

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency



**Our vision:**  
To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

**Our mission:**  
Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

*Science for the Safety of our Food Supply and Protection of Animal and Plant Resources—Avian Influenza (AI) Case Study*

*Public Science in Canada Symposium  
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Dr. Judith Bossé*



## Government's role

Safety and protection need to be a concern of all, however the government:

- must ensure systems are in place and are effective for the safety of food supply and protection of public health
- must ensure animal resources are protected from significant epidemic
- have standards upon which actions taken are globally accepted and current

## Government's science roles

- Continuum between basic research, applied research and related science activities
- Related scientific activities (RSA): risk analysis, risk mitigation, epidemiological studies, diagnostics, inspection etc.
- Planning the science to timely inform policy (short-term / long-term)

## Science enterprise

- Critical to addressing cross-cutting issues
- Involving international, SBDA's, FPT, academia and private sector
- Importance of official networks bridging capabilities and building synergies in addressing joint priorities



## AI as a case study: context

- Increased densification of livestock and poultry operations worldwide to meet increasing demands for meat proteins
- Globalization and movement of goods increase exposure to new hazards exponentially
- Variety of animal and animal products - human interface increases potential public health issues



## Using research and RSA to enhance operational policies and program delivery

- Early detection and surge capacity
- More precise and effective interventions
- Containment and safety





## Containment and safety

- Enhancement of infrastructure and quality assurance as well as operating procedures through Canada's agriculture FPT lab system
- Animal/human influenza research
- On-farm biosecurity



## Who are the science providers involved in AI?

- International: USDA, Homeland Security, Australia, New Zealand
- Federal: Environment Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, National Defence, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, granting agencies
- All provinces
- Academia: animal and public health sectors
- Private sector: multiple

## Proposing a National Animal Health Strategy approach

- **Strategic Objective:**
  - To enhance Canada's animal health and welfare system in order to better contribute to public health and ecosystem protection and economic development, based on science, knowledge and experience.
- **In order to:**
  - Shift the focus from crises management to animal, public and ecosystem health management;
  - Encourage prevention and early detection rather than response and recovery;
  - Invest in common principles, objectives and approaches across all animal populations: wildlife, farmed animals, companion animals, aquatic animals, laboratory animals, zoo/entertainment animals and humans.

## Proposing five strategic pillars



## Conclusion

- Science enterprise concept must expand to do better planning
- Seamless transfer of applied research is both “science push” and “user pull” (science-policy foresight)
- In responding to an emergency, it is easy to get people on same page





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