

NEWS RELEASE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM NFAHWC FORUM 2011

(Ottawa, Ontario) December 15, 2011 - Recently, the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) held its first Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Forum in Ottawa, Ontario. The two-day forum was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders from Canada's agriculture and animal health sectors. Speakers from both domestic and international organizations delivered thought provoking and timely messages for shaping the future of Canada's animal health and welfare sector.

The NFAHWC will use this first opportunity to discuss with stakeholders for progressing on its three major actions items- governance, surveillance, and animal welfare. In the words of Wayne Lees, Co-Chair of the Council, it was a "true exchange of information by a very diverse group of people. The opinions and points of view gathered will be extremely useful to the Council".

NFAHWC Co-Chair Rob McNabb shared that while Canada has enjoyed an enviable reputation for its animal health programs and status, recent events such as the increasing challenge of managing zoonotic diseases and globalization in trade require that we become even more proactive in managing these issues. Federal-provincial-industry roles in animal health must be clarified and anticipation of emerging animal health threats needs to be emphasized, rather than react and respond.

Forum 2011 was truly a successful gathering of industry leaders and key players from Canada's animal health and welfare sector. The Council values the input of stakeholders and the information generated from the meeting will be used as it works to enhance Canada's animal health and welfare system. Rob McNabb, Co-Chair of the Council says, "This will be the premier event each year for discussion and we look forward to an on-going, collaborative process in the journey of improving Canada's animal health and welfare." A detailed report of Forum 2011 presentations and discussions will be sent to participants in early 2012.

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