Co-Chairs:

Jill Harvie
Programs Manager
Canadian Cattlemen’s Association

As Programs Manager, Jill works closely with the CCA Executive to identify policy gaps and suggests lobbying as well as communication strategies while delivering project management solutions to members and the committee. Jill also represents Canada as staff dedicated to the Young Ranchers file on the Five Nations Beef Alliance, in an effort to improve Free Trade, Environment, Advocacy, Animal Health and Welfare issues worldwide. Jill is the liaison with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) and the Canadian Beef Breeds Council (CBBC), which allows for greater communication between the organizations. Jill also manages the popular Cattlemen’s Young Leaders (CYL) Program. This role involves program oversight, communications development, funding procurement and event coordination and planning. The role also involves strategic management of CYL advocacy efforts and the oversight of the development of the Canadian Beef Ambassadors Program. Finally, Jill works closely with CCA staff in acquiring and managing sponsorship for various programs and events.

Dr. Brad LeaMaster
State Veterinarian
Oregon State Department of Agriculture

LeaMaster received his degree in veterinary medicine from Washington State University (WSU) and has worked as a veterinarian for nearly 30 years. Since 2004, LeaMaster has worked for the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) office in Salem where he has served as area emergency coordinator. Other work experience includes 10 years with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and as a veterinary extension specialist at the University of Hawaii for eight years prior to joining ODA as a field veterinarian in 1999.
LeaMaster received undergraduate degrees at Eastern Oregon College in La Grande as well as Washington State University (1979). He received his DVM from WSU in 1982. He also received a masters degree in animal nutrition at Oregon State University and a doctorate in microbiology at University of Hawaii.

Speakers:

Mohit Baxi  
Director of Animal Import/Export  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Dr. Mohit Baxi is a veterinarian and a PhD scientist with several years of post-doctoral training. He obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge, England and later worked as a Scientist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), University of Saskatchewan. In 2001, Dr. Baxi joined the Federal Public Service where he has held several positions with increasing responsibilities including the current position as the Director, Animal Import and Export Division with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. He is responsible for providing professional expertise, leadership and managerial direction to develop and implement national animal health programs, regulations, policies and standards to manage certification of terrestrial animals, birds and aquatics and their products and byproducts sold and imported or exported into or from Canada. He is also a contributing member to numerous committees and working groups at domestic and international level and provides Canadian perspective in development of national capacity to deal with emerging animal threats and issues.

Dr. Danelle Bickett-Widdle,  
DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVPM  
Associate Director, Center for Food Security and Public Health  
Iowa State University

Dr. Bickett-Wedde is a South Dakota native who earned her BS from South Dakota State University, her DVM from Iowa State University in 1999, her Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Iowa in 2003, obtained Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) in 2006, and completed her PhD in 2009 from Iowa State. Danelle worked in private practice followed by industry as a dairy nutritionist, then entered academia. In her role as the Associate Director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) at Iowa State University, she managed the development of materials for the USDA-APHIS National Veterinary Accreditation Program for 10 years. She currently leads the Secure Milk Supply Plan and the Secure Beef Supply Plan which involves business continuity guidance in the event of a foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. She also leads the CFSPH's Infection Control and Biological Risk
Management materials and chairs the ISU CVM Infectious Disease Control Committee. Danelle has the privilege of teaching veterinary students at ISU and emergency preparedness for veterinarians and public health professionals at the University of Iowa. She also co-coordinates an online prep course for veterinarians seeking board certification in the ACVPM. Danelle is energized by the opportunity to educate and inspire others about diseases and their prevention, empowering people to do the best job they can to care for animals, keep them healthy, make agriculture sustainable, and have enough food to feed the world. When not working on “electronic cows”, Danelle enjoys spending time with her husband and her two daughters.

Dr. Andrew Clark

Consultant

International Animal Health Consultant

Dr. Clark received his DVM from Michigan State University Saturday, 10 June 1964, and departed for a Peace Corps assignment in Tanganyika on Sunday 11 June. This led to a 26 year career in international work, primarily in Eastern and Southern Africa and also in Northern Africa and the Near East.

Dr. Clark had a second 22-year domestic career with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, ending up as State Veterinarian.

The African work involved large population disease control. As Veterinary Officer of Masailand in Tanzania, Dr. Clark was responsible for health concerns of a population of appx. 1 million cattle, 1 million sheep and goats, and many thousands of donkeys. In the late 1960s he was involved with the initial efforts to eradicate Rinderpest.

After retirement in Oregon, Dr. Clark worked with USDA/APHIS/International Services in Egypt with the massive epizootic of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and also with USDA/Foreign Agricultural Services and USAID based in Nairobi.

Two projects stand out in his work. First, design of the Standard Methods and Procedures approach to coordinate national Departments of Veterinary Services dealing with Transboundary Animal Diseases, involving hundreds of millions of livestock. Second, design of an approach for reduction of human exposure to Avian Influenza during home slaughter of infected chickens, which became a FAO project that involved outreach to nearly 1.5 million Egyptian households.
Dr. John Clifford

Chief Trade Advisor, Veterinary National Import and Export Services
United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Dr. Clifford provides leadership by ensuring continued international trade opportunities as the Chief Trade Advisor of Veterinary Services' National Import Export Services. Dr. Clifford has a unique combination of field and headquarters experience, combining policy development and decision making with practical implementation in efforts to protect, sustain, and improve productivity, health, and marketability of the nation's animals, animal products, and biologics.

Dr. Clifford served as the Veterinary Services Deputy Administrator for 12 years. Since joining APHIS in 1985, he has also provided leadership as the Associate Deputy Administrator of National Animal Health and Policy Program; Veterinary Services Assistant Deputy Administrator, Area Veterinarian in Charge in Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, and Indiana; Coordinator of the National Health Monitoring System in Ohio; and the brucellosis epidemiologist and veterinary medical officer in Kentucky. Before beginning his work with APHIS, Dr. Clifford was a private veterinarian in a mixed practice. He received his DVM and BS degrees in animal science from the University of Missouri.

A native of Kentucky, Dr. Clifford currently resides in Bowling Green with his wife, Sara.

Jack Field

Executive Director
Washington Cattle Feeders’ Association

Jack is a member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and Washington Cattlemen’s Association and is the Executive Director of the Washington Cattle Feeders Association (WCFA). Jack previously was employed as the Executive Vice President of the Washington Cattlemen’s Association from 2004-2017. Jack has spent a considerable amount of time working with producers to educate them about State and Federal water quality regulations. Jack also represents the WCFA in Olympia throughout the legislative session and has an opportunity to work with a wide section of stakeholders on issues affecting livestock producers throughout the State. Jack and the Washington Cattle Feeders Association work closely with Cattle Feeders throughout the Pacific Northwest to address the challenges that face the cattle feeding community.

Jack graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Science and Technology and a minor in Agricultural Systems Management from the University of Idaho in 1999.
Prior to joining the Washington Cattlemen’s Association in 2004, he was an assistant farm manager on a 2,200-acre irrigated row crop in White Swan, Washington. Jack was raised on a small cow/calf operation in central Oregon. Jack resides in Yakima, WA with his wife Skye where they own and operate Lazy JF Cattle Co. a small commercial cow/calf cattle operation.

Joe Jackson
Director
Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association

From his earliest days in Oklahoma, Joe has been involved in the cattle industry. With an Animal Science degree from Oklahoma State, Joe began his career as a delivery agent at the OKC Stockyards delivering feeder cattle against the CME Feeder Cattle contract. Joe then spent 12 years with Cargill as a cattle buyer and head buyer at the new Cargill, Highriver Canada facility. Joe is currently with JGL Livestock in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan. Joe’s primary roles are, forward contracting, managing cattle on feed, futures trading, and exporting of cattle to U.S. feedlots.

Dr. Keith Lehman
Chief Provincial Veterinarian
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Office of Alberta’s Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV) provides scientific and veterinary leadership in developing animal health policy and in working to prevent and respond to animal health concerns. Alberta’s Chief Provincial Veterinarian is Dr. Keith Lehman, who has been in this role since July 2016.

The work of the OCPV focuses on animal disease control and prevention activities, overseeing administration of Alberta’s Animal Health Act, and providing advice and recommendations on related animal health topics.

Having strong animal health policy and practices is important to Alberta’s livestock and other animals, and it’s also important to public health, Alberta’s environment, and the agriculture industry.

John Masswohl
Director of Government and International Relations
Canadian Cattlemen’s Association

Based in our Ottawa office, as a government and international relations liaison, John spends the majority of his time as the voice for the Canadian
beef industry to Canadian and U.S. governments as well as maintaining international relations around the world. John joined the CCA after previously working closely with the Canadian beef industry as Agriculture and Trade Counsellor with the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Follow John on Twitter @JohnMasswohl

Dr. Roxanne Mullaney

National Director
U.S. Port Services

Dr. Roxanne Mullaney is a National Director in the National Import Export Services unit of USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services. A Michigan native, she received her veterinary degree from Michigan State University in 1991, and immediately began a career in public practice. Her first position with Veterinary Services was as a field veterinarian working to eradicate swine disease in western Michigan. She then moved on to various other field positions in Michigan and New York which included the Canadian border and import activities around New York City, and held field management positions in New Jersey and New York. In 2014, Dr. Mullaney assumed her current position, based in Raleigh, NC facilitating livestock trade into and out of the United States.

Dr. Mullaney gained animal health emergency response experience during national poultry disease clean-up efforts in recent years, including leadership of an APHIS incident management team. In addition to providing oversight to VS port activities, she focuses on various strategic activities aimed at improving organizational infrastructure within Veterinary Services.

Frédéric Seppey

Chief Agriculture Negotiator
Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada

Frédéric Seppey is Canada’s Chief Agriculture Negotiator and Assistant Deputy Minister at Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC). His responsibilities include leading the negotiating team for agriculture products in trade fora such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bilateral free trade negotiations, technical trade policy matters and Canada’s engagement in multilateral agriculture institutions.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Seppey held several management positions with AAFC and at the Canadian section of the Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation Council. During his 20-year career in the Public Service, Mr. Seppey also worked at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as well as the Privy Council Office, the Department of Finance and the Treasury Board Secretariat.
Dr. Kathryn Simmons

Chief Veterinarian
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association

Dr. Kathy Simmons is the Chief Veterinarian for National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), working out of the Governmental Affairs office in Washington, DC. Dr. Simmons provides leadership and guidance on matters pertaining to animal health and welfare, working predominantly with the regulatory agencies involved in animal health issues and food safety. She represents the beef industry in dealing with international animal health issues at OIE and with international food safety issues at Codex. Additionally, Dr. Simmons serves as policy advisor to NCBA’s Cattle Health and Well Being Committee and working groups.

Dr. Simmons attended Virginia Tech for her undergraduate studies, majoring in biochemistry and biology. She received her doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) degree from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia. She worked in private veterinary practice for 25 years in Virginia and 1 year in West Virginia. She is a member of numerous veterinary professional organizations. From 2010 to 2011, Dr. Simmons served for one year as an AVMA Congressional Fellow, working in the area of health policy for Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME). Dr. Simmons joined the Government Affairs staff for NCBA in 2012.

Dr. Tom Smylie

Senior Staff Veterinarian
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Dr. Smylie joined CFIA in 2010 after spending 32 years in private practice where he was primarily engaged in bovine practice. His role at CFIA is primarily focused on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Policy and Emergency Preparedness.

Dr. Smylie has presented at international conferences including USAHA, as well as COSALFA 42 in Quito Ecuador and the EUFMD16 meeting in Cascais Portugal in 2016. He has been the primary driver for changes to the OIE Code that would allow zoning during an FMD outbreak, the harmonization of the waiting periods for recovery of freedom in order to pursue a vaccinate to live policy, and an arrangement to share FMD vaccine in the event of an emergency between the North American FMD vaccine Bank, the Australian FMD vaccine Bank and the New Zealand FMD Vaccine Bank. Dr. Smylie remains committed to working on innovative solutions for the Canadian Livestock Industry should we experience a FMD outbreak in Canada.