

# What is the Food Safe Farm Practices Program (FSFP) for Canadian Sheep and Lamb Producers?

The Food Safe Farm Practices Program is an on-farm food safety program developed by and for Canadian sheep and lamb producers. It is a voluntary HACCP-based program designed and written by a team of producers from across Canada, with the guidance of veterinarians, industry representatives and government experts.

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points, or HACCP, is a systematic approach used to identify potential food safety hazards on the farm, and the good production practices (GPPs) needed to reduce the risk of those hazards.

Some GPPs are considered Critical Control Points (CCPs), a single practice where control can be applied to prevent, eliminate or reduce a hazard to an acceptable level. Potential hazards on a sheep and lamb farm can be biological, such as carcass contamination from bacteria (e.g. salmonella); chemical, such as residues from livestock medicines and other farm chemicals; or physical, such as needles broken during injections. The FSFP program can be implemented on any size of flock and using any type of sheep and lamb production system.



## For more information about the FSFP, contact:

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# Canadian Sheep and Lamb Food Safe Farm Practices Program



## What You Need to Know For Your Farm



## Why Would I Want the FSFP Program on my Farm?

As consumers become increasingly aware of food safety hazards, they grow more conscious of the need for a reliable, safe food supply. Food producing livestock commodities have strived to do their part to meet this need through implementation of national HACCP-based on-farm food safety programs.

### Benefits to the Producer and the Industry

There are many benefits to you as a producer including:

- An increased awareness of your flock's health may result in increased productivity as identification of and treatment for disease becomes more strategic.
- Participation in the FSFP provides verification that you are doing what you can to prevent human illness, through enhanced detection and prevention of hazards.
- Assured market access for your sheep and lamb products within the evolving climate of food safety, both in primary agriculture and post farm gate.



- Enhanced opportunity to meet buyer demands and for involvement in marketing a branded product or other accreditation processes.
- Enhanced consumer confidence in the safety of sheep and lamb food products.
- Potential for increased market share for Canadian sheep and lamb products.
- The opportunity to improve flock management as a result of systematic record keeping.

An on-farm food safety program does not increase your liability as a food producer, but rather enables you to prove to the public that good production practices are used on your farm that help ensure a safe food supply.

## How Can I Implement the FSFP Program on my Farm?

Implementation can be done in six easy steps:

1. Participate in a training session, either online or in person. Contact the Canadian Sheep Federation or your provincial sheep association to inquire about training opportunities in your area.
2. As part of the training, you will be introduced to the Food Safe Farm Practices Producer Manual. Read through the Producer Manual to gain an understanding of all the necessary GPPs and record keeping requirements for the program.
3. Develop a strategy to adopt the required GPPs and records into your farm management system.
4. Implement the required GPPs and record keeping during day-to-day operations and train all farm workers to follow the program. You may find you are already keeping many of the necessary records, either on paper or using a farm management software program.
5. Record when mistakes happen and describe how they were corrected.
6. After completing the requirements for one cycle – lambing to lambing – you can apply for an audit to become certified on the program.

