

ED Report

Action Items from September 12, 2017, Board Meeting..... 1

CSIP / Traceability..... 1

Canadian Verified Sheep Program (Kristy House) 2

Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan (Claire Knubley) 3

Sheep Value Chain Round Table..... 4

Sustainability Committee..... 4

Other Updates..... 5

This month’s meetings..... 6

Action Items from September 12, 2017, Board Meeting

- Information on new web hosting services was collected and shared, in consideration of a new website for the CSF.
- The colour of the non-approved half of the Shearwell paired tag will change to black with the next order, expected early in 2018.
- A copy of the comments made for the Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR free trade agreements was shared with the Board. The comments were drafted using input received through the CSF’s consultation on the FTAs.
- A Sustainability Committee meeting was organized for September 27th.

CSIP / Traceability

- The Regulatory Implementation Committee met in September to discuss the Executive Summary document released in August, as well as a new proposal dealing with identifying premises. Specifically, the Committee considered the following proposal:
 - When animals are transported or moved from a departure site to a destination site, the operator of the destination site would report the identification number of the departure site (if provided on a form) and of the destination site.
 - The identification number of the departure site and of the destination site would be required to be recorded on a form accompanying the animals
 - Site means premises where animals or carcasses are kept or collected but does not include a conveyance
 - Site identification number means the number assigned to identify premises by the government of the province in which the premises are located for the purpose of tracing animals that are kept at those premises or, if no such number has been assigned by the government of the province, the number assigned by the responsible administrator for that purpose.

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- The CSF Board elected to support a recommendation from the CFIA, likewise supported by the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) Working Group, to revoke the pink Ketchum Kurl-Lock tag (OVI-07-01) from the national ID program. Phasing out of the Ketchum tag began in 2011 when a decision was made to no longer make the tag available for sale. Since then, producers were encouraged to use what tags they had left on-farm. The CFIA is expected to officially revoke the tag in late October 2017. Producers are reminded that:
 - Until the pink metal Ketchum tag is officially revoked, sheep farmers and ranchers may continue to ship animals that already have pink tags in them;
 - Once the revocation date for the Ketchum tag arrives sheep leaving the farm will have to have one of the remaining approved program tags in their ear;
 - If you plan on shipping sheep that have a pink metal Ketchum tag in them after the revocation date, you will need to add an approved tag and report the new tag number to Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) along with the number of the pink tag already on the animal; and
 - You MAY NOT remove a pink metal Ketchum tag from a sheep or lamb even after the tag has been revoked, it is illegal.
- The CSF Board looked for input from the CSIP Working Group regarding changes to paired Shearwell tag colours. The CSF has called for a change in the unapproved tag in the pair, expected in 2018 with the next run of the paired tags is manufactured. The approved tag (the tag with the RFID chip and program emblem on it) will continue to be yellow, where the unapproved tag (the tag without the RFID chip) will be black with off-white lettering. This change will save any confusion between the approved and unapproved tag. Producers are reminded that all animals leaving the farm of origin MUST have an approved tag in their ear.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is currently drafting traceability regulations, expected to be released for comment early in 2018. As part of that process, there must be a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of the proposed regulations. To build this analysis, a number of assumptions on how each sector operates are made and assessed financially. The CSF and its members are currently reviewing this list of assumptions to provide feedback to the CBA, ensuring that the sheep industry's interests are included in this work. If you are interested in contributing to this process, please let us know.

Canadian Verified Sheep Program (Kristy House)

- As a participant in the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable Social license working group we were tasked with reviewing the "AG in the Classroom" curriculum and from grades kindergarten to grade 12 in Ontario. Comments were compiled on the different modules in each grade and prepared to share with working group.
- The organization of auditor training sessions has been started for to host in person training sessions for persons interested in being trained as on farm auditors for the Canadian Verified Sheep Program. The provinces were contacted for advertising or

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guidance on persons who may be interested in becoming an auditor. Provincial Growing Forward 2 Representatives were contacted for availability of funding to help with cost of auditor training sessions. 4 auditors will be trained in Newfoundland The last week of November, as well as trainers to deliver in person training sessions. The western session location and participants to finalized in the coming weeks.

- The revised auditor training presentation, as well as the revised auditor handbook will be completed in in the coming weeks, as well as the auditor final exam. The existing food safe farm practices audit checklist was revised to reflect the changes made to the producer manual during the review of changes. The animal care chapter audit checklist has been finalized and formatted. The biosecurity audit checklist was developed and formatted.
- As chair on the Canadian Quality Assurance Program Alliance a meeting was held this month to provide program updates from the different commodities to the group. The commodities shared what is currently going on their projects and quality assurance programs, and the group asked questions about processes and activities. The group discussed next steps, as well as reviewed the proposed work plan and made suggestions for amendments. The different group members will provide suggestions and their goals for the alliance before the next call.
- Development and formatting of the French producer manual was completed. The translated table of contents for the overall manual was formatted, as well as the individual chapter table of contents. Section dividers and chapter, covers we translated and formatted. All of the translated and formatted materials were compiled to create the French producer manual. The French manual will be made available of the website shortly.
- A letter was as drafted to be circulated to certified producers of the food safe farm practices program to notify them of the addition of animal care and biosecurity to the program as well as the implementation options of the new program materials. The letter also outlines the changes that have been made to the Food Safe Farm Practices program from the review of changes. The letter will be circulated to certified producers via mail this month.
- Completion of certified producer in Manitoba self audit and critical control point verifications for the FSFP program.
- The month of October the focus will be on finalizing the auditor training locations, time, and arrangements, as well as completing the auditor training materials.
- Stakeholder outreach will also be a priority in the coming months.

Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan (Claire Knubley)

- Annual update to the "Voluntary Scrapie Certification Project: Second Level Verification" (VSCP:SLV) document
 - The revisions made in June 2017 to the "National Standards for the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program" were reviewed, and verifiable regulations and requirements were identified. The identified items were incorporated

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into the VSCP:SLV. As a result of the implementation of these updates to the VSCP:SLV, the document now accurately reflects the current version of the "National Standards for the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program".

- Scrapie Canada Website
 - The first phase of Scrapie Canada website redesign and development continues:
 - A multiplatform analytics tools has been implemented that collects data regarding webpage visitor activity. The resulting statistics provide guidance in website framework development. Logo redesign and supporting aesthetic framework
 - The architecture and wire-framing development for the layout and map of the new website is underway. The preliminary framework has begun, based on data provided by previously implemented multiplatform analytics tools.
 - The operation for updating the Scrapie Canada brand continues. The logo redesign process has gone through a review of multiple options, and the final selection completed. The remaining aesthetic and design elements for updating the Scrapie Canada brand are still in progress.

Sheep Value Chain Round Table

- The Sheep Value Chain Round Table in-person meeting has been scheduled for November 9th and 10th, with meeting details and draft agenda to be determined.

Sustainability Committee

- Representatives from the Canadian Sheep Federation, provincial sheep association representatives, and representatives from Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers and the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association met in Toronto in early September to consider options for working together as a united industry. The meeting was mediated by Laura Edgar from the Institute on Governance, and support for the meeting was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Meeting participants took two days to discuss options for industry organization, governance and sustainability, including establishing industry priorities. A meeting report was finalized and circulated to participants to be taken back to their organizations for further discussion.
- The Sustainability Committee met later in September to discuss the outcome of the national industry meeting, as well as next steps for the Canadian Sheep Federation. The CSF will continue to work on reorganizing in a way that will allow all who wish to be part of the national organization to participate. The CSF has approved a balanced budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, allowing both on-going work and restructuring to take place.

Other Updates

- The Campaign for Wool will be celebrating Canadian Wool Week November 3rd through 12th. To support Wool Week outreach, PCC requested Wool Council members provide **stories and photos** related to wool that could be used by both social and traditional media:
 - PCC requested members send any photos, videos or other material that could help tell the story of wool.
 - PCC also encouraged members to share any ideas for stories that could be pitched to media.
 - All ideas, photos etc. should be submitted to andre.garneau@princescharities.ca as soon as possible and no later than October 27th.
 - Campaign for Wool/Prince's Charities Canada partnership with the Harris Tweed Authority who have agreed to outfit and staff the Royal Winter Fair booth during Wool Week. Council members were assured that Canadian designers using wool would have a presence, although little additional information was provided.
- The CSF met with the NAFTA negotiation team, along with the Canadian Cattleman's Association, Canadian Pork Council and Canadian Meat Council in Ottawa as part of the organization's ongoing involvement in the re-negotiation process. Although meeting proceedings are closely guarded, we can acknowledge that priorities including current access issues for live animals and products were important discussion points.
- The CSF has joined Canada's Agriculture Trade Negotiations Consultative Group. This group provides views to Canada's agriculture negotiators on specific issues that relate to key on-going agriculture negotiations, and in particular the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on agriculture.
- The Census of Agriculture Content Team is currently conducting consultations in preparation for the next agricultural census. The CSF participated in the Ottawa workshop and has shared consultation information to industry stakeholders for feedback, which the CSF will need by October 10th. If you're interested in contributing to the discussion on future agriculture censuses and surveys, please let us know.
- The CSF provided submissions of interest in two Free Trade consultations that are in the early stages of development; one with MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the second with the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru).
- The CSF ED attended the BC Sheep Federation AGM in September, providing presentations at the meeting and listening to the region's key issues and focus. Two key challenges faced by sheep producers in BC are; access to compensation for predation losses, and wildlife conflicts with bighorn sheep populations.

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- The CSF continues to work with the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) Antimicrobial Use Dataset Working Group and other livestock sectors to determine how industries can contribute to aggregate data collection on how antimicrobials are used in livestock production in Canada. With a number of federal strategies underway and in the works to combat antimicrobial resistance in human and animal populations, it is more important than ever for the industry to demonstrate responsible antimicrobial stewardship. Data collection is aimed at managing the information, and demonstrating responsible antimicrobial use.
- The CSF committed to participating in the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council's (CAHRC's) research initiatives over the next three years. The CSF will participate in the Advisory Group, support project surveys by contributing to the communication strategy and help with project implementation. Look for more good work to come from CAHRC as it works to ensure Canada's farmers have access to the workforce they need.

This month's meetings

- Regulatory Implementation Committee
- Wool Council
- NAFTA Consultations – Market Access Secretariat, Trade Negotiations team
- CSF Board of Directors conference call
- AAFC Agri-Risk Forum
- CEAG Agriculture Census content consultation
- CSF Audit & Finance Committee conference call
- AAFC
- Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program Working Group
- Sustainability Committee conference call
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System AMU Dataset Working Group
- Agriculture Trade Negotiations Consultative Group (ATNCG)
- BC Sheep Federation AGM – Victoria, BC