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# From the flock

SEPTEMBER 2007 • VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 9

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CANADIAN SHEEP INDUSTRY

## Foot and Mouth Disease

By Jennifer Fleming, Executive Director

In the midst of dealing with a possible seventh case of Foot and Mouth Disease, farmers in Britain are now facing the country's first ever case of bluetongue (BT). As of September 24, a second cow has tested positive on the same farm where the disease was first discovered on September 22. The Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs in the U.K. believes that if the disease takes hold, 19 million sheep and 9 million cattle could be affected. The sheep flock (40 million) is most at risk as a third of all infected sheep die within days of showing symptoms.

Along with these confirmed cases of BT in the U.K., a quarantine on sheep movement has been issued in Montana until October 10 due to the confirmation of BT in tests from eight flocks in six counties. Officials from the Montana Department of Livestock are, however, confident that by October 10 the cold weather will eliminate the vector.

Some of you may be asking why these current outbreaks of BT are something you should be worried about. The main reason is because the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced last year that it was revising its Bluetongue (BT) import policy, "...based on an updated scientific risk analysis, to eliminate currently bluetongue-related control measures for cattle, sheep and other ruminants imported from the United States".

The changes would still allow the CFIA to be able to fulfill its international reporting obligations to trading partners and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Also, the vector that carries the BT virus exists in western Canada. However, its capacity to transmit BT has historically been very poor due to adverse environmental and climatic conditions for the vector, making the virus marginally competent. The use of the word "historically" was intentional, as these recent BT outbreaks, especially in areas where it has not been previously found, may be a sign of the spread of this disease changing due to global warming.

What does global warming have to do with this? When the BT outbreak first hit Europe last fall, the serotype that was determined to cause the outbreak was serotype 8, which had never been reported in Europe before and was considered then to be of exotic origin. (There are 25 known BT serotypes, five of which occur in North America: 2, 10, 11, 13 and 17). It is believed that this serotype (8) of BT is of a sub-Saharan lineage.

Authors of an article entitled "Climate change and the recent emergence of Bluetongue in Europe" suggest that the unprecedented spread of the disease further north in Europe "...has been driven by recent changes in the European climate that have allowed increased virus persistence during winter".

When CFIA's BT import regulations were being changed, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association offered to provide the sheep industry with a \$150,000 indemnity fund to cover BT-related mortalities. While generous, the sheep industry feels that more coverage is needed. And so, a project to outline potential insurance options for mortality and production losses related to BT has been undertaken. The results of this project will be presented to the CSF Board of Directors at the AGM in Victoria this November and it is hoped that an insurance program for producers will be available in early 2008.



## Disease Concerns

"This could not have come at a worse time."

Reproduced from: Gordon Rayner, [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

The foot and mouth outbreak could not have come at a worse time of year for livestock farmers, the National Farmers' Union said.

Sheep farmers in particular face losing their entire annual income, as many of them rely totally on selling their flocks in September, a crucial period for livestock sales.

Lambs born in the spring are now ready to be slaughtered, and September is also the month when farmers buy in new breeding stock ready for next year's breeding season. None of that can take place as long as the ban on movements of livestock remains.

It is also the time of year when upland farmers drive their herds down to lowland areas to be sold for fattening over the winter. If the animals cannot be moved, they cannot be sold and farmers will have to find a way of feeding them in pastures where food has already been largely exhausted.

Meurig Raymond, deputy president of the NFU, said: "It is a terrible time for this to happen - much worse than the timing of last month's outbreak.

"Not only has this come straight on the heels of the August outbreak, but this is the time when farmers should be selling lambs and calves.

"Sheep breeding sales had only just kicked off and now there will be no way for farmers to replenish their stock and plan for next year. Upland areas will be running out of grass, with no opportunity to bring animals to lowland areas, so this will cause massive cash flow problems for farmers.

"Sheep farmers tend to get their entire annual income over a period of four weeks at this time of year. It's the peak slaughtering period, with 30 to 40 per cent of lamb exports normally happening at this time of year.

"We had restored our international reputation following the 2001 outbreak, but now we may have to start all over again."

## Gnats Spreading Bluetongue Disease in Montana

Reproduced from: Associated Press

Helena, Montana -- A potentially fatal sheep disease spread by gnats has, according to this story, triggered a quarantine in eastern Montana, preventing ranchers from moving their animals at a time of year when lambs are shipped out, often to Colorado feedlots.

State veterinarian Marty Zaluski's order this week prohibits the transportation of sheep from 16 of Montana's 56 counties. The disease, bluetongue, has been confirmed in tests from eight flocks in six counties, Lisa Schmidt, spokeswoman for the Montana Department of Livestock was cited as saying.

The main consequence of the quarantine is that ranchers must now feed sheep that they assumed would already be sold off, forcing producers without available pasture to buy hay, Rodney Kott, a Montana State University sheep specialist was cited as saying.

'The unusual thing about this situation is that this is the farthest north that this disease has been reported,' Larry Cooper, spokesman for the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Fort Collins, Colo was quoted as saying.

The quarantine is in effect until Oct. 10. Officials expect cold weather to eliminate gnats by then.



## Bluetongue Concerns from Around the World

### Official Monitor Sheep Disease

Reproduced from: [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

SIoux FALLS (AP) -- An outbreak of bluetongue disease in Montana could reduce sheep sales in South Dakota for a few weeks, but the disease threat will be over when a freeze kills the vector insect, State Veterinarian Dr. Sam Holland said.

A quarantine on sheep movement has been issued in 16 eastern Montana counties until Oct. 10. Some sheep from eastern Montana normally are shipped to auction barns in western South Dakota this time of year, Holland said Friday.

The disease, which can be fatal, is named for the tongue discoloration it causes. It is not spread by contact between animals but is spread by a gnat, Holland said.

Holland said several thousand head of sheep from Montana received an extra close inspection when they were up for sale at an auction barn in Newell on Thursday. No sign of the disease was found. Holland said the state has an occasional case of bluetongue in a herd, but a widespread outbreak such as the one in Montana is rare.

### France Bluetongue Sheep Virus Cases Rise

Reproduced from: [www.abcmoney.co.uk](http://www.abcmoney.co.uk)

France bluetongue sheep virus cases rise to 54; restricted zone widened

PARIS -- The number of recorded cases of the bluetongue virus in sheep across France has risen to 54, the ministry of agriculture said on Saturday.

The area in which the movement of live ruminants is restricted has been increased to cover 19 regional departments from 17, the ministry said.

The ministry said the discovery of two new cases in the north east of the country close to the border with Germany led to the widening of the restricted zone. The departments of Yonne and Val d'Oise are now included.

The first case of bluetongue in France was recorded on 27 July. On Tuesday the ministry said 36 cases of the virus had been recorded.

### Warnings Over Spread of Bluetongue

Reproduced from: Steve Dube, Western Mail

BRITAIN is getting ready for the arrival of bluetongue disease. Once confined to the Mediterranean areas of Europe, bluetongue has been moving north and has re-emerged this year in the countries affected during 2006 – the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and parts of western Germany and northern France. It is now endemic in some of these areas.

The disease has moved north with temperature increases resulting from climate change, and Defra scientists say there is now a low but increased risk of spread to the UK. Now Defra and the devolved governments of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have agreed a control strategy that includes rigorous measures to keep the disease out of the UK and contain any outbreaks.

UK Chief Veterinary Officer Debby Reynolds said bluetongue differs from other diseases in terms of its impact and the way it spreads through midges infected with the virus.

“We have been reviewing our bluetongue controls to ensure they address new risks proportionately and effectively, and reflect the emerging evidence from the outbreaks in northern Europe in the last 12 months,” she said. “We have worked in partnership with industry, sharing all available information on the disease with a working group of stakeholders to ensure that we reach a shared understanding of risks, roles, and responsibilities.

The latest disease situation in northern Europe highlights the importance of preparedness for this disease. “While the risk to the UK is still low, it is clearly heightened. With the presence of disease in northern Europe, it is important that animal keepers are vigilant, alert to signs of disease and that they report any suspicion to Animal Health immediately.”

The infection is not a risk to human health but affects all species of ruminants, including goats, deer and cattle, although these rarely show any signs of disease.

Sheep are the most susceptible, and up to 70% of an infected flock can die from the virus. Symptoms in sheep include a fever, mucus around the mouth, nose and eyes, and excessive salivation and frothing.



# Bluetongue Concerns from Around the World

## Bluetongue Disease Hits British Farm

Reproduced from: [www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk)



Farmers face a new threat with the discovery last night of the first case of bluetongue disease in Britain.

The virus, which affects sheep and cows but has not so far posed a threat to humans, was discovered in

a cow near Ipswich, Suffolk, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said. Restrictions have been placed on animal movements from the farm and the cow is expected to be culled today.

If the disease is shown to have spread, a 20 km control zone will be placed around the farm banning the movement of livestock in or out of the area.

The disease, which is carried by midges, has been gradually spreading north from the Mediterranean. Signs of infection are high fever and swelling of the face and tongue, which takes on a blue appearance. It can be fatal to livestock, but farmers also fear the economic consequences of quarantine zones and restrictions on animal movements that may follow if the disease is found to be spreading.

In the past year cases of bluetongue have been found in Holland, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg and traffic through the ferry port of Harwich will come under suspicion.

Fred Landeg, the deputy chief vet, said infected midges may have been blown across the sea. In Holland the government banned all export of live sheep, cattle and goats. Farmers within a 170km exclusion zone were ordered to spray insecticide on their land.

A Defra spokesman said of the British case: "This is not a confirmed outbreak unless further investigation demonstrates the disease is circulating."

David Abbey, 73, owner of 250 sheep at New Barns Farm, in Harlow, Essex, said: "This could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. It is another piece of very bad news for farmers."

Geoffrey Copas, who part owns Copas Farms in Cookham Dean, Berkshire, said: "I have been aware of its spread through Europe, and feared it was only a matter of time.

"The real problem lies in the restriction of movement following a case of bluetongue. An outbreak will cause huge financial burden."

The prime minister held a conference call with Debby Reynolds, the chief veterinary officer, and Hilary Benn, the environment secretary when he was informed about the infection at the start of the Labour party conference in Bournemouth.

Earlier he had held an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the latest case of foot and mouth, discovered on a farm on the Surrey-Berkshire border. Beaumont Farm lies close to Windsor Great Park, which is now closed to the public.

The government is considering the culling of millions of sheep trapped on hills by the livestock movement ban imposed after the recent foot and mouth outbreaks.

That could mean a return of the pyres of cremated animals seen in the 2001 outbreak.



## Canadian Sheep Identification Program Update

When the Canadian Sheep Identification Program was implemented in January 2004, the pricing of the tags included a \$0.14 administration fee. This fee was broken down with the Canadian Cattle ID Agency receiving \$0.04 per tag for the database and the CSF receiving \$0.10 for administration of the project.

In the contracts that the CSF has with the prov. organizations, there are very strict guidelines for how that \$0.10 per tag is spent. The revenue received from the sale of the CSIP tags is only to be used for the cost of administering and promoting the program and shall not be used to finance other CSF programs and services. In short, it is not to be a general revenue source for the CSF.

In addition the CSIP is operated as a separate division of the CSF with separate books, records and accounts being kept. The program is supposed to operate on a cost recovery basis.

Working on a CSF Fiscal Year basis (September 1 to August 31) in 2004-05 530,686 sheep tags were distributed to suppliers of CSIP tags outside Quebec. In 2005-06 that number dropped to 525,675. As of July 31, 2007, only 119,691 tags have been distributed.

The CSF Board has been working to decrease the CSIP Administrative expenditures since the inception of the program, in order to match the decreasing tag sales; from \$61,000 to \$50,000 in three years.

Despite these efforts, the CSIP program continues to run a deficit. In August the CSF Board voted to increase the administrative costs of the CSIP by \$0.02. As such, on January 1, 2008, Canadian producers will be seeing the price of their tags raise by \$0.02.

This administrative fee covers all CSIP-related activities, including, but not limited to, the work being done on the CSIP Strategic Plan, the animal identification and movement implementation plans, and lobbying efforts. Given the importance that provincial and federal Agriculture Ministers have placed on traceability, the work with this file is only going to be increasing in the coming months.

Should you have any questions, comment and/or concerns, please contact:  
Jennifer Fleming, Executive Director at 1-888-684-7739 or at [admin@cansheep.ca](mailto:admin@cansheep.ca)

## Workshop Certificates on the Way + Trainer and Auditor Opportunities Coming Up

By France Lanthier, On-Farm Food Safety Coordinator

In the coming weeks those who have participated in Canadian Sheep and Lamb Food-Safe Farm Practices training workshops will be receiving their training certificate in the mail. Along with the certificate there will be information sheets on how to access on-farm implementation (OFI) funding. It is mandatory to have taken on-farm food safety training in order to access the OFI funding. If you have participated in the Canadian Sheep and Lamb Food-Safe Farm Practices workshop and do not receive a certificate by October 5th, please contact the Canadian Sheep Federation at 1-888-684-7739 or email me at [france@cansheep.ca](mailto:france@cansheep.ca) so that I may send you your certificate and funding information. You will need to provide the following information: your name, address, and the location that the training took place. People who have completed the online training modules will also be receiving a certificate and funding information.

Letters of interest for the on-farm food safety program were sent to producers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and New Brunswick. The response has been positive and as a result training sessions will be planned for the fall and winter.

In order to more easily accommodate training needs and audit demands in the future, we are currently looking for individuals interested in becoming on-farm food safety trainers and auditors in all provinces. The training sessions for trainers and auditors would likely be held in the winter (December to February).

Producers interested in on-farm food safety training now have 3 training options:

1. In-class type training with an instructor
2. Online training with access to online coaching
3. Mail-out training package including an audio or CD-ROM option.

If you are interested in any of these options and have not yet notified the Canadian Sheep Federation please do so at your earliest convenience.

For those interested in becoming a food safety trainer you should have experience in the sheep industry as well as interest in food safety and a belief that preventive programs are beneficial. **Continued...**



## On-Farm Food Safety con't ...

For those interested in becoming an auditor for the Canadian Sheep and Lamb Food-Safe Farm Practices program you should have successfully completed the Canadian On-Farm Food Safety (COFFS) Auditor training course, and have at least 2 years experience in the sheep industry. You should also have good analytical skills and have a strong personality. If you have not taken the COFFS Auditor training course but are interested in the sheep module please send in your resume just the same. The COFFS auditor course should be available online shortly so you may be able to take it prior to the sheep auditor module offering.

On-farm food safety Trainer and Auditor expressions of interest or resumes should be sent to: The Canadian Sheep Federation, 130 Malcolm Rd, Guelph, ON, N1K 1B1 or faxed to 1-866-909-5360 or emailed to [france@cansheep.ca](mailto:france@cansheep.ca). There are no registration fees for Canadian Sheep and Lamb Food-Safe Farm Practices Trainer and Auditor workshops.

## Scrapie Canada

### A Look at the US Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program

By Courtney Denard, Scrapie Coordinator

Since 1952, the US sheep industry has had numerous programs in place to identify and eradicate Scrapie. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the approach to these Scrapie programs has evolved over time, especially with the development and implementation of the US Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program in 1992.

Similar to Canada, the US certification program is voluntary. It is a cooperative effort among producers, allied industry representatives, accredited veterinarians, State animal health officials, and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Designed to monitor flocks and certify the Scrapie status of enrolled animals, the US program is open to any owner/manager of sheep or goats in the country. The program provides participants with the opportunity to protect their sheep from Scrapie and to enhance the marketability of their animals.

In June 2007, APHIS released new program standards developed to reduce the incidence and control the spread of Scrapie through certification of flocks and herds. Below is a breakdown of the general regulations and requirements of the US program.

- The intent of the program is to monitor flocks over a period of five years or more to identify flocks that are free of Scrapie.
- Any US sheep or goat owner/manager are eligible to enroll.

When participating in the program, US flock owners must:

- Agree to immediately report Scrapie-suspect animals to the proper animal health officials.
- Officially identify all animals within a flock that are 1 year of age or older. Animals less than 1 year old must be identified whenever a change of ownership occurs, except for those in slaughter channels.
- Owners must account for all acquisitions, departures, births, and deaths on the farm.
- Submit to an official laboratory tissues from Scrapie-suspect animals and from animals suspected of having other neurologic or chronic, debilitating illnesses.
- Acquire rams from any flock (other than source or infected flocks), including those not enrolled on the program.
- Obtain ewes only from other enrolled flocks with an equal or older status date.
- Test for scrapie, at least 30 animals (over 14 months of age) born on the premises with at least 5 in each 2-year period and an additional 2 animals for each animal over 14 months of age lost to inventory.

A flock can become certified after it has participated in the program for more than 5 years and has met the necessary requirements. A flock can become export certified after it has participated in the program for more than 7 years and has met the necessary requirements.

It is important to understand the rules and regulations of the US program, for any Canadian producer who wishes to import US sheep must do so from a US flock that is enrolled on the program. The Canadian producer must be enrolled on the Canadian Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program as well. **Continued...**



## Scrapie Canada con't

For the full rules and regulations of the US program (updated June 2007), check out the following link: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/downloads/sfcp.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/sfcp.pdf)

For the full rules and regulations of the Canadian program (updated June 2007), check out the following link: <http://www.scrapiecanada.ca/VS-FCPrules-regs-.html>

For more information, please call Scrapie Canada at 1-866-534-1302 or e-mail [admin@scrapiecanada.ca](mailto:admin@scrapiecanada.ca).

Some intents of the transportation regulations under the Health of Animal Act:

- prohibit overcrowding
- prohibit transportation of incompatible animals in the same stall
- prohibit transportation of animals unfit to travel
- specify appropriate conditions for loading and unloading of animals, adequate feeding and watering regimes, maximum transit times, minimum rest periods, bedding requirements

## Transportation of Sheep: Health of Animals Act

By Monica Seguin, CSF Animal Care Representative

This past week the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) hosted a two-day conference focusing on animal welfare both in Canada and internationally. The conference was attended by a wide range of individuals representing livestock organizations, researchers and animal care groups. Guest speakers from across world covered topics such as; the European and US approach to animal welfare, animal welfare labelling on products, grassroot animal care programs, and where Canada fits into the global picture.

Over the next few months I will present topics related to animal care that are important for our collective understanding of the issues facing the Canadian livestock industry. In addition, as we live in a global and competitive environment I will also cover topics regarding animal care programs and perspectives from around the world.

This first article will focus on the transportation of livestock in Canada. In December 2005 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) began a pre-consultation process of the Part XII of the Health of Animals Act which addresses the transportation of livestock into, out of and within Canada. When introduced in 1975, the intent of the regulations at this time was to prohibit poor practices and reduce the risk of injury, suffering or death for animals in transit.

Thirty years later, the CFIA set in motion its' first review of the regulations. It was felt that the regulations required strengthening and clarification. Since 1975, economic and competitive factors, transportation practices and social expectations regarding animal welfare have changed. In other words, the regulations need to reflect both the progression of livestock industries and new scientific research over the last thirty years.

However, one concern expressed is that although science is a crucial component of the review process, both societal expectations and economics need to be considered. Most producers I have spoken with, support improving the regulations, however are of the opinion that changes to the transportation regulations should not place producers at a competitive disadvantage.

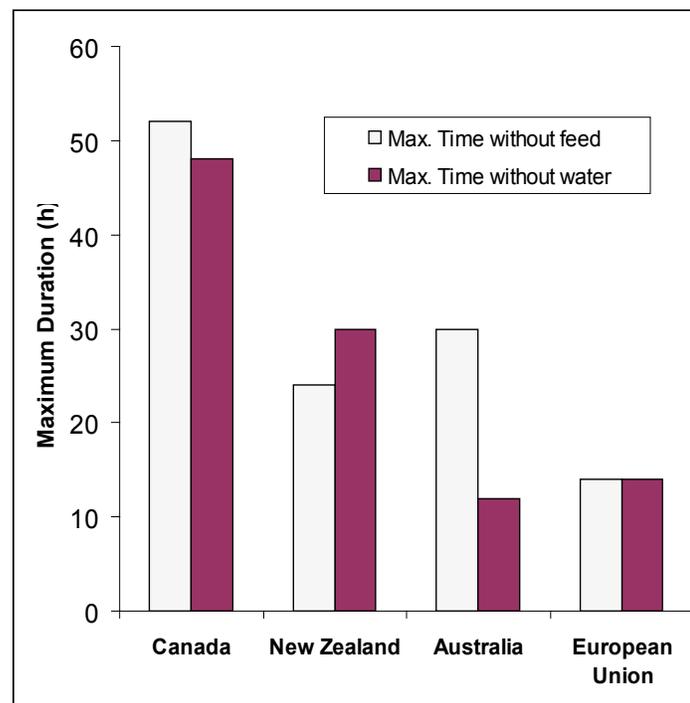
So what are the regulation changes that the CFIA is considering? The following major areas are being considered for modification:

1. Clarification of vague terms such as "animal transportation risk factors," "inadequate construction", and "overcrowding". In addition to ambivalent wording such as "likely to". **Proposed changes would include either actual loading density standards or animal-based outcomes as well as more precise wording.**
2. Compromised and non-ambulatory animals: In June 2005, an amendment to the Health of Animals Regulations was implemented that clarified the requirements related to the shipping of non-ambulatory livestock that are unfit for transport. **The decision tree is shown on Page 10. Continued...**



# Health of Animals Act con't

3. Feed, water and rest intervals: **Changes are being considered to reduce these intervals to better reflect animal needs related to water, food and rest.** For example, under the existing Health of Animals Regulations and Meat Inspection Regulations, sheep in transit may not be offered food, water or rest for up to 48 hours – to a maximum of 52 hours. Lambs not established on a hay-only diet (i.e. still receiving nutrition from ewe) should be given food and water every 12-18 hours. When we compare Canada's maximum allowed length of time without feed and water for sheep during transportation to New Zealand, Australia and the EU we find that we allow for longer transportation periods without food or water than other countries (see graph).



- 4. Transport of animals at sea: Changes in ship construction and industry practices, such as the use of roll-on/roll-off ferries, need to be reflected in the regulations. This essentially disallows the use of sea containers for transporting livestock.
- 5. Segregation: Currently the regulations indicate that animals of different species or of substantially different weight or age should not be transported together. **However some of the refinements to the regulation being proposed are: specifying that animals must be**

**segregated during transport if they are incompatible by nature, disposition, temperament, gender or because of substantial differences in weight or age.** Under the current wording, the driver of a livestock vehicle transporting rodeo horses and bulls, for example, would have to separate all of the animals, even if they are used to each other and travel well together without the risk of injury.

- 6. Need to train staff: **Changes are being considered to reflect an industry responsibility to provide training to staff that handle or transport animals.** Knowledge and experience are essential to assess risk factors in planning animal transportation, to recognize high risk situations and to react appropriately. The goal would be to increase the likelihood for a positive transport outcome.
- 7. Loading density standards: **Consideration is being given to prescribing maximum loading densities for certain species or classes of animals or to use animal-based outcomes** (i.e. number of sheep that are unable to walk off the truck).
- 8. Consistency in enforcement:
  - Requirements for keeping records of livestock transport movements already exist. The updated regulations could reflect the increasing use of technology and clarify the inspectors' access to electronic records, such as satellite tracking data and automatic trip recording devices.
  - The numeric amount of floor space of a livestock transport vehicle that is available to animals could be displayed on the outside of the vehicle and be readily visible to an inspector. This would eliminate, in many cases, the need to take measurements and would reduce inspection time.

**The comments received have unanimously supported the proposed changes regarding transportation of livestock by sea and the loading of compromised animals.**

There has been some discussion regarding the changing of the feed/water/rest intervals and the loading density standards. Stakeholders are calling for more detail regarding specific changes and whether there is credible 'Canadian' science.



## Health of Animals Act con't

So what is next? The CFIA is still accepting comments on the proposed changes as it heads into Gazette I. Once the review has been completed it may be published in Gazette I, amendments to Part XII of the Health of Animals Act, at which time further submissions will be accepted for consideration by the CFIA.

But in the meantime, if you have any questions about the regulatory changes being considered please contact Dr. Gord Doonan or Dr. Martin Appelt at the following:

Email: [animaltransportanimaux@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:animaltransportanimaux@inspection.gc.ca)  
Fax: 613-228-6144  
Mail: 59 Camelot Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9

## Shearing Courses for 2007/2008

The Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission has organized two shearing courses for early winter.

### Two day Shearing School

- Sat Nov 24th and Sun Nov 25th, 2007
- New Sarepta (Leduc), Alberta.
- Instructor Laurence Read
- Max 12 students
- \$175 plus GST. (\$185.50).

### Four day Shearing School

- Tues – Fri, Jan 8th to 11th, 2008,
- Fort Macleod, Alberta.
- Instructor Dave Carlson
- Max 8 students
- \$300 plus GST per participant. (\$318.00)

The cost of each course includes all tuition, use of equipment and lunches for each day. You are encouraged to bring your own equipment if you have it as you will be able to get advice and also gain more practice.

## Shearing con't

There is a lot of interest, so call Janine (403) 948-1522 to book your place, then send a cheque to the address below to confirm.

Alberta Sheep & Wool Commission  
Agriculture Centre  
97 East Lake Ramp NE  
Airdrie, AB, T4A 0C3

If you need further details, please e-mail or call the office: [info@absheep.com](mailto:info@absheep.com) or (Rite 310-0000), (403) 948-8533 or (403) 948 -522

Thanks to Wahl-Lister for the loan of the equipment and Canadian Co-operative Woolgrowers for their support.

## Contact Us ...



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# SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED? Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep & Goats



**Load Healthy  
Animals**

**Do Not Load  
Do Not Transport**



**Transport With  
Special Provisions**  
(See reverse for transport regulations.)



## Delay Transportation and Reassess

- Exhaustion
- Calving/lambing/kidding
- Weakness
- Fever:
  - cattle > 102.5°F  
39.1°C
  - sheep/goats > 103.3°F  
39.6°C

## Euthanize

- **Non-ambulatory (see box below)**
- Fractures of limb or spine
- Arthritis with multiple joints
- Cancer eye (severe)
- Cancer/leukosis (extensive)
- Extremely thin
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever)
- Prolapsed uterus
- Water belly
- Nervous disorders, such as rabies must be reported to CFIA
- Hernia that impedes movement, is painful, touches the ground

## Transport Direct to Processor as soon as possible

- Abscess
- Blind
- Frost bite
- Cancer eye (eye intact)
- Lameness Class 1 & 2 (see reverse)
- Left/right displaced abomasum (without weakness, toxicity)
- Lumpy jaw
- Penis injuries
- Pneumonia (without fever)
- Prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Animals that have given birth within 48 hours

## Transport Direct to Emergency Processing Facility

**Advise inspector at the destination plant.**

- Bloat\*
- Hardware with localized signs
- Intestinal accidents
- Recent injury\*
- Urethral blockage (acute)\*
- Broken tail or jaw

*\*Animals must travel in a small compartment, either individually segregated or with one quiet animal.*

## Non-ambulatory Animals

- Unable to stand without assistance, or unable to move without being dragged or carried. Commonly called "downers."
- Animals should be able to bear weight on all four limbs to be suitable for transport.
- Lameness Class 4 & 5 **should not be loaded** or transported, except for veterinary treatment. Lameness Class 3 not recommended for transport.
- Animals should not be loaded if at risk of going down en route.

## Emergency On-Farm Slaughter

If an animal is fit for human consumption but not fit for transport (i.e. injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter is an option. Emergency on-farm slaughter must be authorized by OMAFRA. The animal must meet specific food safety/animal health criteria and pass OMAFRA inspection prior to slaughter. To arrange emergency on-farm slaughter call 1-888-466-2372 ext. 64230 or 64360. Visit: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/es-process.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/es-process.htm)

# Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Cattle, Sheep & Goats

## Federal Transportation Regulations

### DO

- Segregate animals of different species, or substantially different weights and ages, or if incompatible by nature.
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage and absorption of urine.
- Have sufficient headroom for animals to stand in a natural position.
- Either strew the vehicle with sand or have the vehicle fitted with safe footholds, in addition to appropriate bedding.
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at least five hours and longer, if necessary, for all animals to receive food and water.
- Ensure that calves too young to exist on hay and grain are provided with suitable food and water at intervals of no more than 18 hours.
- Ensure that animals segregated in trucks receive extra protection from cold and wind chill; supply ample bedding.
- Euthanize animals promptly as the conditions outlined on the reverse occur.

### DO NOT

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering may result, or when the animal is liable to give birth during the journey.
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- Mishandle an animal on loading or unloading.
- Use goads or prods on the face, anal, udder or genital area.
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers not designed for safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

Source: *Transporting Livestock by Truck* (CFIA)

## Lameness Classes

These categories can be used to determine the status of an animal's mobility, from normal to non-ambulatory.

### Transport as soon as possible

#### Class 1

Visibly lame but can keep up with the group: no evidence of pain.

#### Class 2

Unable to keep up; some difficulty climbing ramps. *Load in rear compartment.*

### Not Recommended for Transport\*

#### Class 3

Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

### Do Not Load or Transport\*

#### Class 4

Requires assistance to rise; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

#### Class 5

Unable to rise or remain standing.

**\* Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4 or 5 may be transported for veterinary treatment.**

### Further Information

CFIA (Transportation Emergencies) 1-877-814-2342

Ontario SPCA: 1-888-668-7722

Ontario Farm Animal Council (Animal Care Helpline) (519) 837-1326

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
1-877-424-1300 [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

**Please contact your veterinarian for advice or help with specific cases.**



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**To order more copies, please contact Ontario Farm Animal Council: (519) 837-1326 [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org)**

Endorsed by:  
**Ontario Association of  
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Updated July 2007