



GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF

Animal Health and Welfare (AHW) Working Group **Terms of Reference** (Updated: August 9, 2023)

Co-chairs: Josh White, Mandi McLeod, Bruce McConnel

A. INTRODUCTION

The Animal Health and Welfare Group (AHWG), is a technical working group of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) and the network of national and regional beef and cattle roundtables around the world - focused on helping advance solutions that improve wellbeing of cattle and contribute to GRSB's Animal Health and Welfare Goal, Principle and Criteria.

Membership of the wider working group is open to all GRSB members, and in the development of any documents or projects, the wider working group will be informed and consulted. The co-chairs will select a smaller representative group of experts for the purpose of drafting documents, projects, and proposals, referred to as the core group. The co-chairs will schedule separate meetings of the core group and to inform and consult with the wider group as appropriate.

To date the AHWG has played the role of bringing stakeholders together, advancing constructive dialogues, sharing science, research and information, and updating stakeholders on progress, challenges and opportunities. In particular the group was instrumental in the drafting of the Global Goal, and evolved from earlier, more *ad hoc* efforts on animal health and welfare subsequent to the drafting of Principles and Criteria. Following the release of the goal, emphasis now moves to establishing baselines, and monitoring & evaluation of efforts towards the goal.

B. GRSB STRATEGIC PLAN

In spring of 2019, the Board of Directors of the **Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB)** undertook a strategic planning exercise including a membership survey, interviews, and a design thinking workshop to create a framework for the coming five to ten years. The purpose of a strategic plan is to prioritize goals and objectives to guide the work of the organization – its members, board, and staff – in meeting the challenges and opportunities of the coming years.

As a result of that meeting the following 2030 priorities were agreed on:

GRSB 2030 Strategic Plan Priorities

1. Establish a limited number of “Global Goals” for the GRSB Network;
2. Communicate to ensure that beef is a trusted part of a thriving food system.
3. Support the Roundtable Network.
4. Develop an information system to report progress on the GRSB Global Goals.
5. Develop and Strengthen partnerships to meet the Global Goals.

To be recognized as a global leader and to ensure the GRSB network is successful in achieving its vision, **GRSB set a number of aspirational Strategic Goals to drive its work forward and create**

impact. Goals are being built on the GRSB Principles & Criteria, focusing action on the opportunities that result in the biggest impact and will be formulated for the whole beef value chain.

The Goal Development Process and Decision Making:

As part of the strategic planning, the relevant Technical Working Groups were asked (where needed) to collaborate within the GRSB network to support and accelerate progress towards the goals.

This AHWG has been tasked with supporting the development, implementation and periodic review of the GRSB Principle, Criteria and global goal on Animal Health and Welfare.

C. AHWG OBJECTIVES

The AHWG will provide advice to implement progress towards achieving the global goal, with the aim of developing projects with GRSB Membership and important stakeholders, and refinement of the reporting framework developed with Sure Harvest. Further objectives are:

- Provide a forum for global and regional stakeholders to discuss Animal Health and Wellbeing in beef production systems.
- Support the work of the GRSB and regional RTs to implement, and track the global sustainability goal for Animal Health and Wellbeing.
- Advance support, through committing time and fundraising for viable approaches and projects that contribute to meeting GRSB's AHW goal.
- Advance and support "open access" to cattle health, husbandry and welfare focused educational resources in languages of GRSB member countries.
- Advance support for responsible sourcing practices that prioritize animal health and welfare and support implementation (through access to education, technical resources and/or stimulating buyers and financiers to provide economic incentives) of WOA-based health, husbandry and welfare practices.
- Encourage improvements in traceability, monitoring, and transparency in cattle value chains.
- Share science, research, innovations, and information on topics related to animal health and wellbeing with cattle value chains

D. AHWG MEMBERS

Members of the AHWG should be committed to participate in regular meetings as the baseline and reporting requirements are worked out following ratification of the goal by the general assembly. The AHWG will be comprised of National/Regional Roundtable representatives, GRSB Membership and staff and other stakeholders that GRSB and AHWG consider have technical knowledge that can help the group achieve its objective.

AHWG members are appointed by the GRSB based on the following criteria:

- Proactive interest and ability to contribute expertise and time.
- Diversity of the group ensuring adequate representation of the beef supply chain actors of different types of organizations, size, and location. The AHWG will include at least one member from a producer association representing farmers interests and concerns, and ideally several from different regions.
- Membership participation should ensure diverse representation of GRSB members.
- Expertise and involvement in animal health and welfare.
- The balance of the AHWG shall be preserved to the greatest extent possible - for example, where possible a producer association will be replaced with a producer association and so forth.

By accepting a role on the AHWG, members confirm that they are able to devote sufficient time to the role and duties, as defined below. Proactive participation from all members is crucial for an effective group.

E. AHWG RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities will include:

- Bring expertise from either internal or external sources
- Forming sub-groups where necessary that can help take the lead on drafting materials related to the GRSB global goal on animal health and welfare, sharing with and collecting feedback from the wider group, processing and integrating edits. These small sub-groups will be formed by GRSB members.
- Project strategy, research and evaluation
- Advise on the characteristics of the engagement, i.e. prioritization of efforts among sectors, markets, commodities and engagement strategy
- Review and keep abreast of research, resources and literature and advise on appropriate links
- Advise on engagement opportunities with policymakers, sectoral bodies, initiatives or voluntary standards, preparation of public statements or investor expectations, etc.
- Review indicators, and advise on development of benchmarks to assess the progress of Roundtables and organizations that are members of GRSB
- Advise on the parameters for the evaluation of the AHWG's overall progress
- Advisory committee members are expected to participate in regular monthly calls.
- AHWG is co-led by Josh White (NCBA), Mandi McLeod (Systems Insight Ltd) and Bruce McConnel (Minderoo Foundation), supported by Ruaraidh Petre (GRSB) who are responsible for ensuring that the initiative is aligned with the GRSB strategy, and that resources are utilized as effectively as possible toward their aims and objectives.
- GRSB Executive Committee Sponsor for AHWG is Bob Lowe who will act as a senior advisor and liaison with the EC, as well as being a producer representative.
- AHWG Members are invited to participate in all calls, meetings, workshops, events of the WG.
- AHWG Members will be invited to co-create and share feedback on the objectives, workplan, work products, etc.
- Defining strategy for achievement of GRSB's Global AHW Goal, metrics and timelines, based on input from its members
- GRSB secretariat will help provide administrative and logistical support and will handle the functions of convening, facilitating and taking notes of regular meetings of the committee.
- The co-leaders and group members provide agenda points and contribute content for briefings and publications, etc.
- Identifying research and data needs for members education and engagement
- Ensuring the group moves forward and adheres to agreed timelines.
- Managing the content of the online working group space.

H. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

AHWG will report on the activities of the group to the GRSB Executive Committee and Board of Directors and/or on the GRSB websites every month, including the terms of reference and members, and updates on activities.

I. CONTACT

If you are interested in learning more about the AHWG, please contact:

Ruaraidh Petre ruaraidh.petre@grsbeef.org , Julie James Julie.james@grsbeef.org