of Prince Edward Island
- Government of Québec
- Government of Saskatchewan
- Government of Yukon

Photo Credits: National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council thanks Canada Beef, Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan, Poultry Industry Council, Canadian Animal Health Institute, Johanna Ramaker, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada and Canadian Pork Council for the use of their photographs in this report.

Rob McNabb
Co-Chair, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council
# National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

## Statement of Operations and Surplus

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

(Simplified)

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<td>Federal support</td>
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<table>
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Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses

(32,102)

Surplus, beginning of year

185,591

Surplus, end of year

$153,489

Complete audited financial statement is available at [https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/documents/audited-financials](https://www.ahwcouncil.ca/documents/audited-financials)
Dr. Debbie Barr is the Director, Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and is involved in the development and implementation of federal policies and programs aimed at managing domestic, foreign and emerging animal disease and zoonotic risks to terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products in Canada. This position engages with a broad range of national and international partners and stakeholders in representing the position of the Agency and Canada. From November 2018 to May 2019, she managed the African Swine Fever (ASF) preparedness file for the Agency.

Donald Boucher has a keen interest for the Canadian animal production sector. Donald's education focused on animal sciences and he holds a Bachelor of Science in field operations and continued in a government career began with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) preparedness file for the Agency. In 2018, he joined the Agency and became the national animal health and welfare council. Donald's active engagement on the international stage brings insights into the strategic directions and initiatives led by international organizations and key trading partners which helps to keep Canada ahead of the curve as a global leader. He brings to the table domestic and international context for the development of animal health and welfare related policies and initiatives of importance for Canada.

Barbara Johnstone Grimmer grew up on a mixed farm and is currently a sheep producer and researcher based on Pender Island, British Columbia. Barbara has served on both the Canadian Sheep Federation and BC Sheep Federation boards of directors. Barbara is a Professional Agrologist, with a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) from the University of British Columbia, specializing in poultry science and nutrition. Barbara also completed interdisciplinary graduate studies at Texas A&M, receiving a Master of Science in Nutrition, and working as a Research Associate in the Avian Medicine Section at the Texas A&M Veterinary College.

Dr. David Fraser is a veterinarian with 23 years of experience in private mixed practice in Mount Forest, Ontario and two years of international experience in China. Since 2004, Dr. Fairles has been employed as the Client Services Veterinarian at the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph. He has a DVM (1985) and MBA (1999) degrees from Guelph.

Dr. Jim Fairles is a veterinarian with 23 years of experience in private mixed practice in Mount Forest, Ontario and two years of international experience in China. Since 2004, Dr. Fairles has been employed as the Client Services Veterinarian at the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph. He has a DVM (1985) and MBA (1999) degrees from Guelph.

Ed Friesen is a veterinarian with 30 years of experience in private mixed practice in Mount Forest, Ontario and two years of international experience in China. Since 2004, Dr. Fairles has been employed as the Client Services Veterinarian at the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph. He has a DVM (1985) and MBA (1999) degrees from Guelph.

Dr. Komal graduated from the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire at the Université de Montréal, Quebec, with a degree in Veterinary Medicine and a post-graduate degree in Veterinary Microbiology. Through his career, Dr. Komal has led several key areas of the CFIA and AAFC. In his VP position, Dr. Komal manages the branch that provides laboratory services and scientific advice in support of development and delivery of the CFIA’s programs, as well as surveillance and regulatory research to identify and address emerging threats to the food system and to animal and plant health.
Dr. Lehman graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 1999 and also holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Alberta.

After working in private mixed animal practice in Barrhead, Alberta, Keith joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency where he worked in various positions prior to joining Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in June 2014. After two years with the Animal Health Section, he was appointed as Alberta’s Chief Provincial Veterinarian in June 2016.

Dr. Lehman completed a two-year term as chair of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers in December 2018. He has also been involved with early development of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy, CanSURV BSE, the development of the Plant and Animal Health Branch and one of 3 CVO’s bringing provincial representation to the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers.

Mr. McNabb recently retired after 20 years as General Manager of the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association following a 20-year career in extension and regulatory administration with Manitoba Agriculture. Mr. McNabb has been a member on numerous national multi-stakeholder advisory groups for programs, policy, and research. He is a member and Past President of the Alberta Institute of Agriologists and was the co-Chair of the National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Council this past year.

Luc became the Director of the Animal Industry Division in April 2019 and is involved in initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness of the livestock sector. Luc took over from Donald Boucher as the AAFCC representative on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Rob McNabb graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree and a Master of Science degree from the University of Manitoba.

Colleen McEwan is the Programs Director at the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) and leads communications, environmental stewardship programming and member services. Prior to working at the CAHI, she worked at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) in the area of livestock traceability policy and stakeholder relations. For several years Colleen worked at the Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) where she was the lead for animal health and welfare, disease surveillance, traceability, antimicrobial resistance, and applied research. She has participated on numerous national industry and government committees and is a proven relationship builder.

Colleen holds a Master of Science in Applied Behaviour and Welfare and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology, both from the University of Guelph’s Ontario Agricultural College. Colleen was elected to the Council in December 2018.

Jane Pritchard represents the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dr. Pritchard recently led the development of Standards for Humane Slaughter within Slaughter without Stunning. This year she is also contributing to the organization of the Forum. Jane has supported the council on collaborative approach to emerging issues as well as Finance and Governance. This year she is also contributing to the development of the new pork certification program, Canadian Pork Excellence. René contributes to the dialogue on hog health and welfare from a producer’s perspective. He is also vice-chair of the Economic Development Steering Committee.


Richard Rusk received his Bachelor’s degree of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Pretoria, South Africa in 1992 and his Medical Doctors degree in 2005 from University of Manitoba. He went on to specialise in Public Health with an emphasis on Zoonotic diseases. He now works part time for the Manitoba Government in the department of Health as a Medical Officer of Health where he heads up the Zoonotic Diseases work. Additionally he is the Director for Medical Continuing Professional Development at the University of Manitoba and manages the educational events for the faculty.

He has been involved with many of the provincial outbreaks, has been instrumental in developing the One Health Framework in Manitoba, is passionate about creating a collaborative approach to emerging diseases, and is working on improving Antibiotic Stewardship programs.

Dr. Rusk represented the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council from June 2014 to March 2019.
Steven Sternthal is the Director General for the Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases with the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch. In this role, Steven is responsible for leading One Health policy, science, and program initiatives to address food-borne and zoonotic infectious diseases. Steven has over 20 years experience in managing public health issues, many of which are relevant to the work of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (e.g. food safety, antimicrobial resistance, emerging zoonotic infectious diseases).

Steven holds a Master in Health Administration from the University of Ottawa and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Rural Economy from Laval University (1987). He also has a Master’s degree in Veterinary Clinical Sciences from the same university (1987). She also has a Master’s Degree in Rural Economy from Laval University in Quebec City (1995). She is currently a member of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec. She joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council as a representative of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers in March 2016.

Dr. Hélène Trépanier has been Quebec’s Chief Veterinary Officer since September 2016. She is one of three representatives for Canada’s Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the Council. Having worked for Quebec’s Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for over 25 years, Dr. Trépanier has been actively involved in the development and implementation of Quebec’s animal health and welfare strategy. She is also an expert in the appropriate treatment of animals.

Dr. Trépanier holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Montreal’s Faculty of Veterinary Medicine degree from (1984) and a Master’s Degree in Veterinary Clinical Sciences from the same university (1987). She also has a Master’s Degree in Rural Economy from Laval University in Quebec City (1995). She is currently a member of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec. She joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council as a representative of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers in March 2016.

Marco Volpé holds a Bachelor’s degree in Applied Science from Laval University (2005) and a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Moncton University (2014). In 2003, he started working in the poultry sector managing health, care and environment. In 2006 he joined the Groupe Westco team and expanded its works in a well diversified company. He’s now Senior Manager and he’s involved in the many projects the company has to offer. He has also been a member of the Ordre des Agronomes du Québec since 2004 and of the Nouveau-Brunswick Institute of Agrologists since 2005.

Marco is a director at Chicken Farmers of New Brunswick since 2016 and has been New Brunswick’s Alternate Director at Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) since 2017. Marco is also a member of CFC’s Production Committee and is a strong supporter of CFC’s Animal Care Program and On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program. Marco joined the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in 2017 as the CFC representative.

Megan Bergman has a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Megan accepted the position of National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Executive Director in August 2018 to help provide leadership as the Council continues its development by taking on enhanced responsibilities with respect to national farmed animal health and welfare.

Megan was appointed Chief Veterinary Officer for Manitoba Agriculture in August 2014. In this position she was the director of the Animal Health and Welfare Branch which included responsibility for Manitoba Agriculture’s animal health, animal welfare, and food safety programs, as well as for Manitoba’s veterinary diagnostic laboratory, Veterinary Diagnostic Services.

Prior to joining Manitoba Agriculture, Megan spent 8 years working for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as an animal health veterinarian, and later as an Inspection Manager and Regional Director.

Megan spent 5 years in private equine practice before she began her career in the civil service.