

# Canadian Sheep Federation Executive Director’s Report May 2021

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## Action Items from the May 2021 Board meeting

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- AgroLedger Phase 2 IT Manager contract secured.
- 8 summer students hired.
- University of Toronto Capstone project submitted.
- Response received from CSBA regarding National Maedi Visna Program partnership.
- Recommendations for the global youth forum drafted and submitted to the GSPF working group.
- Sheep Industry PRA meeting scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Program Updates

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### Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) and Traceability

- The Canadian Sheep Federation Board of Directors approved plans for AgroLedger's Phase 2 development, slated to begin in June 2021. These plans include final wrap-up and testing of Phase 1 which represents the functionality required to manage full traceability reporting, as well as the development of value-added functionality within the system. Phase 2 will wrap-up by the end of August of this year.
- With support from its members, the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency is process of putting details to paper on the implementation of a UHF interim solution. What is UHF and why is it such a big deal? Here are some answers to those questions:



## ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY

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### What is UHF?

Ultra-High Frequency (UHF) is the band of frequencies on the electromagnetic spectrum between 860-960Mhz.

UHF technologies transmit data between the transceiver and the transponder. The robustness of the technology allows fast, efficient data transfer of information, primarily in the supply chain now. UHF ear tags utilize this technology to communicate unique information between the animal and the equipment collecting the data. UHF is faster and has additional benefits not found with Low Frequency technology (LF – what is available now).

### Why all the interest?

Rapid collection of tag data allowing animals to move at the speed of commerce is driving interest.

Segments of the livestock production sector are eyeing performance benefits that are available with advanced technologies such as UHF. Faster read-rates for livestock, longer read-ranges of ear tags, group scans of animals, and higher read rates of tags at critical junctures (processing and auction markets).

### Who are the key players?

- Tag and technology manufacturers
- International Organization of Standardization (ISO)
- Registration Authorities (ICAR)
- Competent Authority (CFIA)
- Responsible Administrators (i.e., CCIA)

Key players generally bring identification products and technologies to the market. These components must work in unison to support markets and governments who build and manage traceability systems for the benefit of everyone. Without this cooperation, there would be incompatible systems that wouldn't mesh.

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## 2 UHF TOWNHALL DOCUMENT MAY 2021

### When could it be implemented?

- Non-official UHF tags/equipment is available for use by specific sectors of industry including cattle feeding, swine, dairy, and processing. Optimization of UHF is difficult without specific standardization, but it can be used to provide speed and efficiency in select market channels.
- Software has been developed/ adapted to cross-reference official LF tags with UHF tag numbers in concurrent system.
- Reader/antenna options and cost analysis for co-mingling sites could begin.
- Modifications to CLTS data field for UHF tag number sequence (24-digit vs 15-digit)

Moving to a UHF technology platform will be a significant change for the livestock industry. There is no real way to transition from LF technology. It will need to pivot to the new platform and run concurrently if deemed advantageous overall. Current ISO standards keeps our tags compatible with other systems in the world. Working within the global standard is important for industry.

#### 1st year:

UHF tag retention studies could be completed using modified LF tests in the National Identification and Methodology Advisory Committee (NIDMAC) testing Framework:

- provision of matched pairs (LF+UHF) and/or custom marked UHF tags
- dual technology tag available for cattle

#### 2nd year:

UHF tag longevity data will be available on tags in use:

- readers adapted for use in transport and high-capacity co-mingling sites

#### 3rd year:

UHF animal numbering scheme and testing standards will be in place and supported by ISO countries and trading partners:

- approved UHF tags available meeting Canadian standards
- ISO Standardized UHF tags approved in USA

### How is CCIA involved?

UHF has evolved from its introduction to livestock over 15 years ago. Lack of standards for the livestock sector have prevented the widespread introduction and adoption of system-wide UHF transponders as identifiers for livestock. The traditional path for a new technology approval is convoluted, but the CCIA Board of Directors had identified the merit of exploring the technology a few years ago.

- CCIA research team traveled to Scotland for consultation on traceability and UHF technology in 2017
- UHF technology investigation initiated 2018 (back-tags, deadstock tags, dual-ear tags)
- UHF research project: *Literature review and technology readiness assessment of ultra-high frequency radio frequency identification to Canadian livestock applications completed in early 2021*  
Recommended next steps include gap analysis and implementation plan for Canada
- Development of technology implementation pathway for CCIA board to assess (work plan)
- Ongoing consultations with governments on mutually beneficial options
- CCIA supporting work on ISO Standards development, NIDMAC Framework adaptation, and field testing
- CCIA conversing and sharing learnings with other UHF supportive countries

## Canadian Verified Sheep Program (CVSP)

- Did you know...that the Canadian Verified Sheep Program provides **FREE** online food safety, animal care (welfare) and biosecurity training for producers, farm employees and other industry stakeholders? The program provides some great record keeping and flock health plan tools...also **FREE** of charge to all participants. The CVSP is recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Food Safety Recognition Program, having achieved Technical Review Part II. No small feat!

**Register today, take the training for free and complete the program at your own pace. [Fsfpcansheep.ca](https://fsfp.cansheep.ca)**

## Animal Welfare

- The CSF has drafted a project proposal that would assess the readiness of feed, water, and rest facilities to handle and house sheep, as required by humane transportation regulations. Project deliverables include developing:
  - a publicly available listing of FWR facilities available to the sheep industry,
  - individual recommendations for existing facilities outlining how best to adapt process and retrofit infrastructure to accommodate sheep safely and humanely, and
  - a set of standards for commercial FWR sites and transporters, detailing infrastructure requirements for handling sheep, safety and humane handling requirements for handlers, essential biosecurity protocols for FWR sites and livestock traceability event recording and reporting requirements.

The proposal has been approved by the CSF Board and was circulated for feedback to the CSF-CFIA Humane Transport Working Group. Similarly, NFACC's transport code working group representing intermediate sites was provided an opportunity to comment on the nature and scope of the project. Once feedback has been incorporated into project design, the proposal will be submitted for funding.

- The Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFÉ) convened an Animal Care Committee to help in the development of a *Best Practices for Animal Care at Public Events* guide for fairs and exhibitions across Canada. The Committee is made up of experts from various sectors of the agricultural industry who will investigate the best practices already in place and how they differ when it comes to public events. The committee is responsible for providing consultation and expertise for public events on animal care topics.
- Working with the University of Toronto, the CSF has developed a project to create an AI (Artificial Intelligence) tool that can assess sheep welfare in real-time. The project would be undertaken by faculty and staff at the University beginning in September 2021 should it move forward in the approval process.

## Pregnancy Ultrasound Training & Certification

- The Small Ruminant Ultrasound Oversight Committee has ratified the final version of *Canada's Small Ruminant Ultrasound Pregnancy Assessment Training and Certification Program*. Canada's ultrasound pregnancy assessment training and certification program offers two program pathways: *Trained* and *Certified*.
  - The *Trained* pathway requires completion of the theory training unit as outlined below with the option of completing the practical training unit. The practical training unit is not required to be deemed *Trained*. This pathway is intended for those who's goal is to perform their own on-farm pregnancy ultrasound assessments. *Trained* individuals who wish to upgrade their program status to *Certified* will need to demonstrate

## For Broad Distribution

practical training or experience equivalent to that required of *Certified* individuals and will be required to successfully complete the examination process outlined below.

- The *Certified* pathway requires completion of the theory and practical training units as outlined below, as well as an examination to evaluate skill level. This pathway is intended for those who wish to provide commercial ultrasound pregnancy assessment services. *Certified* technicians endorsed by the SRUOC are deemed to be proficient in conducting pregnancy ultrasound assessments in keeping with the expectations of Canada's small ruminant industries. *Certified* program status does not necessarily confer the right to practice.
- The CSF continued work on *Canada's Small Ruminant Ultrasound Pregnancy Assessment Training and Certification Program*, identifying potential course trainers and considering training materials for both virtual and in-person training options. More to come on how to take the training course!

## Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP)

- The best defense is a good offence. Scrapie is a devastating neuro-degenerative disease that affects both sheep and goats, and a disease that is difficult to control given the nature of its incubation period, mode of transmission and duration of infection. An animal can become infected with scrapie at any point in its life, and there is no way to tell definitively where a positive animal became infected. More importantly, once an animal becomes infected, it can shed and share that disease with other animals without showing any clinical signs of the scrapie. Since 1984, 200 Canadian farms have been identified as scrapie source or infected farms. Disease control actions on each of these farms have seen anywhere from 1 animal to 20% of the population destroyed because of scrapie. Join us in the fight to eradicate scrapie from Canada. Visit our website to learn more about the steps you can take to protect your flock against scrapie, [www.scrapiecanada.ca](http://www.scrapiecanada.ca). The Scrapie Flock Certification Program is one way to mitigate your risk of scrapie, but it is not the only way. You can reduce risk by introducing scrapie resistant genotypes into your flocks (<https://scrapiecanada.ca/scrapie-genotyping/>), you can purchase animals from SFCP Certified farms and you can scrapie test animals over 12 months of age that die on farm by submitting them to your district CFIA office (free of charge) or an approved lab (you will be invoiced through your veterinarian). Find out more about testing for scrapie here <https://scrapiecanada.ca/sfcp-samples/>.
- Scrapie Canada is an arm of the Canadian Sheep Federation tasked with the delivery of the industry's scrapie eradication programming including administration of the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP). The SFCP is an internationally recognized compartment program, set to the OIE's global standards for scrapie control. Canada currently has two recognized terrestrial animal compartment programs for disease control and the CSF serves as regional administrator and status assessor for both programs.

## Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program (CWD HCP)

- The CSF serves as the Regional Administrator and Status Assessor for the cervid industry's Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program (CWD HCP) in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. The CSF began administering the CWD HCP in Ontario back in 2009, when the program closely resembled the Scrapie Flock Certification Program and administering the program was a natural extension of the SFCP work. More recently the governments of Saskatchewan and Quebec, who had been delivering the program in their regions, approached the CSF looking for a new administrator. The CSF took over the files to help ensure the program remained available to farmers, and we can maintain the program on a cost recovery basis. As with the SFCP, the CWD HCP's National Standards are maintained by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the CSF's delivery of the programs is audited annually to ensure the program is delivered in keeping with the CFIA's requirements.

### For Broad Distribution

- CWD HCP enrolled producers are reminded of the importance of following program requirements in their day-to-day work. The program is more comprehensive than simply remitting an annual report and if there is ever an instance where CFIA needs to inspect your farm for compliance, they will look closely at your on-farm practices and record keeping. Make sure you have copies of all program materials readily available and ensure you are following all the program's biosecurity practices. Information about the CWD HCP is available on our website <http://www.cansheep.ca/cwd.html>
- The CWD HCP Working Group met through late spring and early summer for the annual National Standards Review. This is a yearly activity that considers amendments to the Herd Certification Program as proposed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the cervid industry. Changes to the National Standards will be drafted for industry's final review and comments, before being published in the fall and coming into effect at the end of the calendar year. Interesting to note, and sometimes difficult to navigate, that enrolled producers with annual reports spanning two sets of National Standards will have their files assessed in two parts and against each NS in force at the time.

## Industry Initiatives

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- The CSF was pleased to learn that its request for funding of 9 summer students through the Canada Summer Jobs Program is approved. Originally slated to begin April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the start date for the jobs was pushed back to May 31<sup>st</sup> to allow enough time to advertise positions and interview students. Positions include software developers, software quality assurance, communications manager, economic analyst, and records clerk.
- Following a March presentation to the CSF Board of Directors by Farm Products Council of Canada, the CSF planned an industry-wide webinar regarding the potential for a Promotions and Research Agency (PRA) for Canada's sheep industry. The webinar was hosted by FPCC and included a presentation from the beef PRA group about the benefits the agency provides for the cattle sector. The webinar was well attended and received and served to invigorate the PRA discussion. Interesting to note that the CSF began PRA discussions in 2013 and many provinces have since been working on changes to their own provincial check-off legislation (and in some cases initiating new check-off regulations) to help support 'national treatment' required of a promotions and research agency. The race to a PRA is more like a marathon than a sprint!
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada began consultations on the next agricultural policy framework in May, starting with an AgriAssurance workshop. This included a facebook live announcement by Minister Bibeau, an AgriAssurance workshop and a national policy framework workshop. As we have done in the past, the CSF participated in these workshops, providing insight into strengths and weaknesses in existing programs and making recommendations for the next iteration of funding opportunities.
- The CSF was approved for 9 summer student opportunities through the Canada Summer Jobs Program. 36 students were interviewed for these positions, to be considered for work on 3 separate projects: AgroLedger, Communications Strategy and an Economic Impact Analysis. 8 students were hired, and work began on the project on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The Brazil-Canada Agriculture Forum launched in May with the CSF attending the inaugural meeting. This forum seeks to encourage trade dialogue between industry stakeholders in both countries, beginning with an overview of the agricultural sectors in both countries. The Forum series will include several sessions through late spring into summer.

## This month's meetings

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- Canadian Sheep Federation Board of Directors
- Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program (CWD HCP) Appeals Committee X 2
- Centre for Food Integrity
- Health Canada FoodNet
- Canadian Livestock Transportation (CLT) Advisory Board
- Animal Health Canada Working Group
- Minor Use Foundation
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Assurance Systems Workshop
- Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (CgFARAD)
- Brazil-Canada Agriculture Forum
- Duncan Kennedy – Ultrasound training
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Summer student interviews X 36

# Sheep Supply



## SHEEP SUPPLY CANADA

February 2021

Fed. & Prov. Slaughter (head)			
	2021	2020	% chg
<b>preliminary YTD</b>			
B.C./Alta/Sask./Man.	18,495	18,615	-0.6
Ontario	32,890	33,955	-3.1
Quebec - Atlantic	17,584	18,873	-6.8
<b>Canada</b>	<b>68,969</b>	<b>71,443</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
<b>Federal Slaughter</b>			
Monthly			
West - Ontario	6,077	6,644	-8.5
Quebec - Atlantic	3,733	4,159	-10.2
West - Ontario YTD	12,044	13,225	-8.9
Quebec - Atlantic YTD	7,584	8,278	-8.4
<b>Provincial Slaughter</b>			
preliminary Monthly			
West - Ontario	19,159	18,649	2.7
Quebec - Atlantic	4,749	5,205	-8.8
West - Ontario YTD	39,341	39,345	0.0
Quebec - Atlantic YTD	10,000	10,595	-5.6

Source: CFIA, Provincial Governments

Imports			
(Number of head from U.S.)	Year to Date February		
Pure-bred & Non Pure-bred	2021	2020	% chg
East	11	0	-
West	4,831	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,842</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Statistics Canada

Mutton & Lamb			
(Metric Tonnes)	Year to Date February		
	2021	2020	% chg
Australia	1,451	1,832	-20.8
New Zealand	1,117	1,374	-18.7
Other	517	362	42.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,086</b>	<b>3,568</b>	<b>-13.5</b>

Source: Statistics Canada

## UNITED STATES

Total Sheep and Lambs			
	Year to Date February		
	2021	2020	% chg
Slaughter ('000 head)	282	286	-1.3
Avg Dressed Wt (lbs)	68	68	-0.4
Avg Dressed Wt (Kg)	31	31	-0.4
Lamb/Mutton (mil lbs)	19	18	5.6
Lamb/Mutton (tonnes)	8,618	8,165	5.6

Source: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

U.S. Lamb & Mutton Exports (Metric Tonnes)			
	Year to Date February		
	2021	2020	% chg
Mexico	37	205	-82.0
Dominican Republic	32	2	-
Trinidad and Tobago	29	26	11.5
Bermuda	27	16	68.8
Netherlands Antilles	14	10	40.0
Bahamas	14	34	-58.8
Cayman Islands	13	0	-
Other	24	177	-86.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>-59.6</b>

Source: Global Trade Tracker

Monthly Prices			
	2021	2020	% chg
<b>Ontario Auctions</b>			
<b>Lambs</b>			
	\$cwt, live weight, weighted average		
< 65 lbs, new crop	473.27	348.61	35.8
65-79 lbs	403.44	317.75	27.0
80-94 lbs	353.19	277.50	27.3
95-109 lbs	331.76	266.55	24.5
<b>Sheep</b>	<b>214.56</b>	<b>176.51</b>	<b>21.6</b>
<b>Quebec Auctions</b>			
	2021	2020	
<b>Lambs</b>			
	\$cwt, live weight, weighted average		
< 65 lbs, new crop	498.23	358.93	38.8
65-79 lbs	410.55	311.92	31.6
<b>Sheep - Ewes</b>	<b>169.78</b>	<b>140.56</b>	<b>20.8</b>
<b>Sheep - Rams</b>	<b>213.74</b>	<b>170.49</b>	<b>25.4</b>
<b>LEOQ</b>			
	2021		
<b>Quebec Heavy Lambs</b>			
	\$/kg carcass basis (Producer annual contract price)		
Nov 29 2020 to February 13 2021		11.25	
February 14 to March 27 2021		13.74	
March 28 2021 to May 29 2021		13.84	

Source: Ontario Cattlemen's Association, Quebec Electronic Auctions and Les Éleveurs d'Ovins du Québec

Exports			
(Number of head)	Year to Date February		
Total Live Sheep	2021	2020	% chg
United States	146	2,717	-
Other	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>2,717</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Statistics Canada

Mutton & Lamb			
(Metric Tonnes)	Year to Date February		
	2021	2020	% chg
United States	7.7	18.9	-59.3
United Arab Emirates	5.2	8.5	-38.8
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1.7	1.1	57.6
Other	0.1	0.1	56.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>-48.5</b>

Source: Statistics Canada

U.S. Price Summary			
San Angelo Auction	February		U.S. \$/cwt
	2021	2020	
Choice and Prime 1-2	average		average
	-69 lbs	316.63	245.56
	70-79 lbs	296.73	231.58
	80-89 lbs	285.82	222.83
	90+ lbs	236.77	214.71

Includes woolled and hair breeds

Note: Monthly price averages are calculated off of daily/weekly price reporting

U.S. Lamb & Mutton Imports (Metric Tonnes)			
	Year to Date February		
	2021	2020	% chg
Australia	11,362	20,859	-45.5
New Zealand	2,833	3,488	-18.8
Chile	80	94	-14.5
Uruguay	34	55	-37.9
Mexico	21	0	-
Other	8	19	-60.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,338</b>	<b>24,515</b>	<b>-41.5</b>

Source: Global Trade Tracker