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Action Items from the April 2020 Board meeting

- Carried out contact campaign with Canadian retailers, reaching out to 27 retail chains with a state of the lamb industry report.
- Remitted comments on the CFIA *Livestock Traceability proposed Regulations side-by-side document* with an emphasis on changes to identification requirements for animals imported for slaughter.
- Distributed, gathered feedback and remitted the Animal Health Canada stakeholder survey, providing the sheep industry's perspective on proposed AHC governance models.
- Issued a request to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's (CVMA's) CCVR COVID-19 group requesting permission for trained technicians to conduct transabdominal pregnancy assessments.
- Reached out to 2019 Global Sheep Conference international attendees outlining options for the 2020 Global Sheep Conference and requesting feedback on options.

Canadian Sheep Identification Program / Traceability

- The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) held it's Annual General Meeting this year, hosting member representatives and CCIA Board members by video conference. Each year, Board members elect an executive committee at the first meeting following the annual general meeting. Pat Hayes (Canadian Cattlemen's Association) was re-elected as Chair. Lyle Miller (Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association) was re-elected as Vice-Chair as well as Howard Bekkering (Alberta Beef Producers) as Finance Chair. Additional re-elections to the Executive Committee include Ken Perlich (Livestock Markets Association of Canada) as well as previous member, Doug Sawyer (Canadian Cattlemen's Association). The Board welcomes new representation from Olivier Lavigne-Lacroix (Canadian Meat Council), replacing Dan Gillis who was one of two Canadian Meat Council representatives, since 2012. Remaining Board members include Duncan Barnett (British Columbia Cattleman's Association), Sylvain Bourque (Les Producteurs de bovins du Quebec), Dan Darling (Beef Farmers of Ontario), Bruce Downey (Canadian Bison Association), Nancy Howatt (Manitoba Beef Producers), Shane Jahnke (Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association), Ivan Johnson (Maritime Beef

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Council), James MacLean (Canadian Livestock Dealer's Association), Kim O'Neil (Canadian Meat Council), Corlena Patterson (Canadian Sheep Federation), Reg Schellenberg (Canadian Cattleman's Association), Gert Schrijver (Dairy Farmers of Canada), Dr. Oliver Schunicht (Canadian Veterinary Medical Association), Michael Latimer (Canadian Beef Breed Council) and Ian Thorleifson (Canadian Cervid Alliance). Mark Elford completed his year as Past President. Mark's experience and wisdom will be greatly missed.

- The Canadian sheep industry collaborated on the submission of comments on the CFIA's *Livestock Traceability proposed Regulations side-by-side document*. Ontario Sheep Farmers and Alberta Lamb Producers were invited to provide their feedback to the document and those comments were collated into a single industry-wide response.

Scrapie Flock Certification Program

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency completed a three-year audit of the Scrapie Flock Certification Program and issued its Corrective Action Request (CAR). Corrective Action Responses were required in two parts, in April and May, and the CSF remitted part 1 responses in April responding to major audit findings. The first round of responses has been accepted and closed, resolving major findings to the CFIA's satisfaction. The second part of responses, addressing minor (primarily administrative) issues are due in May.

COVID-19 Related Activities

- We created a dedicated 'Notes' page on the CSF facebook page, where COVID-19 resources are shared. Stakeholders are encouraged to visit the forum for up-to-date COVID-19 information and resources. The cansheep.ca website has also been updated to include similar resources.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched the COVID-19 Industry-Government Working Group in March, which includes representation from the Canadian Sheep Federation. The Working Group is scheduled to meet three times a week, M/W/F until further notice. This Working Group is intended to serve as the key AAFC resource for COVID-19 related issues, where industry and government can share issues and work on solutions. The Working Group has a dedicated single-window email submission system whereby COVID-19 related issues can be submitted for triaging.
- Key issues advanced by the CSF at the COVID-19 Industry-Government Working Group level in April included:
 - More accessible financial support for primary producers, knowing that BRM programs are not equipped to manage pandemic-based needs and many farms are not eligible for other government programming for businesses (i.e. CEWS, CEBA).
 - Inter-provincial meat trade: After first raising the issue during the March 20th call, CSF asked for an accounting of what work was being done to facilitate the inter-provincial trade of provincially inspected meat, noting that provincially inspected facilities were receiving requests to ship meat (lamb) from Ontario into other provinces. The response was that this work was near complete, and there would be a process by which provincial plants could move product inter-provincially. CFIA noted that protocols would soon be finalized. There will not be a blanket policy change, but a plant by plant permission issued. CSF met with Colleen Barnes (CFIA VP) and Kevin McBain (CFIA COVID-19 lead) April 23rd to discuss. The protocols/permissions to ship product inter-provincially will be issued on a buyer-by-

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buyer basis and may require that provincial governments attest to the need. CSF raised the concern that provincial governments may not be in a position to attest to retail level demand, and that a better mechanism for identifying needs should be considered. Both sides discussed logistics of the protocols and looked for solutions to implementation issues.

- Pregnancy Ultrasound: The CSF raised the issue of access to pregnancy ultrasound services during the April 29th COVID-19 Industry-Government Working Group call. With veterinarians across the country triaging services to prioritize emergencies and postpone other services, producers find themselves without ultrasound services when they are needed the most. The veterinary community has insisted on maintaining this as a veterinary-only service which we would suggest should be a service that trained technicians are able to deliver.
 - The CFIA Vice-President raised the issue with Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer and with Regulatory ADM's during their COVID-19 call. CVO Jaspinder Komal then raised the issue with provincial CVO's and recommended following up with each individually.
 - The CSF met with the CVMA to discuss pregnancy ultrasound services. Although the immediate concern is that pregnancy ultrasounds are being delayed, deemed non-essential in the face of COVID-19 triaging of veterinary services, the bigger issue is that the sheep industry would like pregnancy ultrasounds to be a service that technicians can perform. CVMA suggested a two-pronged approach. The short-term issue is best dealt with as a request for an 'allowance' for technicians to perform the function in light of COVID-19 restrictions. There are emergency measures in place that allow for the allowances, which stray from provincial regulations. CVMA asked the CSF to provide a written request for the CCVR (a group of Provincial Registrars) COVID-19 group to consider, which was provided. The long-term issue would likely require a different approach, and work with the CCVR group over a longer term. Each province has different legislation or regulations that govern the practice, so solutions in each province will be different. For the time-being, the CSF has focused on short-term hoping a precedent can be established for future long-term work. The COVID-19 Working Group, consisting of members of the CVMA and from some regulatory bodies received and discussed the request letter. The situation is that requirements differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For this reason, the Working Group suggested that the Canadian Sheep Federation discuss this matter with the individual, provincial regulatory bodies, particularly where you find the most of your concerns are.
- The CSF hosted a Sheep Industry Round Table COVID-10 Discussion in April, inviting a wide range of stakeholders. The group heard from producers, processors and the wool sector about issues they are encountering that can be attributed to the pandemic. Pressing issues were noted for action although in general the group agreed that the sheep industry finds itself in a relatively good position.
- Canada's sheep industry has been fortunate thus far through the COVID-19 pandemic, not having experienced the processing bottlenecks due to plant closures that some other sectors are experiencing. Aside from some temporary slowdowns as plants implemented safety protocols, processing is at full capacity and the demand for lamb is strong. To make the best of the opportunity, the CSF met with the Retail Council of Canada's VP of Grocery to discuss the opportunities for getting lamb into otherwise empty meat coolers. The RCC requested a state of the lamb industry report, which was provided and shared with their Grocery group, the first time the sheep sector has had this level of direct contact with national grocers.

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- The CSF launched its *Something New on the Barbeque* campaign under the Fresh Canadian Lamb banner, reaching out to 27 Canadian grocery chains making them aware of the opportunity for Canadian lamb. Likewise, the online campaign was launched including an introductory post and then weekly recipe posts. In April, the campaign reached 65,000 Canadians.

Something New on the Barbeque



With barbeque season right around the corner and so many families cooking at home, what better time to try something new on the barbeque?!

Lamb is versatile and easy to cook. Think lamb burgers with goat cheese, Thai lamb brochettes, shepherd's pie with lamb and mushrooms, barbequed beer and honey braised lamb shanks, and pasta with lamb Bolognese sauce.



Easy and Versatile



Lamb is one of the most nutritious red meats.



Did you know that lamb is one of the healthiest red meats? Lamb helps boost a healthy immune system, packed with four essential vitamins and minerals that help boost immunity. Lamb is a complete protein with a 3oz serving of lamb providing 50% of your daily protein needs. That same 3oz serving of lamb delivers 100mg of healthy Omega-3 fatty acids, 5 times more than the same serving of beef.

To learn more about how easy it is to cook with lamb, visit our website www.freshcanadianlamb.ca.

Good reasons to buy Fresh Canadian Lamb

Buying local lamb is a tangible way of supporting the 10,000+ Canadian family sheep farms, and your local economy.

Buying local lamb is a concrete way of reducing the air transportation of foods, and consequently the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Better yet...for its taste and freshness!

Industry Updates

- The Canadian Livestock Transportation (CLT) Advisory Committee continued to work on plans to transition the CLT training program away from Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) oversight where the program languished and suffered financial difficulty. The group is working

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diligently to ensure training materials are updated to incorporate recent changes to the Humane Transportation Regulations, and they are exploring the opportunity to have the program move under the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council umbrella.

- The Global Sheep Conference Organizing Committee met in April to work on plans for the 2020 event. Although originally intended to be an in-person conference, the Committee is considering a virtual event for 2020. International partners that participated last year have been contacted with some options, and the Committee and Board will consider their feedback in future planning. More information to come on this front.

This month's meetings

- AAFC COVID-19 Industry-Government Working Group X 13 meetings
- Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) Advisory Committee
- North American Lamb Company
- Animal Health Canada (AHC) Governance Committee
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) Annual General Meeting
- Canadian Sheep Federation Board of Directors
- Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI)
- Sheep Code Research Committee
- Sheep Industry Round Table on COVID-19
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Vice-President, Policy and Programs
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) Vector-Borne Disease Network
- Canadian Sheep Federation Audit & Finance Committee
- IGAC (Industry-Government Advisory Committee on traceability)
- Global Sheep Conference Organizing Committee
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) Board of Directors