

**ED Report**

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**Action Items from January 2, 2018, Board Meeting**

- Dennis Fischer was reaffirmed as Producer-at-Large on the CSF Audit & Finance Committee.
- The CSF Ethics Policy has been ratified and is distributed with Affiliate and Associate membership forms.
- CSF comments regarding Health Canada’s fee proposal consultation were remitted to Health Canada.

**CSIP / Traceability**

- The Regulatory Implementation Committee met in January, focusing on the finalization of ‘key messages’ in preparation for the publication of draft regulations. Until the draft is published in Canada Gazette I, which could happen anytime from late spring through late summer 2018, high-level key messages will help inform stakeholders on what to expect in the draft. RIC will finalize a traceability newsletter during its next meeting that can be used as a communication tool.
- NIDMAC met in January to review changes to the *Animal Indicator Approval and Revocation Framework*. A number of changes to mechanical test requirements for approved identifiers were discussed, with final revisions under way. The group was reminded that with the next regulatory amendment, the *Animal Indicator Approval and Revocation Framework* will become incorporated into regulations by reference. This means that the Framework would then be subject to a consultation process for any changes following the regulatory amendment. To that end, stakeholders should ensure they are comfortable with the Framework ahead of new regulations.
- During NIDMAC’s January call, the CFIA suggested the sheep industry consider a non-electronic identifier for CSIP. Although there is currently one non-electronic identifier still approved (Allflex dangle tag, OVI-01-02) in the program, its sale has long since been discontinued. The suggestion was made in the interest of ensuring non-electronic identifiers remain an option within the program. The CSIP Working Group and CSF Board of Directors will consider the recommendation and provide feedback to the CFIA within the next few months, and ahead of the regulatory amendment.

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- The CSF has been in communication with provincial organizations in Ontario and Alberta regarding the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP), and will host a webinar to share program information.

### **Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan** (Claire Knubley)

- The Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) has been undergoing an evaluation by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Scrapie Canada successfully responded to a number of questions from the USDA regarding the VSFCP. Among the information provided to the USDA, Scrapie Canada was pleased to report that no VSFCP enrolled farms have ever been found to be scrapie positive. The USDA's assessment of the VSFCP continues to move forward.
- Production of the new Scrapie Canada website continues to advance. A professional translator is undertaking a final examination of all French language webpages on the new Scrapie Canada website. The translator is reviewing all French language aspects of the website to ensure accuracy of translation. The website is being prepared for a conversion to an improved hosting platform. A number of webpages on the new Scrapie Canada website are being transposed to new infrastructure. This will enable these webpages to be more accessible for editing and updating on an as need basis, without the need to enlist the services of a third-party consultant.
- Ad space in four publications was purchased in the month of January. The advertisements highlight the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, suggesting that anyone who is interested contact Scrapie Canada via [www.scrapiecanada.ca](http://www.scrapiecanada.ca). The advertisements display Scrapie Canada's redesigned logo, recognize the Canadian Sheep Federation as the provider of Scrapie Canada and the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, and indicate that both Scrapie Canada and the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program are funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward 2 AgriMarketing Program.
- To date, there has been a total of seven goat herds found to be infected with scrapie, and one sheep flock confirmed to have scrapie. Comparatively, 2016 saw two sheep flocks confirmed to have scrapie, and one goat herd.

### **Canadian Verified Sheep Program** (Kristy House)

- The month of January was focused on organizing the final auditor training sessions. An auditor training session is being hosted in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from February 5th-February 8th, 2018. 2 Trainers from Saskatchewan, and 1 from Alberta and 1 from Manitoba will be trained and made available to certify farms in their provinces. During the auditor training sessions two farms in Saskatchewan will be certified.
- The auditor training sessions that were held and a NFLD and NS producer great feedback on the auditor training course and the audit processes. The feedback and lessons learned on farm have helped to re-vamp the audit checklist to be easier to follow,

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complete, and to maximize efficiency on audit days. The edits to audit form come suggestions made by trainees, and auditors and other commodities.

- The online training platform is under construction to offer the training in both English and French. The food safe farm practices portion of the online training is being revised to include more relevant information and updated materials.
- An in-person training session was hosted in accordance with the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board's AGM. 17 Saskatchewan sheep producers were in attendance and will receive in person training certificates.
- The focus of the final months of the Canadian Verified Sheep Program is ensuring auditors are available across the country as needed, improving and finalizing the online training modules, and working to further brand the Canadian Verified Sheep Program with retailers and processors.

## Other Updates

- The Canadian Sheep Federation provided feedback on Health Canada's fee proposal for drugs and medical devices consultation. The proposal would see the cost of veterinary drug approval submissions increase seven-fold. As it stands, the cost of the approval process to manufacturers is cost prohibitive and a key factor in the existing shortage of sheep-labelled veterinary drugs in Canada. Health Canada's proposed changes to the structure that governs veterinary drug approvals and maintenance fees is going to heighten these issues to a critical level in the sheep industry and jeopardize livestock production in Canada in general. The CSF urged Health Canada to rethink veterinary drug program delivery and provided a number of recommendations that would ensure the industry could benefit from continued sheep drug approvals. These recommendations were in keeping with the Canadian Animal Health Institute's (CAHI's) position on this issue and shared by a large portion of the livestock sector. The sheep industry simply cannot accept Health Canada's proposed fee changes.
- The Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program (CWD VHCP) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), required to accompany the program's updated National Standards, have finally been ratified. The process was a lengthy one given the lengthy rewrite of the National Standards, and SOP and program form revisions were substantial. Now approved, the SOP will be used by the CSF as it administers the program in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The CSF shared the SOP with the Government of Alberta to support their (and everyone's) efforts to be compliant with CFIA's March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for program revisions. The contract between the CSF and MAPAQ for administration of the CWD VHCP in Quebec is in its final stages of approval, currently being reviewed by the Quebec Treasury Board. The contract is expected to be finalized in early February.

## This month's meetings

- Canadian Sheep Federation Board of Directors Conference Call

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- Alberta CVO – Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program
- Agriculture Trade Negotiation Consultative Group – NAFTA
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – CSIP & Traceability
- NAFTA Round 6 – Montreal
- Regulatory Implementation Committee
- Canadian Sheep Federation Audit & Finance Committee
- NIDMAC