

RCC Agriculture and Food 1 Working Group: Zoning for Foreign Animal Diseases Work Plan

Canada Lead: Neil Bouwer, Vice President, Policy and Programs, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
 U.S. Leads: Dr. Gregory Parham, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 Phil Derfler, Deputy Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Deliverable outcome	Work towards the establishment of a common regionalization framework to apply both in Canada and the U.S. to ensure that both countries are collectively protected from disease but bilateral trade can continue from areas that are shown to remain disease free following an outbreak. As a first step, work towards a means to expedite recognition of the other’s zoning decisions, thereby minimizing the disruption of trade from disease-free zones.	
Action items	Action Item 1: Protocol for mutual recognition of zoning decisions	Action Item 2: Framework and high level processes for implementing and maintaining the zoning protocol
	Interim Deliverables	
3-6 Months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CFIA and APHIS finalize evaluations of veterinary infrastructure and zoning procedures. 2. CFIA and APHIS draft bilateral protocol for mutual recognition of zoning decisions. 3. Formal submission of evaluations and draft protocol to Canada and U.S. veterinary services management. 4. Decision by veterinary services management on acceptability of zoning assessments and protocol. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APHIS and CFIA prepare Terms of Reference and define scope. 2. Identify desired elements for a guidance framework for implementing the zoning protocol developed in Action item 1, including high-level processes to ensure bilateral communication of changes to zoning or foreign animal disease (FAD) response procedures and assess the impact of such changes on the zoning protocol. 3. Inform industry-state-provincial-stakeholders of purpose and scope of Action Items 1 and 2.

<p>6-12 months</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions between U.S. and Canadian Chief Veterinary Officers and agreement on zoning protocol. 2. Formal protocol for mutual recognition of zoning decisions for foreign animal diseases established. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APHIS and CFIA prepare a guidance framework for implementing the zoning protocol. 2. APHIS and CFIA identify opportunities for pilot projects and cross-border initiatives- -i.e., incorporating zoning into existing cross-border exercises, workshops involving scenario development and responses, etc--to facilitate understanding of zoning procedures and FAD response in both countries, increase efficiencies in managing cross-border FAD outbreaks, and test key elements of the guidance framework. 3. APHIS and CFIA solicit industry-state-provincial-stakeholder input on guidance framework and collaboration on pilot projects and cross-border initiatives. 4. Formal submission of guidance framework to U.S. and Canadian veterinary services management. 5. Decision by veterinary services management on acceptability of guidance framework. 6. Bilateral adoption of guidance framework.
<p>12-18 months</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate planning and development of pilot projects and cross-border initiatives with industry-state-provincial-stakeholder involvement as appropriate. 2. Pilot projects launched with industry-state-provincial-stakeholder involvement.
<p>Beyond 18 Months</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Framework implemented and maintained through processes outlined in guidance framework. 2. On-going industry-state-provincial-stakeholder involvement in various exercises, projects, workshops with APHIS and CFIA to maintain knowledge and expertise with respect to mutual recognition of zoning decisions.

Contact Information:

Canada: CFIA, Dr. Francine Lord [e-mail: Francine.Lord@inspection.gc.ca], and Dr. Cheryl James [e-mail: cheryl.james@inspection.gc.ca]

US: USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [e-mail: RCC-BTB@one.usda.gov]