

ED Report

Action Items from the May 2020 Board meeting..... 1
 Canadian Sheep Identification Program / Traceability..... 1
 Scrapie Flock Certification Program 1
 COVID-19 Related Activities..... 2
 Industry Updates 4
 This month’s meetings..... 7

Action Items from the May 2020 Board meeting

- Responded to Conservative Agriculture Critic MP John Barlow’s request for a state of the industry report.
- Continued working on wool initiatives.
- Prepared briefing for the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food regarding the CSF AgroLedger project.

Canadian Sheep Identification Program / Traceability

- Given a shift in focus to the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand that publication of the proposed traceability regulatory amendment in Canada Gazette I is now not expected before the fall of 2020 at the earliest. The delay between publication in CGI and coming into force is at least 12 months, meaning that we do not expect changes to traceability regulations much before the end of 2021 if not later. Remembering, of course, that these proposed changes were first announced in 2013 with an expectation that they would become law by 2016.
- At the suggestion of Conservative Agriculture Critic MP John Barlow, the CSF remitted a brief regarding the AgroLedger project to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI). The brief was intended for distribution to the Committee.
- The CSF submitted an application to the Ontario Together Fund, proposing a blockchain solution for managing COVID-19 testing data much as the technology is being proposed for integrating animal disease tracing information.

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

For Broad Distribution

responding to major audit findings. The first round of responses has been accepted and closed, resolving major findings to the CFIA's satisfaction. The part two responses, addressing minor (primarily administrative) issues, were remitted in May.

COVID-19 Related Activities

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada continues to encourage farms and agri-business to access existing programs for financial support. This includes accessing AgriStability and AgriRecovery programs, loans and capital venture funding through Farm Credit Canada and food processing investments.
- Work continued through May on the Ministerial Exemption (ME) for interprovincial trade. The CSF met with the CFIA team responsible for drafting the ME on May 4th, reviewing the draft document. The CSF later met with provincial government representatives from Quebec, Ontario and Alberta to discuss implementation of the ME for lamb. Reading through the protocol, it is clear that it will be no simple feat to enact the ME. Additionally, our discussions with provincial government authorities (except Ontario in this case as they were on the 'winning' end of the request) have met with some protectionism. First responses from provinces was 'there's no shortage in provincial processing capacity', and rightfully so. But ours is not a shortage of processing, but rather an increase in demand due to shortage in other meat sources and a significant decrease in imports (April to mid-May imports for lamb were down 43% over the same period last year...the same trend for other meats). We've expressed concern over the metrics required to define a shortage and we've noted issues around protectionism. We have a real opportunity to find more shelf space for lamb during these times but it won't come easy. On May 21st, CFIA convened livestock industry groups and retailer/grocer groups to share the final protocol required to enact the ME, as follows:
 - In order to alleviate potential meat shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, CFIA has put in place a process to allow on a case-by-case basis interprovincial movement of meat and poultry products from establishments that are not federally licensed.
 - CFIA's Ministerial Exemption (ME) process can provide an exemption from the requirements of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* which prohibit the sending or conveying meat or poultry products inter-provincially without a federal licence.
 - Meat and poultry products that will be subject to the ME must be produced under provincial inspection oversight and meet all other SFCR requirements, provincial requirements as well as the requirements of the *Food and Drugs Act* and *Food and Drug Regulations*.
 - An ME can be issued if:
 - the exemption is necessary to alleviate the food shortage; and
 - the Minister is of the opinion that no risk of injury to human health will result from the exemption.
 - CFIA's applications for MEs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, according to the following:
 - a meat shortage is demonstrated, meaning that there is insufficient meat available within a P/T (either from P/T or federally-licensed establishments) or from a federally-licensed establishment outside of the P/T where the shortage is said to be occurring;

For Broad Distribution

- the Government Authority of the P/T experiencing the shortage accepts the terms of how the meat products were produced in the P/T establishment that is alleviating the shortage;
 - the Government Authority of the establishment chosen to alleviate the shortage can attest that ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections have been conducted by a P/T official or a P/T designated veterinarian, and that the meat products meet minimal food safety conditions as set out in the FDA and FDR.
- At no point in the supply chain can the meat products moved inter-provincially through an ME can be exported, further moved inter-provincially nor can they enter a federally licensed facility.

Application Process:

- When a shortage in the supply of meat products is experienced by a food business (for example, a retailer or a wholesaler), and the identified solution to alleviate the shortage is to source meat products outside the P/T, the food business should contact its P/T government authority.
 - Unless advised otherwise by the P/T government authority, it is the responsibility of the food business experiencing the shortage (or their representative) to reach out to meat suppliers within their P/T and federally-licensed meat suppliers to identify possible sources of meat or confirm the shortage.
- If the P/T government authority agrees that a shortage exists and agrees with bringing meat products from a P/T establishment in another province that does not comply with the provisions of the SFCA and the SFCR, then the P/T Authority can assist the food business with the ME process. The procedure addresses the scenario where the food business would be the initiator for the ME application, however, the initiator could also be an industry representative or, in certain situations, the P/T Authority where the shortage is occurring.
- Applications are provided to the initiator by the P/T Authority, when there is agreement that a shortage exists. (i.e. P/T Authority provides the initiator with the *CFIA Procedures to apply for a ME for the purpose of alleviating a shortage in the supply of meat and poultry products* and the associated forms).
- The initiator will complete one part of the ME application to provide information on the meat shortage, identify the P/T establishment (in another province) that would supply the meat products, and the quantity and type of meat products required to alleviate the shortage. The P/T Authority of the initiator will confirm that there is a shortage of meat products and agree to accept the meat from a plant that is not federally licenced.
- The business alleviating the shortage (supplier) and its P/T Government Authority will complete the other part of the ME application, attesting that the meat products comply with sections 4, 5 and 7 of the *Food and Drugs Act*, meet the conditions for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, and the establishment is in good standing with the P/T.

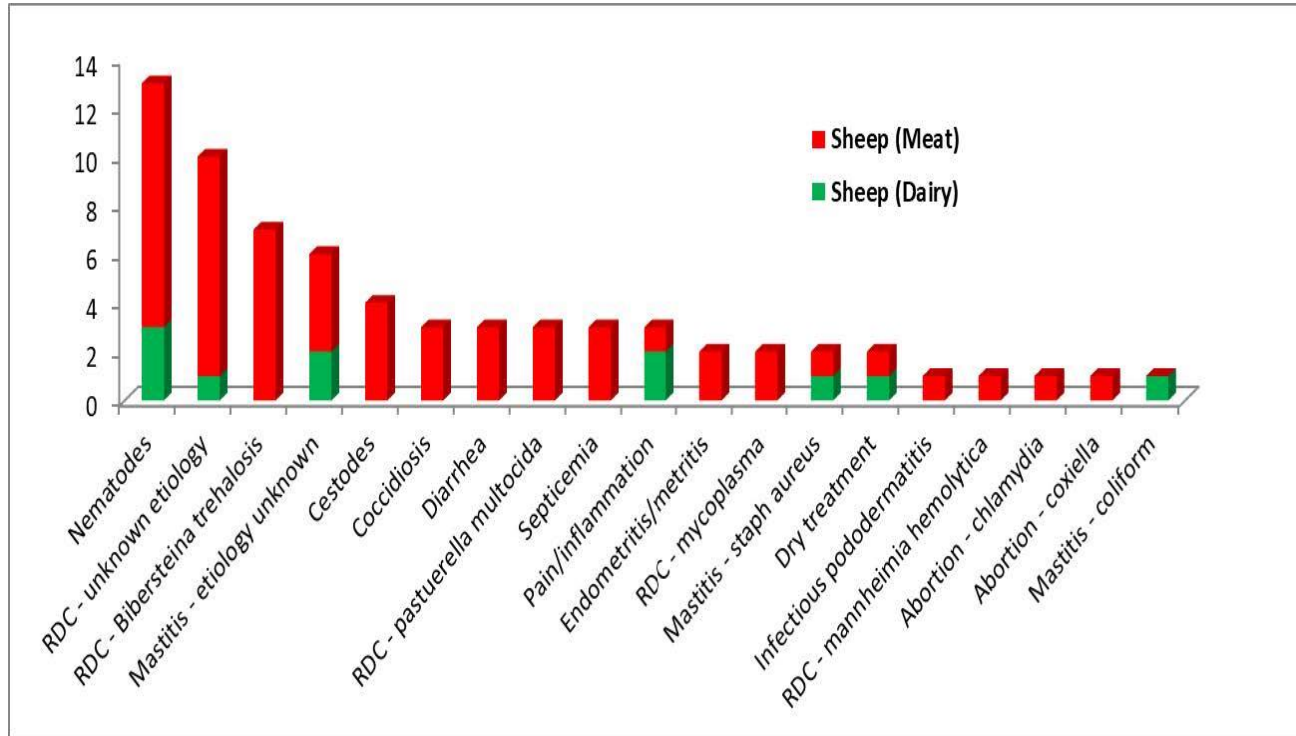
For Broad Distribution

- Applications are submitted to CFIA's National Centre for Permissions where they will be reviewed for completeness and verify the declarations from P/T Government Authorities.
- Continuing to work on the issue of transabdominal pregnancy ultrasound services by trained technicians, Ontario's Chief Veterinarian reached out to the CSF noting an upcoming discussion with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario around this issue. To help further the issue, the Ontario Lamb Producers Caucus providing a letter of support to Ontario's CVO. As per CVMA's recommendation in May, the CSF is prepared to help champion change in each interested jurisdiction, and the CSF Board will coordinate related activities with the organization's members.

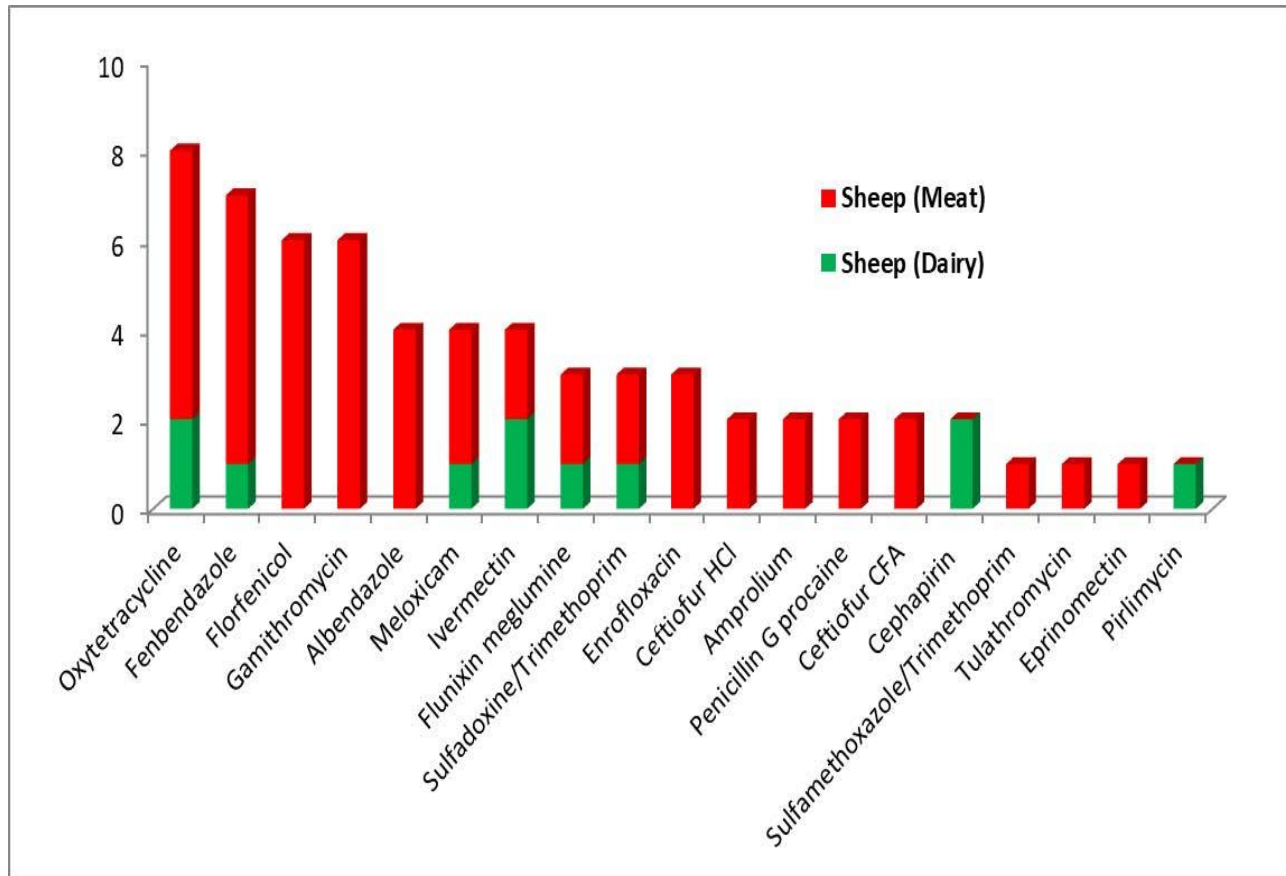
Industry Updates

- Not once, to date in the COVID-19 pandemic, has Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's red meat sector staff reached out to the Canadian sheep industry for an update on the status of the industry. The CSF has provided feedback through AAFC's COVID-19 Industry-Government Working Group and has worked closely with CFIA on a number of issues. However, the Conservative Agriculture Critic MP John Barlow's office has checked in with our sector and supported sheep industry initiatives. This is a strong indication of how the current Agriculture Minister's office has chosen to de-prioritize the needs of Canada's sheep industry.
- A group of wool industry leaders convened in May to discuss ideas on how to find more value for producers for their wool. The group discussed wool exports and the state of the global market, then explored Canadian opportunity. Canada currently does not have the capacity to scour its full wool clip, limiting the options for conversion of raw wool into value added products in this country. The group explored options for scaling scouring capacity including an offer to consult on a scaled custom scouring facility. In the same vein, the CSF has provided a letter of support and committed to contributing to a project headed by NSCAD University and Dalhousie University focused on the development of a prototype non-woven respiratory filtration fabric using an industrial felt loom and biodegradable materials.
- The Global Sheep Conference Organizing Committee continued work on the 2020 Global Conference, exploring options for a virtual event in 2020 in light of the pandemic. International delegates who attended in 2019 have provided their support with convening in some format in 2020, interested in continuing work on the priorities identified during last year's event.
- The Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (CgFARAD) Advisory Board held its spring meeting in May in which it reviewed 2019 database requests, confirmed Board members and elected a Chair for 2020. Corlena Patterson was acclaimed CgFARAD Advisory Board Chair for a second term. From the spring newsletter: "Due to limited drug approvals and bacterial and parasite resistance, antimicrobials, coccidiostats and dewormers are the most commonly used products for ELDU in sheep and goats. Even if parasite resistance is not present, residues in milk of lactating sheep and goats can be very problematic due to persistence and very sensitive detection methods used by regulators." To learn more about the valuable services CgFARAD provides our industry, visit their website <https://cgfarad.usask.ca/index.php>

For Broad Distribution



For Broad Distribution



- The founders of the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) Small Ruminant Surveillance Network met for the network’s inaugural meeting on May 28th. The following invitation is what brought stakeholders together, and sets the tone for Small Ruminant Network’s early work:
 - At this time, there is an opportunity to develop a CAHSS small ruminant network. There are at least two immediate priorities that this new network might engage with. First, it would be useful to create a stakeholder map similar to those created for other networks (see [www.cahss .ca](http://www.cahss.ca)). Second, based on discussions so far, a health topic of interest to small ruminant producers is Cache Valley Virus. This mosquito-borne virus infects livestock in late summer, and leads to poor fertility, abortion and malformations in lambs in the following

For Broad Distribution

lambing season. Through CAHSS, we think there might be an opportunity to bring together information about abortion cases, mosquito populations, and climate in local areas across Canada in order to provide producers with focused risk-management advice. A logical next step to moving the network forward would be to identify key stakeholders across Canada and begin work on an appropriate network map.

This month's meetings

- National Farm Animal Care Council
- AAFC COVID-19 Industry-Government Working Group X 12
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency Board of Directors
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Policy & Program Branch
- Wool Working Group X 2
- Canadian Sheep Federation Board of Directors
- Service Canada – Canada Summer Jobs Program
- Ontario Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs - Food Safety Systems Development
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec - Direction générale du développement et du soutien à l'inspection
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry - Processing, Trade and Intergovernmental Relations Division
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program
- Global Sheep Conference Organizing Committee
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Policy and Programs Branch
- Animal Health Canada Governance Committee
- CgFARAD (Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database) Advisory Board
- Canadian Sheep Federation Audit & Finance Committee
- Farm Credit Canada
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) Small Ruminant Network
- Centre for Emerging Zoonotic Diseases (CEZD)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Scrapie Flock Certification Program