Newsletter from the Canadian Sheep Federation

From The Flock

Contents

March/April 2015

- Agriculture & The 2015 Federal Budget.....1
- Labor Shortages 3
- Voluntary Scrapie Program Changes 4
- Advance Payments Program for Sheep Producers 7
- Import Policy 8
- Drug Resistance 10

CANADIAN SHEEP FEDERATION
PO Box 10 Williamsburg PO
Williamsburg, ON K0C 2H0
www.cansheep.ca
Tel: (613) 652-1824 OR (888) 684-7739
Fax: (613) 652-1599

Canada's Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program

The Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) is a national flock scrapie risk management program for the Canadian sheep and goat industries and is available to any sheep producer who agrees to meet the requirements of the program. The program helps protect enrolled producers against developing scrapie in their flocks. Over time, participating producers will have their flocks recognized as being at a much lower risk for scrapie than the rest of the farms in the national flock. This recognition will increase trade opportunities within Canada and allows increased access to the import of live animals from the United States. The long term goal of the VSFCP is to eradicate scrapie from the national flock and help re-open up market access.

For more information about the VSFCP, visit the Scrapie Canada website at www.scrapiecanada.ca. To apply to the program, contact the Canadian Sheep Federation by email at info@cansheep.ca or by calling 1.888.684.7739.

CFA Highlights Agricultural Considerations in Budget 2015

OTTAWA, APRIL 21, 2015 - The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) was pleased to see investments in agricultural trade promotion, a continued commitment to improve labour access and market information, and a reduction in cost of Employment Insurance (EI) premiums for business owners reflected in the Federal Budget tabled today.

"One of the most significant items for agriculture in this budget is the increase to the Lifetime Capital Gains, which CFA has been advocating for some time. Last year's budget saw a small increase in this area, but the funds allocated this year will have a more meaningful impact," said CFA President Ron Bonnett.

The Lifetime Capital Gains exemption is an important tool for helping farmers manage the tax burden associated with the transfer of farm assets.

The CFA is pleased the increase to $1 million is effective immediately, as it will assist farmers in their transfer of assets to the next generation by providing greater flexibility for both the retirees and new entrants.

While modest investments were made into various priority areas for Canadian agriculture - succession on farms, market development and building processing capacity - the CFA was disappointed to see that certain barriers to intergenerational transfers were not addressed and commitment for investment in crop varietal development research and climate change adaptation was not made.

Continued on page 2

Key agricultural considerations concerning the 2015 Federal Budget include:

LABOR

Minor investments were announced to funding the centralization of labour market information and investigation into barriers facing farmers in obtaining labour, addressing key challenges facing farmers. The Government has also continued its commitment to reduce EI premium rates through a seven-year break-even EI premium rate setting mechanism, which would ensure any surplus resulting from employer and employee payments will be returned through lower rates in the future. The Government has also extended the working while on claim program, reducing disincentives while working on EI. This ensures that seasonal workers claiming EI can benefit from part time jobs in the off season without being penalized through reduced total compensation.

TAXATION

The two most significant announcements on this front are the increase of the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption immediately to $1 million, from $800,000, which is estimated to save producer $50 billion over the next 5 years in capital gains taxes. In addition, the small business tax rate was decreased from 11 per cent to 9 per cent. This is a significant decline in tax rates for small businesses, which should lend support to farm businesses as well. There are also additional investments made into small business financing. In regards to the consultation on eligible capital property, which was announced in last year's budget and would result in additional tax burdens being imposed upon the sale of farm quota, the federal government has committed to continue this process and engage with relevant stakeholders. CFA and the national supply managed commodity organizations have raised concerns around the implications of this measure, as it relates to farm quota sales for farmers entering retirement. We look forward to continued engagement with Finance Canada on this front.

TRADE

The expanded role in establishing international science-based standards outlined in the Budget is welcomed. Canadian agricultural trade faces numerous non-tariff barriers and standards across the globe that are not based on science. Examples of this include the recently completed CETA agreement with the EU and the topic of GMOs. Non-science based standards are likely going to become a bigger issue with trade amongst developed countries as the agriculture sector deals with social license issues in these countries. CFA's recently established Internal Trade Committee is opportune given the Government's announcement to establish an Internal Trade Promotion office. The CFA's Committee will be an avenue to provide farmers viewpoints on this issue moving forward.

RESEARCH

Starting in 2016-2017, $10 million per year will be directed to NSERC for collaborative projects between companies and academic researchers targeting natural resources, energy, advanced manufacturing, environment and agriculture. While any investment in collaborative agricultural research is welcomed, it remains unknown to what extent this money will be allocated to agricultural projects. CFA's pre-budget submission touched on the following research priorities: increased funding and priority given to research in climate change adaption and risk management, and ecological goods and services. As these areas were not specifically outlined in the Budget, the CFA encourages the Government to consider the importance of these items and allocate the appropriate resources.

FOOD SAFETY

The Government showed a commitment towards bolstering Canada's manufacturing industry. As the Canadian food processing industry is the largest manufacturing industry in Canada, producing $92.9 billion in shipments and purchases nearly 40% of farm production, changes in this area are certainly pertinent to farmers. Accelerated capital cost allowance, first introduced in 2007 to encourage investment in machinery and equipment used in manufacturing and processing, would have expire at the end of 2015. The Government has extended this accelerated rate to any eligible assets acquired after 2015 and before 2026. This incentive will encourage Canadian food manufacturers to continue making long-term investments in machinery and equipment and help bolster productivity.

On-Farm Food Safety Training for Canadian Sheep Producers

The Canadian Sheep Federation provides FREE on-farm food safety training to Canadian producers through its Food Safe Farm Practices (FSFP) Program. The program, which has been available since 1997, can be used by any sheep or lamb producer to address and anticipate potential food safety challenges facing the sheep industry. If you're interested in learning more about on-farm food safety training as a sheep and lamb producer, there are currently three ways to participate in Producer Training:

In-Person Producer Training Sessions
To enquire about upcoming training sessions, contact your provincial sheep association to express interest in an in-person training session. Provincial sheep associations have FSFP Program trainers on staff who can provide training sessions.

Online Training
Click here to access the online training. In order to access the online training, you must first register, upon which you will be given access to the password protected online training. The online training contains 6 modules that must be reviewed, followed by a brief quiz. There is also a seventh module recommended specifically for dairy production, but is not mandatory for completion of the training.

Mail-out Training
Should you be unable to complete either of the above two options, there is a possibility to have materials for training mailed to you. However, the in-person or online training are recommended.

For more information about the Food Safe Farm Practices Program, visit the Canadian Sheep Federation website at www.cansheep.ca or give us a call at 1.888.684.7739.

Labour shortages take toll on ag sector

By Karen Briere - Western Producer - Published Mar 12 2015

CFA says changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program have hit the sector hard.

OTTAWA — Farm operations differ from coast to coast and commodity by commodity, but a significant labour shortage is affecting them all, said delegates to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting.

New Brunswick dairy farmer Reint-Jan Dykstra said he has watched workers leaving his province for Alberta's oil patch, which was a more lucrative option, at least until recently when the falling price of oil slowed the industry. "It does mean that my supply of labour is zero to none," he said. "What we hear is there's all kinds of work. Unfortunately, there is no farm labour because nobody wants to work for x amount of dollars and y amount of hours."

CFA second vice-president Marcel Groleau said Quebec's horticulture industry estimates it has lost $40 million because of problems with the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. "They need solutions for the very next season," he said.

And in Alberta, the CFA's first vice-president, Humphrey Banack, said grain farmers like him also have trouble finding workers. He said the problem is real: one in eight Canadian jobs are tied to agriculture and a significant chunk of gross domestic product is tied to the industry. "How do we meet our labour needs?" he asked federal agriculture minister Gerry Ritz. "How do we get the people trained?"

Ritz said Ottawa is working with the provinces to try to bring in temporary foreign workers more quickly but agreed there has to be a longer-term solution. "There are all kinds of things being talked about," he said.

Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program have hamstrung agricultural operations because of caps on how many an operation can employ and restrictions on how long they can stay. As well, agricultural processors require highly skilled workers, who the program doesn't always provide.

Liberal deputy leader Ralph Goodale said the program, which is actually a series of programs, worked well for about 30 years, but complaints began after the government started tinkering with it a few years ago. Problems uncovered in other workplaces such as fast food restaurants and financial institutions led to more extensive changes last summer.

"The government has come forward with a very extreme response, and the net result of it is creating very significant problems in some sectors, like agriculture," he said. "There's a very high degree of training and competence required. There needs to be a more sensitive calibrated response to the TFW issue." Goodale said that starts with accurate labour market data.

An ongoing project at the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council and Conference Board of Canada is looking at where jobs are unfilled by commodity. Farm Credit Canada president Mike Hoffort told the meeting that 74,000 agricultural jobs are expected by 2022, but one-third won't be filled. Meanwhile, University of Guelph professor Sylvain Charlebois said March 4 that rural Canada will be hit hard April when changes come into effect.

"Since Canadian agriculture employs well over 50,000 foreign workers to support farming and processing facilities across the country, losses to this labour force will be considerable and are really coming at the wrong time," he wrote in a commentary.

Changes to the rules in 2011 mean foreign workers are limited to four-year work permits. They have to leave and then wait four years to reapply. Charlebois said some have been in Canada for more than 10 years. He said many Canadians don't want to work in the sector because of the physical labour and long hours required. And even if they apply, they will require extensive training. Charlebois instead urged the federal government to change the program to allow temporary foreign workers to become residents.

Changes Coming to the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program

The National Standards for the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) are reviewed annually by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Scrapie Working group, made up of representatives from the Canadian Sheep Federation, Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association, Canadian National Goat Federation and Canadian Livestock Genetics Association. The VSFCP National Standards contain the program's rules and requirements, and are reviewed annually to ensure that they remain current with domestic disease control actions, changing international scrapie policies and recent scrapie research. A number of VSFCP changes were ratified during the 2014 National Standards Review, and these program changes will come into effect December 1, 2015.

1 CHANGES TO DEADSTOCK TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Under the current program rules, enrolled producers must present the results of at least one scrapie test annually in order to remain on the program. In cases where there were no suitable on-farm deaths for testing, enrolled producers were required to destroy one animal for testing. Effective December 1, 2015, if there is no suitable sample from an on-farm death and humanely destroying an animal for deadstock testing will have a significant impact on the flock or herd due to its small size, a producer enrolled on pathway 1 may be able to advance using the alternative live animal sampling protocol detailed below:

- All eligible animals in the flock or herd must be sampled and tested by rectal (RAMALT) biopsy or third eyelid biopsy. Exempt animals are those animals with valid test results in the previous 12 months;
- A minimum of three eligible animals must have been tested with valid test results;
- Eligible animals are defined as all 171QQ sheep over 14 months of age for third eyelid biopsy and all 171QQ sheep and all goats over 12 months of age for rectal (RAMALT) biopsy;
- Samples must be taken by an accredited veterinarian on contract and be subjected to testing for scrapie by a laboratory approved by the CFIA for that purpose;
- Animals sampled and tested must have a valid test result which is considered a negative test result or, if the test is inconclusive, sampling and testing must be repeated a second time; and
- If this live animal sampling protocol has been used to meet requirements to advance in the program at any level, then to advance from Level A to Certified, the flock or herd must have accumulated at least as many valid test results as there were test eligible animals present in the flock/herd upon enrollment* (this can be any combination of live animal and post-mortem test results).

** if the number of test eligible animals was not known for a sheep flock upon enrollment (i.e. number of 171QQ sheep) then the total number of animals in the flock is used.*

Alternatively if no suitable samples have been submitted for testing for a period of time equal to or exceeding 12 months, an enrolled producer may be permitted to remain on the program without advancing to the next level for one additional year (allowing time to raise an animal for

2 CHANGES TO THE INTRODUCTION OF EMBRYOS

The introduction of embryos to VSFCP enrolled flocks and herds has been subject to the same program rules as for the introduction of females, with the status of purchased embryos affecting the overall status of the flock or herd to which they are introduced. However, the OIE considers category 1 embryos (collected following IETS procedures) negligible risk for scrapie. Effective December 1, 2015, the introduction of in vivo sheep embryos of the 136AA 171RR genotype will have no impact on the enrolled producer's certification level provided they come from donors with records that enable trace back to all flocks and establishments that they resided and the donors are not known to be scrapie positive, scrapie suspect or scrapie exposed susceptible animals (with a supporting zoosanitary health certificate).

3 CHANGES TO THE ACQUISITION OF MALES

Traditionally, the VSFCP has permitted enrolled producers to acquire males from any source farm without affecting program status. However, OIE guidelines do not differentiate between males and females with respect to movement between farms. Likewise, the US certification program has restrictions for males but does treats males differently than females as it considers them lower risk for transmission. In order to continue aligning the VSFCP with internationally recognized programs, the program will more closely manage how males are sourced and how they are managed on-farm effective December 1, 2015.

Specific details outlined on page 6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, or a full listing of the program's National Standards, visit www.scrapiecanada.ca. For more information about programs provided by the Canadian Sheep Federation, visit our website at www.cansheep.ca, email us at info@cansheep.ca or give us a call at 888.684.7739.

Introduction of males from flocks/herds from the following sources, with supporting documentation, will have no impact on the certification level:

- flocks/herds registered in the VSFCP at an equivalent or higher certification level (anniversary quarter will be taken into consideration); OR
- a country the CFIA recognizes as being free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie; OR
- a flock/herd registered (on the date of export) at an equivalent or higher level in a country/region/zone of origin's scrapie flock certification program, that the CFIA has assessed as being equivalent to the Canadian program; OR
- rams genotyped 136AA 171RR or 136AA 171QR from sheep flocks of any status, but must not be from flocks currently subject to any scrapie disease control measures. Owner must obtain a letter from the seller attesting that the ram's flock is not currently subject to any scrapie disease control measures and the ram's genotype must be determined twice as per 3.20 and 3.21

Introduction of males from any flocks/herds and kept in the following manner will have no impact on the certification level:

- must not be a scrapie positive, scrapie suspect or scrapie exposed susceptible animal. Owner must obtain a letter from the seller attesting that the flock/herd is not currently subject to any scrapie disease control measures;
- must be maintained separate* from the female animals except during breeding season;
- must be maintained separate* from the lambs and lambing facilities at all times; and
- may acquire an individual certification level but will start at level E and to advance must not commingle with animals from non-participating flock/herds or a flock/herd of a lower status. These animals are to be identified separately on the annual inventory.

**maintained separate is defined as any housing that does not allow direct physical contact (nose to nose) between animals.*

The Advance Payments Program

Lamb & Sheep Producers National Program

On March 25, 2015, Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) announced that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada approved its request to administer the Advance Payments Program for sheep and lamb producers across Canada. Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) is a not-for-profit farm organization founded in 1992 and is comprised of 19 member organizations and marketing boards, including the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency. ACC offers low cost operating loans to producers across Canada. The expertise of ACC is built upon experience gained in offering loans, producer credit review, managing large loan accounts, meeting government loan guarantee parameters and collection of loan repayments. Each member of the Board of Directors is a farmer, many of whom represent other commodity boards or associations.

The Advance Payments Program (APP) is a federal loan guarantee program designed to provide producers with low cost operating capital when they need it, at the lowest possible cost with an interest free component. The program provides advances based on the value of production to help cover costs until producers market their products. Producers are eligible for advances of up to 50% of the average price that they expect to receive when products are sold. The program provides producers with cash at preferential interest rates to help improve cash flow to meet short-term financial obligations. This allows producers to base sales decisions on market conditions rather than short-term cash flow needs, by spreading the marketing of products through the year when demand and prices are high. One producer (or operation) can receive an advance of up to $400,000. The first $100,000 is interest free to the producer for the production year and the remaining $300,000 bears interest at the prime lending rate.

To be eligible to receive a cash advance under the APP, producers must be:

- A Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- A corporation, cooperative or partnership of which majority interest is held by Canadian citizens or permanent residents;
- Age of majority in the province of operation;
- Own the agricultural product.

APP Lamb & Sheep Advances begin April 1st of each year. Advances are calculated on a per head basis based on end market weight for animals to be sold within the next 18 months assessed on current lamb and sheep inventories. Producers must be enrolled in the Agristability Program in order to be eligible for the Advance Payments Program, but Agristability does not limit the advance amount. For more information about Canada's Agristability Program, visit Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's website or contact the program's administration office at 1.866.367.8506.

Lamb and Sheep repayment requirements differ according to 'product flow'. Operations that have constant inventories and market animals consistently throughout the year are required to repay advances at the end of a 12 month cycle or at the end of the production period, whichever is sooner. Operations based on in/out marketing are required to repay advances as animals are sold throughout the production period, with up to 18 months to repay. In both cases, proof of sale is required for every advance.

For more information about the Advance Payment Program visit Agricultural Credit Corporation's website at www.agcreditcorp.ca or call 1-888-278-8807. To enroll in the program, contact ACC by phone 1.888.278.8807 or by email advance@agcreditcorp.ca.

Advance Rates per Head

PROVINCE	Lambs (45-60lbs)	Lambs (61-79lbs)	Lambs (80- 109lbs)	Lambs (More than 110lbs)	Sheep
BC, AB, SK, MB	$48.51	$58.90	$74.74	$93.55	$44.05
ON	$65.83	$76.72	$92.56	$101.47	$67.32
NB, PEI, NS, NFLD	$45.04	$55.93	$72.27	$95.53	$46.03

PROVINCE	Milk Fed Lambs	Lambs, Light (60-79 lbs)	Lambs, Heavy (over 79 lbs)	Sheep
QC	$58.41	$78.21	$95.04	$54.45

Import policy changes set to take effect December 1, 2015

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing changes to the import requirements for small ruminants imported from the United States for breeding, domestic or captive purposes be implemented December 1, 2015.

This latest round of policy change consultations began in the fall of 2013 and has undergone a number of revisions following input from various small ruminant industry groups. The latest draft of proposed changes was released to industry in April, with a final comment deadline of July 10, 2015.

CFIA PROPOSED CHANGES

FEMALES

Female small ruminants for breeding, domestic or captive purposes can be imported onto any premises in Canada only if they originate from a premises enrolled in the United States Department of Agriculture Scrapie Flock Certification Program (USDA SFCP) that is determined to be a "negligible risk premises".

MALES

a. Male small ruminants may be imported to any premises in Canada provided that they have acquired five (5) years of status in accordance with the Export Category of the USDA SFCP (which is equivalent to a female small ruminant originating from a negligible risk premises).

OR

b. Male sheep (rams) may be imported from any flock if they have undergone genotype testing and have been determined to be of the codon 136AA 171RR or 136AA 171QR genotype. This testing must be completed in a laboratory that is approved by the USDA to perform genotype testing, and the results must be indicated on the accompanying export health certificate.

OR

c. Male small ruminants may be imported from any premises in the United States provided that:

1. The importing premises in Canada must have been enrolled in the VSFCP for a minimum of one (1) year and completed at least one (1) annual inventory, or the premises must currently not contain any small ruminants (premises would then require to be newly enrolled in the VSFCP);

2. The imported males must:
   - a.Not be scrapie positive, scrapie suspect or scrapie exposed1 animals;*
   - b.Not be displaying any clinical signs of scrapie at the time of certification for export o Canada;*

3. The premises must continue to be enrolled in the VSFCP and the imported males must never leave the importing premises without written permission from the CFIA

4. In Canada, the imported males must:
   - a. Be maintained separate from the female animals except during breeding season;
   - b. Be maintained separate from lambs or kids at all times; and
   - c. Not be maintained in confined lambing/kidding facilities.

5. At the time of their death, the CFIA must be notified and the imported males must be sampled and proof of testing for scrapie must be provided.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Males imported under Part B, option 2 c) must never leave the importing premises without written permission from the CFIA. At the time of their death, the CFIA must be notified and the imported males must be sampled and proof of a negative test for scrapie must be provided. The testing can be performed by a CFIA approved TSE network laboratory or by the CFIA laboratory directly.

After a minimum of two (2) years following importation the owner of an imported male may request to transfer the animal to another Canadian premise that meets the requirements for importing males under option 2 c). The male animal may not be moved unless written consent and conditions are received from the CFIA.

Under exceptional circumstances, the CFIA MAY provide conditions for an imported male to move off an approved VSFCP premises.

Flocks and/or herds that have imported males that do not follow through with their obligations will be identified to the CFIA, and additional measures and/or enforcement actions, as determined by the CFIA based on the specifics of the animals in question (and which may include an order for destruction), will be applied.

The movement of the offspring of an imported animal is not restricted. However, the movement of the offspring of caprine animals must be reported to the CFIA office that is responsible for the herd, until such time as a national identification program becomes mandatory.

Imported sheep and goats are subject to Bluetongue (if originating from Florida) testing prior to import and goats are subject to Brucellosis and Tuberculosis testing. General health certificates must accompany all imported animals, and specific identification requirements are set out in the proposed policy.

The Scrapie Working Group, made up of representatives from the Canadian Sheep Federation, Canadian Sheep Breeders Association, Canadian National Goat Federation and Canadian Livestock Genetics Association, will meet with the CFIA in May to discuss the proposed policy changes.

For a copy of the proposed policy changes, or to provide feedback on the proposed policy, contact the Canadian Sheep Federation by emailing info@cansheep.ca or by calling 888.684.7739.

The Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP)

Under the Canadian Sheep Identification Program, producer responsibilities include:

- All sheep and lambs must bear an approved CSIP ear tag before they leave their farm of origin. This includes animals leaving the premises temporarily (e.g. exhibitions, veterinarian clinics, community pastures).
- CSIP tags must be purchased from an approved distributor

Saskatchewan producers must buy tags from the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board by calling 306.933.5200.

BC, Alberta and Manitoba producers can buy tags from Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers in Lethbridge, AB, through their online store http://alberta.wool.ca/online_sales/or by calling 1.800.567.3693.

Ontario producers can buy tags from Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers in Cookstown through their online store http://cookstown.wool.ca/online_sales/ or by calling 1.866.458.4800 OR from the Carleton Place store at http://carletonplace.wool.ca/online_sales/ or 1.800.488.2714.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland/Labrador producers can buy tags from Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers in Nova Scotia by calling 1.902.895.4039.

For more information about the Canadian Sheep Identification Program, visit the Canadian Sheep Federation website at www.cansheep.ca or give us a call at 1.888.684.7739.

It is illegal to transport animals not bearing an approved tag.

Federal government unveils plans to tackle drug resistance

By Alex Binkley - Manitoba Co-operator,- Published April 28, 2015

Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose has held a workshop with industry to discuss the plan. The federal government has unveiled a national plan for tackling the growing threat from bacteria increasingly resistant to antibiotics.

Late on April 17, the Department of Health issued a press release saying it would propose regulations under the Food and Drugs Act to end growth-promoting claims and bulk imports. It didn't provide any details on the contents of the regulations.

"There's a lot of detail in it that needs to be fleshed out," Jim Fairles, past president of the Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association, said in an interview after participating in a recent workshop with Health Minister Rona Ambrose and her officials on the plan. "Along with the farm commodity groups, we discussed the steps we've already taken and what more we need to do. We'll need a lot more discussion on human and livestock medicines."

Back in 2008, the veterinary association and the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI), which represents drug manufacturers, launched a prudent use campaign to teach farmers about the appropriate use of antibiotics to control sickness in their animals without jeopardizing their effectiveness in treating humans. The program was embraced by the major livestock associations and is included in their sustainable agriculture guidelines. The issue gained a higher profile last year when U.S. President Obama announced a $44-million program to combat antimicrobial resistance, which he said causes at least two million illnesses and 23,000 deaths in the U.S. annually. Comparable numbers for Canada are not available.

The Ontario Medical Association last year called for tighter controls over the use of medicines in livestock production to prevent a worsening AMR situation.

CAHI president Jean Szkotnicki said in an interview that Canada needs to "harmonize its antimicrobial-resistance (AMR) policies with the rest of the world. Otherwise we could lose trade opportunities." Last year, her association voluntarily offered to stop labelling about 60 medicines for use as livestock growth promoters, which comes into effect next year. It also urged the federal government to stop allowing farmers to import medicines from the U.S., which they can administer without veterinary supervision.

It now is urging Health Canada to end the import of bulk active pharmaceutical ingredients, which are unregulated. "There are no controls on where these products come from or on the quality of the ingredients." The own-use and bulk imports account for about 30 per cent of the antibiotics used on farms.

The veterinary association agrees that both types of imports should be ended. At the workshop, Ambrose acknowledged that AMR is a global challenge and said Canada will contribute US$250,000 to support a World Bank study of the economic impacts of AMR. Health Canada will work closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on an AMR approach "given the high degree of integration of the meat and livestock production markets in both countries."

Health Canada and the Public Health Agency will begin a project to collect data to create "an integrated, national picture of antimicrobial use and resistance across Canada." As well, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Agriculture Canada will develop a plan for monitoring antibiotic use in livestock production. The Public Health Agency says that more than three-quarters of antimicrobials are administered in Canada, mostly to promote growth by reducing illness. "Using antibiotics in animals should be limited to treating infection."