



FROM THE *flock*

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NEWS

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Renewal Update

The CSF continues its work towards securing a stable funding source to ensure a vibrant and profitable future for the Canadian sheep industry.

Enabling the industry to become self-sustaining will provide the funds and flexibility to rethink the CSF as an organization and develop a robust Canadian sheep industry strategy that will:

- Establish and make known the value of the Canadian Sheep Industry nationally;
- Develop the sheep production knowledge base;
- Develop the financial autonomy to make decisive and producer based decisions;
- Gather all of the sheep industry players around the table to establish an ongoing and consensual path for the Canadian Sheep industry and;
- Measure the impact of each and every activity on the overall industry

Given the diversity across Canada, the CSF is committed to a flexible implementation approach. As such, the Federation has been working with each province individually to determine the best path forward in terms of implementing a \$0.25 fee that will be collected when ear tags are sold.

Most of the provinces are opting to continue paying their provincial dues to the CSF for the coming fiscal year (ending August 31 2013).

Nova Scotia and British Columbia, however, are moving forward with implementing the tag fee starting January 1, 2013. What this means is that the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers will be collecting \$0.25 per tag when ear tags are sold and submitting the money to the CSF on behalf of Nova Scotia and British Columbia. This fee will be voluntary and producers can contact the CSF to request reimbursement.



What to Expect in a Scrapie Investigation

By Corlena Patterson, National Scrapie Coordinator



Scrapie is a devastating fatal neurological disease that affects sheep and goats, and as a federally reportable disease any suspect or positive case of scrapie must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The CFIA takes disease control measures in response to a positive case of scrapie aimed at identifying at-risk animals and stemming the spread of the disease. Scrapie control measures carried out by the CFIA can vary by farm depending on the level of risk that farm poses and producers involved in a scrapie investigation can expect any number of actions including quarantine of their premises, the identification, de-population and destruction of infected and at-risk animals, an epidemiological investigation, supervised decontamination of an infected premises and mandatory 5 year follow-up surveillance of an affected premises.

<p>INITIAL INVESTIGATION</p>	<p>When an animal tests positive for classical scrapie (atypical cases of scrapie are NOT subject to the same disease control actions), the CFIA will launch an initial investigation on farms where the infected animal may have been born and farms on which an infected female may have recently given birth.</p>
<p>QUARANTINE</p>	<p>Quarantines are placed on farms where infected animals may have been born and farms on which infected females may have recently given birth. For the duration of the quarantine, no sheep or goats may move onto or off from an infected premises. All sick sheep and goats and those that die on a quarantined farm must be reported to the CFIA. Milk and colostrum from quarantined premises may only leave that premises for the purpose of human consumption and may NOT be used to feed sheep or goats on other premises. Remember, scrapie does not pose a risk to human health.</p>
<p>EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION</p>	<p>Following an initial investigation and quarantine of a farm(s) that have been known to house an infected animal, the CFIA will conduct a more comprehensive investigation to trace the positive animal to its farm of origin. From there the CFIA will extend trace-in investigations into farms that have sold to the farm of origin within 5 years of the positive case having been on farm, and trace-out investigations into farms that have purchased from the farm of origin within 5 years following the positive animal residing on-farm. Exposed animals identified through trace investigations will be tested, including RAMALT biopsies to screen for scrapie.</p>
<p>DE-POPULATION AND DESTRUCTION OF INFECTED AND AT-RISK ANIMALS</p>	<p>All animals under 12 months of age that have been exposed to scrapie are ordered destroyed. Sheep 12 months of age or older are genotype tested and susceptible animals are ordered destroyed. All goats at-risk for contracting scrapie are destroyed because there is not yet enough conclusive evidence of scrapie resistant genotypes in goats. The CFIA may cover all associated destruction, disposal and transportation costs. Compensation is issued for destroyed animals based on the Department of Justice's latest Compensation for Destroyed Animals Regulations schedule: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2000-233/page-3.html#h-6</p>

Scrapie Investigation continued

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING	Once all destruction and disposal activities have been completed, the farm must be properly cleaned and disinfected to reduce the amount of infectivity that may be present in the environment. Manure and bedding are destroyed or buried, concrete and metal surfaces and equipment are cleaned and disinfected, and soil is scraped from outdoor lambing areas and disposed of according to CFIA requirements. Once the premises have been cleaned and disinfected accordingly, the quarantine is lifted and movement of animals onto and off from the farm may resume.
POST CONTROL SURVEILLANCE	For five years after all quarantines have been lifted, the CFIA requires that affected producers submit samples of any mature sheep or goats that die on farm for scrapie testing. Farms may also be subject to bi-annual inventory inspections by the CFIA. This post control surveillance is aimed at ensuring no residual infectivity remains on the premises, that the remaining animals are scrapie-free and that scrapie is not re-introduced onto the farm.

For more information about scrapie please visit the Scrapie Canada website at www.scrapiecanada.ca or the CFIA's scrapie information page at www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/scrapie/eng/1329723409732/1329723572482

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.

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Food Safe Farm Practices Program helps producers demonstrate due diligence

By Barb Caswell, National OFFS Coordinator

I recently read an article in the November 6th edition of the Ontario Farmer, 'Producers discover the importance of due diligence'. The article reminded me that while On-Farm Food Safety is not mandatory, producers still have certain responsibilities in terms of the products they sell. In the case of the Ontario Farmer article, the responsibilities relate to mixing feed on-farm. The article talks about two different sheep producers' experiences in a trace back inspection by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) when animals were identified with unacceptable levels of a substance.

Regulations involving the mixing of animal feed can be found in the Feed Regulations and the Health of Animals Regulations. With two different regulations providing oversight, making heads or tails of what is required on farm can be confusing. The CFIA tests meat for maximum residue limits or MRLs and prohibited substances. Approved drugs have withdrawal times to ensure that any level of the drug left in the animal after the withdrawal is at a safe level for human consumption should the animal be sent for slaughter. When drugs are used appropriately and withdrawal times are met, meat will be within the MRLs, if tested.

If CFIA identifies an unapproved substance or a substance at a level over the approved MRL, they trace the animal back to the farm. If the violation is feed related, feed inspectors would carry out an on farm investigation, notifying the producer of the violation and advising on means to avoid further violations. In the case of a violation believed to be due to drug injections, notification is similar except an animal health inspector will conduct the on farm follow up inspection.

After a review of the regulations, I felt no wiser on how to provide guidance to producers on what records may be required of them with regards to livestock feeds and feed mixing. After a review of everything I could find online, I contacted my local CFIA Feed Program Specialist and referred to information that had been given to us during CSF's review of its on-farm food safety program.

The main requirements for producers mixing feed on-farm are:

- Purchased ingredients must be approved and labeled;
- Feed must be free of toxic substances;
- Producers must maintain a complete set of production records;
- The quality and accuracy of equipment must be verified;
- Medications must be used be approved for use in Canada (have a valid DIN), used as per label direction and/or a veterinarian prescription.

A general guide to the necessary records that CFIA may want to see upon a monitoring visit or trace back may include:

- Written procedures to manage cross-utilization of equipment and associated production records;
- Mixing formulae and mixing sheets for each batch;
- Records of purchased ingredients (i.e. labels);
- Medications and veterinary prescriptions;
- Mixing performance test results, scale and metering device verification records; and,
- Procedures to ensure that animals no longer have access to contaminated feeds.

Not every farm will have all these records, depending on their practices. For example, if you are not cross-utilizing any equipment between ruminant and non-ruminant or medicated and non-medicated feeds, then you are not likely to have procedures to address this or production records.

Food Safe Farm Practices Program

As I reviewed these, the Food Safe Farm Practices (FSFP) Program immediately came to mind. While an on-farm food safety program isn't a guarantee, the records mentioned above are in most cases found as part of the FSFP Program. Take for example A2 of the Food Safe Farm Practices Program Producer Manual, which addresses the need to have a bill of sale/fee tag, cleaning procedures and record keeping for cross-utilization of equipment, mixing instructions and a mixing record. So while it is a producer's responsibility to ensure compliance with regulations, the FSFP Program is a great step towards meeting those requirements.

While going the extra mile to become certified on an on-farm food safety program may seem onerous and expensive and full certification is ideal, there are steps you can take with minimal investment of time and money that will still go along way to assist you as a producer. Getting a copy of the FSFP Producer Manual is free and can be requested from the CSF office. A quick glimpse through the practices will likely tell you that you are already implementing a lot of them. Equally useful are the record templates.

In the Ontario Farmer article, both producers were able to show their 'due diligence' through the records they were keeping. Make sure you have the ability to demonstrate your due diligence...whether it be through your own record keeping and practices, or by using guidance from the FSFP Program. Producers can also contact their local CFIA office if they have further questions about meeting regulatory requirements for feed or animal health: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/offices/eng/1313255382836/1313256130232>

Sources:

Romahn, Jim. « Producers discover the importance of due diligence. » Ontario Farmer [London] 6 Novembre 2012, Vol. 46, n° 33, Page A27.

Chemical Residue Surveillance Program for Foods: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/chemical-residues-microbiology/chemical-residues/residue-surveillance/eng/1332108703029/1332108819462>

Livestock Feeds: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/eng/1299157225486/1320536661238>

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Forum 2012

(Ottawa, Ontario) December 11, 2012 - The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) recently held its second annual two-day Forum. Participants from a diverse group of stakeholders from Canada's agriculture and animal health sectors came together to provide expertise on defining roles and responsibilities within the animal health and welfare system, with the goal of creating greater collaboration among stakeholders regarding governance and policy.

Keynote speakers, Dr. Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt and Dr. Gregory Taylor addressed the One Health approach. Dr. Vaillancourt pointed out that the four pillars of environment, public health, animal health, and food and agriculture all interact to influence animal health, welfare, and security. The One Health solution is achievable but will require that the organizations that govern these pillars start interacting – it's not enough just to have the pillars standing independently. Dr. Taylor spoke to the fact that a top down approach of governance control and oversight will not successfully address a complex issue such as animal health and welfare.

The integration, collaboration and comprehensiveness of the One Health solution will be required. During breakout discussions facilitated by the Institute on Governance, the group identified the benefits of a more coordinated approach, which included a stronger voice leading to improved international and public confidence in the system, increased market opportunities, and optimal use of resources among stakeholders. Challenges identified included funding, both initial and long term, as well as the human resources capacity of industry and government to develop and implement a new approach. Stakeholders also deliberated on the pros and cons of various existing governance structures and how aspects of these organizations could be applied to a governance structure that would lead Canada's animal health and welfare policy system.

While there are undoubtedly multiple benefits and opportunities that will result from a more coordinated approach, in the words of Rob McNabb, co-chair of the Council, "it is people and relationships that must be fostered" that will be key to accomplishing this goal. Forum 2012 truly continued to build on the momentum of fostering those relationships with the vision of greater collaboration and cohesiveness among Canada's animal health and welfare stakeholders.

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The Road Towards Traceability

By Daniel Dion, National ID coordinator

Over the course of the coming year the CSF will be working on the draft regulations which will make traceability mandatory (currently only animal identification is mandatory). As we move towards mandatory traceability the CSF has been getting questions from producers about how the history of the program, in response to these questions, this article takes a look at where the industry has been in terms of animal identification and traceability.

1995 National identification started 15 years ago, in 1995, when the need for the sheep industry to develop an effective traceback system was first recognized by the Livestock Identification Working Group (LIDWG). This group was created by the Canadian Animal Health Consultative Committee (CAHCC) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to represent the national identification interests of the livestock industry, in both the private and public sectors. The Working Group quickly recognized the need to first address the potential threat of BSE in the cattle, and scrapie in sheep.

1996 In 1996, the concept of developing a national identification program was proposed to the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF). The CSF Board at that time, decided to allow the cattle industry to develop its program and establish it as a model for other sectors.

1998 Two years later, at its Annual General Meeting, the CSF Board endorsed the concept of a national identification system for the sheep industry. A technical committee was established to begin developing the program. The goal of the program initially was to manage scrapie, which is why the industry implemented individual animal identification.

2000 In 2000, the CSF received financial assistance from the federal government to initiate communication with producers. Information was published in journals and newsletters. During the summer and fall, extensive consultative meetings were held with industry stakeholders nationwide. The response indicated the sheep industry supported the development of a national identification program that would reflect its needs. Based on this response, the Board of Directors voted to develop and implement an identification system that was "affordable, flexible and effective" for the sheep industry.

2001 - 2004 In 2001, the CSF requested regulatory changes to the legislation governing mandatory identification. In March 2002, a meeting was held in Winnipeg to draft amendments that incorporated the requirements of the sheep sector. The final changes to the legislation were reviewed and accepted by the current National Identification Committee of the CSF in March 2002. The legislation was enacted on January 1, 2004.

Legislation brings responsibilities...

Over the past months, the CSF has continued to give producers and stakeholder's information on the CSIP, traceability and the changes to timelines on RFID, but the phones calls that have been received by the office from producers and stakeholders of the industry indicate that a review of producer and stakeholder responsibilities is required:

Traceability continued

- All sheep and lambs must bear an approved CSIP ear tag before they leave any premises. This includes animals leaving the premises temporarily (e.g. exhibitions, veterinarian clinics, community pastures) It is illegal to transport untagged animals;
- Tags must be purchased from an approved distributor. When purchasing tags, you will be asked to provide your name, telephone number and address;
- Sheep producers and feedlot operators are required to keep a record of:
 - All sheep or lambs entering your flock for breeding purposes;
 - All sheep 18 months or older leaving your farm, other than those sold directly to a federally or provincially inspected abattoir;
- Imported sheep must have a Canadian-approved national identification tag applied either before importation or as soon as the animal reaches its initial destination;
- All animals purchased must bear an approved CSIP ear tag. If a tag is subsequently lost, you must immediately apply a new approved CSIP ear tag and record the identification number with as much information about the origin of the animal as is known;
- Approved CSIP ear tags must not be removed from any live animal or tampered with for any reason and must not be re-used. If an animal dies on your property, the tag should be removed, saved and recorded with the cause of death if known;
- Auction marts, livestock dealers and packing plants are required to accept only sheep and lambs bearing an approved CSIP ear tag.

For complete information on the regulations, please see Part XV - Animal Identification - of the Health of Animals regulation at: http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._296/index.html

Moving forward...

As the Canadian Sheep Identification System moves forward and continues its development, it is important to keep in mind the original objectives of the board of directors of the CSF in implementing an identification system that is "affordable, flexible and effective" for the sheep industry.

To do so, the CSF is working with industry partners and government to make sure those objectives are met. Specific areas of activities include:

"Affordable"

- Analysis of costs and benefits of tags, identification systems and RFID management systems;
- Review of available technologies and tags;
- Analysis of costs of traceability with industry partners and government;

"Flexible"

- Review of available technologies and tags;
- Determine which tags, identification systems and RFID management systems work best for sheep producers;

"Effective"

- RFID tags will be mandatory. As of 1st January 2013, all sheep leaving their premise of origin must be tagged with CSIP approved RFID tags (Shearwell Data Ltd SET tag or Allflex RFID Button Tag);
- National standards for tags are being developed;
- Traceability Policies are being developed;



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