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Action Items from February 6, 2018, Board Meeting

- CSIP webinar planning is underway; the presentation has been drafted, reviewed in webinar format by the Board and revised accordingly. Key participants have been contacted with proposed webinar dates.
- Program managers have been informed of ratified changes in program costs and communications to enrolled producers are underway.
- The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency has provided the CSF with member representation information.

CSIP / Traceability

- The CSF updated the CSIP Record Keeping Form that used to be distributed with CSIP tags. The form includes a list of program record keeping and reporting requirements along with a table in which to record information. CCWG has been asked to include copies of the forms with future tag sales, and copies of the form have been distributed to members and member organizations for further sharing. Anyone interested in an electronic copy of the form can email us at info@cansheep.ca.
- The Regulatory Implementation Committee prepared 2 traceability communication pieces, reviewed and released following the early February meeting; the first in a series of traceability newsletters, and a list of key messages regarding future traceability regulations. This information has been shared on the CSF facebook page and in news releases, and copies have been distributed to the CSF Directors, Associate Members, the Staff Advisory Committee and the CSIP Working Group for further dissemination.
- The CSF is planning a CSIP webinar, designed to share information regarding the program’s administration, financial reporting and future under future traceability regulations. The webinar will take place in the first half of March and will be open to everyone.
- The CSIP Working Group met in February to review the latest iteration of the Animal Indicator Approval and Revocation Framework as well as the current list of approved identifiers. When traceability regulations are amended, the list of approved

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identifiers will be incorporated by reference to the regulation. What this means to the industry is that following new regulations, the addition or removal of tags from CSIP will be subject to a formalized consultation process, compared to the current process of simply recommending their approval or revocation. The CFIA recommended that all industry groups consider changes to lists of approved identifiers before the regulatory amendment, re-iterating their request to the sheep industry to discuss the addition of a non-electronic sheep tag to the list. The CSIP Working Group discussed non-electronic identifiers in great detail, providing a recommendation for the CSF's consideration during the March Board of Directors meeting.

Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan (Claire Knubley)

- The Scrapie Working Group convened for the annual review of the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) National Standards. Any items or issues brought forth over the past year by government, veterinarians, trading partners, producers, and various other sources, are discussed in relation to current National Standard regulations and requirements. The first phase of the VSFCP National Standards review has been completed. Scrapie Working Group members will assess a preliminary draft of the updates made to the National Standards, and from there decide whether to ratify the changes as is, or edit another draft of the proposed changes.
- The new Scrapie Canada website is preparing to go live. The website continues to prepare for a conversion to an improved hosting platform. A number of webpages on the new Scrapie Canada website are being transposed to new infrastructure. This will enable these webpages to be more accessible for editing and updating on an as need basis, without the need to enlist the services of a third-party consultant. The new Scrapie Canada website is expected to launch in March 2018.
- In the month of February, ad space was purchased in four publications. The advertisements highlight the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, suggesting that anyone who is interested contact Scrapie Canada via www.scrapiecanada.ca. The advertisements display Scrapie Canada's redesigned logo, recognize the Canadian Sheep Federation as the provider of Scrapie Canada and the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, and indicate that both Scrapie Canada and the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program are funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward 2 AgriMarketing Program.
- To date, there has been a total of seven goat herds found to be infected with scrapie, and one sheep flock confirmed to have scrapie. Comparatively, 2016 saw two sheep flocks confirmed to have scrapie, and one goat herd.
- Did you know... the CSF is recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as the VSFCP Regional Administrator and Status Assessor for all of Canada. The program's National Standards are developed and maintained by the CFIA, who endorses the program both nationally and internationally. The program is audited by the CFIA annually meaning that every year the CFIA assesses the way the program is implemented. The CSF is evaluated on the way it assesses producer compliance, the way that it assesses the risk of scrapie on enrolled farms and the service standards by which the program is delivered. Year over year, the

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CSF continues to meet the CFIA's endorsement standards for the program and meets its delivery standards. This speaks volumes to the CSF's ability to credibly deliver programs that are endorsed national and internationally.

Canadian Verified Sheep Program (Kristy House)

- The month of February was focused on training auditors and certifying producers. Auditor training sessions were held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in the beginning of February where 3 auditors were trained and evaluated for their eligibility to become CVSP auditors. In the process two farms received certification on the CVSP in Saskatchewan. As result of the auditor training sessions 2 auditors were certified as auditors, one in Alberta, and one in Manitoba upon successful completion and of a shadow, witness, and paper examination.
- A producer training session was hosted by the SSDB in January at their AGM. Certificates were issued this month and sent to the participants.
- The auditor training session once again solicited feedback from both the attendees and the producers on how to further improve the audit process, paperwork and reporting. The information has been compiled and is being included where deemed appropriate.
- The revisions to the online training platform are continuing to include the availability of training in both languages. The food safety chapter is being revised to be more user friendly and to be available in French.
- As the project comes to an end March 31st the focus of the month of March will be wrapping the project reporting, finishing the online training requirements and communicating the changes to the producer manual that were made during the review of changes.

Other Updates

- The CSF continues to engage with Canada's market access team in NAFTA consultations including routine debriefs and participation in the December round of negotiations in Montreal.
- The AAFC Cost Recovery Working Group met in February to discuss common issues relevant to CFIA's cost-recovery modernization initiative. The CFIA is in phase two of this initiative, sharing feedback from phase one consultations and proposing service fees for various functions much like those regarding veterinary drug approvals reviewed by the CSF in January. Working Group objectives include consolidating common understanding of the outcomes industry needs to remain competitive and foster continued innovation and investment, collaboratively identify and articulate options for the CFIA's consideration during proposal drafting, and to understand and demonstrate to the CFIA the economic and business impacts to the meat producing sectors and what's at stake with the cost recovery modernization initiative.

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- The Public Trust Steering Committee hosted a planning session in Ottawa in early January. The Committee worked on a funding model, work plan, communications plan and implementation strategy. The Committee’s purpose is to provide an inclusive forum for industry, governments and other stakeholders to discuss cross-cutting topics related to public trust in the agriculture and food sector, to advance the aims outlined in *Building Public Trust in Canada’s Agri-Food System*, and to encourage collaborative action in the space. The Public Trust Steering Committee (PTSC) will serve as the hub to the broader Public Trust Network. The PTSC will provide the governance and structure to oversee the coordinator, network and overall Journey to Public Trust.
- The CSF participated in the Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association three-day *Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobial Use Workshop*. The CSF’s strong advocacy work in ensuring sheep farmers and ranchers have access to veterinary drugs and veterinary services earned the organization’s spot in the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to develop ready-for-delivery, practical tools to assist veterinarians in the prudent use of antimicrobials for 6 defined species groups and to design a pilot initiative or initiatives in the form of a working prototype in targeted regions and agricultural sectors to initiate veterinary-based AMU surveillance in Canada.
- The CSF Board of Directors ratified changes to CSF program fees, to ensure that programs are administered sustainably and on a cost-recovery basis. The new fee schedule is as follows:

Program	Member Fee	Non-Member Fee	Other Industry
Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program	\$125 annually	\$250 annually	
Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program			\$125 annually
Canadian Verified Sheep Program - Training	Free online	\$125 online	
Canadian Verified Sheep Program - Certification	\$125 annually	\$250 annually	

- The CSF Staff Advisory Committee met in February to discuss sheep industry funding priorities for the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Affiliate and Associate Membership opportunities and processes, and updates to the CSF communication strategy

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given expanding membership. Committee members provided valuable feedback on all issues, and some productive priorities for funding.

- The CSF finalized a contract with Le ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) to deliver the Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program (CWD VHCP) within the province of Quebec. The CSF is now recognized as the Regional Administrator and Status Assessor for the CWD VHCP in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Like the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP, for which the CSF is the Regional Administrator and Status Assessor for all of Canada), the CWD VHCP is a program whose National Standards are developed and maintained by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Both programs are audited and endorsed by the CFIA annually, with the CSF consistently maintaining RA and SA status with each subsequent audit. This speaks volumes to the CSF's ability to credibly deliver programs that are endorsed national and internationally.
- The National Maedi Visna Working Group met in February to continue with work plans. Work is underway to determine review program and testing protocol options, and propose protocols for the national program. As a Working Group member, the CFIA will participate in program development and explore an opportunity to recognize the program. The objective of CFIA recognition is to be able to then reduce or eliminate mv testing required by the CFIA for various functions such as AI centre pre-entry testing, export certificates, etc.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada hosted a webinars for national industry groups regarding the next round of agricultural funding, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Programming includes:
 - AgriMarketing Program
A five-year, up to \$121 million federal initiative to help the industry increase and diversify exports to international markets and seize market opportunities. The program supports industry-led promotional activities that differentiate Canadian products and producers, and leverage Canada's reputation for high quality and safe food. The program also helps some sectors maintain their domestic market.
 - AgriCompetitiveness Program
A five-year, up to \$20.5 million program to assist industry-led efforts to provide producers with information needed to build capacity and support the sector's development. Funding will support sector-led activities such as farmer-oriented seminars, and conferences that identify industry best practices and build the capacity of the sector, farm business management, farm safety information and tools, as well as activities which raise agricultural awareness. Open to not-for-profit organizations including associations in Canada and Indigenous organizations.
 - AgriScience Program

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A five-year, up to \$338 million initiative to support leading edge discovery and applied science, and innovation driven by industry research priorities. Designed to accelerate the pace of innovation, the program supports pre-commercialization activities and invests in cutting-edge research to benefit the agricultural and agri-food sector.

- AgriInnovate Program

A five-year, up to \$128 million initiative to accelerate the demonstration, commercialization, and/or adoption of innovative agri-based products, technologies, processes or services that increase agri-sector competitiveness and sustainability.

- AgriDiversity Program

A five-year, up to \$5 million initiative to help under-represented groups in Canadian agriculture, including youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities to fully participate in the sector. Open to not-for-profit organizations including associations in Canada, Indigenous organizations, and Official Language Minority Communities, and youth.

- AgriAssurance Program

A five-year, up to \$74 million federal initiative to foster public trust by helping industry develop and adopt systems, standards and tools that enable them to make credible, meaningful and verifiable claims about the health and safety of Canadian agricultural and agri-food products, and the manner in which they are produced.

For more information about the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and its opportunities, visit the Government of Canada website: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/key-departmental-initiatives/canadian-agricultural-partnership/?id=1461767369849>

This month's meetings

- Agricultural Trade Negotiation Consultative Group
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Cost Recovery Working Group
- Public Trust Steering Committee – Ottawa
- CSF Board of Directors
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association AMU Workshop – Ottawa (3 days)
- CSF Staff Advisory Committee
- Regulatory Implementation Committee
- Le Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)
- CSIP Working Group
- National Maedi Visna Working Group
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



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- Scrapie Working Group
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
- Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers and Shearwell
- Post-National Policy Advisory Committee meeting
- CSF Audit & Finance Committee