



FROM THE *flock*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CANADIAN SHEEP INDUSTRY

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CSF Annual General Meeting

The CSF will hold its AGM in Airdrie Nov 18 – 19th - Alberta Lamb Producers and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development are pleased to host these meetings in the Agriculture Centre in Airdrie.

The AGM will begin at 7pm on Tuesday evening, through to noon on Wednesday. Topics for discussion include: Promotions and Research Agency; Health of Animals Regulations and Traceability.

'Profits, Parasites and Plans' beginning at 1pm will be hosted by CSF in conjunction with Alberta Lamb Producers and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. After an update from CSF, guest speakers will include Chris Lloyd from EBLEX, UK; and Drs. Michel Levy and John Gilleard from UCVM, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary.

As the industry development manager for EBLEX ("the organisation for the beef and sheep industry"), Chris Lloyd is responsible for the "Better Returns Programme" (BRP) that encourages English beef and sheep producers to evaluate their businesses to identify where improvements can be made in terms of cost reduction, environmental impact and animal performance. (Thanks to ALMA for funding this speaker as part of the Sheep Industry Viability and Sustainability project).

Drs Michel Levy and John Gilleard will share their knowledge on managing parasites as well as preliminary results of research into the level and types of parasites present in Alberta flocks and their resistance to the two types of available drugs. A more extensive project is planned if we can secure funding for a collaborative project.

The third speaker is to be confirmed – watch for details.

A light supper will be available before breakout sessions to give everyone an opportunity for informal discussion with the presenters. These are all very knowledgeable speakers and we plan to make the most of their availability to learn as much as we can.

Participation is free, and an RSVP is required to hold your spot for lunch and/or supper. For more information or to register for the seminar contact the CSF (info@cansheep.ca; 888-684-7739) or ALP (info@ablamb.ca; 403-948-8533). Location: Airdrie Agriculture Centre, 97 East Lake Ramp, Airdrie Alberta.



2014 AGM Schedule



Tuesday, November 18, 2014

7:00pm	AGM Business call to order Opening Remarks Declaration of voting members
7:15pm	Approval of 2013 AGM minutes Business arising from minutes
8:00pm	Review of audited financial statements Review of Finance Committee recommendation of accountants for the 2014-15 Fiscal Year Appointment of accountants
9:00pm	Election of Scrutineer and rules of engagement
9:15pm	Call for nominations
9:30pm	Elections
10:00pm	Opening address by the newly elected Chair
10:30pm	Adjournment

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

7:30am	Promotions and Research Agency discussions update
8:45am	Break
9:00am	Committee Reports Staff Advisory Committee CSIP Working Group SheepTrace Committee
9:45am	Health of Animals Regulations Consultation Update
10:00am	Traceability discussions
11:30am	Other business
12:00pm	Complimentary Lunch, RSVP Required – Producer registration
1:00pm	CSF Project Updates
1:30pm	Speaker #1
2:30pm	Speaker #2
3:30pm	Health Break
3:45pm	Speaker #3
5:30pm	Complimentary Dinner, RSVP required
6:30-8:30pm	Speaker breakout sessions

Expanding the Food-Safe Farm Practices Program

The Canadian sheep industry's on-farm food safety program, the Food-Safe Farm Practices (FSFP) Program has been available to producers since 1997. The FSFP Program trains producers to recognize physical, biological and chemical food safety hazards and provides a framework for mitigating food safety risks. The program's record keeping system helps producers assess risk and apply controls that will prevent, eliminate or reduce hazards to an acceptable level.

The Food Safe Farm Practices Producer Manual has been reviewed and accepted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as a credible, national on-farm food safety program for the sheep industry, under their food safety recognition program.

Work is now underway to expand the scope of the FSFP Program to include biosecurity and animal care standards already developed by Canada's sheep industry. Incorporating these components into the FSFP Program will allow the new program to provide training to producers on all of these important production components. Program participation will remain voluntary for producers, and program training will continue to be provided free of charge. Producers will also have the opportunity to voluntarily pursue full FSFP Program Certification, which provides third party verification of program compliance. The objective is to create a comprehensive assurance system training and certification for those wishing to participate.

Expansion of the FSFP Program will include the following activities:

- Seek Technical Review Part II recognition under the CFIA Food Safety Recognition Program;
- Incorporate animal care assessment (Code of Practice) and bio-security modules into the FSFP Program;
- Develop and implement a new online delivery platform;
- Expansion of the FSFP Program Auditor network, to ensure ease of certification;
- FSFP Program promotion amongst producers and stakeholders.

If you would like more information about the Food Safe Farm Practices Program or program expansion plans, please contact the Canadian Sheep Federation via email at info@cansheep.ca or by phone at 888.684.7739.



Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) - Approving and Revoking Tags

One would think that the selection of tags for an animal identification program would be relatively simple, but the truth is quite the opposite. In order to be used in an ID program regulated under the Health of Animals Act, tags must meet a lengthy list of criteria and undergo rigorous testing before they can be considered for official recognition as an approved tag. The tag quality and retention qualities are part of what leads to the expense of the tag itself.

'The Animal Indicator Approval and Revocation Framework' developed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in consultation with various industry groups including the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), sets out the criteria required of a tag that is presented for approval. Tags must meet or surpass criteria in the areas of:

- electrical testing requirements that verify the integrity of the tag's transponder,
- mechanical testing requirements that measure the physical strength of the tag,
- performance test requirements that quantify the tag's readability,
- field trial requirements that ensure adequate retention rates in real time.

Completing a tag complaint form takes only a matter of minutes, and complaints are forwarded to both the manufacturer and the National Manager at the CFIA. Together the CSF, tag manufacturer and CFIA will ensure the problems are both addressed and resolved.

Once a tag is approved for use in the Canadian Sheep Identification Program, the decision to revoke the tag is also based on a number of criteria including performance issues and prevalence numbers. If a tag is to be revoked, the process allows for phasing-out of the tag that ensures producers are not left with inventories of tags that can no longer be used. For more information about the Canadian Sheep Identification Program, or to file a tag complaint, contact the CSF by email at info@cansheep.ca or by calling 888.684.7739.

The continual evaluation of tags, once approved, is an important part of CSIP and the program works to ensure that selected tags perform in the field as they did in the lab. Likewise, manufacturers of CSIP-approved tags have a vested interest in the success of their products within the program and work to resolve performance issues as they arise. To this end, CSIP has a tag complaint process that provides producers an opportunity to share any tag issues they encounter. Producers are encouraged to contact the CSF with tag performance problems, by calling the office at 888.684.7739.

Traceability Consultations - What are we really talking about?

The Canadian Sheep Federation has been involved in National ID and Traceability consultations with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) since the latest round of consultations was launched in November, 2013. The CFIA has asked for industry feedback on a series of ID and traceability-related recommendations, as outlined in the following table. A comparison of recommendations by species has been provided for all species expected to be regulated under new legislation, anticipated in 2016.

Table 1: Comparison Across Livestock Sectors of Traceability Recommendations

Species	ID Requirements	Tag Activation	Movement Reporting*
Sheep	<p>Must identified with an approved indicator bearing a unique ID when leaving their farm of origin.</p> <p>Sheep under 12 months of age being transported directly to an abattoir could alternatively be identified with a non-electronic ID bearing an identification number unique to the departure site (i.e. herd mark).</p>	<p>In Quebec, producers activate tags within 7 days of the birth at the farm, 5 months if born on pasture or before it departs the pasture (whichever comes first).</p> <p>In the rest of Canada, producers would activate tags when movement off the farm of origin is reported.</p>	<p>Producers would be required to report the movement of animals off-farm including their intended destination.</p> <p>Intermediate sites (i.e. auction marts, feedlots, other producers) would NOT be required to report receipt of animals.</p> <p>Terminal sites (i.e. abattoirs, renderers and dead stock collection) would have to report receipt of animals including their departure site.</p>
Cattle	<p>Must be identified with an approved indicator bearing a unique ID when leaving their farm of origin.</p>	<p>In Quebec, tag activation occurs within 7 days of the birth at the farm, 5 months if born on pasture, and or before it departs the pasture (whichever comes first).</p> <p>In the rest of Canada, tags would be activated by intermediate sites upon receipt of the animal.</p>	<p>Farm of origin producers would NOT be required to report animal movement.</p> <p>Intermediate sites would be required to report receipt of animals.</p> <p>Terminal sites (i.e. abattoirs, renderers and dead stock collection) would have to report receipt of animals including their departure site.</p>

Species	ID Requirements	Tag Activation	Movement Reporting*
Bison	Must be identified with an approved indicator bearing a unique ID when leaving their farm of origin.	Tags would be activated by intermediate sites upon receipt of the animal	<p>Farm of origin producers would NOT be required to report animal movement.</p> <p>Intermediate sites would be required to report receipt of animals.</p> <p>Terminal sites (i.e. abattoirs, renderers and dead stock collection) would have to report receipt of animals including their departure site.</p>
Goats	<p>Must be identified with an approved indicator bearing a unique ID when leaving their farm of origin.</p> <p>Goats under 12 months of age being transported directly to an abattoir could alternatively be identified with a non-electronic ID bearing an identification number unique to the departure site (i.e. herd mark).</p>	Producers would activate tags when movement off the farm of origin is reported.	<p>Producers would be required to report, to a central database, the movement of animals off-farm including their intended destination.</p> <p>Intermediate sites (i.e. auction marts, feedlots, other producers) would NOT be required to report receipt of animals.</p> <p>Terminal sites (i.e. abattoirs, renderers and dead stock collection) would have to report receipt of animals including their departure site.</p>
Cervids (i.e. Deer, Elk)	Must identified with an approved indicator bearing a unique ID when leaving their farm of origin, and a non-electronic 2 nd ID bearing a unique ID.	<p>In Quebec, tags must be activated before the end of the animal's birth year or when they leave their farm of origin (whichever comes first).</p> <p>In the rest of Canada, producers would activate tags when movement off the farm of origin is reported.</p>	<p>Producers would be required to report the movement of animals off-farm including their intended destination.</p> <p>Intermediate sites (i.e. auction marts, feedlots, other producers) would NOT be required to report receipt of animals.</p> <p>Terminal sites (i.e. abattoirs, renderers and dead stock collection) would have to report receipt of animals including their departure site.</p>

*Movement reports would need to contain information related to animal ID, physical location of originating and receiving premises, and details related to conveyance (i.e. vehicle ID, date and time loaded and unloaded, comingling details).

Table 2: Cost Benefit Analysis

	One-time cost	Recurring cost (annual)
Micro farm (under 10 ewes/farm)	\$191	\$69
Small farm (average 45 ewes/farm)	\$183	\$122
Medium farm (138 ewes/farm)	\$216	\$1,026
Large farm (357 ewes/farm)	\$341	\$918
X-Large farm (1034 ewes/farm)	\$477	\$1,391
Per ewe (estimated across farm sizes)	\$2.88	\$3.35
Industry (10,211 producers)	\$2,029,066	\$2,360,255

Courtesy of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The cost of compliance to sheep producers has been estimated by the CFIA (Table 2), through their Cost-Benefit Analysis, based on one-time and recurring costs. According to the CFIA one-time costs cover administrative (education) and compliance costs (training) where recurring costs cover administrative costs (reading and reporting) compliance costs (equipment) and data management related costs (software, internet usage). These costs are in addition to the existing cost of tagging animals. In the cattle industry, where producers would not be required to report movement under the CFIA-recommended scheme, producers would not incur additional compliance costs. Instead, intermediate sites would bear the cost of reporting. The following table summarizes the costs to various sectors, over and above existing costs of program compliance (i.e. CSIP tags).

There is no doubt that the CFIA's recommendations on ID and traceability options would place significant financial strain on Canadian sheep producers. The CSF is working diligently to find a more equitable path forward for producers and has provided a number of recommendations that would see administration and compliance costs shared across the value chain and amongst stakeholders. For updates on the consultation process opportunities to provide your feedback, catch upcoming issues of From the Flock.

Table 3: Comparison Across Livestock Sectors

Cost per animal Sector/Stage	# of operations	# of animals	One-time costs	Recurring costs
Feedlots ^a	10297	2 519 750	\$0.94	\$1.02
Intermediate sites ^b	581	3 440 661	-	-
Option 1	-	-	\$0.06	\$0.11
Option 2	-	-	\$0.08	\$1.27
Option 3	-	-	\$0.08	\$0.92
Sheep	10211	703 699	2,88 \$	\$3.35
Goat	5795	230 184	\$5.24	\$2.70
Cervid	1073	28 173	\$6.50	\$5.15
Abattoirs	415	3 648 205	\$0.06	\$0.17
Deadstock	20	220 617	\$0.05	\$0.30

Boecker, A. 2014. *A Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis for Consultation Purposes*. ACIA.