



FROM THE *flock*

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1-2 Proposed Import Changes
- 2 CFIA & Traceability
- 3 CFIA Complaints and Appeals Office
- 4 Support for CFIA's Scrapie Eradication Measures
- 5-6 Canadian Sheep Breeders Association Update

Proposed Import Changes

In the March edition of *From the Flock*, there was an article on the proposed import changes to requirements for importing small ruminants from the United States. The changes would significantly limit producer's ability to import males, especially bucks and rare breeds of sheep. Readers were asked to provide their thoughts in relation to these proposed policy changes and the process to date. **66% of those who responded agreed with the proposed changes.**

Comments from respondents included:

"The Canadian sheep industry should be supporting the CFIA's efforts to eradicate scrapie - not constantly asking for concessions to be able to import more breeds of sheep. We have great Canadian breeds and breeders here already."

"Yes - Canadians should be producing more uniform lambs from Canadian breeds like Arcotts, Canadiennes, and Outouais. Not importing more rare breeds and contributing to more lack of uniformity. The Americans won't let us sell to the US - we should be closing our borders to them too."

"Yes, I agree with CFIA's attempts to close the border to American rams. We shouldn't have opened it in the first place when the US still won't allow Canadian sheep to go south."

"Since consumers and abattoirs are constantly complaining about the lack of consistency in the Canadian Lamb industry, CSF should not be promoting MORE breeds of sheep. CSF should be supporting CFIA's proposal to close the border to US rams and rare breeds. Canadian breeders should be focusing on Canadian breeds not importing rare breeds from the U.S."

"Dear CFIA: It appears that CFIA doesn't care about the Producers input. CFIA will set the rules. Good thing that the producers pay your salaries."

"With the closure of the border to rams, new genetics will still be available through AI and ET which have a higher level of flock biosecurity and also allows one access to a greater range of genetic diversity worldwide. Through purchasing semen one can have access to elite sires that offshore breeders would not be prepared to sell as a live animal. Shouldn't we firstly be protecting uniquely Canadian genetics? How many registered Canadian Arcotts and Outouais Arcotts are there in the country? Why is it our responsibility to preserve another countries genetic heritage?"

Continued on next page

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

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

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



Proposed Import Changes continued

"I can agree with the proposed changes to the importation of rams, as long as the additional option of importing rams of specific genotypes is included. This must be an option outside having the exporting and importing flocks both on the respective scrapie programs."

"Canadians should be supporting Canadian breeders. Rare breeds of sheep are useless in the efforts to grow this industry. There are currently over 50 breeds of sheep. No need to preserve non-profitable rare genetics."

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

ONLINE POLL - CLICK HERE

Knowing that a positive case of scrapie on your farm could result in depopulation of your breeding stock, would you voluntarily participate in a program that reduces the risk of scrapie on your farm?

Which type of program would you prefer to participate in: One that follows a program of limited acquisitions and disease surveillance or one that uses genotype testing to breed selectively for scrapie resistance coupled with disease surveillance?

CFIA & Livestock Traceability

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has developed a new Manual of Procedures to help inspectors verifying compliance and enforcement of livestock identification and traceability requirements. The goal is to have a clear, nationally consistent approach to compliance verification and enforcement. The document's target audience is CFIA inspectors and collects policies, procedures to support compliance and enforcement of Part 15 of Health of Animals Regulations.

While the sheep industry has been working on moving towards traceability, currently only animal identification and some on-farm record keeping is mandatory (or regulated). Only those portions of traceability that are regulated are enforceable by the CFIA; they are:

- All animals leaving the farm of origin must be identified with an approved Canadian Sheep Identification Program tag
- Those who apply approved tags are responsible for ensuring that the tag is for the species of that animal and is applied to the site for which the tag was issued.
- Keep on-farm records for animals 18 months of age or older who are moving onto a farm or off of a farm. These records must be kept for a period of at least 5 years.

Please don't forget that:

- It is illegal to apply and approved tag at the location that the approved tag was not issued to
- It is illegal to sell a tag that resembles an approved tag but is not one
- It is illegal to apply an approved cattle or bison tag to sheep
- By regulation, tagging sites only apply to cattle and bison.

All custodians of sheep will be subject to inspections in order to verify compliance with the points above.

TRANSIT OF SHEEP TO USA

The protocol for transit of sheep and goats to certain US airports has been posted on the APHIS website at the following address:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/live_animals.shtml

The CFIA's new Complaints and Appeals Office is Operational

This is to inform you that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) new [Complaints and Appeals Office](#) is now operational, as of April 2, 2012.

You will now have a more accessible and transparent way to register complaints, appeals, comments or compliments related to:

- service delivery;
- administrative errors; and
- regulatory decisions.

The CFIA uses an incremental process to manage complaints and appeals. Staff are encouraged to resolve complaints at the frontline, and in many cases, incoming complaints will be referred back to the frontline. While this process does not change, stakeholders can now, as a final step, submit a formal complaint, appeal, comment or compliment directly to the Complaints and Appeals Office. Once a complaint or appeal has been submitted, stakeholders will be contacted (either by phone or email) within two business days. They will be given a file number, an acknowledgement of receipt and information about the process, which is further described on our website. This single-window process will complement processes already in place by allowing regulatory decisions and service delivery issues to be more thoroughly addressed.

On February 27, 2012, the CFIA launched the [Statement of Rights and Service for Producers, Consumers and Other Stakeholders](#) and six guides to inspection. Five of the guides to inspection (producers, processors, animal transporters, importers and exporters) have now been revised to include information on the Complaints and Appeals Office. (Note: The consumer's guide directs stakeholders to where food safety issues can be reported). Included in the five guides is a tear-out form for complaints, appeals, comments and compliments, which can be completed and mailed or faxed to the Complaints and Appeals Office.

The [form \(CFIA/ACIA 5686\)](#) can also be found on our website and submitted electronically. We have been working closely together over the last several years to look at ways to improve how the CFIA interacts with its stakeholders. The development of the Statement of Rights and Service and guides to inspection, and the establishment of the Complaints and Appeals Office, demonstrates the Agency's commitment to improving interactions with its stakeholders. That commitment is further reinforced as the Agency continues to move towards a more service-focused agenda.

This service focus is also a way to drive consistency across our organization as it enhances engagement with our stakeholders and give us the opportunity to hear about the good work we do and the areas where we need to improve. The Agency values this feedback as it gives us an opportunity to measure and report on our performance both to our stakeholders and to our staff.

The CFIA remains committed to working closely with you to resolve issues that might affect our food supply, your industry and individual businesses.

If you have any questions regarding the Complaints and Appeals Office, Statement of Rights and Service or guides to inspection, please refer to the contact information or the CFIA website.

Catherine Airth
Chief Redress Officer, Integrity and Redress Secretariat
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Ottawa



Support for the CFIA's Scrapie eradication measures

April 3, 2012, Guelph: Scrapie eradication is essential to the long-term sustainability of the Canadian sheep industry and as such, the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) supports the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) scrapie eradication measures.

A flock of 41 Shropshire sheep were removed from a farm that is currently under a CFIA quarantine order. The sheep were allegedly taken from the barn sometime during the evening of April 1 by an organisation identifying itself as the Farmers' Peace Corps.

"Scrapie investigations truly are regrettable, emotionally charged scenarios that impact both the producer and the industry, however, sheep disappearing in the middle of the night is making an already difficult situation even worse" said Andrew Gordanier, Chairman of the Canadian Sheep Federation. Gordanier went on to say that "Scrapie needs to be controlled to protect the remainder of the domestic sheep population."

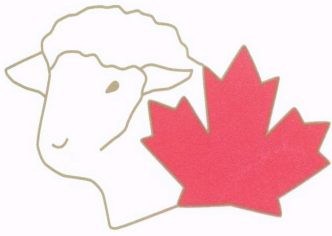
Not only is scrapie eradication important to the industry, the perception of pro-action is essential to industry sustainability. Recognition of Canadian efforts to minimize the risk of scrapie can help build a robust trade based industry where international trade is essential to the vibrancy and long-term sustainability of the Canadian livestock industries. Canada's scrapie status impacts both the ability to import valuable genetics and the ability to access larger export markets.

"A positive case of scrapie is a devastating event for any producer involved, regardless of the nature of their operation" said Jennifer MacTavish, Executive Director of the Canadian Sheep Federation, who went on to say that "Any situation where a positive case of scrapie is identified certainly speaks volumes to the need for moving towards scrapie eradication in Canada."

For more information on scrapie:

- Call 1.888.684.7739 or 1.866.534.1302
- Visit www.scrapiecanada.ca or www.cansheep.ca

The Canadian Sheep Federation is a national, non-profit organization that represents all Canadian sheep producers. Its mission is to further the viability, expansion and prosperity of the Canadian sheep and wool industry.



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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2012 CSBA WINTER UPDATE

Constitutional Amendments

The CSBA board performed an extensive review of the CSBA's constitution and prepared a notice of amendment to be voted on by all members. Two thirds of the members that respond must be in favour of the amendment before it will be adopted. Ballots must be received by the CLRC by February 10, 2012. If you have not already done so, please complete and return your ballot today.

Annual General Meeting

The 2012 CSBA AGM will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the Legends Room in the People Centre, Stampede Park at 2402A 2nd Street SE, Calgary, Alberta starting at 10 AM. The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association will host lunch and reimburse parking costs.

Rooms have been set aside at the Radisson Hotel Calgary Airport, which is located at 2120-16th Avenue NE in Calgary for \$129 per night, plus taxes. Please make your reservations (1-800-395-7046) by February 13, 2012 and mention that you are attending the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association AGM to obtain this rate.

2012 All Canada Sheep Classic

The Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association of Nova Scotia is preparing to host the 2012 Classic in Truro, Nova Scotia. Entry and information packages were mailed out early in January. Entry forms and advertisements must be received by March 23, 2012. Please contact the CSBA office if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Proposed Import Protocol

The CFIA is in the process of reviewing and changing the protocol for sheep imported from the United States. In order to meet OIE's (World Organization for Animal Health) standards for scrapie eradication, import requirements for male small ruminants will eventually need to be aligned more closely to those of females. Up until now, it has been possible to import rams from the US with relative ease. Although an exact date has not been provided, the proposed changes will likely be implemented in the latter half of 2012. When they take effect, the changes may only allow rams genotyped as RR or QR, those coming from 'negligible risk' flocks or those coming from and entering into a Scrapie Certification Program, to enter the country. If you have been considering importing rams, you should move quickly to avoid future restrictions.

Tattoos: 2012's letter is "Z"

Breeders using tattoos for registering purebred sheep must tattoo: i) flock letters in the right ear, and ii) an identification number and year letter in the left ear, by 100 days of age. It is important to remember that it is the SHEEP'S left and right ears (identified by standing behind the sheep). As an alternative to tattooing, a breeder may use a double tagging system with two tags approved and bearing the official identification number under the Canadian Sheep Identification Program.

Applying permanently legible tattoos can be challenging. Illegible tattoos can cause serious problems at shows and sales, with parentage testing and with transferring breeding stock. Please review the

following recommended tattoo technique suggested by the CLRC, Ketchum Inc. and experienced sheep breeders:

1. Insert the correct tattoo letters/numbers and check for correctness by clamping the pliers on a piece of paper. Depending on the size of your flock, a double or triple set of numbers may be required.
2. The ideal age to tattoo can vary by breed. Large eared breeds may be easiest to tattoo in the first week of life. Regardless of age, properly restrain the animal and clean the ear with alcohol to remove dirt, grease and wax.
3. Smear ink on the needles and on the skin. Place the tattoo parallel to and between the veins or cartilaginous ridges of the ear. The accidental piercing of a vein may spoil the tattoo. Use only fresh ink specified for use in animal tattoos.
4. Make the imprints with a quick firm movement and immediately apply more ink to the tattoo. Rub vigorously and continuously for at least 15 seconds or until bleeding stops. This is very important to ensure penetration. The most effective method is to rub thumb and forefinger, though a brush or cotton swab may be used.
5. Do not disturb the area, or remove excess ink, until the healing process is complete, which may be from 5 days to 21 days.
6. Use liquid dish detergent and a soft brush to clean the tattooer and dies after each use.
7. Keep a list of tattoo numbers with the names of animals in your private breeding record.

Learning From Others: A CSBA member's actual experience

"Sooner or later, if you are in the business of selling rams, you will be faced with having to guarantee a ram.

A purebred breeder purchased a registered ram lamb from our farm, but things did not work out as everyone had hoped. We agreed with the purchaser that the ram was to be culled, which would remove his genetic influence from the purebred sector. The purchaser reported that the ram had been sold and we refunded the difference between the purchase price and the salvage price to the purchaser. So far so good - we had been assured that the ram had been culled and we honoured our guarantee. Several years passed and progeny of the "culled ram" began to surface in other breeders' pedigrees. Apparently, the ram in question had not been culled, as previously thought, and had in fact been sold to another purebred breeder, despite assurances by the purchaser to the contrary.

The mistake that we made was not requesting that the paper on the "culled ram" be returned to us before the guarantee was honored. It is suggested that the signed transfer be returned to the seller and dated as agreed to (ideally the date of original purchase) by the two parties before the guarantee is honored. Seed stock producers invest considerable time and effort in the development of genetic lines and animals that are culled are usually done so for good reason. When handling issues of guarantees, the rights and responsibilities of both parties must be considered and protected."

The CSBA has developed Guidelines for the Sale of Registered Sheep, which is available on the CSBA's website or by calling the office.

Master Shepherds' Course

The Canadian Sheep Federation, in partnership with provincial sheep organizations, is responding to the need identified by Canadian producers for relevant production information. The plan is to offer a comprehensive continuing education program to assist lamb producers in building their farming enterprise.

A survey has been created to help determine the specifics of what producers want access to. This is your opportunity to make your opinions known and to influence the content and format of the program. All responses will be kept in confidence and combined with other responses in order to make recommendations and develop the program.

Please contact Jennifer MacTavish at Jennifer@cansheep.ca or 1-888-684-7734 to receive a paper copy of the survey or complete it online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mastershepherds>.