

ED Report

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Action Items from April 3, 2018, Board Meeting

- Drafting of the Sheep Industry Health and Welfare Strategy Phase I is underway, circulated to member organizations for input.
- The CSF-CCIA MOU is under review by CSF legal council, including proposed revisions by the CSF Board and members.
- A May meeting of the CSIP Working Group is scheduled to discuss tag quality issues and consider the option of approving additional CSIP identifiers.
- CSF Market Access activities have been summarized and remitted for sharing with the Value Chain Round Table Market Access Working Group.

CSIP / Traceability

- The CSF is currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the CCIA, outlining terms and conditions of traceability administration. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency advised the sheep industry that CCIA would remain the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) administrator through the implementation of the regulatory amendment, and as such a formal MOU between the CSF and CCIA is required. This MOU will bring with it a few changes in how CSIP is managed, including a likely increase in program costs.
- The CSIP Webinar hosted in March was intended to spark a fulsome, industry-wide, all-inclusive discussion regarding the future of sheep traceability in Canada and program costs. The CSF continues to encourage stakeholders to come together to discuss the issue, and find a collaborative path forward.
- The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) hosted its Annual General Meeting and a Special General Meeting in Calgary early in April, followed by a meeting of the Board. The CSF appointed both a voting member, and a Director to the CCIA who attended the April meetings.

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- This year, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association representative Mark Elford was re-elected as Board Chair. Canadian Cattlemen's Association representative Pat Hayes was re-elected as Vice Chair. Alberta Beef Producers representative Howard Bekkering has been elected as Finance and Audit Committee Chair. Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association representative Lyle Miller was elected as one of CCIA's Executive Members while Canadian Cattlemen's Association representative Doug Sawyer was re-elected as CCIA's second Executive Member.
 - CCIA and its board of directors congratulate British Columbia Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) representative Larry Garrett, Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) representative Tim Fugard, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) representative Dr. Pat Burrage, Livestock Markets Association of Canada (LMAC) representative Rick Wright, Le Producteurs de bovins du Québec (PBQ) representative Gib Drury and Canadian Bison Association (CBA) representative Terry Kremeniuk for their combined years of dedication and service to CCIA and wish them well in their future endeavors.
 - CCIA welcomes the return of Canadian Sheep Federation representative Corlena Patterson as well as new representatives Duncan Barnett of BCCA, Kim Sytsma of BFO, Dr. Oliver Schunicht of CVMA and Kim O'Neil of CMC; and looks forward to working together with a new board to advance traceability in 2018 and beyond.
- As part of its annual performance review, the Canadian Sheep Identification Program collects feedback on the performance of approved identifiers. Anyone interested in providing feedback on CSIP tags is encouraged to contact the CSF at info@cansheep.ca.

Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan

- The CFIA and CSF received feedback from the USDA regarding their audit of the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program in determining program equivalency with the USDA Scrapie Flock Certification Program, in considering the VSFCP's role in future US import policy. The Scrapie Working Group will consider the audit outcome in a May meeting, and discuss potential changes that could address any issues identified through the audit.
- The Scrapie Canada website has a new look and feel. The site is a great resource, providing information about scrapie, scrapie eradication efforts and the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program. Check it out today: www.scrapiecanada.ca.
- As Growing Forward 2 funding for the Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan Implementation project draws to a close, enrolled and enrolling producers are reminded of changes to program fees. While funding was in place, we could deliver the program to producers free of charge. The program must now be operated on a cost-recovery basis, which means program fees will reflect the cost of processing program applications. The annual program fee for producers who are CSF members (this includes sheep producers in BC, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland/Labrador;

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Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association members and CSF Associate members) is \$125. The annual program fee for all other producers is \$250.

- VSFCP enrolled and enrolling producers are reminded to please send annual program files to the PO Box 10, Williamsburg ON K0C 2H0 address. Packages sent to the old Guelph address will not be forwarded to the CSF office for processing, and unremitted annual files can result in program suspension.

Canadian Verified Sheep Program

- Congratulations to Megan & Kelly Kroes (K BAR Ranches), and Cynthia Wesselingh (Sask Valley Farm) for achieving Certification in the Canadian Verified Sheep Program. A lot of hard work and commitment to best management practices goes into CVSP Certification and these farms have achieved exemplary standards.
- Did you know, Canadian Verified Sheep Program training is free online to CSF members? The program provides training on best practices for on-farm food safety, animal care and biosecurity. Take the training today, visit fsfp.cansheep.ca.
- To help support and foster continued growth of the Canadian Verified Sheep Program, the CSF is a member of the Canadian Quality Assurance Program Alliance (CQAPA). CQAPA members include assurance program representatives from Canadian livestock, poultry, grains, specialty crops, honey and horticulture industries, working together to align assurance programs wherever possible and share programming information.

Other Updates

- The CSF is pleased to announce Affiliate Membership status for Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association and Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited. The Board of Directors welcomes Ted Skinner as CSF Director representing CSBA, effective April 4th, 2018, and Brian Greaves will join the CSF Board September 1, 2018, representing CCWG. "I am very pleased these organizations have chosen once again to support the CSF" says Phil Kolodychuk, CSF Chairman, "Together we strengthen the Canadian Sheep Industry and support each other and all producers across the country". Welcome Ted and Brian!

"The CSBA Board is pleased to have been accepted as an associate member of the Canadian Sheep Federation. We look forward to a returned position on the CSF Board and to working with fellow sheep producers from coast to coast to address issues concerning the entire sheep industry" says CSBA President Bruce Sinclair. The Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association is an organization of over 1000 breeders of purebred sheep across Canada, representing over 40 breeds of sheep. Incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act since 1905, the CSBA is a democratic organization operated by officers and directors elected by the membership, and dedicated to working for the interests of sheep breeders across the country.

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David Mastine, President of Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited indicated on behalf of the Board of Directors, the importance of a national organization that represents all sheep producers across Canada with a unified voice. Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited is a national wool marketing co-operative established in 1918 by sheep producers. Upwards of 3 million pounds of Canadian wool is collected annually from across the country at strategically located wool depots, graded and objectively measured to international standards. Global wool markets that have been established for Canadian wool include China, USA, Czech Republic, India, Egypt and Bulgaria as well as woolen mills in Canada. In addition, the co-operative operates multiple branch locations and a large dealer network for livestock supplies, animal health products, feed, fencing etc. The company is governed by a Board of 11 Directors, currently employs 45 staff, and has approximately 1200 shareholders.

- The Agricultural Trade Negotiation Consultative Group (ATNCG) met weekly in April. ATNCG discussions are subject to strict confidentiality restrictions, but suffice it to say the group is working diligently on key trade issues at this time.
- Global Affairs Canada hosted a briefing session for the agricultural sector, regarding the status of free trade agreement negotiations with MERCOSUR and the Pacific Alliance. Pre-consultations identified sufficient trade interest to pursue FTA discussions with each group separately. MERCOSUR trading partners include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, and Pacific Alliance trading partners include Chile, Columbia, Mexico and Peru. Mentioned in the debrief was access for small ruminant germplasm, access for which the sheep industry advocated as part of the pre-consultation.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada convened national industry associations, including the CSF, for a debrief of the National Policy Advisory Committee March meeting, where the Committee reviewed the report from the External Panel of Experts. The second phase of analytical work brought to the Panel in March consisted of:
 - BRM Coverage of Risks
 - Program Alignment with BRM Objectives and Principles
 - Impact on Innovation and Growth
 - Private and Industry-led Risk Management Tools
 - International Approaches to Risk Management
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has launched national consultations on Business Risk Management programming. As part of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement, FPT governments committed to a review of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs with the objective of exploring options to improve the suite of programs A one-day stakeholder engagement session was hosted in Ottawa in April, in which the CSF participated. The interactive session focused on exploring:
 - Risks in the Sector and Program Effectiveness

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- Risk Management and Growing the Sector
- Alternative Risk Management Tools

The CSF will continue to work with AAFC in remodeling BRM programs into a suite of programs that meet the changing nature of farming risk in Canada.

- The CAHSS (Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System) Antimicrobial Use Minimum Dataset Working Group met in April to discuss the WG's next steps. Originally organized to determine the minimum dataset required to appropriately measure antimicrobial use, and where to best source the dataset, the WG has surpassed its original mandate in terms of supporting other work in the space. The WG committed to continuing to meet a few times per year, addressing:
 - Extending the work to-date to components under the action plan.
 - Linking with other initiatives underway in the space
 - Discussions with commodity groups about who holds the data and how to best use it in this context
 - Harmonize data collection methods good approach, could use a common tool, conduct a trial, pilot project across commodities.
 - Each representative could go back to your organization to how to move this forward, cost and resource requirement.
 - The group will meet again in June of this year, working its way through this to-do list.
- The CSF attended the first of a five-part China Roundtable series chaired by the Department of Finance. China Roundtables are invite-only events that include federal departments and agencies, crown corporations, private sector and non-governmental organizations and academia. To date, the aim of these sessions, which are chaired by the Department Finance and led by panels of Canadian and foreign experts, has been to sensitize Roundtable participants to ongoing developments inside China and their implications for Canada. This series enjoys the support of the China Policy Centre and is collaborative effort between Finance Canada, Global Affairs Canada, Industry, Science and Economic Development Canada, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank of Canada.
- The CSF has been invited by Environment and Climate Change Canada to join their 'Output-Based Standards Food Processing Sector Working Group'. The federal government carbon pricing backstop will have two elements: a charge on fossil fuels that is generally payable by fuel producers or distributors; and an Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) for industrial facilities. The aim of the OBPS is to minimize competitiveness risks for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industrial facilities, while retaining the carbon price signal and incentive to reduce GHG emissions. The fuel charge is not intended to apply to fuels used at a facility whose emissions are accounted for under the OBPS. Each facility that is part of the OBPS will instead be subject to the carbon price on the portion of the emissions that exceed an annual output-based emissions limit. As part of Environment and Climate

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Change Canada's (ECCC) engagement strategy, sector-specific working groups are being established. The purpose of these sectoral working groups is to:

- Consult stakeholders on sector-specific technical elements of the output-based pricing system;
 - Invite information and data from industry across Canada to support the development of output-based standards applicable to the sector.
- The Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) hosted a Chief Veterinary Officer – Executive Directors Forum in April, bringing together Canada's CVO and livestock industry staff. The meeting provided a debrief on the Lyon vaccine facility tour, leading to a fulsome discussion on modernizing Canada's Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) response strategy. In short, the CVO suggested consideration of three key action items: industry consultations and discussions regarding an FMD vaccination strategy in a disease response, industry consideration of a 72-hour case movement policy in an FMD outbreak, and (for CVOs across Canada), testing of various FMD outbreak scenarios. Discussions will continue on how to best prepare for an FMD or other Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak.
- In keeping with the CVO-ED Forum, a meeting of red meat industry representatives (livestock and processing) was proposed to discuss the possibility of a more robust approach to mitigating and managing FADs in Canada. A preliminary planning meeting is scheduled for early May, with a goal of having industry leaders convene in the summer to discuss strategies for dealing with foreign animal diseases. The Australian Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) was provided as an example of pro-action that could be considered by industry during the summer meeting.
- The Canadian Quality Assurance Program Alliance (CQAPA) met in April, considering how best to collaborate with the National Environmental Farm Plan Steering Committee. Where some QA programs prefer that environmental plans are managed outside of their programs, others have incorporated environmental sustainability modules. If there's to be a discussion on national EFPs, those with environmental modules would prefer like to see aligning of program elements to eliminate duplicity.

This month's meetings

- Debrief on the BRM Programs Review with National Organizations
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting (Calgary), attended by Phil Kolodychuk and Corlena Patterson
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency Board meeting (Calgary)
- Agricultural Trade Negotiation Consultative Group – 4 April meetings
- Global Affairs Canada – Canada-MERCOSUR and Canada-Pacific Alliance FTA negotiations
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System AMU Working Group

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- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Consultation on the Review of Business Risk Management Programs (Ottawa)
- China Roundtable on agriculture and agri-food (Ottawa)
- National Farm Animal Care Council – 5-year Code review
- AgSights – Go360bioTrack and traceability
- Carbon Pricing System: Output-based Standards – Food Processing Sector Working Group
- Canadian Quality Assurance Program Alliance
- Multisector OBPS Working Group Meeting (Ottawa)
- Canadian Animal Health Coalition Chief Veterinary Officer / Executive Directors' Meeting (Ottawa)
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency – CSF update