

**ED Report**

Action Items from March 6, 2018, Board Meeting ..... 1  
 CSIP / Traceability ..... 1  
 Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan (Claire Knubley) ..... 2  
 Canadian Verified Sheep Program (Kristy House) ..... 2  
 Other Updates ..... 3  
 This month’s meetings ..... 4

**Action Items from March 6, 2018, Board Meeting**

- CSIP Webinar details were circulated via press release, to members and in social media posts.
- The CFIA was informed of the CSF Board’s position regarding non-electronic identifiers in CSIP.
- Work continues on drafting CAP initiatives including a sheep industry health and welfare strategy, and possible agri-diversity programming.
- Associate Membership has been extended to the Audit & Finance Committee producer-at-large member.
- CCIA Board and Voting Member appointments have been confirmed with CCIA.

**CSIP / Traceability**

- The Canadian Sheep Federation hosted a Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) Webinar, providing a high-level overview of future traceability regulations, information regarding CSIP administration and financial management, and next steps in managing traceability for the sheep sector. The Webinar was open to the public, and a recording made available for those unable to attend the webinar.
- The Regulatory Implementation Committee met in person for 2 days in March, in Ottawa. The Committee continued with its work plan including developing a targeted community strategy. Industry groups are asked to identify some key influencers that can help tell the trace story. Communications for the immediate future will focus on selling the traceability story and its benefits, where mid and long term communications will focus on the regulatory package. The first traceability newsletter was released in late winter, with more to follow in the months to come. The group discussed reporting methodology including reporting apps and artificial intelligence (i.e. optical recognition) being explored to help capture reporting data. Timelines for draft regulations were discussed, with some suggestion that CGI could go to fall 2018.

## For Broad Distribution

- The CSF has appointed a new Director to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency Board of Directors, and has appointed a voting representative for the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting, scheduled for April 5-6, 2018.
- The Canadian sheep industry received notification from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that: “The CFIA has determined that the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) will remain the responsible administrator for sheep in Canada to support implementation of the proposed requirement....If, in the future, the sheep sector agrees to recommend an alternate administrator that meets the specified criteria, the CFIA could reconsider this decision at that time”.

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

- On Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) conducted their annual audit of the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP). Two CFIA auditors came to Scrapie Canada’s head office for the day and reviewed five files of VSFCP enrolled producers that were active between 2016-2018. Upon completion of the audit, the auditors submitted their Corrective Action Request on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Scrapie Canada submitted the VSFCP’s Corrective Action Responses on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.
- The new Scrapie Canada website has been undergoing a change in domain name registrar. Scrapie Canada’s new website will be live and active upon completion of the domain name transfer.
- In the Month of March 2018, three new producers enrolled on the VSFCP. Two producers enrolled in Pathway 1 at Level E. One producer was granted Temporary Enrollment in order to import males from the US.
- 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)

- March 2018 is the final month of the Canadian Verified Sheep Program project funded by growing two. The focus of the final month was to complete all the revisions to the auditor training documents and complete the french versions of the online training.
- The on-farm training audit documents have been completed and revised to include the feedback received from the on-farm auditor training sessions. The in-term audit documents have also been revised to include the changes to become the Canadian Verified Sheep Program.
- All of the food safety online training modules have been revised to include the changes made in the review of changes, as well to be more user friendly. All of the modules in the CVSP have been translated and the online training will be available in French in the early summer months. Communication of the food safety changes will be circulated to certified producers next month.

## For Broad Distribution

- The progress reporting and financials for the closing of the project are being finalized and will be submitted to Growing Forward 2.

### Other Updates

- The CSF met with Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF) of Canada to discuss their Mongolia project, where CDF Canada is training 3,000 women and men dairy and herder families in co-operative herd management, wool processing, and marketing services. The organizations discussed support by way of technology transfer and producer tools.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC's) Cost Recovery Working Group met in March to continue work addressing the impact of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's cost recovery modernization on the agriculture and agri-food industries. The cost recovery initiative will lead to CFIA fee changes for services ranging from permits and certificates to inspections, affecting a wide range of stakeholders. Ultimate impact could lead to significant costs of doing business in the agriculture and agri-food sectors, and this Working Group is working to mitigate these cost increases wherever possible.
- The Canadian Sheep Federation presented at the Saskatchewan Cervid Alliance's Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon, providing an update on the Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program's (CWD VHCP's) recent rule changes and sharing program enrollment information. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is changing its approach to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) control for farmed cervids (deer, reindeer and elk). Beginning April 1, 2018, the CFIA will only carry out CWD control actions on CWD VHCP enrolled cervid farms and only enrolled farms will be eligible for compensation for depopulated animals. To be eligible for disease control support and compensation in 2018, cervid producers must enroll on the CWD VHCP prior to April 1, 2018. Cervid producers enrolling in the CWD VHCP after April 1, 2018, will have to be on the program for one full program year before they are eligible for CWD disease control support.
- The Canadian Livestock Market Information Advisory Committee meets annually in Ottawa, with the latest meeting taking place in late March of this year. This Committee brings industry representatives together with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Statistics Canada, the United States Department of Agriculture and Canadian Border Services Agency to discuss market information needs by sector and commodity, and provide updates on new/pending changes in data collection and management.
- The Public Trust Steering Committee met in March to continue discussions about the organization's funding model, membership, terms of reference and working groups. Since its inception, the Committee has worked with 'temporary' versions of each of these as it worked to establish itself and hire a coordinator. With more permanency comes a need to ratify more permanent funding and structure.

## For Broad Distribution

- The CSF and Ontario Beekeepers' Association discussed opportunities for idea, information and strategy sharing with respect to antibiotic access for small livestock producers, in light of changes to antimicrobial resistance legislation across various agencies. There is an opportunity to partner and work with like-minded and challenged industry groups to ensure continued, responsible access.
- Early consultations on a possible free trade agreement with MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as full members) demonstrated significant Canadian interest in a trade agreement. In March the ATNCG held a debriefing session for members regarding MERCOSUR. The CSF was then invited to a reception with Canadian and MERCOSUR representatives hosted by Global Affairs Canada, marking the first round of preliminary trade discussions.

### **This month's meetings**

- Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada – Mongolia wool project
- FMD Briefing & Information Meeting – represented by Dr. Paula Menzies (Lyon, France)
- AAFC Cost Recovery Working Group
- Canadian Sheep Federation Board of Directors
- Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program Audit (2 days)
- Agricultural Trade Negotiation Consultative Group – MERCOSUR
- Saskatchewan Cervid Alliance AGM (Saskatoon – 2 days)
- Canadian Sheep Identification Program webinar
- Global Affairs Canada – MERCOSUR negotiators reception (Ottawa)
- Regulatory Implementation Committee (Ottawa – 2 days)
- Canadian Livestock Market Information Advisory Committee (Ottawa)
- Public Trust Steering Committee
- Canadian Sheep Federation Audit & Finance Committee
- AAFC – Canadian Agricultural Partnership
- Ontario Bee Keepers' Association – Strategies for Antibiotic Access