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# **Canada-U.S. Regulatory Cooperation Council**

## *Zoning for Foreign Animal Diseases*

*Presentation to: Cross Border Livestock Health Committee  
Whistler, British Columbia  
July 22, 2014*

# Zoning for Foreign Animal Diseases

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## OUTCOME:

- Work towards establishing a common framework for zoning for foreign animal diseases (FADs), to apply to both Canada and the United States.

## OBJECTIVE:

- To ensure that Canada and the United States are protected against FADs and that, in the event of a disease outbreak in either country, bilateral trade can continue between zones that are free of the disease.

# Zoning for Foreign Animal Diseases: Action Items

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## ACTION ITEM 1:

- Protocol for mutual recognition of zoning decisions

## ACTION ITEM 2:

- Framework and high level processes to implement and maintain the zoning protocol (arrangement)

# Why an FAD Zoning Recognition Initiative?

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- Highly integrated North American market for livestock, meat and meat products
- High volume of cross border trade
- Well-established business relationships and partnerships
- Potential for major economic loss
- Response to stakeholder interest

# Accomplishments

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- Evaluation of Veterinary Infrastructure and Zoning Processes in the United States and Canada.
- An arrangement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) outlining the intention of each to recognize the other's zoning decisions in the event of a highly contagious FAD outbreak.
- A Framework to guide implementation of the Arrangement
- Cross border workshop on Outbreak Surveillance Toolbox.



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# **Guidance Framework for Implementing the Zoning Recognition Arrangement**

# Introduction

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- Draft framework developed by a USDA-CFIA bilateral working group.
  
- Scope is highly contagious foreign animal disease in domestic livestock. It does not include endemic disease (e.g. rabies, anthrax). It does not include pets, wildlife or fish.
  
- Draft framework was made available for public comment:
  - APHIS published a Federal Register Notice on May 13, 2014
  - CFIA published on the Agency's web site on June 11, 2014.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/consultation-framework/eng/1402434778625/1402434779735>

# Framework Objectives and Guiding Principles

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## Objectives:

- An operational plan for zoning recognition
- A structure for maintaining the arrangement
- A strategy to engage with stakeholders

## Guiding Principles:

- Preparing for and limiting the negative impacts of a highly contagious FAD outbreak is a **shared responsibility**
- Ongoing **cooperation** among all stakeholders is required
- In-depth knowledge and trust in FAD management practices in each country is critical to the **credibility** of the Arrangement and supports good decision-making.



# Part 1: Implementing the Arrangement During an Outbreak

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1. Legal Authority: who has the authority to establish zones and to recognize zones in other countries
  
2. Procedures for Recognition of Zoning Decisions:
  - Notification of HCFAD: a requirement to notify the other country of all confirmed detections of an FAD
  - Notification and Recognition of an Area of Control
  - Release of an Area of Control
  - Extenuating Circumstances

# Part 1: Implementing the Arrangement During an Outbreak (cont'd)

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## 3. Monitoring During an Outbreak

- Qualified staff members of unaffected country embedded in Incident Command Structure

## 4. Communications:

- Normal channels, coordinated between countries

## 5. Trade between Disease-Free Zones

- Once an area of control has been recognized, normal trade resumes between disease-free zones
- Export health certificates required to ensure animals/products did not originate from area of control

# Part II: Maintaining the Arrangement

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## 1. Governance

- Vision, authority, responsibility, maintenance of documents
- APHIS-CFIA Steering Committee
- APHIS-CFIA Working Group

## 2. Projects

- In most cases, led by the Working Group
- In collaboration with stakeholders

## 3. Resources

# Part III: Promoting Stakeholder Awareness and Engagement

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1. Consultation and Engagement
  - Involvement of governmental/nongovernmental stakeholders in both countries critical to success
2. Target Audience
3. Consultation on Projects and Priorities
  - Solicit proposals and input on projects
4. Communication/Consultation
  - Through various avenues including established groups such as Cross-Border Livestock Health Committee, US Animal Health Association, National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council.

## In summary.....

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- Evaluation of Veterinary Infrastructure and Zoning Processes
- Arrangement for the Recognition of Foreign Animal Disease Control and Eradication Zones
- Guidance Framework to Maintain the Arrangement
  - Implementing during an outbreak
  - Maintaining the Arrangement
  - Engaging stakeholders in the Arrangement

# What's Next?

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- This foundational work opens up many possibilities for collaboration, **depending on time and resources**
- Emergency preparedness
  - Tackling the tough questions about cross border trade in advance of an outbreak
  - Incorporating zoning recognition into emergency plans in both countries
- Modeling Consequences
  - When does it make sense to open the border or to keep it closed?
- States and Provinces
  - What will it take to convince states and provinces to sign on to the Arrangement

# What's Next?

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- Industry and other stakeholders
  - How do we build consensus?
- OIE
  - How do we get recognition from the OIE?
- Quadrilateral Countries
  - Current initiative to draft a similar, but more prescriptive, arrangement among the Quads countries
- Cross Border Projects
  - Workshop on Outbreak Surveillance Toolbox, Washington DC, March 2014
- Resources
  - Seeking out new funding sources to support this high profile initiative

# Immediate Next Steps

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- Finalize the framework consultation process in both countries
  - Bilateral working group to consider comments from both countries' consultation processes
  - Agree on revisions and seek approval of document
- Building scenarios to model consequences
  - North American Virtual Animal Disease Modeling Center
  - Medium to long term project
- Drafting a bilateral work plan
  - Approval of framework by APHIS and CFIA
  - Governance structure
  - Consideration of cross border projects



# Questions and Discussion

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