

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.

Vince Lombardi



Canadian Animal Health Institute Year in Review

LONG – TERM EFFORTS LEADING TO NEW OUTCOMES

CAHI PROVIDES LEADERSHIP IN ADDRESSING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

CAHI WORKING FOR YOU

by Jean Szkotnicki, President

Long-term efforts of the CAHI are instrumental in changes set to impact the animal health sector.

Antimicrobial Use in Canada: A Federal Framework for Action

In Fall 2015 then Minister Rona Ambrose announced in fall of 2015 the Framework for Action stating Canada's position in managing antimicrobial use (AMU) and resistance (AMR). The



Framework was supported by a number of different federal departments including; the Public

Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Canadian Institutes for Health Research and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Pillars of the Framework are Surveillance, Stewardship and Innovation. CAHI is active in all 3 of these areas.

On the **Surveillance** front CAHI reports the kg of active antimicrobials distributed by our member annually to CIPARS a program area of the PHAC. This information is reported by family of drugs, production and food animals, province and route of administration. The information CAHI provides enables more critical analysis of AMR in Canada.

Under the **Stewardship** pillar the then Minister announce the governments intent to modernize regulation and have controls over own use importation and use of active pharmaceutical ingredients in animals. CAHI has advocated for controls over these 2 avenues which permit importation and use of unapproved drugs in animals in Canada. New regulation is expected to go to Canada Gazette I later this month.

The **Innovation** pillar targets research in the areas vaccine development, rapid diagnostics and alternative to antimicrobials.

Through the efforts of CAHI and its members our **voluntary agreement** to remove the **growth promotion claims and have**

veterinary oversight of the medically important drugs used in feed and water is pivotal to the Stewardship pillar.



CAHI, in collaboration with the Animal Nutrition Assoc. of Canada has also provided leadership in facilitating dialogue with industry, the VDD and CFIA and veterinarians on regulatory avenues to support commercialization of feed with **physiological/functional benefits and health claims**.

CAHI President, Jean Szkotnicki also has contributed to discussion among veterinarians and producers about appropriate use of antimicrobials. She served on the **College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO)** advisory committee examining veterinary attitudes to antimicrobial use. A second phase of this project is starting now and CAHI will be represented on it. Similarly, Jean worked with the **Canadian Veterinary Medical Assoc.** and the **National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Council** on discussion papers they prepared for sectoral consultations. CAHI is also contributing to discussions within the chicken and turkey sectors of Canadian agriculture on their antimicrobial use strategies.

COMPANION ANIMAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

A new initiative for begun in 2015 by CAHI is the release of monthly



articles on topics important to pet well-being. Pick-up by print and radio media of the articles has been good. The articles draw attention to the importance of having your pet see a veterinarian.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

No CAHI annual report would be complete without mention of the CAHI work to safely collect and dispose of unwanted animal health products in the field. First time experience with the CleanFarms levy was positive. Member companies continue to work with the Pharmaceutical Stewardship Product Association on the companion animal side. Both these programs demonstrate CAHI member commitment to safe removal of

unwanted animal health products from the field.

CAHI OFFICE STAFF CHANGES LIE AHEAD

On November 8th the CAHI lost a valued person of its 3 member staff. The sudden loss of Tracey Firth was indeed tragic. She was a hard-working and dedicated employee with a love for agriculture and pets. Tracey successfully built the environmental stewardship program and our annual meeting to what they are today. She will be missed! A celebration of life was held May 28th, 2016 at her home and a fund was set-up in her name with Farm and Food Care. The fund supports agricultural communications something that Tracey was truly committed to.

The CAHI Board is now in the process of finalizing and acting on a staffing plan for the organization that will ensure its continued effectiveness in working on behalf of its members to ensure a good business climate the animal health industry.

