

# Canadian Sheep Federation Annual Report

2013



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## Evolving the Industry

The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) has experienced a number of transitions over the last year and despite the challenges, looks optimistically to the future of the Canadian Sheep Industry. The renewal process has brought about changes to governance and progress towards fiscal autonomy of the organization, aimed at streamlining the decision making process and ensuring appropriate national representation. A number of staff changes have occurred through the year and with those changes now in the rear view mirror, the organization looks towards evolving the Canadian sheep industry to where it is clearly on the list of key agricultural players.

Of late, the CSF has provided input to the Sheep Code of Practice, National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), Sheep Value Chain Roundtable (ShVCRT), Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC), pre-consultation to the Transport of Animals in the Health of Animals Regulations, Traceability Industry-Government Advisory Council (IGAC), National Identification Management Advisory Council (NIDMAC), the Market Access Secretariat and various stakeholder consultations in the CFIA modernization initiatives. A pre-emptive approach to regulatory reform is a priority for the Canadian Sheep Federation as it ensures that the interests of Canadian sheep producers are heard.

The CSF will concentrate on a number of initiatives in the coming year. National ID and traceability will be a main area of focus, with consultation on the Health of Animals Act expected to begin shortly. The Farm Safe Food Practices Program has been implemented and training is available to producers. Through this coming year, the CSF will work with the CFIA to realize technical review of the FSFP Management Manual. The National TSE Eradication Plan wraps up this year and from that will stem the implementation of the Strategic Scrapie Eradication Plan developed under the current project.

The national federation will continue in its role of industry and producer advocacy, ensuring the concerns of Canadian producers are clearly understood by stakeholders and the federal government. The CSF will work on developing an effective communications plan that will ensure producers are up to date on the federation's initiatives and successes, and continue communicating producer concerns in the face of regulatory reform. Fiscal autonomy remains a key goal for the organization through the coming year and beyond. And finally, the CSF will continue to explore market development, structure and/or stability as identified as a key concern by its members. Most importantly, the Canadian Sheep Federation will continue its mission of supporting the long term viability and success of the Canadian sheep industry.



**Corlena Patterson**  
**Executive director**  
**Canadian Sheep Federation**

## Chairman's Report

Over the past year the Canadian Sheep Federation set out on a path of renewal addressing financial, governance and communications issues to ensure that in the long run the industry continues to have effective national representation. There is no doubt that this has been a challenging year.

At the best of times, a renewal process like this is an arduous one. But for the CSF, the renewal process has been a resounding one. The CSF spent a good portion of last year working through the resignation of its long-time Executive Director Jennifer MacTavish and the engagement of a new ED. Despite the challenges of the last year, it is important to keep in mind why we began this process in the first place; to secure the viability and profitability of Canadian sheep industry and its producers. And regardless of our differences, we all have the same concerns moving ahead; we have families to feed, mortgages to pay and an industry to build.



The good news is that we have worked our way through the internal changes, moving our governance model towards that of a true federation and making strides towards fiscal autonomy. We have a new Executive Director appointed, and the market is improving. The stage is set and now is the time to build this industry of unrivaled potential.

**An underlying and driving them for this coming year will be unification of the national sheep industry. The participation of each province in the national federation is integral to the continued viability of the entire industry and CSF membership vital to the growth and sustainability of a robust and truly national federation. The advancement of the national industry as a whole is essential for the success of producers in every single province. Without uniformity in national initiatives, movement towards a strong and enduring industry is slow and beleaguered if not impossible for any one stand-alone province. Nationwide collaboration promotes the development of initiatives that benefit every producer and is essential to the success of the Canadian sheep industry. The Canadian sheep industry cannot afford to splinter, there is nothing to gain and everything to lose in dividing our efforts.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Gordanier". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Andrew Gordanier  
Chairman  
Canadian Sheep Federation**

## State of the Industry

Despite reports of the liquidation of flocks stemming from poor market prices, sheep inventories decreased only slightly in 2013 from July 1, 2012, with a decline in the breeding flock. Comparing Statistics Canada numbers for July 1, 2013 vs those of July 1, 2012, the national ewe flock shrunk by 0.9% and the number of replacement lambs in inventory fell 2.6%. Conversely, the number of market lambs increased 1.2% in 2013 from 2012. The national flock inventory on July 1, 2013, was 1,134,600 head, down 0.26% from 1,137,600 head on July 1, 2012.

Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia saw increases in their overall flock sizes at 3.5% (201,000 to 208,000 head), 2.7% (73,000 to 75,000 head) and 1.7% (58,000 to 59,000 head) respectively. Alberta and British Columbia's mature flocks remain relatively stable with increased inventories attributable to higher lamb stocks. Manitoba's mature flock grew by 2.2% (35,700 to 36,500 head). All other provinces saw their flock sizes decrease, with Newfoundland posting the greatest proportional loss, decreasing by 8.3%, losing 200-head. Quebec posting the greatest loss in the number of animals, decreasing their flock by 5,000 head (a 1.8% drop). New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Ontario experienced flock size decreases of 6.1% (9,800 head to 9,200 head), 4.7% (6,400 to 6,100 head), 3.2% (28,000 to 27,100 head), 1.6% (127,000 to 125,000 head) and 1.1% (359,700 to 355,000 head) respectively.

The January through July 2013 period saw an increase in the number of lambs

slaughtered nationally, and despite a 10% increase in market lamb offerings (28,000 head) over the same period in 2012, prices continue to recover in Ontario. For light lambs (under 79lbs) Ontario's 2013 prices have almost regained parity with the same period a year ago but remains 5% below the five year average. However, Alberta's July 2013 rail prices remain 12% lower than those of July 2012. Market prices are expected to gradually recover as imports become less attractive (given exchange rates and increasing pressure on global demand), lamb supply from the US decreases and the global flock size contraction begins to challenge global demand. Domestically, reduced feed prices are expected to provide some margin relief.

### Farm Cash receipts and Farm Expenses

According to Statistics Canada, farm cash receipts for sheep and lambs in 2012 totaled \$140 million, a decrease of 12.3% from \$159 million in 2011. This is a reflection of depressed market prices both domestically and globally beginning in May of 2012. Alberta lamb prices from January, 2012, (\$203.09/cwt) to December 2012 (\$103.17/cwt) decreased approximately 49%. The Ontario market also weakened in 2012. The price for lambs was 33.7% lower at \$140.86 per hundredweight in December 2012 under January prices. The national average price through 2012 dropped from \$197.07/cwt in January to \$119.48/cwt in December, an overall decrease of 39.4%. At the same time Statistics Canada is also reporting a 5-year high in farm operating expenses increasing 6% to \$40.6 billion in 2012 over \$38.3 billion in 2011; with

increases across the board in almost every expense category.

In 2012 the CSF annual State of the Industry report suggested that the prices producers saw for their lambs in 2010 and 2011 were record setting and not sustainable. As 2012 transitioned into 2013, the worldwide market for lambs saw dramatic price corrections with Canadian prices reaching a 5-year low towards the end of 2012.

The combination of depressed market prices and increased operating expenses through 2012 support the need to focus on ways of improving individual producer's productivity rather than looking to high lamb prices as the sole means of achieving profitability. Now, more than ever, there is the need to invest in management approaches that focus on animal performance and streamlining productivity to meet the industry goal of sustainability.

### Lamb Disappearance

2012 saw the lowest level of mutton and lamb imports since 2008 with only 15.2 million kg of mutton and lamb imported into Canada – a drop of 17% compared to 2011. The value of imported products decreased as well, down from \$155.4 million in 2011 to \$127.7 million in 2012, although the average price per kg dropped by a mere 0.8% from \$8.46/kg in 2011 to \$8.39/kg in 2012. 35.37 million kg of mutton and lamb were supplied to the Canadian market in 2012, a decrease of 8% from the 38.45 million kg offered in 2011 and an all-time low over the past five years. Despite the increase in live animal imports for slaughter and increased domestic offerings, the overall supply was not enough to increase per capita consumption

in Canada, attributable to the significant decrease in imported products. Lamb disappearance (or consumption) in Canada dropped again in 2012 to a five-year low of 0.87 kg per person, down from 1.04 kg in 2008.

Canada continues to receive the greatest imports of mutton and lamb from New Zealand (65%) followed by Australia (33%), the United States (1.4%) and the United Kingdom (0.2%). The remaining imported products represent imports from Iceland and Uruguay.

Canadian Imports of Mutton and Lamb

Year	imported lamb (million kg)	Value (million)
2008	20.4	\$114.4
2009	21.0	\$131.1
2010	19.9	\$114.2
2011	18.4	\$155.4
2012	15.2	\$127.7

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Canada exports very little lamb and exports dropped drastically in 2012, down 72.5% from 2011. In 2011 Canada exported 208,193kg of mutton and lamb worth \$618,643 but in 2012 exported only 57,257kg worth \$246,647.

The current price elasticity for lamb in Canada is 1.589, meaning that a 10% increase in lamb prices to the consumer will result in a 15.89% decrease in consumption. The price elasticity for lamb is much higher than that of other meats in Canada, making domestic consumption sensitive to changes in retail pricing.

## Live Animal Trade

### Imports

Imports of live animals remain primarily those destined for immediate slaughter or going into feedlots. 2012 saw a 69% increase of slaughter imports from 19,536 head in 2011 to 33,050 head in 2012. The value of these 2012 imports increased only 22.6% over those of 2011, with an average value per head of \$114.98 in 2012 down from that of \$158.68/head in 2011. In 2012, only 87 breeding sheep were imported from the US, worth \$26,672. This is down from 177 breeding imports in 2011 worth \$54,813. The value of imported breeding stock remains relatively stable, decreasing by only \$3.11/head on average from that of \$309.68/head in 2011.

#### Canadian imports of live animals 2006-2012

Year	#animal	Value (million)
2006	15,834	\$2.1
2007	26,129	\$3.3
2008	39,249	\$5.25
2009	33,601	\$5.0
2010	33,458	\$4.8
2011	19,536	\$3.1
2012	33,137	\$3.85

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### Exports

2012 Exports of live animals decreased in number and value from 2011, down 70% to 2,748 head worth \$334,708. The majority of 2012 exports were destined for slaughter or feedlots in the United States; 2,569 head worth \$269,208, or \$104.79/head on

average. The remaining 179 exports were sold in Qatar, Germany and Viet Nam valued at \$65,500 or \$366/head on average.

#### Canadian exports of live animals, 2006-2012

Year	# animal	Value
2006	3,159	\$470,323
2007	86	\$30,033
2008	14	\$23,868
2009	32	\$8,566
2010	1,469	\$254,748
2011	9,045	\$1,163,560
2012	2,748	\$334,708

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### A World-Wide Perspective

The Canadian sheep and lamb industry did not experience depressed market prices in isolation, with low prices impacting the global market similarly. The decline in New Zealand lamb prices began in 2011 falling from approximately \$130(NZ)/head to \$105(NZ)/head in 2012. New Zealand lamb prices continued to fall through the spring of 2013, reaching approximately \$70(NZ)/head in April 2013. Australia carcass prices (20-22kg carcasses) peaked at \$530(AU) in 2011, falling to \$450(AU) in 2012. Australian prices have rebounded in early 2013 after reaching their lowest value of approximately \$370(AU) per carcass in January 2013. US Choice lamb prices reached a ten-year high in 2011 of \$170(US)/cwt before dropping to approximately \$140(US)/cwt in 2012. US Choice lamb prices continued to drop through early 2013.

## ID and Traceability in the Canadian Sheep Industry

For some time now, the Canadian sheep industry has been preparing itself for mandatory traceability, understanding that this is a key priority for the federal government. In addition to collaborating with federal agencies through participation on the Industry/Government Advisory Committee (IGAC), the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) has worked through the implementation of mandatory national ID and the introduction of Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) approved Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags.

Participation in the National Identification Management Advisory Committee (NIDMAC) has allowed the CSF to play an important role in collaborating on the development of a new Animal Indicator Approval and Revocation Framework. This revised framework sets out guidelines and requirements under which new tags are tested, approved and if need be, revoked. The approval of this framework was realized later than anticipated, but the revisions made will mean a shorter and ultimately more cost effective tag retention trial period for sheep tags in Canada. Following the approval of this framework, the CSF collaborated on the development of a tag retention trial protocol that sets out the manner in which tags are tested, ensuring the protocol adheres to the framework. All of that to say that the CSF is now in a position to run tag retention trials for approval of new tags. The CSIP working group will continue to consult on the need and/or demand for new tags and consider which tags warrant conducting a retention trial for in hopes of ultimately gaining approval.

In November of 2013, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency launched consultations on the options for livestock identification and traceability regulations. This consultation is a pre-amble to the revision of the Health of Animals Act. The consultation document provides a number of options for how each commodity group can proceed towards mandatory traceability highlighting what the required components will be and how traceability will be phased in. For the CSF, the consultation process will begin at the 2013 AGM where the CFIA will provide a presentation on the consultation document, answer questions and collect feedback. Consultation with the Canadian sheep industry will continue through the spring of 2014 with the



CSF, its members and industry stakeholders providing feedback on the options provided by the CFIA. The Health of Animals Act amendments will be drafted through the summer of 2014 and released for public comment late next year. Full implementation of mandatory traceability is expected for the Canadian sheep industry by the end of 2015, beginning of 2016, although what full implementation looks like for the industry has yet to be finalized.



## Farm Safe Food Practices (FSFP) Program

### Live and Serving Producers

March 2013 marked the wrap up of the latest round of funding for the Canadian Sheep Federation's (CSF) on-farm food safety initiatives, culminating in the development and implementation of the Farm Safe Food Practices (FSFP) Program. The CSF has worked closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to maintain its FSFP recognition under the CFIA's On-Farm Food Safety Recognition Program, and continues to collaborate with the CFIA through the review and recognition of the Program's Management Manual.

The FSFP Program provides producers with a cost-effective and easily implemented program that will lend to producers' abilities to offer assurances to their consumers that theirs is a high quality and safely produced product. The updated and streamlined Producer



Manual remains available, free of charge, to Canadian producers and interested stakeholders. Producers can follow a FSFP training program, either in person from an

authorized trainer (under the FSFP) or on-line to receive a training certificate. Completed training has become an integral part of many provincial initiatives and in many cases is required to access GF2 funding. Once trained, producers can pursue full certification through the FSFP Program, following a period of on-farm implementation of the program's principles and subject to periodic audits by FSFP Program-trained auditors.

The CSF will continue to monitor changes to federal policy that could impact the content and administration of the FSFP. With the CFIA undergoing agency-wide modernization, introduction of the new Safe Food for Canadians Act and anticipated amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations there is some expectation that the FSFP Program will need to evolve to stay current to Canadian policy changes. The CSF will continue to participate in the CFIA modernization consultations and provide input to the Health of Animals Regulations through the coming year to ensure the FSFP Program remains a useful tool for Canadian producers.

The FSFP Program remains available to Canadian producers, and is now supported entirely through the efforts of the Canadian Sheep Federation.

## The National RFID Technology Project

In December 2011, the Canadian Sheep Federation launched the National RFID Technology Project to run in concert with the Canadian Sheep Federation & Canadian National Goat Federation National Animal Identification and Traceability, Phase II project.

While the focus of this project was not on the development of a traceability strategy or system, it did provide producers with the tools that will enable them to meet traceability requirements. Identifying animals electronically and keeping electronic records will enable producers to generate animal movement records and facilitate the reporting of information to a national database. The RFID pilot project permitted the collection of valuable information on the use of technology that provides for animal traceability and also a farm management tool. The pilot project will help in the future development of a Canadian sheep traceability system.

This project did help identify a number of obstacles that producers and the Canadian sheep industry may face in achieving the potential benefits of RFID technology and implementing traceability systems, primarily:

- Computer literacy and comfort level working with the technology;
- Acquiring proficiency with

management software;

- The level of business skills required to make decisions based on data generated from the software;
- Difficulty in sourcing and selecting compatible technologies for full implementation;
- Changing operational procedures for the successful use of RFID technologies;
- Implementation of the technology through the rest of the value chain so that end results can be integrated into management decisions.

Despite the challenges, most participating producers were pleased with their systems and were continuing to expand their use of the systems to include weaning weights etc. or to be more consistent with gathering data as skills and operational processes improved over time.



## Benefits of Adopting RFID Management Technology

From January 2011 through March of 2013, the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) began the Canadian Sheep Federation & Canadian National Goat Federation National Animal Identification and Traceability, Phase II project. This project was made possible by funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through its Canadian Industry Traceability Infrastructure Program (CITIP).

This project was designed to look at the potential costs and benefits of adopting RFID management/traceability technology. It was felt that producers were more likely to adopt such technology if management benefits could be demonstrated for their operations. Sixteen cooperating farms signed on to the project. Of these, thirteen collected and submitted detailed flock and financial data via the “Flock Snapshot”, a spreadsheet-based cost of production tool developed for these projects. Project staff interviewed and supported cooperating producers, who each received recommendations for their operations in the form of a business report. The data from these thirteen farms was then combined with data from the concurrent Alberta Traceability Pilot. Data was grouped into various year, flock size and performance models. Comparing bottom-performing flocks with top-performing flocks allowed us to estimate the potential performance and profitability increases possible when good management techniques are used (*Baseline Report*). The next goal was to identify the obstacles that producers faced in adopting RFID

technology. The *Challenges Faced* report combines feedback from the on farm interviews with data collected from a *Final Project Survey*. This survey was also used to collect data for the *Tag Performance* report. The next outcome was to estimate the costs of adopting RFID technology for individual producers and the industry in general, including the cost of a database (*Cost of Traceability Report, Traceability Cost-Benefit Spreadsheet*). The outcomes related to the national database could not be completed. A tag retirement protocol was developed using the processing plant in Alberta, SunGold. This protocol has not, however, been tested in other plants.

The baseline report summarizes the “Flock Snapshot” cost of production data from the National RFID Project and Alberta Lamb Traceability Pilot for 81 producers

- RFID tools allow producers to easily collect this detailed flock information. When this is combined with enterprise specific financial information, it becomes possible to make better management decisions. Few producers had sufficiently detailed financial information to truly benefit from these tools. Some producers also experienced difficulties entering and then retrieving all the necessary animal data – it takes time to develop these skills and adapt farm procedures for efficient data collection

30 flock models were developed – the results reported here will be for Canada-wide, all-year data (2009-2011), for top performing and bottom performing flocks – results:

1. Flock productivity – Tracking flock productivity is one of the most immediate benefits producers see. It is easy to identify which ewes consistently produce multiples. When birthing and health information are also entered, the good mothers and those with the fewest health problems stand out. Animals with low prolificacy, health or behavior problems can be culled. Top producing rams can be identified. Overall flock value improves.
  - Top flocks in the study had 182% prolificacy vs. 171% for bottom flocks, a difference of 11%
  - Top flocks had a marketable lamb rate of 161%, vs. 139% for bottom flocks, a difference of 22%
  - Lamb mortality was 7% lower in the top flocks (11.6% vs. 18.6%)
  - Ewe and ram mortality was 3% lower in the top flocks
2. Producers experienced significant time savings in animal handling and record keeping, which is also reflected in lower labour costs.
  - Top performing flock owners spent 1.75hours/lamb less (40% less time) than bottom performing flocks
  - Top performing flocks spent \$29.25/lamb less (35% less) on labour than bottom flocks
3. Controlling feed cost is critical to the profitability of an operation. Feed and labour costs made up approximately 66% of total production costs.
  - Top performing flocks spent 54% less/lamb sold when compared to bottom performing flocks.
4. Flock size
  - Flocks of all sizes could be profitable, but on average, larger flocks made more money than smaller flocks.
5. Investment in infrastructure (buildings and equipment)
  - Top performing flocks spent less on infrastructure. The study results suggest the following as a guideline for new flock owners:
    - Medium sized flocks (selling 200 lambs) - \$220-\$270/lamb sold
    - Large flocks (selling 500 lambs) - \$200-250/lamb sold
    - Very large flocks (selling 1400 lambs) - \$180-\$230/lamb sold
  - Top performing flocks invested more in quality breeding stock
6. Cost of production
  - The cost of production for top flocks was \$165/lamb sold less than for bottom flocks, a difference of 48%.
7. Price per lamb
  - Top flocks received \$13/lamb more than bottom producing flocks, which represents a difference of 7.5%.

## Moving Canada towards Scrapie Eradication

The Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan continues to target scrapie-free status for Canada according to OIE Guidelines. The planning process is being guided by a Steering Team made up of stakeholders, including sheep and goat producers, universities (Guelph and Saskatchewan), practicing veterinarians and CSF, CNGF, CSBA, CLGA, CFIA and AAFC representatives. Additionally, the Steering Team is made up of working Sub-Groups:

- Science, dealing with the scientific and research components of the Plan (i.e. how scrapie elements integrate re., testing, genotyping, etc.);
- Gap Analysis, dealing with current activity and what is missing in terms of pursuing the target of eradication;
- Implementation, aimed at establishing the actions, time lines and budgetary requirements for the Plan; and
- Communications, whose objective is to engage producers as the key stakeholders in the Eradication Plan.

The Steering Team will have met a total of three times by the time the official draft of the plan is tabled at the end of December, 2013, while the Sub-Groups have met on an ongoing and regular basis by telephone and through the use of on-line facilitation processes. Their members have also worked individually to produce the content of the emerging plan. The Groups and Steering Team are working in concert to develop the various parts of the Strategic Plan.

Outlined in the Strategic Plan are the following elements:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction (Purpose, Objectives, Scope, Process, Linkages and Participating Members);
- The Science of Scrapie (Clinical Description, Cause, Identification, Transmission, Diagnosis, Susceptibility, etc.);
- Gap Analysis, re. the pressing needs related to eradication (control actions, education, identification and traceability, producer engagement, etc.);
- Trade consideration related to the effect of scrapie on exporting Canadian products to foreign countries;
- Communications, i.e. how to communicate scrapie and scrapie eradication efforts to stakeholders and partners; and
- Implementation, including the necessary resources to fund the plan through its life-cycle

Fundamental to the Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan is understanding the prevalence of the disease as the basis for establishing statistical proof of Canada's scrapie-free status in due time. Dr. Olaf Berke and his team at the University of Guelph are working on providing a viable statistical model that will assist in the implementation of the plan by providing clear eradication targets.

The next steps in successfully implementing the Strategic Plan begin with

proceeding through successive drafts of the Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan, with the support and work of the Sub-Groups. Following that will be the integration of the Prevalence Model to the Strategic Plan. From there, the priority will be preparing

the Implementation portion of the plan and to understand its linkages to the funding process. Lastly, the Steering Team will table the Strategic Plan with the various stakeholders for feedback and value adding.



## Sheep Code of Practice

The National Farm Animal Care Council has led a number of industry groups through the revisions of their commodity's Code of practice, including the Canadian Sheep Code of Practice. The Canadian Sheep Federation has worked through the code development process with NFACC, a number of Canadian producers and various stakeholders.

Key components of the code development process included:

- scientific committees to review research on priority welfare issues;
- ownership of the individual Codes by the relevant stakeholders through their active participation in developing the Code;
- measurable components to facilitate the development of assessment programs; and
- a transparent code development process.

The result is a Code that is scientifically informed, practical, and reflects societal expectations for responsible farm animal care.

Key issues relevant to sheep welfare that benefitted from a review of the scientific literature included; stressful handling and management procedures, accelerated lambing, methods of on-farm euthanasia, flooring types, neonatal care up to and including weaning, painful procedures and snow as a water source.

The draft Sheep Code went out for public comment July 9, 2013, with the comment review period spanning September and

October. The finalized Sheep Code of Practice is currently in translation and will go to print in late November, in time for distribution through December, 2013.

NFACC continues its work with the development of Animal Care Assessment Framework (ACAF); a credible, nationally coordinated process to follow when developing an assessment program based on Codes of Practice. The ACAF is being developed to:

- facilitate the implementation of Codes of Practice by providing an informed framework
- enhance the transparency, legitimacy and credibility of assessment programs developed according to the framework
- ensure consistency of communications along the value chain
- further develop Canada's cooperative approach to farm animal care

An Animal Care Assessment Program (ACAP) developed under the ACAF is intended to benefit the industry and producers by:

- Facilitating and accelerating technology transfer
- Providing assurances to buyers and consumers that animal care standards are being met
- Recognizing achievements of producers & assist them in meeting management goals for animal welfare

- Providing a mechanism for continuous improvements in animal care and welfare
- Informing producers of future changes to the Codes of Practice

Livestock commodity groups are encouraged to assess the readiness/interest

of their industry in developing an ACAP, and encouraged to proceed based on recommendations of the ACAF. Over time, the Canadian Sheep Federation will consult with its members to determine the interest for developing such a program and assessing the benefits that could be reaped from creating such a program.



## Provincial Year In Review

### New Brunswick Sheep Breeders' Association

The New Brunswick Sheep Breeders' Association is a small, but active organization from across New Brunswick. Membership in the association is voluntary; there is no provincial lamb checkoff. Our president is Mark Anderson and our secretary is Jocelyne McGraw. There are five to seven directors, including the president and secretary, from all over the province.

The association meets in person only twice per year but holds regular conference calls, as required. At a teleconference in early May, the board adopted a (CSIP) tag fee of \$0.25 per tag to pay New Brunswick's dues to the CSF. This decision was taken so that the CSF dues could be collected from all of the province's sheep farmers, rather than from only those who voluntarily pay their membership in the NBSBA.



Activities include planning tours and seminars for the membership, consulting with the provincial government on issues affecting the sheep industry and an annual barbecue and tour held on a different member's farm each year. The association is not currently involved in the marketing of lamb. Many New Brunswick lambs are sold in Quebec (Ste. Hyacinthe) and Nova Scotia (Northumberland and the Maritime Cattle Market in Truro), with the aid of trucks that travel between Quebec and Nova Scotia each week. New Brunswick producers can meet those trucks along the Trans-Canada highway and send lambs in either direction. The rest are sold directly to consumers, either at the farm gate or as freezer lambs.

In March of 2013, a tour of Quebec sheep farms was being organized out of Nova Scotia, in conjunction with the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association AGM in Levis, and members of the NBSBA were given the opportunity to join in. Because the tour was held during many people's lambing season, only six members ended up going on the tour, which visited one farm in northwestern New Brunswick, and four facilities in Quebec, including the CEPOQ research station and a large dairy sheep/cheese making operation in La Pocatiere.

Many of our members are actively involved in planning for, and participating in, New Brunswick's only sheep show at the Kent County Agricultural Fair. The association also sponsors a blanket for the top sheep exhibitor at the New Brunswick Provincial 4-H show in Fredericton.

Our 2013 barbecue/tour was held at the home of Tom and Laura Anderson, near Sussex, in September. A good crowd was in attendance in spite of the rain, the lamb was expertly

barbecued and everyone enjoyed the chance to meet and mingle with fellow producers from all over the province.

One of our larger projects this year was a seminar in October that was carried out with the assistance of the provincial department of agriculture and the Growing Forward program. Low lamb prices and high grain prices inspired the theme for the day: Strategies for Hard Times. When the day came, there were 40+ producers in attendance from all over New Brunswick, as well as a few from Nova Scotia. Simultaneous translation was available for all of the sessions.

The first speaker was ruminant nutritionist Dale Engstrom, from Alberta. Dale spoke about how sheep farmers can control their largest cost of production, without restricting productivity. The second speaker was Dr. Jeff Wichtel; Jeff is a veterinarian from New Zealand, and the Dean of Graduate Studies at the Atlantic Veterinary College. Jeff spoke about veterinary issues that affect profit, and focused on parasites, foot rot and the use of reproductive technology. The final speaker was Dr. Gwyneth Jones, a parasitologist and Clun Forest sheep breeder, who described her research on levels of parasite resistance to common wormers in Nova Scotia. The seminar portion of the day wrapped up with concurrent sessions by Dale Engstrom (SheepBytes ration balancer) and Jeff Wichtel (Ask the Vet). The NBSBA AGM followed at 330 pm and wrapped up an hour later.

Although New Brunswick has a relatively small sheep industry, we do receive funding from the provincial government for specific projects. There is a Livestock Genetic Enhancement program that pays for 30% of the cost of purebred rams (up to \$250) or ewes (up to \$150). Starting in 2013, it also pays up to \$500 per year for producers to participate in a Genetic Evaluation program, purchase genetic evaluation software and/or genotype their sheep for scrapie resistance. The association's next project is to develop a strategic plan to be used to determine the direction of future sheep industry programs.

### **Prince Edward Island Sheep Breeders' Association**

The provincial sheep flock continues to draw interest from existing producers to add to their number of breeding ewes and from new entrants to the industry. Marketing Island produced lambs is becoming a concern to local producers. There are many producers now in the 200+ size ewe flock and many adapting to methods and conditions that enable Island sheep farmers to produce lamb for local markets and many producers shipping to Northumberland Co-op year round.

Highlights of 2013 PEISBA activities:

- ✚ The PEI Sheep Breeders' Association's Board of Directors approved with support from producers the collection of the volunteer national tag fee which began May 2013 with \$0.25 being submitted to CCWG. Atlantic Wool Growers Supplies has been administering this task for our association.
- ✚ The Association held a Scrapie Information Seminar for PEI Sheep and Goat producers. We were pleased to have Corlena Patterson, National Scrapie Coordinator address our

- producers on September 13, 2013. Funding for this day-long event was provided by the PEI ADAPT Council.
- ✚ The Small Ruminant Enhancement Project for Sheep and Goats under Growing Forward 2, administered by the PEI Department Agriculture and Forestry is underway. This project is designed to encourage PEI sheep/goat producers to achieve superior quality genetic stock, to encourage the use of flock/herd health protocols as a method of disease prevention and to implement initiatives which may lead to increased feed efficiency.
  - ✚ Increasing Perinatal Lamb Survival in Island Sheep Flocks Project under Growing Forward 2, administered by the University of Prince Edward Island's Atlantic Veterinary College will involve forty Island producers. The goal of this research project is to enhance the profitability and diversity of sheep production systems in PEI, so as to take advantage of seasonal markets and the high demand for our local product. Patterns of perinatal lamb loss will be identified. Lamb morbidity and mortality will be benchmarked against industry standards through on-farm trials. From these data critical management points in production will be inferred.
  - ✚ Many provinces have animal care councils or committees that are used to promote sound welfare practices, to provide public outreach and to share information among livestock groups. Our Association has been approached to provide a representative to this working group. Premises Identification for our sheep industry is well under way with provincial government representatives attending meetings.
  - ✚ Our Association provides a series of events to assist producers, including bulk purchasing of sheep mineral at a reasonable price, providing seminars and workshops throughout the year including small ruminant forage sessions, a lamb dinner to promote local lamb, etc. and continues to provide support for regional projects that are ongoing and in development for the Atlantic Region.

### **Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia**

Hopefully, this message finds you all healthy and prepared for the winter months.

The past year has been a very busy and productive one for the Sheep Producers' Association of Nova Scotia. We continued to make progress on many fronts including organizational sustainability, contributions to the Canadian Sheep Federation as well as two research projects.

At our Annual General Meeting in January, our membership agreed to an increase in provincial check-off increase to \$1.50 from the \$0.50 which had been in place for almost two decades. This will make a significant difference in our ability to support our organization as well as participate in pertinent research. At the same time our members agreed to the national tag fee to support the efforts of the CSF.

We hope that as the CSF becomes more stable financially you are able to implement many of the strategies set for the organization. We feel very strongly that it is important to have a

functioning national group which represents producers and producer organizations interest to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as well as other national organizations.

SPANS has participated in three research projects which have been completed in the past year including projects on *Beneficial Fatty Acids in Lamb*, *Investigating the Feasibility of Wool Value Chain Development and Epidemiology of the Barberpole Worm in Sheep in Nova Scotia*. The latter of the projects has been an astounding success within our industry. By working with Dr. Gwyneth Jones and Dr. Ted Semple we have successfully been able to gauge the impact of this parasite on many of our flocks. More information regarding these research initiatives can be found on our website at [www.nssheep.ca/for-members/research](http://www.nssheep.ca/for-members/research).

In the coming year SPANS will continue to work with researchers to find practical, economical solutions to pressing industry issues. We will also be focusing on improving market conditions by increasing marketing and promotion efforts with our provincial processors.

### **Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency**

Looking back over the last year, the only word that can be used to describe it is active. OSMA's commitment to Ontario producers has never been stronger. Testament to this commitment is the time that OSMA is taking to revamp its Strategic Plan and ensure that as an organization it is meeting the industry needs and working towards fulfilling its mission and vision.

Jennifer MacTavish and Dennis Fischer have been meeting with Ontario producers soliciting input and feedback on the plan and the final draft of this living document will be presented at the AGM in October.

OSMA has been spending considerable time advocating on behalf of Ontario sheep producers. Over the course of the last 12 months, OSMA has provided feedback on the draft Codes of Practice and ensured that producers have the information to do the same.

Work continues on ensuring that a traceability system is developed that works for the industry. This work will continue into next year and will require input and feedback from producers. This is especially important given that the government will be looking for input from the industry through the fall and winter. OSMA remains committed to developing a traceability program that is practical, affordable and flexible.

The inability to access animal health products, especially wormers, has been identified by producers as a major concern. OSMA has started working with other livestock commodity groups that are classified as minor species (e.g., goats, rabbits), the Canadian Animal Health Institute and the Canadian Sheep Federation to try and get products approved for use.

The Risk Management Program (RMP) remains a priority for OSMA. This is not a program that the industry can take for granted; especially given that it is now three years old and has undergone three program redesigns. Moving forward it is imperative that OSMA pull together statistics on how RMP keeps Ontario Shepherd's in business and the economic impact that the Ontario industry has to the Ontario economy.

Being able to provide statistics on the sheep industry's impact on the economy, especially in terms of job creation and economic growth, is going to be increasingly important not just for supporting RMP, but for all activities OSMA will be engaging the government in. As the provincial government begins to implement strategies to balance the budget by 2017 being able to demonstrate the economic importance of the sheep industry is going to be imperative.

OSMA continues its partnership with CEPOQ and CSBA to provide genetic evaluations for sheep producers. OSMA took over the responsibility for the delivery of the evaluation system to Ontario producers in April 2010. The program was being delivered in Quebec under the name of GenOvis, OSMA decided to change the name from SFIP to GenOvis as well so that producers across Canada could easily understand that the same genetic evaluation system was being used in both provinces.

Ontario producers can get access to the genetic evaluation numbers by enrolling in GenOvis or by enrolling in BioFlock. CEPOQ enrolls Ontario producers and gives them access to the genetic evaluation system for OSMA. BIO enrolls producers and maintains a separate database which sends data to the genetic evaluation system and receives genetic evaluation numbers back to the BioFlock database

OSMA joined forces with the Ontario Cattleman's Association to deliver a Predation Prevention Workshop. This one-day workshop was attended by over 108 representatives from the industry, the government, valuers and some animal activities. By all accounts this was an incredibly well received workshop.

Ontario Lamb was featured at the 7th Annual Foodland Ontario's Farmers' Market at Queen's Park. OSMA served over 675 samples of Ontario Lamb with accompanying recipe cards to politicians, delegates, provincial legislative staff, industry representatives as well as passer-byes.

OSMA has partnered with Foodland Ontario to have lamb commercials developed for radio.

Ontario Lamb has been featured in the summer and fall editions of Horizon Magazine which is inserted into the Toronto Star and National Post. This advertisement package also included an online banner on the Horizon website, 58,800 – 5 second commercials on 300 screens in the TTC and 6,048 – 5 second commercials on 6 screens in Union Station.

A Research Day was held in Guelph that brought together government representatives, researchers and industry partners to identify and prioritize the research needs of the Ontario industry. A special thanks to the Livestock Research Innovation Corporation for organizing the day and providing the facilitation.

OSMA is committed to communicating with producers and the communication portfolio includes:

- ✚ OSN a quarterly magazine and make it available to all sheep producers. The magazine keeps producers up-to-date with industry developments, news and education.

- ✚ [www.ontariosheep.org](http://www.ontariosheep.org) which includes locators for breeding stock, lamb and guard animals. It also houses the market reports and current initiatives.
- ✚ [www.lambrecipes.ca](http://www.lambrecipes.ca) is a website dedicated to lamb recipes along with providing consumers with nutritional information and the lamb locator
- ✚ The Messenger is OSMA's monthly, electronic newsletter that provides producers with up-to-date events and news. Please contact the OSMA office to give us your email address if you would like to receive it. The Messenger can also be found at [www.ontariosheep.org](http://www.ontariosheep.org)
- ✚ OSMA also now has 2 twitter pages @OntarioLamb and @OntarioSheep along with a new Facebook page

### The Manitoba Sheep Association

The Manitoba Sheep Association held its annual meeting March 2nd, with approximately 100 people in attendance. The morning business session was followed by informative sessions on nutrition and producer profiles.

There were 2 sales held in the province, one in Rivers in August, and the other in Dauphin in October. Both were successful in light of depressed markets. It was encouraging to see the bands of volunteers that pitched in to help make the sales successful!

The Manitoba Sheep Association regretfully accepted the resignation of our Executive Director Corie Arbuckle as of October 16th. Following a thorough search, we are pleased to welcome Jennifer Peters as our new Executive Director.

One of the MSA's most active areas of action centered on helping producers find/secure an adequate number of shearers. Producers have expressed concern at being able to find shearers at the appropriate time. Others point out that the existing pool of shearers is rapidly aging and as a result we need to plan now for the future. It's been a lively discussion!

The MSA is also grateful to Brian Greaves of Miniota, for his contribution on behalf of all producers to the new Code of Practice.

### Alberta Lamb Producers

- ✚ *3.5% increase in Alberta lamb production 2012 - 2013*
  - ✓ *Industry expansion and sustainability* are keys to a stronger infrastructure and market growth.
  - ✓ *Market growth* requires widely available, consistent quality product for consumer purchase.
- ✚ *Advocacy*
  - ✓ ALP's strong advocacy and collaboration with the Alberta government and stakeholders
  - ✓ Over a half million dollars directly back to Alberta producers for RFID tag incentive program
  - ✓ With Counties, Municipal Districts and Special Areas
- ✚ *External Project funding*

*ALP + check off + stakeholder collaboration + ALMA \$\$ = producer benefit*

- ✚ *Communications & Resources*
  - ✓ *www.ablamb.ca is a comprehensive source of information and resources*
  - ✓ *N'ewesline*
  - ✓ *ALP Marketline*
  - ✓ *N'ewesletter*
  - ✓ *You Tube/SheepCentral*
- ✚ *Support for industry events and 4-H sheep clubs*

*Thank you to the Alberta CSF directors, Phil Kolodychuk and Bill Gibson. Phil concludes his maximum term as ALP director in November 2013 after serving on CSF for four years, the last year as vice-chair.*

### **British Columbia Sheep Federation**

- ✚ Hosted educational seminar and field day that coincided with the BCSF Annual General Meeting in Prince George
- ✚ Published the Sheep Nutrition Guide for BC sheep producers
- ✚ Publish the N'Ewes, a quarterly sheep newsletter that connects sheep producers from the regional sheep associations.
- ✚ Participated in several agricultural initiatives and meetings, including BC Farm Animal Care Council, predator workshops, regional field days, website with Buyer's Guide.
- ✚ Administer the Sheep Industry Development Fund
- ✚ Joined the BC Abattoir Association as associate member to build our lamb value chains
- ✚ Member of the BC Agriculture Council

### **Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association**

- ✚ 2012 saw national increases in memberships (5%), registrations (11%) and transfers (16%)
- ✚ The Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association of Nova Scotia hosted the 2012 All Canada Classic in Truro, NS. 226 animals sold with an average price of \$534 for ewes and \$696 for rams. The top-selling ewe was a Suffolk for \$2,200 and the top-selling ram was a Dorset for \$4,000.
- ✚ The BC Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association hosted the 2013 All Canada Classic in Barriere, BC. 239 animals sold with an average price of \$451 for ewes and \$613 for rams. Both the top-selling ewe (\$1400) and the top-selling ram (\$3400) were Suffolks.
- ✚ Sponsored the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Agribition and provincial level 4-H events in 9 provinces
- ✚ Awarded a \$500 CSBA scholarship to Marleen Palsson (AB) and Emily Mastine (QC)
- ✚ Translated and printed a "Guide to Breeding Stock Selection: criteria for analyzing conformation in the selection of breeding stock"
- ✚ Partnered with CEPOQ and OSMA in the ongoing support of GenOvis, Canada's genetic evaluation program for sheep

- ✚ Produced a 1-day, interactive course on genetic evaluation, which is available for presentation across Canada
- ✚ Translated the constitution into French
- ✚ Worked with the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation to incorporate inbreeding and mating management tools onto its website

### Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers

- ✚ Participated at the 25th International Wool Trade Fair and Information Conference which was held in Suzhou, China Sept 14th – 16th, 2013. Canadian wool was on display at the trade fair and we successfully negotiated a number of contracts for delivery through to February 2014. The event was attended by 500 delegates from the Chinese and International wool trade. It was very informative and a great venue to promote Canadian wool to a wide range of potential buyers. Traveled before and after the conference with CCWG agents in China to promote and market, graded and objectively measured Canadian wool.
- ✚ For the fiscal year ending February 28, 2013 the co-operative recorded gross sales of \$8,688,513 which represents an 8% increase from the previous year. Sales have increased almost 28% over the past three years. The Board of Directors authorized a dividend payment of 7% to the shareholders of record date December 31, 2012 and 5 cents per pound to the Shareholder Wool Shipper Loyalty Reward Program (SWSLRP). Full details on these programs can be found on the company website [www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca). Wool volume increased by 8.2% in 2011 and 8.6% in 2012 but slipped by 6.5% in 2013, due mainly to a reduction in wool consignments from Quebec.
- ✚ The CCWG Board of Directors approved management's proposal to renovate the Carleton Place Stockman Supply Store.
  - The project involves demolishing and renovating the existing Stockman Supply Store which is contained within the warehouse and is comprised of an area of approximately 7,500 square feet. The original stone walls of our CPR roundhouse will be sandblasted to highlight the beautiful architecture of the building which was built in the 1800's. As well, fifteen large heritage style windows will be installed.
  - The current store and inventory has been relocated into our new warehouse building until the project is completed (estimated 10 – 12 weeks). During this time frame the new storage building will not be used for storage of graded wool bales.
  - The design-build contractor for the project will be Cornerstone Builders Ltd from Belleville, ON. (see [www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca) for a slide show of the renovation in progress)
- ✚ An older model wool baler at the Carleton Place wool grading facility has recently been replaced with a new high density wool press that was purchased from a USA manufacturer.
- ✚ Major sponsor for numerous sheep related events during the year across the country.



- ✦ Working closely with ear tag manufacturers, the CSF and provincial sheep organizations in support of the CSIP. Renewed contracts and distribution agreements for the upcoming year.
- ✦ CCWG websites, [www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca), [www.premier-choix.ca](http://www.premier-choix.ca) have been upgraded along with new user friendly e-commerce in English and French.
- ✦ CCWG promotional materials have been updated and a new French Livestock Supplies Catalogue is now available from Premier Choix Agricole.
- ✦ Helped organize and supported shearing schools in western and eastern Canada in 2013.
- ✦ New staff appointments have been made at CCWG branches in Lethbridge, AB, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC and Carleton Place, ON.
- ✦ Sponsored a research project undertaken by Dalhousie University to investigate the feasibility of wool value chain development.

## CSF 2012-2013 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

#### **Andrew Gordanier, *Chairman***

Andrew grew up on a cow-calf operation and ventured into sheep along with his parents in 2004. Their flock of 250 commercial Rideaus is growing; they also raise 30 purebred Ile de France sheep. Andrew lives in Shelburne, ON with his wife and two children (10 and 12) who keep them busy at the rink, where his son plays hockey and his daughter figure skates.

#### **PHIL KOLODYCHUK, *Vice Chairman***

##### **Alberta**

This is Phil's fourth year on the CSF board. Phil, along with his wife and children have raised lambs in Bluesky, Alberta for the past 12 years. Phil also works off the farm. "I got involved to better my knowledge of the national sheep industry," he says. Phil hopes to influence other producers to keep involved in their industry.

#### **Dennis Fischer, *Treasurer***

##### **Ontario**

This is Dennis' fourth year with the CSF and his second year as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Dennis was raised on a mixed farming operation and joined the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency Board of Directors in October 2007. Dennis, along with his wife and daughter, operates a farm just outside of Elmwood, Ontario and has 550 commercial ewes and a small cow-calf operation. In addition to working as a controller and manager for a local company, Dennis was involved in the local hockey association for several years and the 4-H sheep club.

#### **Barbara Johnstone Grimmer, *Secretary***

##### **British Columbia**

This is Barbara's fifth year on the CSF board and she is serving her second term as Secretary. She grew up on a purebred sheep farm, and currently has a commercial flock in the southern Gulf Islands with her husband Glenn. Barbara, a Professional Agrologist, is a ruminant and monogastric nutritionist. She studied agriculture at UBC, nutrition at Texas A&M and also at University of California (Davis). She writes a regular farm column in her local newspaper and serves on the BC Farm Animal Care Council. She is past president and currently the CSF Director of the BC Sheep Federation, a producer member of the BC Abattoir Association and a director of the Inter Island Sheep Breeders Association.

#### **Rob Scott, *Executive Member***

##### **Ontario**

This is Rob's second year on the CSF Board. He has owned Bridged Creek Farm in Brantford, Ontario since 1992 and now runs it with his wife Joanne and son Matthew. A joint equine venture, Wild By Nature, is operated by daughter Rachel. The flock currently consists of over 200 commercial ewes with a strong Dorper influence. As well, a herd of registered Texas Longhorn cattle is maintained. The farm is presently going through an aggressive restructuring, adopting practices that should result in increased production in relation to land base. These include rotational grazing, intensive pasture management, accelerated lambing and TMR rationing. With these in place it is expected that another 2-300 ewes will be added by 2015.

## Board Members

### BILL GIBSON

#### Alberta

Bill has been raising sheep for 37 years. He and his wife, Lorna, and daughter, Maryellen, run Windpatch Farm near Tees, AB, where their goal is to market 500 lambs per year. He's committed to representing Alberta shepherds at the CSF board table and is particularly interested in addressing labour shortages, improving shepherd education and standardizing animal welfare rules across the country.

Bill feels that CSF's greatest value is providing the industry the ability to speak with a unified voice. ***"That's how we get government's attention and get things done."*** He believes CSF can play a key role in influencing rules governing foreign workers who seek to become shepherds and shearers in Canada. When he's not tending the flock, you'll find Bill tinkering with one of the antique tractors he collects on his farm.

### Owen Gentes

#### Saskatchewan

Owen, along with his wife and three children, raise 130 commercial ewes near Battleford, SK. The family is involved in 4H and other regional shows.

### Herman Bouw

#### Manitoba

This is Herman's second year on the CSF board. He and his sons plan on lambing 300 ewes in 2013. Their primarily grass-fed lamb operation utilizes Rideau and Canadian Arcott, Texel and Ile de France genetics. Actively involved as a director for the Eastern region of the Manitoba Sheep Association, he has a keen awareness of the

need for producers to work together for industry improvement. Past involvement in church leadership has also helped shape his perspective.

### JOSEPHINE MARTENSSON-HEMSTED

#### ONTARIO

This is Josephine's second year on the CSF board. She and her husband have 200 commercial ewes, primarily North Country Cheviot and Dorset as well as a small flock of British Milk Sheep. Josephine is an active participant on the CSF's Governance Committee. In addition to being involved in the sheep industry, Josephine is also president of a family business that has been in operation for 33 years and is an active member of the Huronia Symphony Orchestra. She has also been a member of a number of Boards in both the non-profit and health care sectors.

### Langis Croft

#### Quebec

### CATHY VALLIS

#### Nova Scotia

This is Cathy's 5<sup>th</sup> year on the CSF Board. She is a Sheep Producer and Agent for CCWG in Atlantic Canada. Cathy is also a lamb buyer for various feedlots and a major company. She is currently a director on the board of SPANS and sits on various agricultural committees, both national and provincial.

### CLAUDE GALLANT

#### Prince Edward

This is Claude's fourth year on the CSF board and is a member of the Sheep Value Chain Expansion Working Group and the CSF's governance committee. He and his son, Andrew, have been sheep farming since 1992 and run a small flock of crossbred

Suffolk, North Country Cheviot and Dorset ewes. He is retired from AAFC's Crops and Livestock Research Centre in Charlottetown, PEI where he worked in agricultural research for over 35 years as a plant-parasitic nematode technologist. He is an active member of PEI Sheep Breeders' Association serving as past-president, a member of the PEI Institute of Agrologists, served on the Provincial Exhibition Board of Directors, and 4-H leader. Claude is an experienced member of boards and councils holding many chairperson positions at the Crops and Livestock Research Centre, the PEI Institute of Agrologists, and St. Andrew's United Church. Claude feels that the CSF plays a very important role while working with the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable for the betterment of Canadian sheep industry. Since the PEI Sheep Breeders' Association once again became a member in 2010, our association and sheep producers have benefitted greatly from the sharing of valuable information, thereby attracting new entrants, producers

increasing their flocks and production and working as a national federation for Canadian sheep producers.

**Cathy Gallivan**  
**New Brunswick**

Cathy Gallivan got her first job on a sheep farm in Nova Scotia in 1975. Since then she has lambed sheep, taught college courses in sheep production and worked as a government sheep specialist in Alberta, obtained M.Sc. (Oregon State) and PhD (University of Guelph) degrees in Sheep Breeding and Genetics, and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. Cathy returned to her family's farm in Deerville, New Brunswick, in 2005, where she keeps a small flock of Shetland sheep, from which she sells freezer lambs, breeding stock and raw and processed wool. Cathy has been the publisher of Sheep Canada magazine since 2000.

**Wilson Reid**  
**Newfoundland**