



NFAHW 
COUNCIL

2018-2019 Annual Report

OUR VISION

NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL

Fred S. Haines (1879-1960), Haliburton pasture (Detail)

“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.”

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

NFAHW COUNCIL

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“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.”



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!

Dr^e Hélène Trépanier,
Co-Chair, National Farmed Animal Health
and Welfare Council



Executive Director's Report



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 DVM
Executive Director, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council



5 YEAR PRIORITIES – 2019–2023

Safe animal food products are accessible to Canadians.



The Canadian farmed animal health and welfare system is coordinated and constantly improved

Canada protects the health of farmed animals, people and the ecosystem (One Health).



The Canadian farmed animal health and welfare system is trusted world wide.

The Canadian farmed animal industry is profitable and sustainable.



Canada protects the welfare of farmed animals.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (Council) is a sub-committee of the Federal/ Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Regulatory ADMs of Agriculture Committee. The Council was formed in July 2010 to implement the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy which was completed in 2009 (Strategy).

The Council is advisory to the Regulatory ADMs Committee and all stakeholders. The Strategy envisions a collaborative relationship in the governance of Canada's animal health and welfare system that recognizes a shared responsibility between federal and provincial/territorial governments and industry stakeholders.

This collaborative relationship operates in a "One Health" context which considers animal health, public health, ecosystem health and economic health when developing solutions. The Council is a unique organization with equal funding from the federal government, provincial and territorial governments and industry. Membership is derived from both the agriculture and public health communities.

Members of Council focus on enhancing Canada's animal health and welfare system and are nonrepresentational in discussion. The Council is a forum where an understanding of authorities and concerns of government and industry stakeholders can be built.

about us



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Hired an Executive Director to provide full time leadership to the Council



To support the transition of [CAHSS](#) to the [NFAHW Council](#), 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



Animal Health 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



Sponsorship of the 2019 One Welfare II Conference

WORK AREAS



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](#).



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](#)."

FAHW 2020 & Plant and Animal Health Strategy

The Council led a renewal of the NFAHW Strategy (2009) 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



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.



Beyond 2020: Thoughts from the Sidelines – Dr. Deb Stark – Key note address that encouraged self reflection and forward thinking.

Thought provoking questions on how do you innovate, adapt to emerging technology, and manage risk – are you applying the Canadian lens?



NEW THINKING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF animal health and welfare systems

Introducing the concept of Animal Health Canada – an industry government partnership to enhance Canada’s capacity for animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.



Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Reporting

Farmer Mental Health – an important consideration in animal health and welfare systems

“ we need to act compassionately with everyone involved – we need to care about the person as well as the animals ”
Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton



Overview of Industry’s Current and Potential Role in Disease Response – A BC Perspective



Collaboration in Action

Emergency Management Plan and Control of Poultry Infection Diseases in Quebec



Alberta Bovine Tuberculosis Response



Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea in MB



“ our roles are intertwined which is why we need to move forward collectively – partnerships, communications, adaptation and learning ” **Dr. Jane Pritchard**



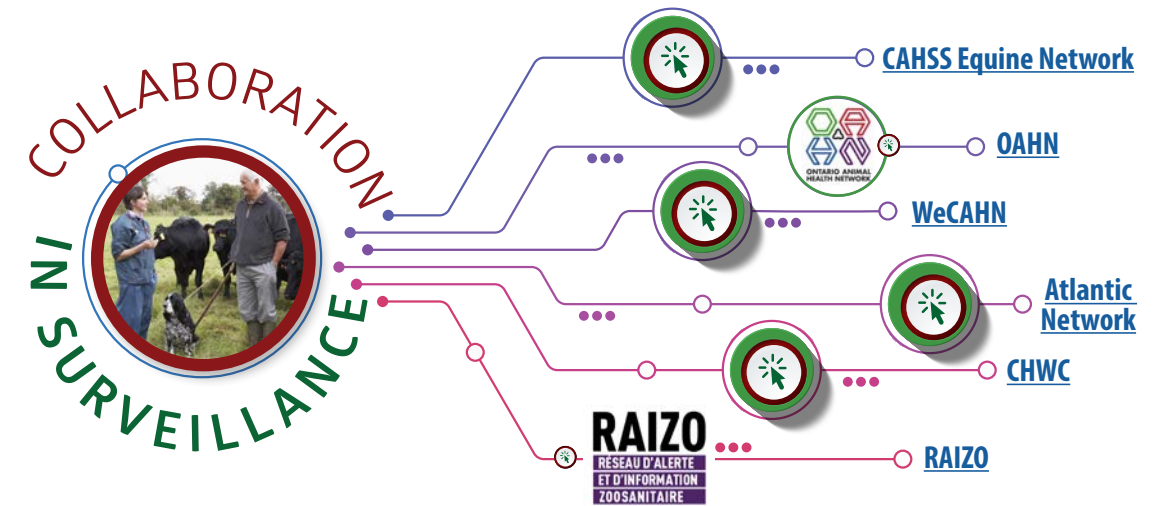
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“ Opportunities to continue to strengthen the relationships between industry and government in managing animal health ”
Dr. Jaspinder Komal



OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Recommendations for Canada – solutions in collaboration and building strength

OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Evaluation of Canada Performance of Veterinary Services – a provincial CVO perspective



“ working together at the regional, national, and sectoral level can help to ensure a cohesive animal health surveillance system for Canada ”
Rob McNabb

Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Moving Forward

“ Antimicrobial stewardship is a critical priority for animal agricultural stakeholders in Canada ”
Steven Sternthal





Communications & Engagements



“ 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. ”

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

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



- 🇨🇦 [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](#)
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- 🇨🇦 [Government of Nova Scotia](#)
- 🇨🇦 [Government of Ontario](#)
- 🇨🇦 [Government of Prince Edward Island](#)
- 🇨🇦 [Government of Québec](#)
- 🇨🇦 [Government of Saskatchewan](#)
- 🇨🇦 [Government of Yukon](#)

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Statement of Operations and Surplus

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019



NATIONAL FARMED ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL Statement of Operations and Surplus

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019
(Simplified)

Revenue

Industry support	\$ 104,500
Federal support	106,000
Provincial and territorial support	108,160
Sponsorship of Forum	9,500
Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Federal Assistance Program	70,488
Interest Income	4

Total

398,652

Expenses

Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System Federal Assistance Program	\$ 72,786
Communications	2,134
Forum expenses	76,451
Honorariums	4,200
Insurance	2,260
Management contract	81,274
Meetings	4,628
Office supplies and miscellaneous	240
Professional fees	5,599
Research	47,513
Secretariat	82,450
Translation	12,497
Travel	38,722

Total

430,754

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>

our council



Dr. Debbie Barr

Donald Boucher

Dr. Jim Fairles

Dr. David Fraser

Ed Friesen

Barbara Johnstone Grimmer

Dr. Jaspinder Komal

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.

Prior to joining the federal government, Debbie worked for three years in private practice. Her government career began with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Food Production and Inspection Branch over 32 years ago in Ontario in field operations and continued in Ottawa in almost all aspects of animal importation and exportation until 2013.

Debbie has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Hons) degree from the University of Guelph. She represents the CFIA on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

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 as well as a Master of Science both from Laval University. He joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2008 and has since worked on a variety of livestock and red meat related files from multiple perspectives, including trade, policy development and program design.

Donald is the Director of the Animal Industry Division and is involved in initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness of the livestock sector. Donald represented AAFC on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council from June 2016 – March 2019.

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 (1980) and MBA (1999) degrees from Guelph.

Dr. Fairles has been involved with various veterinary associations on local, provincial and national levels. He is a past president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and a past chair of the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC). He is immediate past president of the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV) and an industry representative (CVMA) on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Dr. Fairles was elected to the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in December 2013 and was re-elected in 2016.

David Fraser, C.M., Ph.D., who has been a member of the Council since its inception, is Professor in the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. His 48-year research career has focused on the welfare and behaviour of farm, companion and wild animals.

He has served as a scientific advisor on animal welfare science and policy to many organizations including the World Organisation for Animal Health (Paris), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome), and the Food Marketing Institute (Washington). He has convened and chaired numerous national and international committees on animal welfare issues. He is in high demand as a lecturer and is the author of many publications including the textbook, *Understanding Animal Welfare: The Science in its Cultural Context*.

He was appointed a member of the Order of Canada in 2005 for his work as "a pioneer in the field of animal welfare science". Dr. Fraser was elected to the NFAHW Council in 2010, and re-elected in 2013, 2015 and again in 2018.

Ed & Kathy Friesen operate Friecrest Holsteins Ltd in Kleefeld, MB. With the help of part-time and one full-time employee, they milk a herd of 90 cows and have a herd of about 200 head.

Friecrest Holsteins has earned numerous awards since its inception in 1999, including the Dairy Farm Excellence Award in 2003 and the Highest Milk Herd & Cow Award in 2010. Many individual cow production awards as well as Highest Herd have been received. In 2015 the Friesen's were awarded the Farm Family of the Year for Manitoba.

Ed has been on the CanWest DHI board for 13 years, and is currently serving his 9th year as Chair. In June 2019, CanWest DHI will become part of Lactanet Canada, and Ed will serve as director-at-large for one year.

He has also served on the Canadian Dairy Network board for 9 years, currently serving as Vice-Chair. He has appointed to the Dairy Farmers of Canada board of directors in 2016. Ed is currently serving on Dairy Farmers of Manitoba's (DFM) Advisory Committee. He previously served 12 years on DFM's board. Ed represents the Dairy Farmers of Canada on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

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.

Barbara pursued her doctoral studies at the University of California (Davis), specializing in the effects of immunologic stress. She returned to Canada and worked at private labs, and her work included establishing animal care programs for research animals (mice, rats, rabbits, goats, sheep, poultry, cattle).

She has served on the BC Farm Animal Care Council. Barbara is currently researching sustainable animal agriculture systems. Barbara was elected as a director to the Council in January 2016 and served until November 2018.

Dr. Komal is the Vice President (VP) of the CFIA's Science Branch, as well as, the Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Canada. Dr. Komal serves as an ex-officio member on the Council in his capacity as Canada's CVO and OIE Delegate.

As CVO, he regularly provides strategic and scientific advice to the federal Minister of Agriculture, the CFIA President and the Agency's senior management. Dr. Komal'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.

Dr. Komal graduated from the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire at the Université de Montréal in Saint-Hyacinthe, 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.



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Dr. Keith Lehman

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 national Antimicrobial Resistance Steering Committee, and serves as an ex-officio member on the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Council. Dr. Lehman represents the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

Luc Marchand

Luc holds a Master degree in Social Science from Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. He joined the Federal Government in 2000 and worked in several departments such as Industry Canada, Canadian Heritage and joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2005 and has since worked on a variety of files such as rural development, BSE and Growing Forward programs design and delivery.

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 AAFC representative on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in March 2019.



Rob McNabb – NFAHW Council Co-chair

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

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 Agrologists and was the co-Chair of the National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Council this past year.



Colleen McElwain

Colleen McElwain is the Programs Director at the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) and leads 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.



Dr. Jane Pritchard

Jane Pritchard is the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for the province of BC and one of 3 CVO's bringing provincial representation to the Council from the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers.

Jane holds a DVM and Masters of Veterinary Science in Anatomic Pathology. She is the current Director of the BC provincial veterinary diagnostic lab and Executive Director of the Plant and Animal Health Branch in the BC Ministry of Agriculture. She has a background that includes work in Public Health and sits on many FPT committees.

Jane has supported the council on working groups in AMU and AMR, Animal Welfare and Emerging Issues as well as Finance and Governance. This year she is also contributing to the organization of the Forum. Jane recently led the development of Standards for Humane Slaughter within Slaughter without Stunning.

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

Dr. René Roy

René Roy has a PhD in agricultural economics from McGill University. René is a pork producer from farrow to finish, a dairy farmer and a maple syrup producer. René took over the family business with his brother Mario and runs it with members of his family.

René contributes with his experience on several working groups of the Council, in particular the One welfare working group. As an agricultural producer, he knows how the health and welfare of animals is intimately linked to the psychological health of producers.

René is second vice chair of the Canadian Pork Council, where he is active in the field of animal health and welfare. He has been particularly involved in 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 Swine Innovation Porc which is managing the research cluster of the Canadian pork industry. René represents the Canadian Pork Council on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.



Dr. Richard Rusk

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.

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Steven Sternthal



Dr. Hélène Trépanier



Marco Volpé

SUPPORT TEAM



Dr. Megan Bergman



Samantha Benattar



Steven Sternthal

Dr. Hélène Trépanier – NFAHW Council Co-chair

Marco Volpé

Dr. Megan Bergman – NFAHW Council Executive Director

Samantha Benattar – NFAHW Council Executive Assistant

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 from McGill University in Montreal. Steven represents the Public Health Agency of Canada on the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

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 (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 (2003) and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Moncton University (2014). In 2003, he started working in the poultry sector managing health, animal 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.

Samantha Benattar has been working as secretariat to the NFAHW Council since 2011, shortly after the Council's inception. In this role, she has also been providing support to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFAACC). Prior to this, she worked for 13 years as an instructional designer and coordinator for the Bank of Montreal at their Institute for Learning.

Samantha obtained a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario in Anthropology, and having grown up in Montreal, also attended CEGEP at John Abbott's College in the West Island of Montreal.

