



Advisory Board Report

The CgFARAD™ Advisory Board met via Zoom on November 10, 2020 and discussed the following items.

CgFARAD™ Withdrawal Recommendation Requests and the Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 has posed some added challenges for withdrawal requests. Due to the reduced need for milk in schools and restaurants, marginal lactating cows were culled on some farms. Many of these cull dairy cows were destined for slaughter in the United States in which case they are then subject to the U.S. laws regarding extra-label drug use. We are seeing requests for meloxicam (Metacam) and ketoprofen (Anafen), which are not approved for use in food animals in the U.S. but they are not banned drugs. Therefore, cattle treated with any of these drugs must not have detectable residues. Boehringer-Ingelheim kindly provided the CgFARAD™ with depletion data for both of these drugs to help us with this process. The list of drugs that may be an issue with Canadian food animals can be found at <http://www.farad.org/prohibited-and-restricted-drugs.html>

A more serious issue is the use of drugs that are banned or restricted in the U.S. The U.S. has not had injectable trimethoprim/sulfadoxine (e.g. Trimidox, Borgal) for decades. The use of non-approved sulfonamide drugs is not permitted in dairy cows over 20 months of age. Therefore, Canadian lactating dairy cows treated with these drugs cannot be sent for slaughter in the U.S. It is not an issue of detectable residues; cattle treated with banned drugs must not EVER be slaughtered in the US. Other drugs of concern include Baytril (enrofloxacin) or A180 (danofloxacin). We occasionally get requests for these drugs as it is legal to use them in an extra-label manner in Canada. No ELDU of fluoroquinolones is permitted in the U.S.; so again, treated dairy cattle must NOT enter the U.S. food supply. Ceftiofur can be used extra-label but only under specific circumstances. The CgFARAD™ staff have been working to provide this information to dairy veterinarians and associations.

Another development linked to COVID-19 is the proliferation of backyard poultry. Veterinarians treating backyard flocks are not necessarily familiar with poultry production and generally prescribed pharmaceuticals. Backyard poultry requests are typically for small animal or equine formulations of fenbendazole.

CgFARAD™ Research Projects

Dr. Ron Johnson, CgFARAD™ co-director is working on a Dexamethasone depletion study in lactating dairy and beef cattle. There are currently no documented withdrawal times and limited data on which to make recommendations. This project is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Dairy Farmers of Ontario and Beef Farmers of Ontario. Ron has started the beef component of the project and the dairy trial is slated to begin in March or April 2021.

A Masters student working on depletion studies in broilers is now back in the CgFARAD™ lab and will be defending his thesis in March 2021. His lab access was halted in March due to COVID so this work was held over for another year.

Finances and Budget

The year-to-date financial statement for the first half of the fiscal year was reviewed. Total revenue collected is \$178,706.94. Five supporters have not yet remitted their annual contributions. Total expenses are \$101,258.45. The year-to-date revenue over expenses is \$77,448.49. The bank balance is \$132,858.89.

The 2020-2021 budget projects a year-ending loss of \$8,717. While the actual year-end may not show as great a loss, there is a recognized need to find new sources of revenue to avoid depleting the bank balance over time. A financial sustainability committee has been struck to discuss options.

Animal Health Canada Presentation

Dr. Megan Bergman, Executive Director of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council gave a presentation on Animal Health Canada. Synthesis Agri-food Network undertook a gap analysis regarding animal health in Canada. They identified 19 structural and technical gaps, the most significant being the lack of a cohesive national approach to animal health. A culture shift was recommended to allow for a collaborative approach for the co-management of animal disease issues while still respecting regulatory authority.

Three governance models were proposed for a national animal health framework: boost the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council; create a new public-private partnership structure to formalize an FPT government / industry approach to co-managing; or, evolve the Council and transition to co-management. The preference is for the latter option. It will take 1.5 to two years to work through the process of designing and testing a framework.

The CgFARAD™ Advisory Board discussed with Megan future potential partnership opportunities once Animal Health Canada is fully functional.

CgFARAD™ Outreach

Currently, we send out two newsletters and two Board reports a year to all CgFARAD™ stakeholders; one of each in May/June and again in November/December. We rely on our contacts at each organization to disseminate the information within your respective company or to your members.

Please take time to forward these communications on to others who would be interested in or should be aware of our activities. As well, if they are others you would like added to our distribution list, please forward their email address to our Administrator, Susan Fitzgerald at susan.tfio@bell.net.