



# Canadian Sheep Federation Operational Update – April 2025

Each month brings new opportunities and challenges for Canada's sheep producers. At the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), our mission is to proactively address these challenges and leverage every opportunity to support our producers and their flocks. In this update, we'll share recent activities focused on disease surveillance, trade negotiations, interprovincial trade barriers, global market requirements, innovative data collection, climate initiatives, and emergency preparedness. Each initiative demonstrates our commitment to strengthening the industry, preparing for emerging issues, and advocating effectively on your behalf.

# Monitoring Invisible Threats: A Snapshot of Disease Surveillance This Month

Disease doesn't sleep—and neither do we. At the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), we're continually scanning the horizon through national disease surveillance efforts to protect animal health and ensure the sheep industry's resilience.

Why it matters: Early detection, real-time data sharing, and coordinated responses aren't just good ideas—they're essential strategies for protecting our flocks, maintaining trade, and upholding public trust in Canadian agriculture.

## **HPAI Crosses Species Boundaries: First Sheep Case Confirmed in the UK**

This month brought concerning news from overseas: the first-ever confirmed case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a sheep flock in Yorkshire, UK. Until now, we've focused surveillance on birds and dairy cattle, assuming sheep to be relatively safe. This new case dramatically shifts the landscape.

The Yorkshire case is particularly alarming because it demonstrates that HPAI can affect sheep directly. With our current surveillance efforts in Canada primarily targeting poultry and dairy, sheep producers could be left exposed if similar cross-species infections occur here. CSF is actively engaging with surveillance networks, advocating strongly for the inclusion of sheep and goats in formal monitoring efforts to close this critical surveillance gap.

## **Tracking HPAI's Northward Push: Heightened Vigilance Required**

While Canada has successfully kept HPAI out of domestic dairy cattle herds so far, the virus remains a significant risk. Recent U.S. detections of the D1.1 strain—capable of moving directly from wild birds to livestock—have crept closer along the Pacific flyway, appearing in Idaho, Nevada, and Arizona. With the spring migration underway, vigilance along Canada's western border is essential.

Given the UK case, the sheep industry must also be alert to the potential for cross-species transmission. CSF continues to advocate for sheep-specific surveillance, keeping producers informed and prepared.

# Disease Surveillance Continued: Cache Valley Virus and Emerging Risks

## Cache Valley Virus: Preparing for Unpredictable Cycles

Cache Valley Virus (CVV) remains a growing concern, particularly for Ontario sheep flocks. Known to cause reproductive losses and congenital deformities, CVV typically follows a three- to four-year cyclical pattern. However, shifting climate patterns are changing vector (insect carrier) behavior, potentially altering these cycles.

To help producers stay ahead of CVV, CSF continues pushing for increased access to diagnostic tests and developing a national framework to track outbreaks and better predict risk areas.

## Ticks & Vectors: Emerging Risks on Our Radar

As tick season begins again, CSF remains involved in national conversations about vector-borne diseases and invasive tick species, such as the Asian Longhorned Tick. Growing reports indicate ticks are expanding their range and host species—including livestock—which could mean increased disease threats to Canadian sheep.

Innovative tools like the E-Tick platform enable better mapping of tick presence and risk areas, giving producers another tool in their disease management toolbox.

## What's next?

CSF will:

- Strongly advocate for expanded surveillance in sheep flocks, especially in response to the UK's recent HPAI case.
- Promote improved diagnostic capabilities for Cache Valley Virus.
- Ensure sheep producers remain informed on emerging vector-borne disease risks.

# Cache Valley Virus: Taking Stock and Considering Next Steps

Last month we talked about disease surveillance and highlighted Cache Valley Virus (CVV) as a growing concern in the sheep industry. Since then, the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) has taken a deeper dive, conducting a nationwide survey to better understand how CVV is impacting producers and their flocks across the country.

## Understanding the Scope of the Problem

CVV is a mosquito-borne virus with potentially devastating effects on sheep reproduction—causing everything from abortions to lamb deformities. Although it first appeared in Canada about a decade ago, cases have been sporadic. But with climate changes potentially extending mosquito seasons, producers are seeing more frequent outbreaks.

Our recent survey confirmed CVV isn't limited to any one region—it's truly a nationwide concern.

## What Producers Told Us

The survey painted a clear picture of CVV's impact:

- Nearly 60% of respondents reported unusual reproductive problems, most commonly deformed lambs, stillbirths, late-term abortions, and weak newborn lambs.
- Farms experienced reproductive losses ranging widely—from minor incidents to catastrophic impacts where nearly half of a lamb crop was lost.
- Notably, outbreaks didn't usually make ewes visibly ill, leading producers to initially suspect nutrition or other common abortion-causing diseases.



# Cache Valley Virus: Economic Impact and Response Strategies

## Economic and Emotional Toll

Beyond animal welfare, the economic and emotional costs of CVV outbreaks were significant. Producers reported thousands of dollars in lost revenue, disruption to farm operations, and the emotional distress of managing difficult births and euthanizing severely affected lambs.

## Identifying Risk Factors

The survey highlighted clear risk factors that increase CVV exposure:

- **Breeding timing:** Lambing dates tied to mid-to-late summer breeding resulted in higher CVV impacts, due to peak mosquito activity aligning with early gestation.
- **Environmental factors:** Farms near standing water, wetlands, or frequent wildlife (especially deer) visits saw more outbreaks, underscoring the mosquito transmission cycle.

## How Producers Are Responding

Producers are already adapting in various ways. Approximately one-third changed breeding times or increased mosquito control measures. Yet, despite broad awareness, only 38% sought veterinary assistance during outbreaks—highlighting potential gaps in diagnostic testing access or awareness of available resources.

<b>Breeding Schedule Adjustments</b>  Shifting breeding to avoid peak mosquito season during early gestation	<b>Environmental Management</b>  Reducing standing water and implementing mosquito control measures around farm properties	<b>Diagnostic Testing</b>  Increasing access to and awareness of veterinary testing options for suspected cases
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## Where Do We Go From Here?

The CSF Board will be reviewing these insights closely, exploring practical steps the organization might take to help producers manage CVV risks more effectively. Potential actions could include enhanced educational outreach, exploring vaccine development, supporting broader diagnostic testing, or advocating for targeted mosquito-control initiatives.

While specific next steps are still under consideration, the strong producer response clearly signals a demand for action. The CSF remains committed to supporting producers with timely information, practical tools, and advocacy aimed at minimizing the impact of Cache Valley Virus on Canada's sheep industry.

# Staying the Course: Updates on FMD Preparedness Efforts

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) preparedness continues to be a priority for the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), though the past month has brought a quieter phase. This slower pace doesn't mean less commitment—it's more reflective of the ongoing detailed work required behind the scenes to strengthen our industry's readiness.

## Sharpening Surveillance & Traceability Plans

In recent discussions with the national FMD leadership group, considerable attention was given to surveillance and traceability. Although good progress has been made in some sectors, there remains uneven implementation across provinces and livestock groups. The sheep sector, like others, is reviewing its capabilities and preparing to address these gaps in collaboration with CFIA and industry partners.

One important agreement was recognizing the need for stronger and more consistent early detection tools across the country. Producer engagement was specifically highlighted as a valuable, yet underutilized resource in surveillance efforts. Encouraging producers to participate directly in surveillance—not just veterinarians—is becoming increasingly central to plans for more comprehensive early disease detection.

## Improving Communication & Coordination

Another area of focus this month was refining the roles and responsibilities for industry associations during a potential FMD outbreak, particularly in terms of communication. Clear, consistent messaging during an outbreak is critical, and CSF is emphasizing the importance of having detailed, sector-specific communication plans ready.

Learning from the pork sector's experience with African Swine Fever (ASF), the leadership group is exploring similar models that include multi-sectoral, national and provincial coordination of messaging to ensure rapid, clear, and accurate information dissemination in the event of an outbreak.

# FMD Preparedness: Industry Coordination and Future Planning

## Industry Liaisons and Incident Management

The importance of trained industry liaisons was again emphasized in discussions this month. During an outbreak, liaison officers play a crucial role in coordinating communications between producers, industry organizations, and government agencies. There's a growing understanding that training in emergency response and incident command systems is essential—not just beneficial—for effective industry participation in outbreak management.

## Continued Challenges: Movement Control & Biosecurity

Movement control and biosecurity remain complex challenges. Conversations continue around how best to enforce movement restrictions and manage biosecurity protocols realistically at the farm level, recognizing the economic implications for producers. The CSF continues advocating for clear, practical biosecurity measures and transparent compensation mechanisms, recognizing that producer buy-in and compliance hinge significantly on practicality and fairness.



## Looking Ahead: Keeping Momentum Alive

Although the pace of activities slowed somewhat in recent weeks, critical groundwork continues. The CSF remains actively engaged in shaping preparedness strategies, ensuring producer interests remain central in national FMD discussions. Upcoming efforts will focus on streamlining preparedness documentation, refining traceability practices, and reinforcing industry-wide emergency response capabilities.

The goal is clear: enhancing Canada's overall ability to respond swiftly and effectively in the event of an FMD outbreak, protecting producers and markets alike. CSF's commitment remains unwavering as we navigate these complex preparedness efforts together.

# Navigating Tariff Tensions: What's Next for Canadian Sheep Producers?

Trade tensions with our largest trading partner, the U.S., continue to make waves, keeping the Canadian sheep industry on high alert. While headlines often depict tariffs as uniformly devastating, the reality for the sheep sector is nuanced—but nonetheless significant. At the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), we remain closely engaged in these critical discussions to support our producers' resilience.

## U.S. Tariffs: Disruptive, But Not Catastrophic

The recent trade turbulence centers around a proposed 25% tariff on Canadian sheep and lamb products entering the U.S.—our largest export market. Last year alone, Canada exported over 31,000 live sheep and 72 metric tonnes of lamb and mutton products to the U.S., generating around \$20 million annually. While tariffs could reduce Canadian export volumes by an estimated 16.5%, translating to around \$3.3 million in annual revenue loss, this would not necessarily cripple the entire sector. However, it would undoubtedly create hardships, especially for smaller farms operating on thin margins that are heavily dependent on U.S. market access.

A recent analysis by the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) underscores why these tariffs are on the table in the first place. U.S. producers claim that imported lamb and mutton from countries like Australia, New Zealand, and Canada suppress domestic prices and threaten their industry. While Canada represents only a small portion of U.S. lamb imports, any tariff introduction would affect our producers who've painstakingly rebuilt their businesses following historical trade disruptions.

## Economic Realities and Strategic Considerations

Canadian sheep farming is more significant economically than commonly recognized—over 13,000 farms contribute \$212 million annually, far surpassing earlier estimates. These operations play a crucial role in sustaining rural economies nationwide. As a sector uniquely positioned to produce sustainable protein with a smaller environmental footprint, maintaining stable market access is essential, both economically and environmentally.

The lessons from history remain vivid: the 2003 BSE crisis, which closed the U.S. border and nearly collapsed Canada's sheep sector, took almost two decades of concerted effort to overcome. We are mindful that tariffs, even if not catastrophic, could similarly erode hard-earned industry stability and confidence, discouraging reinvestment and slowing innovation.



# Trade Tensions: Advocacy and Strategic Planning

## Advocating for a Balanced Approach

In response, the CSF continues to advocate strategically with government partners and industry stakeholders. We support balanced negotiations emphasizing fair trade practices, regulatory alignment, and targeted bilateral agreements. Canadian government countermeasures are on the table, intended to demonstrate Canada’s seriousness without unnecessarily escalating tensions or hurting our own producers. Efforts to diversify our export markets and reduce long-term dependence on the U.S. market remain critical strategies moving forward.

## China’s Tariffs: Minimal Direct Impact, Broader Strategic Considerations

Meanwhile, China recently imposed significant tariffs targeting various Canadian agri-food products. Fortunately, our sheep industry has limited direct trade with China, making the immediate impact minimal. Nonetheless, the broader trade disruptions serve as a powerful reminder of why market diversification remains essential. Strengthening trade relationships globally reduces reliance on singular markets and provides more stability in an unpredictable international trade environment.

31,000+

Live Sheep Exports

Annual exports to the U.S. market

72

Metric Tonnes

Lamb and mutton products exported to U.S. annually

\$20M

Export Value

Annual revenue from U.S. sheep and lamb exports

16.5%

Potential Reduction

Estimated export volume decrease with proposed tariffs

## Looking Forward: Staying Proactive and Prepared

While the immediate tariff threat might not spell disaster for the Canadian sheep sector as a whole, the disruption and uncertainty are very real—particularly for our exporting producers. As tariff talks evolve, CSF will remain at the table, proactively representing our producers’ interests, advocating for fair trade solutions, and ensuring Canadian sheep producers have the support needed to navigate whatever lies ahead.

Our message remains clear: sustained market access, stable trade relationships, and a proactive stance on diversification are the keys to safeguarding the Canadian sheep industry’s continued growth and resilience.

# Breaking Down Walls at Home: Tackling Interprovincial Trade Barriers

When we talk about trade barriers, thoughts often drift south of the border or across oceans—but some of the most stubborn barriers exist within our own Canadian borders. With international trade tensions heating up, particularly with the U.S., attention has naturally turned inward. There's growing recognition that removing internal trade barriers could significantly boost Canada's economy by as much as \$200 billion annually, according to recent analysis from the Financial Post. For the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), advocating to break down these domestic walls has moved up our priority list.

## Why Domestic Barriers Matter for Sheep Producers

Currently, Canadian meat processed under provincial regulations cannot be sold across provincial lines unless it's processed under federal inspection. It's a restriction that creates unnecessary roadblocks for small and medium-sized sheep processors who often struggle to expand their market reach. Imagine having a safe, high-quality product inspected in Alberta but prohibited from being sold in neighbouring Saskatchewan simply because it lacks a federal stamp—despite meeting rigorous provincial safety standards.

This longstanding restriction limits economic growth, stifles local entrepreneurship, and ironically makes Canadian products less competitive domestically than internationally. It's a situation increasingly difficult to justify, particularly as producers navigate the uncertainty of international trade disputes.

## Time for a Fresh Approach: Mutual Recognition

Drawing inspiration from other nations, such as the U.S., Australia, and the European Union, the CSF is proposing a shift towards mutual recognition agreements among provinces. Instead of requiring federally duplicated inspections, provinces would agree to recognize each other's rigorous inspection standards as sufficient, thereby freeing producers to sell across provincial borders.

This isn't about reducing safety—it's about eliminating redundancy. Provinces already adhere to strict safety protocols. Under a mutual recognition framework, if meat is safe enough to sell in Ontario, for instance, it should be equally acceptable in Manitoba without additional federal red tape. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) would continue to play a crucial role—but as an auditor and facilitator rather than as the primary gatekeeper.

# Interprovincial Trade: From Concept to Implementation

## From Talk to Action: Piloting a New Model

There's encouraging proof that this concept can work. The Lloydminster Food Trade Pilot Project between Alberta and Saskatchewan demonstrated how provincially inspected meat can safely cross provincial lines. Such successful pilot projects underline that it's possible to responsibly eliminate barriers without compromising safety.

With elections pending and a new Agriculture Minister soon to be appointed, CSF has already provided key decision-makers—including the CFIA president and Agriculture Canada—with briefings urging bold action on this issue. Once the new government settles, we'll resume advocacy efforts, pushing for pragmatic provincial agreements rather than waiting for federal regulators to make the first move.

### Current System

Provincial inspection standards are not recognized across borders, requiring federal inspection for interprovincial trade.

- Creates redundant inspections
- Increases costs for producers
- Limits market access for small processors
- Reduces competitiveness

### Proposed Solution

Mutual recognition agreements would allow provincially inspected products to be sold across provincial borders.

- Maintains food safety standards
- Eliminates unnecessary duplication
- Expands market opportunities
- Increases industry resilience

## Economic Gains and Resilience at Stake

Removing these barriers won't just benefit sheep farmers and processors—it will strengthen Canada's entire agricultural supply chain, providing greater flexibility and stability. It supports rural economies, enhances food security, and contributes substantially to Canada's GDP.

The current climate of international trade uncertainty only reinforces the importance of strengthening domestic markets. Ensuring our sheep industry can seamlessly access markets across provincial boundaries isn't merely logical; it's essential for building a resilient, prosperous industry prepared for the future.

We're optimistic that by championing a practical approach built around mutual recognition and provincial collaboration, we can finally break through longstanding barriers and open doors to new opportunities for Canadian sheep producers.

Stay tuned—there's more to come on this critical issue as we work toward solutions that make sense for producers and consumers alike.

# Global Trade, Sustainability, and Sheep: Preparing for New EU Regulations

In a world where sustainability credentials are becoming as crucial as quality and price, access to international markets increasingly depends on how products are produced, not just their quality or cost. Nowhere is this clearer than with the European Union's new Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR), a groundbreaking set of rules designed to ensure commodities imported into the EU have not contributed to global deforestation.

For Canadian sheep producers, these new requirements are important, even though lamb and wool aren't explicitly listed in the current EUDR. Why? Because regulations like these tend to expand over time, and livestock products such as beef, leather, and soy (widely used in animal feed) are already included. Understanding EUDR is crucial as it signals the direction of global trade and the growing importance of traceability and sustainability standards.

## What is the EU Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR)?

In simple terms, EUDR requires that certain commodities exported to the EU—like soy, beef, cocoa, coffee, and wood products—must not have contributed to deforestation since December 31, 2020. Producers must submit detailed due diligence statements, including precise geolocation coordinates, proving that the commodities originate from lands free of deforestation. These statements must be detailed enough to include specific GPS coordinates outlining land plots.

The level of precision required is impressive—coordinates must be accurate to at least six decimal places, defining exact plot boundaries for properties larger than four hectares. This level of detail ensures traceability but presents practical challenges and costs for producers.

## Canadian Preparations: Learning from Others

To ensure Canadian agriculture stays ahead of these evolving international standards, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has been proactively engaged. The Market Access Secretariat (MAS) recently hosted a detailed webinar outlining EUDR's complexities, featuring insights into how other sectors, like Canadian soy, are preparing for compliance.

Soy Canada's proactive approach offers a template that other sectors can consider. They're conducting detailed deforestation risk assessments and exploring comprehensive compliance systems inspired by U.S. models. Such efforts underline the importance of clear data management, traceability, and risk mitigation—core issues that Canadian sheep producers must increasingly consider to remain globally competitive.

# Global Sustainability Standards: Implications for Canadian Sheep

## Data Integration and Geolocation: Crucial but Complex

CSF's participation in the Digital Integration of Agricultural Supply Chains Alliance (DIASCA) working group provides valuable insights into how producers globally are dealing with similar challenges. Recently, Kenya's coffee sector presented their approach, emphasizing how critical—and challenging—accurate geolocation and traceability have become in response to EUDR. Like the Canadian sheep industry, they're addressing these challenges by exploring advanced data management solutions, promoting collaborative industry efforts, and advocating for farmer-friendly technological solutions.

## What Does This Mean for Canadian Sheep Producers?

While Canadian lamb and wool aren't currently on the EUDR's product list, these rules highlight a broader global shift toward rigorous traceability standards. Producers exporting to international markets—especially to regions like the EU—should expect such requirements to expand in the future. Being proactive now ensures producers aren't caught off guard later.



### Global Market Access

Sustainability credentials are becoming essential for accessing premium international markets



### Geolocation Requirements

Precise GPS coordinates may become necessary to verify land use history and sustainability practices



### Data Management

Advanced systems for tracking and verifying production practices will be increasingly important



### Certification Readiness

Preparing now for potential future requirements will position producers for competitive advantage

CSF's participation in these global discussions helps the industry anticipate regulatory changes, understand potential future requirements, and ensure sheep producers can adapt efficiently. By aligning closely with AAFC, engaging in industry collaborations, and tracking international best practices, CSF is ensuring Canadian producers are well-informed, well-prepared, and globally competitive.

Keep watching this space as CSF continues its efforts to ensure that the Canadian sheep industry remains ahead of the curve, fully prepared for a sustainably competitive future.



# ECCC Introduces Draft Protocol for Manure Methane Reductions

This past month, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) published its draft Federal Offset Protocol for Reducing Manure Methane Emissions, a move designed to support Canada's broader goal of greenhouse gas emission reductions. The protocol, now open for public consultation, outlines methodologies livestock producers can adopt to mitigate methane emissions from manure storage—an area increasingly targeted under Canada's climate commitments.

## Understanding the Draft Protocol

Under the proposed system, livestock operations could potentially earn offset credits by implementing approved manure treatment practices that either reduce or capture methane emissions. Specifically, the protocol identifies three eligible methods:

- **Chemical Treatment Systems:** Acidification using sulfuric acid to reduce methane formation in stored manure.
- **Mechanical Separation Systems:** Separation of manure into solid and liquid components, significantly lowering methane emissions during storage.
- **Anaerobic Digestion Systems:** Capturing manure methane for energy use or destruction via flaring.

However, it's important to note that the protocol is still in the draft stage, and critical details about implementation feasibility, economic viability, and on-farm practicality remain to be fully understood.

## Considerations for Producers

While the environmental intent of the protocol aligns closely with the livestock sector's commitment to sustainability, several questions remain. Producers may find challenges with upfront infrastructure costs, technical complexity, and practical application—particularly smaller operations which may struggle with economies of scale.

Moreover, requirements such as specific manure treatments, detailed record-keeping, emissions quantification, and regular compliance verification mean the potential for additional administrative and operational burden on producers.

## What's Next?

The protocol is currently in a consultation phase, and the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) is actively reviewing it. As we delve deeper into the details, our focus will be ensuring that any policy designed to mitigate emissions also realistically considers the capacity and constraints of sheep producers. Ultimately, any workable protocol should be practical, economically sustainable, and sensitive to the realities of our sector.

We encourage producers to familiarize themselves with the proposal and provide feedback directly to ECCC or through the CSF as we engage in this process. It's crucial for our industry to help shape policies that balance environmental objectives with on-farm realities.

# Better Data, Less Hassle: How Livestock Information is Evolving for the Better

If there's one thing nearly every producer agrees on, it's that paperwork might be their least favourite farming chore. Filling out surveys and census forms takes valuable time away from raising livestock. Thankfully, the Canadian livestock industry, including the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), is exploring innovative ways to simplify data reporting, reduce paperwork, and significantly enhance the depth and accuracy of livestock market information.

## What's New in Market Information?

Earlier this month, CSF participated in the annual Canadian Livestock Market Information Advisory Committee (CLMIAC) meeting. Representatives from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Statistics Canada, USDA, and livestock associations gathered to discuss improving the collection, management, and utilization of market data.

One big takeaway: modernizing livestock data collection benefits everyone. Inspired by examples from USDA—like interactive dashboards and more accessible reporting—Canada is looking at new ways to improve how livestock data is collected and used. Statistics Canada's recent use of administrative data (like PigTrace for hogs) has already proven successful, reducing producers' survey workloads dramatically.

## AgroLedger: Unlocking the Potential of Industry Data

Quietly, behind the scenes, CSF has been developing AgroLedger—an advanced, blockchain-enabled traceability platform designed to meet upcoming federal regulations. If approved by CFIA, this system could revolutionize how producers manage livestock data.

The truly exciting part? CSF is exploring a potential partnership with Statistics Canada to securely and anonymously share aggregated AgroLedger data. Rather than "selling" or trading personal producer information, this approach means Statistics Canada could access aggregated industry data—without individual details—to significantly reduce the burden of traditional surveys.

## Privacy First: Less Personal Information, More Security

It's crucial to emphasize that any collaboration with Statistics Canada respects producers' privacy fully. Statistics Canada operates under stringent privacy regulations—the same that govern current surveys and census collection. By sharing anonymized, aggregated data through AgroLedger, producers would actually provide less personal information than they currently do through traditional reporting methods, with equally strong or even enhanced privacy protections.

## Unlocking Better Industry Insights

Perhaps the most important benefit is the richer, more accurate data this collaboration would generate. For years, CSF has expressed concerns that current Statistics Canada data often underestimates the sheep industry's true size, economic impact, and importance. With improved data through AgroLedger, Statistics Canada could perform more detailed industry analysis—capturing a fuller, more accurate picture of our industry's significance.

Why does this matter? Because more accurate data means more effective advocacy, stronger lobbying efforts, and better recognition of the sheep industry's true economic contribution. It might even help the sector finally shed the "small industry" perception, enabling a stronger voice at decision-making tables where industry size and economic impact matter.

## Looking Ahead: A Better Way Forward

CSF and Statistics Canada are planning detailed discussions this fall, laying out how AgroLedger can practically streamline data reporting. The goal is clear: less paperwork for producers, richer insights into the industry, and stronger advocacy based on more accurate data.

## Conclusion: Strengthening Our Industry, Together

The Canadian sheep sector faces diverse challenges, from emerging disease threats and global trade tensions to evolving sustainability regulations and the complexities of data reporting. Through each initiative described in this update, the Canadian Sheep Federation remains committed to not only addressing these immediate concerns but also laying a foundation for long-term resilience and growth.

As we move forward, your engagement remains essential. By working together—producers, industry stakeholders, and policymakers—we can navigate challenges effectively, advocate powerfully for our sector, and continue building a thriving, competitive Canadian sheep industry.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Let's keep the momentum going!

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