MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CANADIAN SHEEP INDUSTRY

FROM THE flock

DECEMBER 2011 • VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 10

IN THIS ISSUE:

RECOGNITION

Funding for the Canadian Sheep Identification Program and the Canadian Sheep Federation's Food Safe Farm Practices Program , has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Integrated Food Safety Initiative under Growing Forward.

Funding for the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program has been provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) AgriFlexibility program.

Opinions expressed in this document are those of the Canadian Sheep Federation and not necessarily those of AAFC.

Specialty Food Sector

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) recently conducted a project to define the size and nature of the Speciality Food (SF) sector in Canada, and to seek insights into the opportunities it presents. The project also identified the challenges that may prevent the sector from taking full advantage of the opportunities. The results of the research, done from a value chain perspective, include recommendations to develop a national association to represent Canada's Speciality Food Sector, and ways to enhance collaboration between industry and government to increase the sector's long-term competitiveness.

The term Speciality Food can be defined in several ways as it is based on evolving consumer demands for various factors. That said, for the purpose of the work undertaken by AAFC, Specialty Food was divided into three main categories:

- Gourmet/Artisan Foods: high quality, premium, fine foods such as cheeses, spreads, oils, confectionery, etc.
- Speciality Diet: allergen/intolerance-friendly foods such as nut, fish, soy, wheat, gluten-free and "better-for-you" products such as low in salt, sugar, and fat.
- Ethnic Foods: foods of ethnic origin, such as Indian, Thai, Caribbean, and Mexican, as well as kosher or halal certified foods.

Key domestic driving forces include: a growing ethnically-diverse population where visible minorities are projected to account for 70% of the retail sales growth over the next 10 years[2]; consumer's exposure to new food ideas through increased travel and multi-media; and a growing demand for allergen/intolerance-friendly foods.

Valued at US$70.3 billion in the US alone[1], the SF market is demonstrating consistent growth as an increasing number of consumers in Canada and around the world demand food products that feature ethnic or exotic flavours, meet specific dietary needs, or deliver a unique culinary experience in their own homes.

Specialty Food Opportunities for Canadian Lamb and Lamb Products

In November, Doree Kovalio, from AAFC's Sector Development and Analysis Directorate, provided the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable with a presentation that focused on building awareness about speciality food opportunities for Canadian lamb:

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130 Malcolm Road Guelph ON N1K 1B1 • www.cansheep.ca • Tel: (519) 824-6018 OR (888) 684-7739 • Fax: (866) 909-5360

Gourmet/Artisan Foods

Sheep and lamb products are well poised to take advantage of the growing demand for gourmet and artisan foods. Not only is lamb considered a nice alternative to the usual beef, poultry and pork, but speciality cheeses and other dairy products represent additional opportunities. Sheep milk contains more than twice the fat as cow's milk which is one of the reasons why it makes excellent cheeses. Some of the most famous cheeses are made from sheep milk including: Feta, Ricotta, Pecorino and Roquefort. There has also been a surge in popularity of Greek yogurt which originally is made of sheep's milk.

Speciality Diet

Lamb is a nutrient dense meat and a prime source of high quality protein, vitamins and minerals, along with being a source of "good fat". Sheep milk is suitable for most people who are lactose intolerant, because its lactose and protein particles are different than cow's milk and more easily digested. In particular, it is more suitable than cow's milk for consumption by babies, and patients with gastrointestinal issues and arthritis.

Ethnic Market

It is the ethnic food market that may present the greatest opportunities for the sheep industry. As many in the industry know, lamb has been associated with religious holidays and traditions of various groups Muslims are the largest consumers of lamb and mutton in the world. Canada's immigrant population is growing rapidly, and Arabs and West Asians are predicted to be the fastest growing of all immigrant groups, forecasted to triple in size by 2031. Additionally the population of non-Christians is expected to nearly double, accounting for 14% of Canadians by 2031. Around half of those would be Muslim Canadians.

It is important to keep in mind that Muslim consumers in Canada spend nearly double on meat than the average consumer. This is mainly due to the large family sizes and traditional cuisine, which includes meat, and more specifically, lamb, as a staple ingredient.

According to a 2009 study done by the Manitoba Provincial Government on the halal and kosher market, the Canadian halal market is valued at $214 million in meat alone. This underdeveloped market, supported by a growing consumer segment, represents growing commercial opportunities.

The real question, however, is: Is the Canadian sheep and lamb industry positioned to capture the specialty food opportunities?

The research conducted by AAFC revealed that although not all processing facilities in Canada are state-of-the-art, and few are federally inspected, they have the capacity to expand production to process more lambs. Given that ***Canada currently produces only 42% of the lamb consumed domestically*** opportunity exists for the industry to capture a greater share of the market.

While growth potential has been identified by the report, so have a number of challenges, which would need to be addressed, including:

- inconsistency of product supply and quality
- lack of management skills and training
- lack of a value-chain perspective (not look at the industry's long-term future)
- prohibitive animal health products regulations which leads to increase production costs and exposure to risks

AAFC did provide the group with a few points to consider should the sector be interested in pursuing commercial opportunities in this market, including: measuring Canadian lamb quality standards relative to global competitors, assessing branding and marketing strategies of other Canadian agri-food sectors, and tackling issues related to product inconsistencies. By developing a strong brand promise built on quality and value, the sector will be better equipped to compete in the growing and lucrative ethnic and specialty food market.

[1] *Mintel Report The State of the Specialty Food Industry (2011)*
[2] *Caicco & Petrie (2010)*

Reminders for Completing VSFCP Annual Inventory Reports

By Corlena Patterson - National Scrapie Project Coordinator

The Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program is Canadian small ruminant industry initiative designed to provide disease risk mitigation to program participants. The goal of the program is to provide participants with individual risk protection against developing scrapie in their flock or herd.

With participation in the VSFCP comes the requirement to complete and submit an annual application for advancement. Your annual inventory report is an integral part of the submission and can contain a significant amount of information. The following is a brief overview of what is required as part of your inventory and is designed to help you manage your information.

Inventory reports need to identify all sheep and goats on the premises at the time you conduct your annual accredited vet supervised inventory. Animals 12 months of age and older need to be individually identified with 2 forms of ID. Animals under the age of 12 months do not need to be individually identified but they do need to be accounted for by the total number on-farm at inventory time.

You will need to identify all sheep and goats that have entered the premises since the last inventory. Animals born on farm will need to be identified as HG (home grown) if they are 12 months old or older and appropriate ID, sex and date of birth provided. Purchased animals, new to your inventory since the last report, will need to have accompanying supporting documents (proof of purchase or loan). The VSFCP (or USDA SFCP) status of purchased females will need to be verified to ensure they do not affect your own VSFCP status. Purchased males will have no affect on your flock or herd status, but will still need purchase or loan receipts to verify their origin.

All sheep and goats that have left the premises will need to be identified, and the appropriate supporting documents will need to be provided. You may have sold or lost animals under the age of 12 months that were not previously recorded on your inventory, but once they leave the premises they will need to be included on the subsequent inventory report and all of their relevant information provided (sex, DOB, 1 from of ID). Animals that die at less than 1 year of age do not need to be scrapie tested. All sheep and goats 12 months or older will need to be scrapie tested and the lab report submitted as part of your report. All animals sold or slaughtered, regardless of age, need to be included on your annual inventory and the supporting documents provided.

Genotype results and Third Eyelid or RAMALT test results (if required) need to be submitted along inventory reports for producers enrolled in Pathway 2 or 3. Don't forget to label your inventory report with your contact information and have each page signed and dated by your veterinarian.

We also encourage producers to submit inventory reports electronically in addition to the original hard copy submission, as it helps minimize the time required to process your annual application. We have excel inventory spreadsheets for your convenience which are available by contacting Scrapie Canada.

Funding for the National TSE Eradication Plan is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) AgriFlexibility program, as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the Canadian Sheep Federation and not necessarily those of AAFC.

RFID TAGGING

Guide for Canadian sheep producers

The following are the only Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags (and matching taggers) currently approved for use in the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) (see below). The Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers is the exclusive distributor of these tags. See the CSF website for ordering details.

Allflex Yellow Button Tags and Tagger

Shearwell Data SET Tags and Tagger

View eight detailed videos on Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) tagging online at **www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/tagvideos.aspx** or call 1-888-684-7739

The series of videos, available in English and French provides complete "Why, When, What and How to" information with regards to the use of RFID identifiers for the sheep industry.

- Video 1: Why tag?
- Video 2: When to tag?
- Video 3: Tagging systems
- Video 4: Tagging hygiene
- Video 5: How to restrain animals
- Video 6: Where to place the tag?
- Video 7: Tagging with Shearwell
- Video 8: Tagging with Allflex

Funding for this initiative has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Integrated Food Safety Initiative under Growing Forward.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada | Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Growing Forward | Cultivons l'avenir

TAGGING WITH ALLFLEX*

**These steps are a summary. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.*

STEP 1: INSERT MALE HALF & SQUEEZE

Place the male half of the button tag over the pin in the tagger and squeeze the tagger firmly to make sure the male part is in place.

STEP 2: INSERT FEMALE HALF & SQUEEZE

Slide the female half under the clamp, well back in the notch. Squeeze tagger gently to ensure the halves line up.

STEP 3: POSITION THE TAG PROPERLY

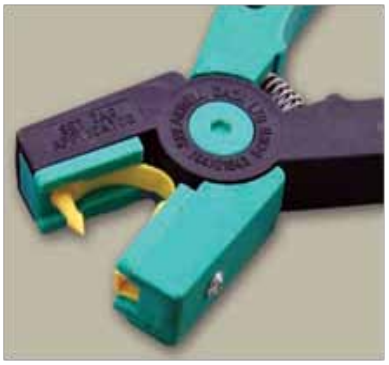
Place the tag 1/3 of the way along the ear away from the head, allowing room for the lamb's head to grow. The male part pierces the back of the ear. The female part faces front. It is recommended to tag the RIGHT ear.

TAGGING WITH SHEARWELL*

**These steps are a summary. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.*

STEP 1: LOAD THE TAGGER

Place the tag over the tagger's mouth and pull it into position so the square end and the round end nest neatly in the tagger.



STEP 2: CHECK THE ENDS' ALIGNMENT

Make sure the two ends of the tag line up properly by squeezing the tagger halfway. You should hear a click. If the loop is firmly in position and the two ends line up, you're ready to

STEP 3: POSITION THE TAG PROPERLY

Place the tag 1/3 of the way along the ear away from the head, between the two main veins, male end in back and female end in front. It is recommended to tag the RIGHT ear.

What equipment do I need to implement the Food Safe Farm Practices Program?

By Barb Caswell, National On-Farm Food Safety Coordinator

Equipment is always a concern of producers who are interesting in learning what is required to implement the Canadian Sheep Federation's on-farm food safety program, the Canadian Sheep and Lamb Food Safe Farm Practices (FSFP). Needing equipment translates to a cost and in order to run a successful business, producers need to reduce costs and maximize returns. The producers across the country that helped to develop and review the FSFP program have not forgotten this in developing the program. The equipment needs of the FSFP program can be minimal depending on your farm, and may have benefits far outside of an on-farm food safety program. Also, many provinces have available funding through Growing Forward (until March 2013) to assist producers in covering the cost of equipment for on-farm food safety.

If you haven't done so already, you can contact the Canadian Sheep Federation in order to get information about how to download a copy of the Producer Manual for the FSFP program. This manual details all of the good production practices or 'GPPs' that are required to comply with the program. The first major requirement of the program is record keeping, which does not necessarily require any equipment and may not require you to change your current system. As part of the Producer Manual, templates are provided which detail all the necessary information to be recorded. Producers can choose to use these record templates and record information directly in their Producer Manual. You can continue to use the record keeping system you have in place as long as you are keeping all of the necessary information as requested in the templates and you are able to provide this information upon an audit. The program requires that you keep records for two years. You may already be using a notebook or computer program. Simply review your current system to see if all the necessary information is there or if can be added. Many producers will find they are, in some way, already tracking much of the information.

Some individuals may be using computer software as part of implementing traceability or management systems. Many management software programs will record the necessary information required as part of the FSFP program, but this equipment is not required and you may simply choose to keep paper records. However, provincial funding programs may fund the purchase of computers and software. It is up to the producer as to the level of investment they choose to make, and what works the best and most efficiently on their farm.

Section A1 deals with usage, purchase and storage of animal health products. Treated animals must be identified in order to ensure withdrawal times are met. The method of identified sheep is not specified. For example, ear tags, livestock markers, and/or pen identification are all acceptable forms of identifying treated sheep or lambs. In using the products, you need to be sure to follow all label directions. As such, a scale to weigh animals is needed to ensure you are giving the proper dosage. If you do not already have a scale on your farm, review provincial funding programs to see if scales are covered. Purchasing a scale for your farm can be highly useful outside of a food safety program and help to monitor rates of gain, birth and weaning weights, and other production traits. A scale can be coupled with components of a traceability program on farm to assist in managing flock productivity and identifying poor performers.

For storing animal health products, there are two key components. First, products should be stored in a secure location where sheep can in no way accidently or unknowingly gain access. This applies to both products and medicated feeds. Some producers may choose to install lockable cabinets, while others simply store products in a location in the barn where sheep cannot gain access, even should they get loose from their pens. Another option is using pails or plastic storage containers with lids which snap into place.

Food Safe Farm Practices Program

Having a secure location may for many producers require little to no investment, and will ensure your sheep are unable to get access to medications without your knowledge.

Another important component is to store animal health products as detailed on the product label or insert. Many products are temperature sensitive, for example, and need to be stored in a refrigerator. While a fridge may seem like a tremendous investment for the farm, keep in mind that following storage directions on a product's label in addition to proper usage will ensure the optimal efficacy of the product, potentially minimizing the need for additional treatments, lost production, and related veterinary costs.

The final component of this section is to have a puncture resistant container for used needles. While an actual sharps container like you would see in your doctor's office is a great option, even a washed out bleech container made of thick plastic to withstand the corrosive liquid is acceptable as long as the lid is kept on to ensure the contents cannot be spilled should the container get bumped or shifted.

The next section deals with feed and bedding. Minimizing access to feed storage areas by rodents and other animals is important and may require slight changes to storage facilities or use of traps. If you are using medicated feeds or are feeding ruminants and non-ruminants, keeping the feeds stored separately is important. This requires that storage areas and equipment used for both types of feed (ruminant and non-ruminant, medicated and non-medicated) require a cleaning protocol to prevent cross-contamination. Depending on the size and location of your storage areas and the equipment you use to handle feed, you may choose for example to have a blower which allows you to blow down feed bunks or bins. Smaller operations may simply be able to keep separate equipment for handling these feeds and keep them stored in physically separate locations.

Once again, the level of investment can be decided upon by the producer and what works best for their operation to accomplish the objective of preventing cross-contamination.

The next potential section where equipment could be a need is Section 4 of the Manual, which relates pesticides and farm chemicals. Like animal health products, storing pesticides and chemicals in a secure location will ensure not they do not contaminate feed, bedding, or sheep. Make sure you are applying any pesticides to grazing land exactly as per label directions, which means using any necessary equipment to do so in order to prevent incorrect usage and potential residues on pastures. A secure location can be a room separate from sheep housing areas to avoid sheep inadvertently gaining access should they manage to get out of pens, storage bins with snap lids, or lockable cupboards.

While we are not going to address the equipment requirements for the sections related to dairy sheep production, the idea is quite similar – the investment required in equipment to accomplish the required food safety objective can be weighed by producer and what works best for his or her operation. It is important to note that the equipment chosen will be reviewed during the audit, so ensure the equipment you choose does in fact accomplish the intended objective. As mentioned, many provinces have funding still available to cover the costs of equipment for on-farm food safety programs. Producers may be able to make a larger investment by accessing these funds. Contact your provincial sheep association or department of agriculture to request information about these funding programs and can be covered.

Industry-Government Advisory Communiqué

REPORTING ON PROGRESS

Industry and government representatives met in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Oct. 19-20, 2011 for the fall meeting of the Industry-Government Advisory Committee (IGAC).

IGAC is the advisory body leading the development and implementation of the livestock and poultry components of a National Agriculture and Food Traceability System (NAFTS).

IGAC is comprised of 22 industry and 15 federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) government members.

This update has been developed to provide industry with an overview on the progress IGAC has made on the development of NAFTS for livestock and poultry as well as provide a synopsis of key topics discussed at their most recent bi-annual meeting.

Members discussed topics such as: the National Cattle Traceability Summit; the vision for a multi-species regulatory amendment; and, the development of the Canadian Agri-Traceability Service (CATS).

The next IGAC meeting is scheduled for April, 2012 in Québec.

> *"We cannot afford any more delays. We need to keep the traceability highway open for everyone that wants to be on it."*
>
> – Pascal Lemire, IGAC Co-Chair

Canadian Agri-Traceability Services (CATS)

An update was provided on the implementation of the Canadian Agriculture Traceability System (CATS). IGAC supports moving forward.

What is CATS?

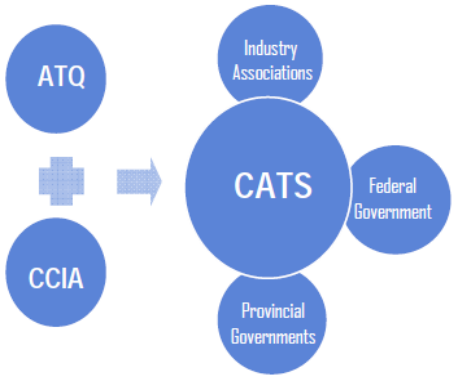
CATS will integrate national traceability activities under a single national data service, bringing together ATQ and CCIA and leveraging the resources and expertise of these two agencies.

The goal of the initiative is to provide Canada with high quality, innovative, integrated and effective traceability services.

By 2015, CATS will be a sustainable, client-focused livestock traceability services provider.

How will it work?

CATS will begin with the creation of a single data service, followed by the development of two bilingual regional service centres – a western centre (CCIA) and an Eastern centre (ATQ). Operationally, head office services will be distributed amongst service centres.



What's next for CATS?

A CATS business plan as well as a funding proposal for the first phase of the project have been developed and will be presented for approval to the Board of Directors of both ATQ and CCIA in December and January. This development phase includes a business and a governance model as well as a communications plan.

IGAC's CATS Recommendation

"The members of IGAC give support in principle in moving forward with the proposed course of actions as outlined in the Next Steps/Milestones presented by the CATS Steering Committee."

Cattle Summit Key Messages

From Aug. 31-Sept. 2, cattle industry leaders and governments met in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to attend the National Cattle Traceability Summit. A key outcome of this event was an action plan to drive traceability forward in the cattle sector. To communicate outcomes achieved, key messages were developed by participants:

- Traceability for cattle is very important and is a key part of the industry's ongoing development. This is no longer "if", but "when" and "how";
- Premises ID is essential and must be uniformly applied across the nation;
- Funding must be sorted out: Public good vs. private good;
- Movement recording will take place at move in by owner of the cattle;
- The national cattle movement document under development will be a key component of how we move forward in developing regulations;
- Industry standards will monitor progress before regulations are developed;
- Enable and administer regulations with a common sense approach; and,
- Unified communications messages will be developed - "one voice, one position".

INDUSTRY UPDATES / KEY MESSAGES

IGAC industry representatives provided an update on key messages and sector initiatives, including the following:

CATTLE

Cost control is critical and those costs should not be passed along to producers.

DAIRY

Traceability should be supported by stable, long term funding. This position was reinforced in a policy statement by DFC.

HOGS

Negotiations on administrator agreements are ongoing.

SHEEP & GOATS

Collaboration is needed moving forward as human resources and the competing for funds is becoming a larger issue.

EGGS

Draft voluntary traceability standards have been developed by EFC. The group has prepared several successful trials including a mock recall that traced the egg from retail back to the flock.

EQUINE

This sector has prepared extensive documentation seeking support in moving forward. The effect of the regulatory amendment is yet to be determined.

CERVIDS

The on-farm Cervid Information Tracking System (CITS) has been an important accomplishment for this sector. CITS development is at 95% and poised for rollout to producers.

UPA

There is consensus in Canada that traceability is needed. Producers make an effort by paying for tags and replacing them. Governments need to assist in developing a national system. Neither can do this alone.

Moving the Yardstick Forward

A Vision for a Multi-Species Regulatory Amendment

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) presented an approach to regulatory development for changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations. The approach received general support from IGAC with the caveat that details be reviewed with industry. This proposed regulatory amendment will be phased in by 2015 and will support traceability performance targets developed by IGAC.

CFIA's presentation included a description of key elements of the regulatory framework that will be maintained, as well as the proposed new regulatory amendments. National consultations with industry groups will take place in early 2012.

At the time of the fall meeting, several industry organizations had already agreed in principle to work with CFIA on the amendment including: the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Dairy Farmers of Canada, the Canadian Bison Association, the Canadian Sheep Federation, the Canadian National Goat Federation, Equine Canada, the Canadian Cervid Alliance and the Canadian Zoning Committee of the Canadian Animal Health Coalition.

National organizations representing the interest of parties subject to the proposed regulatory amendment were asked to provide initial comments to CFIA before the end of November, 2011. A small group of industry and government representatives will be formed to compile initial comments and provide an updated document to national organizations in preparation for national consultations in early 2012.

National Livestock and Poultry Traceability Performance Targets

IGAC accepted in principle seven Traceability Performance Targets for livestock and poultry that were developed by industry and governments to communicate the high level goals of a National Agriculture and Food Traceability System.

These outcomes represent what is required to be able to respond within 48 hrs to rapidly and efficiently manage an animal disease outbreak, food safety issue, or natural disaster affecting the Canadian herd. Achieving these targets would decrease the potential magnitude of an event and shorten the time to full economic recovery after an event. The targets are designed to work with traceability systems whether mandatory or voluntary.

The implementation of systems required to attain the targets will take into consideration the differences in industry structure and capacity of the various species groups to move forward with traceability. Discussion will occur with each industry sector to develop realistic and practical implementation plans to meet these performance targets. These targets reflect the work of IGAC, and will set a benchmark for the performance of Canada's traceability system.

Working Group Reports

TRACEABILITY MOVEMENT DATA INTEGRITY (TMDI)

The Traceability Movement Data Integrity (TMDI) Working Group was introduced to IGAC at their fall meeting. The group will address several issues, including: the adoption of a comprehensive checklist for data integrity; ensuring the acceptance of validated PID numbers by administrators; and, movement records are easily and effectively collected and submitted. The group is currently working on a project charter that will outline the key actions and next steps.

NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION DEVICE & METHODOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NIDMAC)

The National Identification Device and Methodology Advisory Committee (NIDMAC) is tasked to: recommend an identification device approval and revocation framework; recommend livestock ID policies that are acceptable to all stakeholder and meet national standards; and, develop a common national position on draft international livestock ID standards and policies. The efficacy and safety of tags is the responsibility of the manufacturer.

Spotlight on Manitoba:

Illustrating the Benefits of a Premises Identification System

As the host province of the fall 2011 IGAC meeting, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) welcomed IGAC members to their Emergency Operations Centre in Winnipeg for a presentation on their multi-purpose Premises Identification Program. The tour was organized by David Hunt and Heather Martens, Agri-Food Traceability Coordinators for MAFRI.

The premises identification number in Manitoba is a unique identifier assigned to a parcel of land and is stored in an electronic database that Manitoba developed in 2009 based on national standards. In the event of any animal health investigation in the province, land and contact information from the Premises ID database is retrieved within seconds and is the first step in the response effort.

Premises ID in emergency response

One of the key benefits of Premises ID is its usefulness as an emergency response tool. "We utilize the Premises ID information for all animal health emergencies whether they are diseases (reportable or otherwise) or natural disasters such as flooding, or wildfires," says David Hunt. The headquarters for the Premises ID database rests in Manitoba's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) which was first proposed in 2006 by Dr. Wayne Lees, CVO. Opened in 2007, the EOC enables response coordination to take place under one roof, greatly improving communications between all groups involved.

Providing benefits

The Premises ID system enables MAFRI to be more proactive and efficient in the event of an emergency. The information contained in the Premises ID system allows MAFRI to identify and contact operations at risk and provide them with the information they need regarding the emergency and thereby minimizing negative impacts. Other qualitative benefits of the Premises ID system noticed by staff include:

- Greater collaboration between provincial livestock associations that provide premises information to MAFRI;
- Improved information sharing and data validation with livestock groups, enabling MAFRI to advise groups if there are any errors in their records;
- Improved capability to monitor and analyze changing animal emergency situations;
- The ability to generate work lists as well as provide information necessary for the recovery phase of the emergency; and,
- Improved capability to provide various types of maps including those for illustrating buffer zones, biosecurity areas and biosecure routing.

Communications is crucial

To ensure the success of Manitoba's Premises Identification Program, emphasis has been placed on educating industry on the development of the program, as well as the development of the National Agriculture and Food Traceability System (NAFTS). "With this increased awareness, we are seeing more and more support for this program," states Ms. Martens. "The goal is to have as close to 100% of the provinces' livestock premises identified in the database to ensure that each and every emergency response is implemented effectively and with minimal impact."

Compliance Verification and Enforcement

An update was provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on compliance verification and enforcement activities, including the recent adoption of the Compliance Verification System (CVS) for the Livestock Identification and Traceability Program.

The CVS is an inspection tool used to verify compliance and was first designed in 2005. Following a pilot phase, the system was implemented in all of Canada's federally-registered meat establishments in 2008.

The Livestock Identification and Traceability program piloted the CVS from March to November, 2010. During this time, it was determined that the system provides an efficient and uniform approach for verifying compliance. One key benefit of the system is that national consistency for inspections is enhanced as each verification task includes detailed procedures for inspection staff to follow.

There was consensus around the IGAC table that when it comes to compliance verification, education should be the starting point. As such, CFIA is working on a communications strategy to ensure messages for both internal and external audiences are accurate and consistent. Along with the development of a Manual of Procedures for inspectors, training and education materials have also been created to add consistency to inspections. Inspectors, field staff and administrators will be trained by April 1, 2012.

IGAC's Accomplishments

IGAC's Mission has been to provide recommendations and facilitate implementation of the livestock and poultry components of NAFTS. To this end, IGAC is proud of the following accomplishments:

- **2007**: Livestock ID and movement plans developed; and, Provinces begin development of multi-species PID systems.
- **2008**: IGAC constructs national traceability roadmap; IGAC adopts new Charter defining it as an advisory body; and, seven project charters and related work groups created (Information Sharing [IS], Cost Sharing [CS], Communications [Comm], IT Guidance [ITG], Compliance and Audit [CA], Research and Development [R&D] and Voluntary-Mandatory [VM]).
- **2009**: IGAC participates in the OIE's First International Workshop on Livestock ID and Traceability in Buenos Aires; IGAC holds Trace R&D 2009 in Winnipeg; CS group produces Public-Private Good Report and principles for cost-sharing grid; IS group initiates MOUs development; and, VM group recommends mandatory movement reporting.
- **2010**: IGAC develops Roadmap Poster; IM-IT Guidance Report accepted and national Data Dictionary and Logical Data Model completed; Legislative and Regulatory Concept Paper reviewed; CCIA and ATQ review opportunities to collaborate; IGAC supports Auction Mission to Australia; 17 national projects funded ($18million); LATI Program announced; CCIA/AB complete phase I of auction pilot; AAFC pilot project completed at pastures and fairs; CFIA develops Criteria for Administrators; PID completed for premises with commercial hogs; PigTrace development begins (CFIA drafts traceability regulations for hogs).
- **2011(so far)**: Cost estimates for FPT Ministers submitted; CATS endorsed; IGAC management review conducted; National Traceability Performance Targets developed; and, Input to Multi-species Regulatory Amendment and compliance and enforcement provided.

IGAC MEMBERS

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES
Erik Butters, Canadian Cattlemen's Association
Erica Charlton, Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors Council
Dan Darling, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
Bob Dolyniuk, Canadian Trucking Alliance
Graham Duggan, Turkey Farmers of Canada
Mabel Hamilton, Canadian Beef Breeds Council
Edward Kendall, Equine Canada
Terry Kremeniuk, Canadian Bison Association
Steve Leech, Chicken Farmers of Canada
Pierre Lemieux, L'union des producteurs agricoles
Pascal Lemire, Holstein Canada (National Livestock Identification for Dairy)
Curtiss Littlejohn, Canadian Pork Council
Neil Newlands, Egg Farmers of Canada
Jennifer MacTavish, Canadian National Goat Federation
Jennifer MacTavish, Canadian Sheep Federation
David Moss, Livestock Identification Services Ltd.
Brian Read, Canadian Meat Council
Victoria Sikur, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
Marie-Christine Talbot, Agri-Traçabilité Québec
Ian Thorleifson, Canadian Cervid Alliance
Ron Versteeg, Dairy Farmers of Canada
Larry Witzel, Livestock Markets Association of Canada

GOVERNMENT
Guy Auclair, Quebec
Colleen Barnes, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
John Colford, Northwest Territories
Rick Frederickson, Alberta
Steve Hannah, Nunavut
Tony Hill, Yukon
Mike Horwich, Nova Scotia
Paul Jenkins, Prince Edward Island
Paul Marciniak, Saskatchewan
Heather Martens, Manitoba
Gwen McBride, Ontario
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